

Chai~Lights



March 1 - April 30, 2024

27 Adar I - 22 Nisan 5784


Photo Gallery — Pages 15-21

Purim: Then and Now — Pages 27-28

Prayer for Israel — Page 31



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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Services are every Friday at 7:30pm Names denote service leaders. <i>Italicized names are Oneg sponsors.</i></p> | | | | | 1 MAR Joe Shabathai <i>Nadine Thompson, Kathy & Joe Shabathai</i> | 2 |
| 3 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m. Beginners Hebrew 12 p.m. Sunday Funday 2 p.m. | 4 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. | 5 | 6 | 7 Lunch at Murikami Gardens | 8 Steve Jacobs & Linda Pollack <i>Judy Starr, Mark Avner</i> | 9 |
| 10 KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m. Beginners Hebrew 12 p.m. Hamantaschen Workshop 1 p.m. | 11 Rosh Chodesh Adar II Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. | 12 Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle 3 p.m. | 13 | 14 | 15 Randy Klein-Gross <i>Jeff Margulies</i> | 16 |
| 17 Beginners Hebrew 12 p.m. | 18 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. | 19 First Day of Spring | 20 | 21 Fast of Esther | 22 Joyce Peckman <i>Joyce Peckman</i> | 23 Erev Purim Purim Celebration & Megillah Reading |
| 24 Purim Beginners Hebrew 12 p.m. | 25 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. | 26 | 27 | 28 Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m. | 29 Randy Klein-Gross & Erica Lieberman Garrett <i>Jeff & Cheryl Margulies</i> | 30 |
| 31 | 1 APR Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Rivka Rizzo-Trent <i>Jules & Nettie Seder</i> | 6 |
| 7 Sisterhood Meeting 10 a.m. Beginners Hebrew 12 p.m. Sunday Funday 2 p.m. | 8 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. | 9 Rosh Chodesh Nissan | 10 | 11 | 12 Joyce Peckman <i>Barbara Knowles</i> | 13 |
| 14 KJCC Board Meeting 10 a.m. Women's Seder 5 p.m. | 15 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Ken Atlas | 20 |
| 21 | 22 Erev Pesach Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. First Seder 5:30 p.m. | 23 First Day of Pesach | 24 | 25 Sisterhood Book Club 12:30 p.m. | 26 Medina Roy & Gloria Avner | 27 |
| 28 | 29 Drop-in Zoom Chat 2 p.m. | 30 Last Day of Pesach |  | | | |

2024 - 2025 KJCC OFFICERS & BOARD

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Michael Kaufman

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Editor
Gloria Avner

CHAI-LIGHTS is the
bimonthly publication of the
Keys Jewish Community Center
chailights@keysjewishcenter.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ken Atlas



As I start my third term as president, I want to reiterate my words from the annual meeting. I could not do this by myself. I have a great team behind me, who do so much work, often without thanks. So thank you all board/ committee members for all you do.

I thought this month, I'd go into detail of what we do. Every month we have a board meeting on Sunday, lasting 2-3 hours. We go over everything that is essential to keep KJCC running. We have well over a dozen committees, chaired by officers and directors, along with some general members.

The president sets the agenda, with feedback from the board. We deal with finances, ritual, membership, activities and anything involving the functioning of our building. We also coordinate with sisterhood, which also has a separate meeting each month.

Of course, many committees

do extra work, almost daily. Membership and outreach, connect with other aspects of our community, and also answer questions of potential new members.

And those that deal with house issues (the building & grounds), frequently have items to maintain or repair. I do what I can to lead, but those committees are the heroes in my book.

Anyone who isn't on the board, but might be interested in serving on a committee, please feel free to contact myself or any of our VPs. There are lots of opportunities for anyone who wants to become more active at KJCC.

Finally, I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming new member/ advertiser dinner as well as our second annual Purim and Pas-trami! Last year was a blast. Please come if you can. ◇

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of Mitchell Harvey
October 6, 1952 - November 25, 2018 ~ 17 Kislev 5779
Forever in My Heart

Remembered by Linda Perloff Harvey

WHAT'S UP AT KJCC

Mondays 2 p.m. Drop-in Zoom Chat – Contact Steve Hartz

**Beginners' Hebrew group will meet at KJCC Sundays at 12 p.m.
and on Zoom Thursdays at 5 p.m. through April 7th. – Contact Joyce Peckman**

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Friday, March 1 | 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joe Shabathai |
| Sunday, March 3 | 10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting at KJCC 12 p.m. Beginners' Hebrew Group 2 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day |
| Thursday, March 7 | Lunch at Morikami Gardens |
| Friday, March 8 | 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Steve Jacobs & Linda Pollack |
| Sunday, March 10 | 10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 12 p.m. Beginners' Hebrew Group 1 p.m. Hamantaschen Workshop led by Jane Friedman |
| Tuesday, March 12 | 3 p.m. Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle led by Lucinda Kurtz |
| Friday, March 15 | 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Randy Klein-Gross |
| Sunday, March 17 | 12 p.m. Beginners' Hebrew Group |
| Friday, March 22 | 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman |
| Saturday, Mar. 23 | 6 p.m. Purim Celebration & Megillah Reading |
| Sunday, March 24 | 12 p.m. Beginners' Hebrew Group |
| Thursday, March 28 | 12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club – at the home of Shirley Stein |
| Friday, March 29 | 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Randy Klein-Gross & Erica Lieberman Garrett |
| Sunday, March 31 | 12 p.m. Beginners' Hebrew Group |
| Friday April 5 | 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Rivka Rizzo-Trent |
| Sunday, April 7 | 10 a.m. Sisterhood Meeting 12 p.m. Beginners' Hebrew Group 2 p.m. Sunday Funday Game Day |
| Friday April 12 | 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Joyce Peckman |
| Sunday, April 14 | 10 a.m. KJCC Board Meeting on Zoom 5 p.m. Women's Seder |
| Friday, April 19 | 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Ken Atlas |
| Monday, April 22 | 5:30 p.m. First Seder – Reservations limited, contact Loni Padden |
| Thursday, April 25 | 12:30 p.m. Sisterhood Book Club – at the home of Linda Pollack |
| Friday, April 26 | 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Medina Roy & Gloria Avner |

NOSH

Shabbat Across America – Havdalah in Marathon

On Saturday afternoon March 2nd we are invited to the Marathon home of Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman in honor of Shabbat Across America and Canada. Enjoy a light Shabbat meal at 4:30 p.m., along with food for the mind and soul. Rabbi Elliot Ginsberg, Professor of Jewish Thought at the University of Michigan and chair of Jewish Mysticism for the ALEPH Ordination Program, will speak about the History of Jewish Renewal. After sunset we will enjoy a Havdalah service. We look forward to seeing friends from the lower mile markers who can't travel often to KJCC. Contact Kathy Shabathai at 305-772-3935 to RSVP and coordinate your food offerings. Contact Joyce at 732-447-5225 if you need or can give a ride. See the flyer on page 14.

Journey to a Garden

On Thursday, March 7th we will visit Morikami Gardens, a lovely destination in Delray Beach with a delightful restaurant and historical Japanese gardens. We will carpool from KJCC at 9 a.m. to arrive there for lunch. Contact Susan Gordon 305-766-3585 to reserve your place.

Hamantaschen Bake

Some of us just love to get together and play in the flour. On Sunday, March 10 at 1 p.m., Jane Friedman will lead us as we knead, roll cut and stuff those delicious Purim pastries. Everyone is invited; just contact Loni Padden at 305-772-2584 by March 5th so we can prepare. Bring a round cookie cutter or a 3" wide glass plus your own fillings to share. See the flyer on page 29.

Purim and Pastrami

Ken Atlas started this and it is becoming a tradition. Purim is coming and we love a party! Join us on Saturday evening March 23 at 5:30 p.m. Wear something fun. Remember to bring a donation for charity, and food to share. Contact Joyce at joy-cepeckman@gmail.com. See the flyer on page 26.

