

Chai~Lights



February 2008

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Keys Jewish Community Center

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

Second Seder Reservations

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

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

For further information, please call Joan Boruszak at 305-852-0833.

Lecture Series to Begin

Yardena's adult lecture series for 2008 will begin with an analysis and discussion of Alan Dershowitz's recent book, "The Case for Israel." The book is an ardent defense of Israel's right to exist. Each chapter is set up to simulate a trial, with Dershowitz as Israel's defense attorney. The discussion, part 1 of which will take place at 7:30 on Thursday, February 21st at KJCC, will include analysis of history and international law, and address frequent calumnies such as whether Israel has itself created the Palestinian refugee problem and has intentionally prevented a solution.

TO HONOR

Dr. and Mrs. Steve Smith

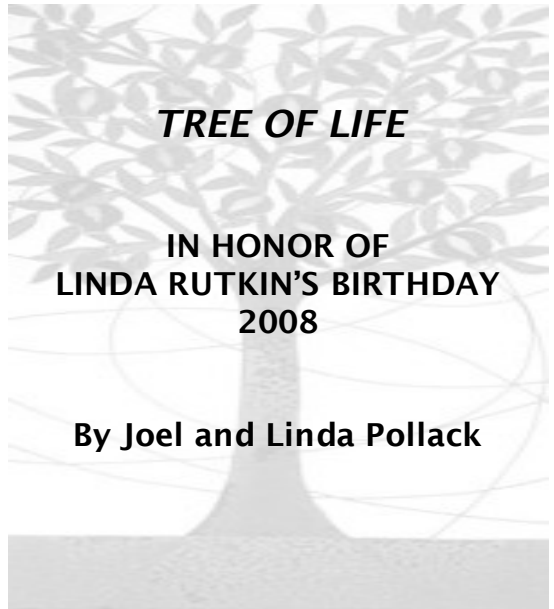
By Ralph Tallent

KJCC Annual Meeting

The KJCC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 10, 2008 in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall at 11:00 am. The Board meeting is scheduled for the same day at 9:00 am. All members are invited to attend both meetings.

Lunch will be served to all present immediately following the Annual Meeting. Please attend these meetings.

The primary order of business is the election of the new Officers and the Board of Directors.



New Members

The KJCC is pleased to welcome our newest members, Gerald Wretzky of Key Largo and David and Pat VanArtsdalen or Islamorada. We would also like to welcome back a newly re-joined member, Shelby Strean of West Palm Beach. We look forward to your active participation.

2007-2008 Officers and Board

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

President's Message Steve Steinbock



ASK & YE SHALL RECEIVE!

Last year, I asked for new Shabbat leaders and more music in our services. On January 4, 2008, we had a double-header. We had a new, first-time leader, Sam Vinicur, and also, together with him on the *bemah* and offering beautiful, harmonic versions of familiar music and also some tunes new to our service—in their South Florida debut—were the Shabbatones (starring, in alphabetical order, musical director and arranger Gloria Avner, Susan Gordon, Yardena Kamely and Linda Pollack), the almost-ready-for-prime-time choir! They all did a marvelous job. The week before that, another newbie, Ken Atlas, returned and led a great service. Who will be next to step up and lead a service?

On New Year's Day, George Swartz did a magnificent job officiating the Blessing of the Fleet at the Whale Harbor Bridge. Many of our members had their boats blessed, including Jim and Joan Boruszak's "Thanks Kids," Mort & Gene Silverman's "AuSUM II," with many temple members aboard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary boat "Fischurman" with Bob Schur and Nettie & Jules Seder, David Goldfin-

ger's "Goldfinger," Alex Adler's "Kalex," Michael & Suzanne Gilson's and "Shalom," with me, Carol & our Rottie Katie aboard. I hope I did not miss anyone.

Thanks to all of you who brought us over the top to match David & Toby Goldfinger's \$5,000 donation to the Scholarship & Holocaust Funds. We now have \$10,000 more for those funds. I'm awed at your response.

On December 21, 2007, my wife Carol represented the temple at a memorial service for the homeless who died in the Keys in 2007.

Our Annual Membership Meeting and Election of the KJCC Board of Directors and Officers will be on Sunday, February 9, 2008. Please attend. Sisterhood will be putting out a spread afterwards to celebrate.

It has been my pleasure to serve you this past year. I believe we have continued to move forward. Our members have been most generous with their donations of items, including a new Torah crown, *bemah* covers, books, a Powerpoint projector, money and, just as important, their time and expertise.

Steve

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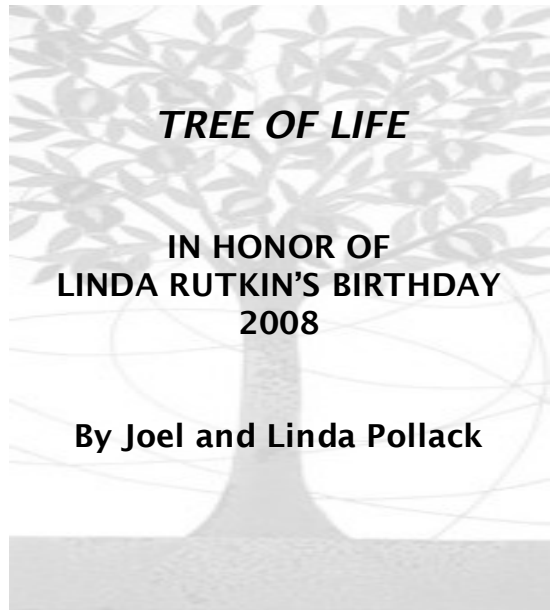
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YARTZEIT PLAQUE

Fred Ross

Beloved Father, Grandfather

1920-2006
14 Tammuz

Thank you, Stan and Jenny

Once again, we find ourselves thanking Stan and Jenny Margulies for their generosity. We recently ran a blurb in Chai-Lights noting that the KJCC classroom needed a projector capable of Powerpoint presentations, and wondered if

someone had one they'd be willing to donate. Stan and Jenny did, and did. Our president thanks you, our school thanks you, and we thank you.

February Anniversaries

	Years
21st Claire & Murray Cooper.....	60
20th Susan & Bill Gordon.....	21
9th Liliam & Uri Kamely.....	16
6th Gale & Arnold Lang.....	36
23rd Jessica & Eric Pollack.....	6
11th Linda & Joel Pollack.....	46