Sisterhood Book Club

The last Thursday of each month at 12:30, a group of ladies meets, often at someone's home, and always on zoom, to discuss the book of the month. Hosts have included Elaine Shulberg, Joyce Peckman and Jan Price. On March 28th Shir-

ley Stein will open her home as we discuss "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride. On April 25th, Linda Pollack will again host as we talk about Sara Goodman Confino's "Don't Forget to Write." Contact Linda at Lindap4000@ymail.com for information. See flyer on page 12.

Hebrew Reading leaps Forward.

Hebrew is central to Judaism. It is both the holy language of the Torah and the language that binds us as a people. If you know how to read the letters, you share something with fellow Jews around the globe. You can walk into a shul and pick up a prayerbook anywhere in the world. If you know a relatively small vocabulary, those prayers will have a deeper meaning. Hebrew is also the living language of Israel. We should at least know its letters.

In January Joyce started a class for kids and adults, meeting for an hour twice a week – Sundays at noon at KJCC, and Thursdays at 5 p.m. on Zoom. Already, familiarity with the letters is building, but also words that we hear in prayers as well as on the street. This is a family commitment, not a drop-off Hebrew school. This is a group effort, with Joyce as the organizer. With committed adults, we can get the consistency and continuity of learning needed for success. Our goal is to prepare our kids for bar and bat mitzvah, and help our adults stretch their brains and hearts. It is not too late to join the group. Joyce does tutoring with beginners at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday and follows afterwards with the reading group.

KJCC Annual Women's Seder

Join us on Sunday, April 14th for a delicious Fundraising event that has supported women, children, and families in need both locally and across the globe for the last 18 Years. May its Tikkun Olam work (repairing the world) go on forever. And make your reservation early. There is limited seating. See the poster on page 30.

Ohr HaYam Family Seder

On Monday, April 22nd we will be observing and celebrating Pesach/Passover with our Ohr HaYam Family Seder at the KJCC. It will be delicious, meaningful and fun as we sit around our large family by choice table. Get your reservation in early. For details see the poster on page 32.

NOSH CONTINUED

Crochet – busy fingers at KJCC

Nadine Thompson, creator of gorgeous blankets and crochet instructor at the Joy Center, offered to bring her expertise to us on a Sunday afternoon. She brought balls of yarn and crochet hooks, and as we sat around a table, gave varying levels of advice and instruction to half a dozen ladies. (Men were invited; none came.) Nettie, who has crocheted for years, gave ideas for projects. Joyce, a total novice, and a lefty to boot, practiced the simple chain stitch under Nadine’s patient tutelage. Jane, Rivka, Linda and Jan worked on simple projects. We all agreed that we wanted to meet again. Since the KJCC calendar is full on Sundays for a while, we will meet next on Thursday, March 14th at 2 p.m. All are welcome.

Suggestion of a possible recipient for Tikkun Olam money to be raised by women’s Seder

The Women’s Seder is coming soon (see poster on page XX). Judy Starr has been doing research on how we can get to women and families in need in Israel. She found this information through the Jewish Federation of Miami.

Women’s Amutot Initiative

In Israel, there are thousands of women and girls struggling every day with economic and social issues, including abuse, poverty and isolation. The Women’s Amutot Initiative was established in 2003 to focus exclusively on the needs and

welfare of females in Israel. Annual grants are allocated to Israeli not-for-profit organizations (amutot) that provide programs and services for women and deal with economic and societal empowerment, integration and equality, protection against and prevention of violence and leadership development. Projects include:

- A legal advocacy hotline that helps marginalized and impoverished women with issues such as employment rights, insurance benefits, public housing, health care and debt management
- A 24-hotline — with assistance in eight languages — for women in southern Israel who are victims of violence
- Micro-enterprise loans for women wanting to start their own businesses in a wide variety of industries
- A legal aid clinic to help women in family law matters such as child custody, support payments and property distribution
- Promote attention to issues facing single mothers through media campaigns, as well as assisting single mothers in community organizing
- Vocational training for women exiting prostitution

Adult B’nei Mitzvah

- Word is that there is interest in a group adult bat mitzvah. Talk to Joyce or Gloria and the interest may morph into a plan for a wonderful actuality. ◇

Shabbat Service Leaders

| | |
|----------------|---|
| March 1 | Joe Shabathai |
| March 8 | Steve Jacobs & Linda Pollack |
| March 15 | Randy Klein-Gross |
| March 22 | Joyce Peckman |
| March 29 | Randy Klein-Gross & Erica Lieberman Garrett |
| April 5 | Rivka Rizzo-Trent |
| April 12 | Joyce Peckman |
| April 19 | Ken Atlas |
| April 26 | Medina Roy & Gloria Avner |

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. When you make a donation, please specify the names to be honored and the recipient fund if one is desired.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024

| Yahrzeit | In Honor/Memory of | Meditation Garden |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Joan Boruszak..... | Lillian Goldstein | Mindy & Rich Agler |
| Marilyn Rapp..... | Russ Rolnick | Stuart & Lauren Sax |
| Michael Krissel..... | Joseph Krissel | |
| Larry & Dorothy Wolfe..... | Morris Feinberg | Other |
| Patricia Isenberg | Fannie Phillips | Stuart & Lauren Sax |
| Medina Roy..... | Bianka Kirschenbaum | Leah Rosenberg & Esty Lipsky |
| Rosalyn Kofler..... | Fred Goldfaden | Joyce Peckman..... |
| Nadine Thompson | Herbert Frankel | Marika Evans |
| &Miriam Frankel | | Michael & Lorena Kaufman..... |
| David & Pamela Marmar | Sam Marmar | Sisterhood & Jack Kaufman |
| Patricia Isenberg | Harry Phillips | Cary Nation..... |
| Linda Pollack..... | Janet Palacino | In memory of my good friend Jeffrey Schocket |
| Adam & Judy Starr..... | Alexandra Louise Starr | - SISTERHOOD DONATIONS - |
| | Lila McKenzie Henry-Starr | Joyce Peckman |
| Robert Temkin..... | Anne Temkin | Michal, Adara & Isaac's Birthdays |
| Michael & Lorena Kaufman..... | Jack Kaufman | Jane Friedman..... |
| | | Harry's Birthday |
| | | Nadine Thompson |
| | | Memory of Brother Sheldon |
| | | Michael Krissel..... |
| | | His birthday |
| | | Arthur Plutzer..... |
| | | Celebrating Linda Pollack |
| | | Klein Family..... |
| | | Randy Klein Gross' Birthday |
| | | Kathy & Joe Shabathai ... |
| | | Celebrating Many Simchas |

ONEG SPONSORS

| | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| March 1 | Nadine Thompson Celebrating Her Birthday Kathy & Joe Shabathai Celebrating Their Anniversary | March 22 | Joyce Peckman Celebrating Michal, Adara & Isaac's Birthdays |
| March 8 | Judy Starr Celebrating Her Anniversary Mark Avner Celebrating Anthea's Birthday | March 29 | Jeff & Cheryl Margulies Celebrating Their Anniversary |
| March 15 | Jeff Margulies Celebrating His Birthday | April 5 | Jules & Nettie Seder Celebrating Their 58th Anniversary |
| | | April 12 | Barbara Knowles Celebrating Richard & Eve's Birthdays |

ONGOING PROJECTS & MITZVAH PROGRAMS OF KJCC

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 ADVERTISEMENT: Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 305-587-7429 or email lindap4000@ymail.com, for 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 Jane Friedman. Call Donna Bolton, 305-393-1351, to reserve an orchid, bench, brick or tree plaque for posterity.

ONEG SHABBAT/DINNER SPONSOR: : To schedule your special date with Sisterhood, call Loni Padden 305-772-2584 or email at dr.padden@yahoo.com.

CARING KEHILAH/SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: If you know of any member who should receive a get well, congratulations, condolence card, or phone call from the KJCC, call Lonie Padden, 305-772-2584, or email dr.padden@yahoo.com.

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES, SANCTUARY SEAT PLATES, YARTZEIT MEMORIAL PLAQUES: Send your desired inscription to Linda Pollack at 305-587-7429 or 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.

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 bimah each yahrzeit and published annually in our Yizkor Book. The cost for eternal synagogue memory is \$400.

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.



In Memoriam – March 2024

Lorraine Levinson

by Sylvia Berman

Shirley Stein

by Sylvia Berman

Dorothy Stanlake

by Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

Robert Kohlenbrener

by Joan Boruszak

Leroy Weisberg

by Gerri & Frank Emkey

Maxine Kaplan

by Marsha Garrettson

Sol Kurtz

by Oran Hesterman & Lucinda Kurtz

Anna Horn

by Susan Horn & Dot Brooking

Harry Phillips

by Patricia Isenberg

Luba Tuchman

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Jack Kaufman

by Michael & Lorena Kaufman

Albert Cohen

by Harvey & Judith Klein

Oscar Margulies

by Stanley & Jenny Margulies

Dorothy Ross

by Joyce Peckman

Denise Moss

by Linda Pollack

Cissie Rose Lang

by Frank Rose

Nate Schulberg

by Elaine Schulberg

Sondra Lundy

by Elaine Schulberg

Esther Schur

by Lee Schur

Ida Seder

by Jules & Nettie Seder

Isadore Seder

by Jules & Nettie Seder

Lila Mckenzie Henry-Starr

by Adam & Judy Starr

Alexandra Louise Starr

by Adam & Judy Starr

Theresa Steinbock

by Stephen Steinbock
& Rosemary Barefoot

Anne Temkin

by Robert Temkin

In Memoriam – April 2024

Joe Clark

by Alan L. Beth & Candace J. Stanlake

Audrey Meddin Pearlman

by William & Donna Bolton

Baruch Epstein

by Joan Boruszak

Mark Hitzig

by Wes & Rita Conklin

Larry Ira Frankel

by Miriam Frankel & Nadine Thompson

Frances Wolfe

by Michael & Suzanne Gilson

Bill Gordon

by Susan Gordon

Judith Rita Kaminstein

by Beth Kaminstein

Gertrude F. Kaplan

by Marshall & Myra Kaplan

Nathan Klein

by Harvey & Judith Klein

Shirley R. Krissel

by Michael Krissel

David Harvey

by Linda Perloff

Joseph Lempel

by Linda Pincus

Erwin Moss

by Linda Pollack

Dr. Joel Pollack

by Linda Pollack

Sam Sax

by Stuart & Lauren Sax

Richard Schulberg

by Elaine Schulberg

Morris Smith

by Stuart & Geri Smith

Louis S. Smith

by Steven & Barbara Smith

Mrs. Anne Miller

by Shirley Stein

Ida Tallent

by Lillian Tallent

Happy Birthday!

March

1st Sasha Dutton
 2nd Nadine Thompson
 3rd Stephen Steinbock
 5th Annie James Brennan
 7th Hannah Feig
 8th Rita Rzepka
 10th Kate Horowitz
 10th Thomas Davis Smith
 11th Bryan Schur
 12th Heath Greenbaum
 12th Oceana Gross
 13th Ira Stein
 13th Lily Salomon
 14th Jenna Lane
 15th Allan Boruszak
 15th Johanna Willner
 15th Maria Cartagena
 16th Jeff Margulies
 16th Natalie Hope Markowitz
 16th Steven Nobil
 17th Daniel Friedman
 19th Michelle Palacino
 20th Janet Palacino
 21st James Jr. Nobil
 21st Joseph Palacino
 23rd Ken Atlas
 23rd Lynn Dils
 25th Stephanie Coeurjoly
 25th Sylvia Berman

26th Anna Verity Greenbaum
 26th Tamerat M. Duman
 27th Sarah Hesterman-Kutz
 30th Lee Schur
 31st Jane Friedman
 31st Sari Eliz. Goldstein

April

4th Lauren Lane
 4th Thomas Brodie
 5th Jon Tainow
 9th David Feder
 10th Steven Jacobs
 12th Richard Knowles
 13th Eve Knowles
 13th Samantha Lebofsky
 15th Rachel Roth
 17th Susan Ellner
 18th Jennifer Garrett
 18th Lauren Sax
 20th Jonathan Nobil
 20th Michael Duman
 22nd Susan Temkin
 24th Lynn Nobil
 24th Susan Gordon
 25th Shirley Stein
 26th Maryann Boruszak
 29th Linda Pollack
 30th Jason Sherman
 30th Joel Roth
 30th Rachel Barrett

Anniversaries

March

| | Years |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| 8th Ken and Tonya Salomon | 16 |
| 8th Adam & Judy Starr | 16 |
| 16th Frank & Gerri Emkey | 16 |
| 30th Jeff & Cheryl Margulies | 56 |

April

| | |
|--|----|
| 3rd Jules & Nettie Seder | 58 |
| 10th Stuart & Geri Smith | 59 |
| 18th Susan White | 20 |
| 25th Murray Rapoport & Barbara Osder | 28 |

WORLD JEWISH REPORT

Medina Roy



Century-Old Jewish Graves in Gaza

While fighting their way through Gaza, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) soldiers stumbled upon several well-preserved Jewish graves in a British World War I cemetery near the town of Al-Maazi. Many of the tombstones within it were engraved with Stars of David. Lt. Col. Oren said, "It (the cemetery) was damaged a bit in the battles, but it can be restored. We noticed the Stars of David on the tombstones and names like Goldreich. We returned after a few days to the place and said Kaddish on the graves, after many years. We also found there, next to the cemetery, a cache for the production of many weapons. We did not check if there was an underground tunnel under the cemetery because we did not want to harm its sanctity. In other cemeteries, we located combat tunnels that Hamas had built underneath. We were amazed that we found such a pure place in this cursed area." (In November, early into the Israel-Hamas War, IDF soldiers prayed at a sixth-century synagogue in Gaza, marking the first time Jews had worshipped there in decades. The synagogue, located in the Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City, had been built in 508 C.E. during the Byzantine period. The site featured a famous mosaic of King David with a lyre and his name inscribed in Hebrew that was transferred to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem after Israel captured the Gaza Strip during the 1967 Six-Day War.) (www.thejc.com, 2-1-24)

A Major Donation of Yemeni Judaica

The National Library of Israel has announced the acquisition of 60,000 Yemenite Jewish manuscripts and text fragments, once one of the most significant private collections of Judaica in the world. The extensive treasure was donated by the descendants of Yehuda Levi Nahum, a butcher (an actual butcher, a *schochet*, not a mass killer) who died in 1998 after spending more than 50 years

meticulously acquiring and studying the material. It includes Judeo-Yemenite translations of works by Maimonides – the Sephardic intellectual, one of the most prolific and revered Torah scholars of the Middle Ages and also physician to Saladin, the great Kurdish sultan and victor over European Crusaders – and writings by Yihya Saleh, a leading 18th-century rabbinic law scholar from Yemen, as well as ancient Jewish marriage contracts. "This important collection is a transformative addition to the library's documentation of Yemenite-Jewish heritage that will enrich scholarship in this field for years to come," Chaim Neria, the curator of the Judaica collection at the National Library, said. David Selis, a research fellow at Yeshiva University specializing in modern Jewish cultural history, said, "It's the largest Hebrew manuscript collection assembled since the early 20th century, and the most comprehensive Yemenite manuscript collection ever assembled." The news is also significant because of the contentious history shared by the National Library and the Yemenite Jewish community. Thousands of books, manuscripts, and cultural artifacts were stolen from the community during and after their journey and absorption into Israel, in some cases by the government representatives entrusted with leading the community from Yemen. Many items ended up at the National Library, which refused in almost every case to return the books to their owners. "It would have been better that, alongside efforts to preserve the manuscripts and make them accessible, the library would also discuss and acknowledge the theft of Yemenite manuscripts during the community's mass immigration to Israel, and clarify its role in the matter," Rafi Shubeli, a Yemenite Jewish activist in Israel, wrote in a Facebook post. (www.jpost.com 1-19-24)

A New Owner for the Orioles

Jewish billionaire businessman and philanthropist David Rubenstein has agreed to purchase Major League Baseball's Baltimore Orioles. Rubenstein, a Baltimore native best known as the co-founder of the private equity firm The Carlyle Group, leads a new ownership group that includes Jewish former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and (non-Jewish) Orioles Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. The deal is valued at \$1.725 billion, and Rubenstein will be the lead decision-maker. Rubenstein's net worth is estimated at \$3.7 billion. He is a prolific philanthropist known for gifts to preserve patriotic sites and objects, including copies of the Declaration of Independence and Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. He was among the initial group of signatories to *The Giving Pledge*, the charitable campaign, started by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, encouraging wealthy individuals to contribute at least half of their wealth to charitable causes. In 2022, Rubenstein donated \$15 million to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the museum's collection was renamed in his honor. He is also a major donor to the *Jewish Life at Duke Center* at Duke University, his alma mater. Rubenstein's father's family immigrated to the U.S. from Ukraine.

Rubenstein takes the helm of the Orioles at a high point for the team: after languishing for a generation, Baltimore finished with an American League-best 101 wins in 2023 and boasts the highest-rated farm system in the sport.

David Rubenstein served in President Jimmy Carter's administration. He also spent 14 years as the chairman of the Kennedy Center, to which he has donated more than \$100 million. He had previously expressed interest in buying the Washington Nationals, put up for sale by the family of the previous owner, Jewish real estate magnate Ted Lerner, who died last year. (www.jta.org, 2-1-24)

New App for IDF Medics

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) recently developed a cutting-edge application designed to streamline the transfer of critical medical information about wounded soldiers from combat zones to hospitals. The technology, a first for the IDF, is expected to significantly enhance the efficiency of medical care provided to injured personnel. Previously, medical records of those wounded in the field were manually recorded on written pages. The new app was developed during the height of

the Israel-Hamas War in November. This app is installed on tablet computers carried by combat medics. They can now, via the app, quickly enter detailed information about the condition of the injured, along with any treatments administered.

Throughout the ground offensive in the Gaza Strip, the Medical Corps personnel from the Technology and Logistics Division have been on the front lines alongside the fighting forces. Each company is led by a senior therapist, doctor or paramedic responsible for managing the medical aspects of the operation. The key feature of this new system is the use of Near Field Communication (NFC) cards to transmit information seamlessly between treatment levels as the wounded are evacuated to hospitals in Israel. This enables a smooth and precise flow of information between caregivers, allowing for more effective prioritization of treatment based on the severity of injuries. (www.thejewishnews.com, 2-4-24)

In Memoriam

-Pearl Berg, thought to be the oldest Jewish person in the world and the third oldest American, died in early February at the age of 114. She was a philanthropist and was active in her local Hadassah chapter. Asked about what might have contributed to her longevity, her youngest son, Robert Berg, said this: "She maybe had a sip of Sabbath wine but she didn't drink, she didn't smoke, she ate sensibly, she had good emotional balance and she clearly had remarkable genes."

Berg was born in Indiana and raised in Pittsburgh, where she was confirmed at Rodef Shalom Congregation. In a tribute written on her 114th birthday, Rabbi John Rosove of Temple Israel of Hollywood, where Berg was a member, remembered that her parents, Archibald and Anna (née Gerson) Synenberg, were "itinerant photographers" who traveled widely looking for work. Her father later ran a used car business. When that enterprise failed, the family moved to Los Angeles, where Berg met her husband. "Jewish life was always a priority in Pearl's life," Rosove wrote. Berg served for two years as president of the Nordea chapter of Hadassah in Los Angeles. She was a life-long supporter of the State of Israel. According to the Gerontology Research Group, which studies "supercentenarians" and confirms their ages, at the time of her death she was the ninth-oldest living person in the world. (Another Jewish member of the supercentenarian study,

Louise Levy, died last year in New York at 112.) There are no other Jews among the verified 50 oldest people in the world. (www.timesofisrael.com, 2-7-24)

-Arno Allan Penzias, a child survivor of the Holocaust who shared the 1978 Nobel Prize in physics with Robert Wilson for discoveries that would confirm the Big Bang theory, died at the end of January. He was 90. In 1964, he and Wilson, a colleague at Bell Labs, were trouble-shooting a radio telescope in Holmdel, New Jersey when they noticed an unexplained hiss. They would later determine it was a "cosmic echo" of the incendiary event that gave birth to the universe some 13.7 billion years ago. "The interference you see on an analogue television screen as you try to tune in to channels might seem an unlikely form of time travel, but within this static hiss lies a glimpse of the first moments of the universe," explained the Nobel Foundation on its website. "Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson's fortuitous discovery of a form of radio noise that bathes the cosmos provided a crucial piece of evidence for how the universe was created."

Penzias was born in Munich to parents who had immigrated to Germany from Poland. In 1938 his family was placed on a train with other Jews of Polish origin for deportation to Poland. The Polish authorities refused to admit them and the train was turned back at the border. In 1939, when Penzias was 6, he and his brother Gunther, 5, were sent to London for safety as part of the Kindertransport rescue effort. They were reunited with their parents in 1940 and managed to make it to the United States. Growing up in the Bronx, Penzias later served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He received a doctorate in physics from Columbia University and joined Bell in 1963. In 1954 he married Anna Barras, a student at Hunter College who came from eight generations of rabbis.

(To give you a wonderful example of the kind of processes that sometimes undergird major scientific discoveries, Penzias and Wilson's initial attempts to locate the source of the mysterious "hiss" included a theory that it was ambient radiation from pigeon droppings inside the telescope.)

In 1992, Penzias arranged for the donation of parts of the telescope, known as the "Holmdel Horn," to a museum in Munich. (The device itself is a National Historic Landmark.) "It was very important to my father to remind [the Germans] what they lost," said Penzias's daughter, Rabbi L. Shifra

Weiss-Penzias. "He wanted his work to be a living reminder of the refugees who left and the people who died." (www.newsdesk@jta.org, 1-30-24)

- Si Spiegel, a Jewish World War II bomber pilot credited with popularizing and mass-producing the artificial Christmas tree, died in late January at the age of 99. Spiegel flew 35 missions over Berlin at the helm of a B-17 Flying Fortress. After the war, he found work as a machinist at a brush-making company. There he developed skills he would use in founding his artificial-tree businesses. It was a career choice, he said, made possible by anti-semitism: When he applied to be a commercial pilot after the war, the airlines turned him down. "They were blatant about it," he said in 2010. "It wasn't that they gave you some excuse. They told you, 'We don't hire Jews.'"

The son of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, he was raised in a religious neighborhood in Brooklyn. In 1954, he landed a permanent position with the American Brush Machinery Company, in Mount Vernon, N.Y. He operated machines that manufactured brushes from wire and other materials for various industrial functions, including cleaning and scrubbing wood and metal finishing. After American Brush unsuccessfully branched out into the Christmas tree business, Spiegel, by then a senior machinist, began studying natural conifers, tweaked the brush-making machines to emulate the real trees and patented new production techniques. In 1981, he founded the Hudson Valley Tree Company, which began mass-producing 80,000 trees a year on an assembly line that turned one out every four minutes. By the late 1980s, his company was generating annual sales of \$54 million and employed 800 workers. He sold the Hudson Valley Tree Company in 1993, retired as a multimillionaire and turned his attention to cultural, educational and social justice philanthropy. (www.nytimes.com, 2-8-24) ◇

Yahrzeit Plaque

In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Hayden

February 18, 1943 - June 27, 2023

~ 8 Tammuz 5783

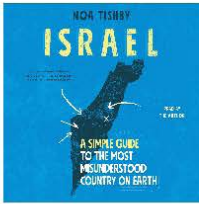
Dear Friend of the KJCC



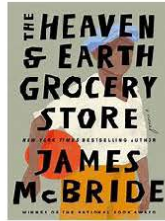
Sisterhood Book Club



Thursday, February 29, 2024 ~ *Israel--A Simple Guide* by Noa Tishby, home of Joyce Peckman
Thursday, March 28, 2024 ~ *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, Shirley Stein
Thursday, April 25, 2024 ~ *Don't Forget to Write* by Sara Goodman Confino, Linda Pollack



*Chronological timeline
spanning from Biblical
times to today that
explores one of the most
interesting countries in
the world -
Israel*



*The story of Black
and Jewish residents
of the Chicken Hill
neighborhood of
Pottstown,
Pennsylvania, in the
1920s and '30s.*



*If there's one thing Marilyn's
learned from Aunt Ada, the
Matchmaker, it's that she
doesn't have to settle. With
the school year quickly
approaching and her father
threatening to disinherit her,
Marilyn must make her choice
for her future: return to the
comfortable life she knows or
embrace a risky, unknown path
on her own.*

We will always Zoom and sometimes meet in person as well. An invitation to join the Zoom session will be sent prior to each meeting.

All sessions are at 12:30 p.m.

Let us know if you would like to host a meeting and/or review a book.

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT Loni Padden



Taking on the role of Sisterhood president at the KJCC is an enormous and daunting honor. Trying to somewhat gracefully accept the reins from the Incredibles Susan & Joyce, I find myself reflecting on my relatively short time being at the KJCC. From the moment my family walked through the doors, I felt the care and love being radiated all around, refreshingly open and welcoming. Who wouldn't want to stay and be involved? There is a sense of joyful community that happens when we all come together for Shabbats, dinners, Rosh Chodesh circles and so many other opportunities.

Sisterhood at KJCC offers us a place to gather as women and as Jews, to strengthen our bonds of friendship and community that connect us. That equates to lots of great food! In the last few months, we have welcomed NINE new ladies and their families to Congregation Ohr HaYam!!! We are growing and thriving here on the rock of the Keys!

So many wonderful upcoming occasions for fellowship and food!!!

The Advertisers/ New Members dairy dinner will be held on Friday February 23rd at 6 p.m. Please contact Medina Roy 305-394-1702 or hiitsmedee@gmail.com to RSVP and coordinate your dish. Prospective members are welcome! The Crochet Workshop with Nadine Thompson will be on Sunday, February 25 at 2 p.m. Nadine teaches crocheting at the Joy Center and we are blessed she is sharing her talents with us. This has the potential to be a reoccurring event depending on the level of crocheting interest. The Sisterhood Book Club continues meeting on Feb. 29th at 12:30 to discuss *Israel, A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth* by Noa Tishby, a chronological timeline spanning from

Biblical times to today that explores one of the most interesting countries in the world—Israel! All members are encouraged to get the book and join the discussion at Joyce Peckman's house or on Zoom. There will be a Havdalah service & Seudah Shlishi on Saturday March 2nd at 4:30pm at the home of Lucinda Kurtz & Oran Hesterman in Marathon. Please contact Kathy Shabathai 305-772-3835 Kathy@shabathai.com to reserve your spot & coordinate your dish. We are planning an outing to the Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens on March 7th, carpool leaving at 9 a.m. from KJCC. Contact Susan Gordon for further information & RSVP. Susangordon424@yahoo.com 305-776-3585. Their website for more information on the beautiful gardens is <https://morikami.org> Pack sunscreen & a hat! The Purim & Pastrami Deli Night was such a delicious hit last year, it's happening again! Come in costume or wear something fun to celebrate the reading of the Megillah and dinner. March 23rd at 6pm at KJCC. Contact Joyce Peckman for RSVP 305-451-0665 joycepeckman@gmail.com. Looking ahead to Pesach, it's rapidly approaching! Our 19th Annual Women's Seder is on Sunday April 14th at 5pm at KJCC. This is always a well-attended highlight of our Sisterhood activities! RSVP to Erica for potluck coordination hippiejap@hotmail.com 305-393-1162. The First Night Family Seder will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd at 5:30pm at KJCC. Limited space is available, for more information and reservations, contact Loni Padden at dr.padden@yahoo.com 305-772-2584

I am looking forward to seeing you ladies for our next Sisterhood meeting on Sunday March 3rd at 10am at KJCC.◇

Shabbat Across America



Havdalah Service and Seudah Shlishi



SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024

5:00 P.M.

Join us for a Presentation on the
History of Jewish Renewal by
Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg,

Professor of Jewish Thought at the University of Michigan and
Chair of Jewish Mysticism for the ALEPH Ordination Program

Followed by the third light meal before Havdalah and the
Havdalah Service as the stars appear.



At the home of Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman
Near Mile Marker 54 in Marathon.
Address will be provided when you reserve.



Contact Kathy Shabathai to reserve your spot and coordinate your offering.

Please reserve by February 28th so we know how much to prepare.

Kathy@shabathai.com ~ 305-772-3935

PHOTO GALLERY

New KJCC Officers and Board of Directors for 2024/2025 are enthusiastic about the coming year!



This year's Sisterhood service was better than ever. Joyful, musical, lots of participation, singing, dancing, and for the first time, both of our pianos got played. Thank you Jan and Erica.



Loni and David sponsored the oneg after Sisterhood service in honor of their anniversary.

Sisterhood President Loni Padden and challah baker extraordinaire Jane Friedman recite hamotzi in social hall after service. Can you tell there was a Valentine color theme?



After leading a lovely service, Randi Klein-Gross, her mom and recently "adopted" son, chant challah blessing together.



Yes, we have a lovely, fresh, easily readable new sign. Thank you, Susan Gordon for facilitating this for us.





Harry Friedman, one of our boys who went all the way through our Sunday school from age 7 to Bar Mitzvah marks another life passage moment, graduating college with a degree in electrical engineering and moving on to the U.S. Navy for more training to become an officer. Harry, happy Birthday! Your KJCC Mishpocha is so proud of you.

Graduation day!



What a great surprise— Harry coming to Friday night services with his mom before heading off to the West Coast for Navy training.



Back with old teacher and Bar Mitzvah tutor Gloria.

— SISTERHOOD —



Past Sisterhood co-Presidents Joyce Peckman and Susan Gordon are honored for their service with a gift and huge gratitude.

New Sisterhood officers for 2024-'25: Erica Lieberman Garrett, Treasurer, Jan Price, Secretary, Loni Padden, President, and Jane Friedman Vice-President



Past Presidents of Sisterhood: Erica Lieberman Garrett, Susan Gordon, Joyce Peckman, Linda Pollack and Nettie Seder.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ERICA!! You deserve a special one. You do so much for us, especially in the realm of food event organization, always beautifully presented.



Rivka Rizzo Trent gets ready to bless the challah after leading an impactful service.

This dynamic trio, Erica, Loni and Mary work their magic in presenting a terrific installation luncheon. Loni Padden's first event as new Sisterhood President. Well done!



We were so blessed to have had Aaron and Ellen Krumbain as with us for 6 weeks. We love Aaron's chanting of Kiddush, but mostly we love their haimische participation and look forward to their return next winter.



Great job on installation lunch, Susan Gordon and Erica Lieberman Garrett.



Magnificent luncheon celebrating new Officers of KJCC. Lots of lox (thank you Barbara Knowles).



NEW MEMBER AND ADVERTISER DINNER



Meet some of our valued new members. Here are Steve and Joan Jacobs, who have already participated in many events. Steve has already led services with Gloria and will soon lead another with Linda Pollack.



New members Shanti and Tyler Cole are to be found at KJCC every Sunday at noon making Hebrew reading progress by leaps and bounds (Tyler may also be found in the hallways playing ball with Sean Kaufman).

After Gloria and Susan light the Shabbat candles, Chaim Schaffer, an old friend of the Shul and Gloria, chants the Kiddush for us.



We are so happy to welcome Linda Pollack's sister Lanie to the KJCC family as a new member (though we've felt that way about her and her beaming son for many years already).

Jane Friedman, proud mom of Harry and baker of world's most beautiful and tasty challah, recites HaMotzi with Susan Gordon, Membership Chair.



Linda Perloff stands to be honored as long time advertiser and supporter of Chai-Lights. (We honor her as well for her cucumber salad and amazing rugeloh)



David Fulmer, chef at one of our favorite restaurants, Made 2 Order, and his daughter, are with us for the second year in a row.



Nice to see Joe and Mary Roth, Stuart Smith and the Starrs all participating in our celebratory event (but where is Geri?)



Rivka, Max, Nadine and Micki look ready for some dancing. Seeing more and more of that in the Sanctuary.

A handsome trio, Jacob along with Jules and Nettie Seder.



Jamie Horvat is welcomed by Susan Gordon, both happy to be here!

Remembering Jeffrey Schoket

A small group of KJCC members, friends and Chabad Rabbi Israel Shur, son in law of Rabbi Zucker, met for a memorial honoring the memory of Jeffrey Schoket at the Oasis Nursing Home in Tavernier on Feb. 28. Though his later years were filled with illness, as a young and middle-aged man, Jeffrey stepped up when it was important—he served as a Green Beret in the Vietnam War and he served as President of KJCC in our formative years. Taps was played. It was a good good-bye.



A younger Jeffrey with his beloved African Grey, "Anna"



Joyce Peckman, Judy Starr and Medina Roy give a presentation on the Holocaust to Key Largo School students. Lovely that KJCC was asked to participate in this important task. May education make a dent in antisemitism.



Joyce Peckman gets assistance from N.J. Granddaughter Libby in reviewing Letters with Hebrew reading students via zoom, while grandson looks on. Thanks Libby!



— TU BISH'VAT —

One of our absolutely favorite holidays is Tu BiSh'vat, the New Year of the trees. What could be more important than honoring the importance of trees in our lives. This year we planted 2 fruit trees. It will be a delight to watch them grow and someday be nourished by them. Remember, the Torah is often referred to as the tree of life. Aitz Chaim Hee.



Jane, our resident green thumb, has prepared the holes and brought all the tools and materials. Thank you, Jane.

Lorena Kaufman and son Sean make an excellent team.



Sean loves planting.



Susa and Gloria alternate reading a blessing.



Gloria, Susan and friend Leah from Israel, with Rivka and Max participating from home, participate in a kabbalist Tu BiShvat Seder led beautifully on Zoom by Lucinda Kurtz and Oran Hesterman. Happy Birthday, dear trees. We appreciate you and the mystics from S'fat who created this ceremony 100's of years ago.

MANDELBROT WORKSHOP

Whether we're up to our elbows in flour, making challah, or finding ever new creative ways to fill three cornered hamentaschen, KJCC SISTERHOOD loves to bake. And we have two great teachers, Jane Friedman and Luz Levine. This time we were learning to make Mandelbrot. So delicious. Enjoy this photo collage, and join us next time. (See page 29 for Hamentaschen workshop details).

Super participation. Marcia Kreitman, next to Joyce on right, brought husband John Hawver's cousin with her across the table. We love expanding the mishpocha.



Donna Bolton and Rachel Levine get the mixing just right.



We are into it.



Rivka Rizzo Trent's are ready to pop in the oven. Yes there are some creative additions.



Mom and daughter lead a great class.



Is Shirley Stein having a great time or what?



Luz, our fearless leader presents the finished product.





A Poem in honor
of Tu Bishvat,
offered at New Moon
Rosh Chodesh circle

by Lucinda Kurtz

Naomi Azriel Isen

There is strength in the faith of the unfolding.
The magic of new cell growth, seeds unfurl; angels singing them into being,
and you, you are always sheltering me.

The almond trees are birthing pink flowers in your holy land,
and almonds are always sour, furry and green before we can milk them.

So too, must we remember that birthing takes time.
Blissfulness can be felt in all seasons,
but only if you taste delicately the scents of the moment.

These too are willing you into being.

Those plums only fruit when the flower is whole
and the sun is warm and the time is deliciously right.

Don't wait too long to live, but also remember that the seasons are here
to remind us that rest and rebirth are necessary for life.

Let the sap rise up in you.

Taste it.

Move with it.

Allow it to fill you as you become more sweet and more alive in the now.

EYE ON THE ARTS

SOME OF THE KJCC ARTISTS AMONG US



This evocative Photo, by our own Jan Hartz, won first prize for photography in this year's Art Guild Judged Show, a distinct honor. The show is still up at the Discovery Center in Islamorada, where painters John David Hawver, Marcia Kreitman, Miriam (Mickey) Frankel and Gloria Avner also have works on display, many with ribbons. Stop by The Key Largo Library to see Jan's other pieces in another AGPI show. Congregation Ohr HaYam has many visual artists among us. Send us pictures of your work so we can share and enjoy here.

You may have missed the opening reception, but you can still visit Beth Kaminstein's show. Her work is sculptural, boundary breaking and beautiful.



And then there is the art of Poetry and the spoken word. Watch for details about a Poetry reading by Sam Weis, the multi-talented artist, writer and musician, at the Hale Gallery, date TBA.

BETH KAMINSTEIN
almost sexy



Kona Kai Resort and Gallery invites you and your guests to join us for a reception to view a night of Islamorada Artist Beth Kaminstein

Opening Reception
Thursday, February 8, 2024
4:30-6:30p.m.

Kona Kai Resort & Gallery
61802 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL • 305.852.7200



R.S.V.P.

Our newest advertiser, Our Place in Paradise, invites you to a reception for "Wildlife of the Keys" Sat. March 2, 5:00-8:00.

Among the art work will be Gloria's "Heron Dreaming." The show continues thru March. 23.





FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAEL THE SOUNDS OF SIRENS

May He Who guards Israel never slumber nor sleep.

by Judy Starr

What is it like living in Israel these days? What is it like living in a country that's a six-hour drive north to south and two hours across? What is it like to live in this country, beleaguered for years even before its birth by deadly enemies, and now at war with enemies who live just next door?

Israel is the country that holds so much of our history, our heritage, and for many of us the home of family or friends. Two of Medina's cousins who grew up in the same two-family house as her made Aliyah fifty years ago. On a Sunday afternoon in January – a Sunday night outside of Tel Aviv – Leah and Esty spoke with a group of us over Zoom.

There are the sirens, they told us, unpredictable and too frequent. The sirens mean rockets. Leah told us how they give a 90-second warning to run for a shelter, or to seek shelter in the home of a stranger, or to improvise safety as best as you can. When the rockets and the sirens stop, you must wait ten minutes for the all-clear, because after the Iron Dome has parried off the rockets, there is still fallout from shrapnel. Esty added that the country is so small, you don't even know whether the rockets are raining down from the north or the south. The people rely on their shelters and on the protection of the Iron Dome.

Leah and Esty live near Tel Aviv. They generally stay close to home. Leah told us she does her shopping online. Esty goes to her job as director of a nursing home in nearby Ra'anana. (One may wonder what those who live there have seen through their years, the cycles of war and peace, now war again.) Reminding us how long it takes to drive from north to south or east to west, the sisters noted that Israel has been compared in

size to New Jersey. As to driving on the roads, early on in the war the GPS traffic maps would not show where traffic had stalled. This was to avoid letting terrorists know where there was a concentration of people who were moving very slowly or not at all. Now the information on the flow of traffic has been restored to those electronic on-board maps.

The sisters remind us that every family in the country has been affected. They may have a soldier on the front, as 360,000 reservists were called up at the start of the war, or a member taken hostage, or a member or relative who was murdered on October 7, or close kin killed in combat. We are reminded of the butchery inflicted on Israelis (and other nationals who had the misfortune to be present) at so many places on that day, in homes, on kibbutzim, in safehouses where people were murdered, at the Nova festival that morning. Not only Hamas regulars, but also great numbers of Palestinians descended upon Israel. The hostages are on everybody's mind. Leah and Esty ask us to please not forget about the hostages and to pray for them. We assured them that we would remember.

There is trauma, there is grief. There is also a deep sense of betrayal at the Palestinians who for years had spent their days working for, often side by side with, Israeli families. They provided Hamas with detailed information, such as the layout of homes, the names of residents, the location of weapons, and even if there was a family dog. "An entire nation is going through Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, but we are all together," the sisters say. Being frum (religious), Esty explains that their faith helps to sustain them. Also of great support across Israel is "the coming together of the people". Leah and Esty tell us about a soldier's shuttered pizza shop. Neighbors



took over the baking and selling of the pizza, keeping the business going. Volunteers help with the harvest. One man drove to the front with eight washers and eight driers so that soldiers could wash their uniforms. Across the “home front” everyone pitches in – everyone is affected, but everyone is also connected.

It is hard not to feel the unfairness of the handicap under which Israel fights: unlike Israel, unlike any civilized country, Hamas hides its leaders, soldiers, and weapons in tunnels, under schools, homes, places of worship, places of healing, children’s bedrooms. They dare any who attack them to risk creating civilian casualties and triggering the criticism they know will follow. They have created an unfair advantage and take full advantage of it, as Israel issues warning by leaflets, text, or phone before attacking and tries to spare civilian lives as much as it can while it fights for its own life.

There is a great displacement, too, of the people who left their homes on October 7 with nothing but their lives and the clothes on their back.

The government had ordered the evacuation of 130,000 people from their homes at the start of the war. All these people are living in hotels in the center of the country. This dislocation, along with the damage and destruction to a number of homes, presents a real problem both for the people directly and for the country as a whole to solve.

Day to day, people must deal with the uncertainty of rocket attacks. They live with the sounds of the sirens; as to when those warnings may be sounded, no one can predict. What is it like in Jerusalem, we ask? There it is much safer from rocket attacks, they tell us, probably because many Arabs live in that area, there are many

mosques, and it would risk alienating that population if Hamas were to accidentally fire a rocket into an Arab neighborhood. However, in Jerusalem there are more terrorist attacks than in Tel Aviv and its immediate surrounding areas. Medina tells us about a trip the three of them took to Jerusalem last April. They waited at a taxi stand. A day or two later there was a fatal terrorist attack at that very same spot. This is how the people of Israel have to live – for how much longer, no one knows. [Note: Several days after this call, on 1/15/24, there was a terrorist attack in Ra’anana in which two terrorists snuck in from Hebron (in the West Bank), stole three cars, rammed into a group of people, killed one person, and stabbed 17].

Finally, we asked, What can we do to help? The sisters gave us the names of some charities: United Hatzalah. Sheba Medical Center. Natal (provides Post Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling for civilians). Mishpachah Achat (“One Family”).

Leah and Esty thanked us for wanting to hear their

stories and for the encouragement and support they felt from us. Every one of us who was on that call with them has been moved by what they said. To hear what it is like now in Israel in real time, in the words of people who are actually living through the war, is very different from getting a journalist’s report. We are fortunate that we are not obliged to go through the same difficulties and challenges here, and also very fortunate that we are in a position to help our brethren so far away in miles but close to our hearts and on our minds. We are fortunate that we are in a position to help. We are fortunate not to have our days and nights broken by the sounds of sirens. ◇



PURIM & PASTRAMI DELI NIGHT



Saturday, March 23, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate Survival at KJCC

with Mishpachah !!



MAKE FOUR MITZVOT IN ONE NIGHT:

Hear Megillat Esther -- The Ganze Megillah

Enjoy a Festive Meal

Share gifts of food with Neighbors and Friends

Give Charity

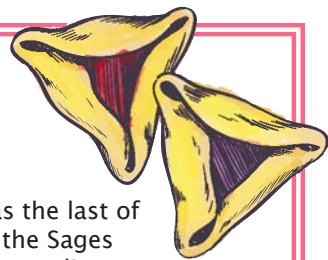


We've often heard this description of Jewish holidays: "They tried to kill us; we survived; let's eat!" . Purim is coming and we want to party! We have a custom when talking about future plans of adding the words "B'ezrat HaShem" or B"H - "With the help of G-d. " So, B"H on Saturday night, March 23rd at 5:30, we will meet at KJCC to read the Purim megillah round-robin style in English and finish with a Pastrami Party! We will eat, drink and celebrate our survival! Wear costumes or something funny or snazzy to enhance the fun.

Contact: Joyce Peckman, joycepeckman@gmail.com, 305-451-0665,
to let her know you are coming.

Remember, it is a Mitzvah to hear the reading of the entire Megillah.

Purim – Then and Now



by Joyce Peckman

This year we celebrate Purim on Saturday night, March 23rd and Sunday, March 24th. On Saturday night KJCC Congregation Ohr HaYam will be having a “Purim and Pastrami” festival, complete with food, costumes, noise-making and a full round-robin reading of the Megillah in English. We will have opportunity to fulfill all the requirements for fully celebrating the holiday: A festive meal – *Purim Seudah*, public reading of the megillah, exchanging gifts of food – *mishloach manot*– and donating charity. Yes, there is also a mitzva about “drinking so much wine you can’t tell the difference between cursed is Haman and blessed is Mordechai.” But that was written before the age of the automobile and Overseas Highway.

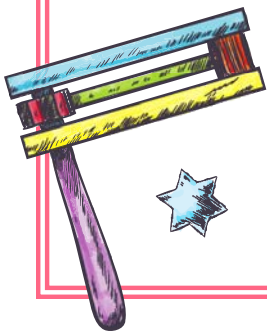
Purim seems especially significant to me this year. In the land of Persia 2500 years ago, the Jewish people faced an existential threat spurred by irrational hatred. Most of the people had somewhat assimilated into Persian society, as we can see by the names of our two heroes. Mordechai is probably the Hebrew version of Marduk, a Persian god often used as a man’s name and found in other Persian documents. Esther is a version of Ishtar, the Persian goddess of love, but also of jealousy and revenge. The Jews had done well in Persia, until suddenly everything changed. One man of power, an extremist, convinced the king to allow the extermination of an entire people who lived in their midst. The Jews were forced to defend themselves, and as we will see when we read *Megillat Esther*, many thousands of their enemy perished.

The Book of Esther was the last of the books canonized by the Sages of the Great Assembly. According to the Talmud, the Great Assembly redacted it from an original text by Mordechai. The first Century CE historian Josephus wrote of the origins of Purim and gave contextual information including the dating of the story relative to Ezra and Nehemiah. Over the years, rules and customs developed.

Because Queen Esther went without food or water for three days before going to see the king, the *Fast of Esther* is observed on the day before the holiday. For many religious Jews, the evening *Purim Seudah* is their first meal of the day.

The 12th century sage Maimonides taught “The reading of the *Megillah* certainly supersedes all other *mitzvot*.” We don’t just read it; we interact with it! Whenever Haman’s name is read out, which occurs 54 times, the congregation makes noise to blot out his name. Although *Megillat Esther* has been read for over 2000 years, the noisemaking can be traced back to the *Tosafists* (the leading French and German rabbis of the 13th century). They based it on a passage in the Midrash, where the verse “Thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek” is explained to mean “even from wood and stones.” Sublimating the rage against enemies past and present into the mitzvah of blotting out the name of Haman, Jews around the world developed their own customs. Some wrote the name of Haman on the soles of their shoes, and at the mention of the name, stamped with their feet as a sign of contempt.

In France, children used to take smooth stones, write or engrave Haman’s name on them, and strike them together whenever Haman’s name was mentioned, in order



to literally erase it. In Afghanistan, the children drew pictures of Haman on planks or cardboard. During the Megillah reading, the planks were thrown to the ground and trampled on, making a lot of noise. Wooden sandals were held in the hands and clapped together, also making a loud noise. The synagogue carpets were taken up and the congregants trampled underneath them, in case Haman was hiding there. In Germany on Purim eve, torches containing gunpowder would be ignited. During the Megillah reading, the gunpowder exploded with a deafening noise. A *grager* is the noisemaker we use to drown out the name of Haman during our KJCC reading of the *Megillah*. It is derived from the Polish word meaning “rattle.” Beginning in the 13th century, Jews throughout Europe sounded the grager as a part of their Purim celebrations. It is *ra’ashan* in Hebrew, from the word *ra’ash*, or noise.

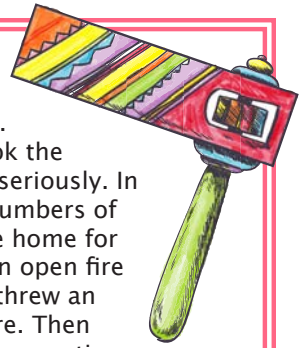
Hamantaschen comes from a delicious Ashkenazi tradition. The word in Yiddish means “Haman’s pockets.” In Israel they call it “*oznai Haman*” or “Haman’s ears” based on a Sephardic pastry. The triangular shape may be a reference to the pyramid shaped dice cast by Haman. In Germany, instead of Hamantaschen, Jews would make doll-shaped cakes called *haman*, and gleefully break off the heads before devouring them. In one town in Germany, on the eve of Purim, two candles would be lit in the synagogue. One was called “Haman” and the other “Zeresh” (Haman’s wife). The candles were allowed to burn down completely. “Thus should the haters of Israel be burnt.”

In Persia, the children prepared a large effigy of Haman, and filled its clothes with gunpowder. In the middle of the courtyard, they set up a large stick, from which they “hung” Haman. They then threw oil over

the effigy and set it aflame. North African Jews also took the concept of burning haters seriously. In Algeria, children lit large numbers of wax candles to light up the home for the Purim meal. In Libya, an open fire was built, and youngsters threw an effigy of Haman into the fire. Then they jumped over the fire, competing to see who could jump highest. In Tunisia, the schoolchildren participated in burning an effigy of Haman. The younger children made small “Hamans” out of paper, and the older children made a large “Haman” out of rags, old clothes and straw. All the townspeople gathered by the school. A large bonfire was prepared and everyone stood round it. By turn, the children threw the “Hamans” they had made into the fire. After all of the “Hamans” had been thrown on the fire, salt and sulfur were added. Then the participants stood round the fire, hitting the burning Hamans with special sticks that they had prepared in honor of Purim and shouting “Long live Mordechai, cursed be Haman, blessed be Esther, cursed be Zeresh.”] Sadly, most of those communities are gone.

Modern Israelis celebrate by taking to the streets for parades, musical performances and general carousing. In Tel Aviv the streets are full of music and noise, as children run around bopping each other with soft but noisy plastic hammers. The partying is known as *ad lo yada* – meaning “until he didn’t know.” The idea is that adults are supposed to get so drunk that they can’t distinguish between “blessed be Mordechai” and “cursed be Haman.” In many communities, religious and secular, they take this commandment seriously. But as we noted above, they don’t have to drive home.

We hope to see you on Saturday evening, March 23rd at 6 p.m., dressed for fun! Look for the flyer on page xx.◇





KEYS JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER
Congregation Ohr HaYam
Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood

Sunday March 10, 2024 1:00 p.m.
at the KJCC

Hamantaschen Workshop



Sisterhood invites all KJCC members, men as well as women, to join in the making of our favorite Purim dessert: Hamantaschen!!!

Jane Friedman will lead us in the making of these scrumptious morsels. We will publish information prior to the session telling you what supplies you will need to bring with you.

We will welcome your treats at our Purim celebration at the Megillah reading on March 23rd.

Rsvp to Loni Padden by March 5th
so we can be prepared.

dr.padden@yahoo.com 305-772-2584





19th Annual Women's Seder

Sunday, April 14, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

at the KJCC

Honoring our Woman of the Year

Join us as we continue our efforts of Tikkun Olam

~Repair the World~

Dinner is potluck and seating is limited.

Please contact

Erica Lieberman-Garrett

hippiejap@hotmail.com

305-393-1162 by April 8th

to coordinate your offering and reserve your spot.

Donation \$37

Mail your check, payable to KJCC

Sisterhood,

to PO Box 116, Tavernier, FL 33070.



A Prayer for Israel: for Victory and Peace

May He who guards Israel never slumber nor sleep.

by Judy Starr

Oh, Lord, we live with the burden of memory of the attacks that took place in Israel this past October 7, Simcha Torah, the day of rejoicing in your gift of the law. We pray that everyone injured on that day may recover fully and soon, and that all whose lives were stolen on that day receive your blessings on their souls and memories. May none of them be forgotten.

We thank you for the return of those hostages who are home now, and pray that the day when all who were taken from the land of Israel be able to return to their families. May those who may be part of a rescue for those who remain in captivity also return home safe and sound, mission accomplished. Please comfort all who grieve for hostages lost, and may those who help to bring their remains home also return home, mission accomplished, safe and sound. May no more families ever be torn by the theft of

any of their members, nor friend pained by such loss of any friend.

We pray that you bless, guard, guide, protect and defend Israel and its defenders, its people, and its friends – today and always. May you bestow such blessings and protection in every generation, now and yet to come.

We beseech you for a victory for Israel and its just cause as soon as, as easily and as painlessly as possible. May this victory soon be followed by a peace that is permanent, unconditional and secure, and accepted and respected by all. May Israel take its place as a peer among nations, and the Jewish people as peer members of humanity. May everyone be kind to one another, respectful of each other, and when help is needed be as helpful as possible to each other. May this become the way we treat each other always and soon, in every generation now and yet to be born.

Vimru Amen ◇





KEYS JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER
Congregation Ohr HaYam
Cathy Kaplan Sisterhood

Wednesday, April 22, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Passover at the KJCC



First Night Family Seder

*It's time to gather round the collective table and tell
our story of escape one more time. It's why we are
here and how we survive (while eating great food).*

For information and reservations contact

Loni Padden

dr.padden@yahoo.com 305-772-2584

Please reserve by 4/15/24 ~ Limited to 42 participants

Your check is your reservation, payable in advance

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Donations ~ Adults \$36: children 12 and under \$18



Embracing the Joy of Being Alive

by Lucinda Kurtz

They come early morning
on this new moon of Adar
as I sit by the water,
Two gray mourning doves
build their sacred nest
in the corner of the hut.

I hear them call,
High-pitched coos
signal their presence,
Smile as they land
on the sturdy beam
so near my head,
Watching me watching them.

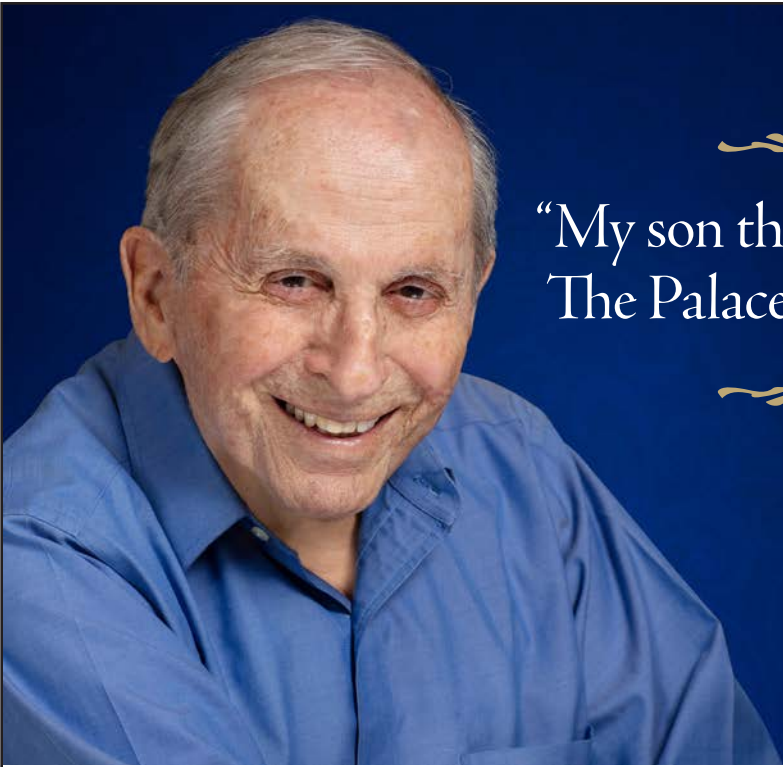
I welcome their company
their trust in the safety of this home,
close to my reach
where I come to pray
to greet the Holy Presence
with gratitude.

They feel my reverence
my open heart and longing
sense my invitation,
Messengers from the One
they sing with delight
Call me to revel
in the holy creation of this world,
Embrace the joy of being alive.

They carry an olive branch of
peace to this war-torn world,
Harbingers of a new harmony
composed with love from
deep streams of remembrance
and visions of future promise.

Savor beauty and joy
in the smallest of creations,
Feel the larger Presence
in each warm egg
waiting to break open
into this waking world.





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- 4. We go online remotely at YOUR convenience, including Sunday appointments at no extra charge.**
- 5. You don’t physically share your screen with me. You have your monitor and I have mine and we both work together.**
- 6. You remain safe in your home and dress as you like, without the intrusion of a technician in your home.**
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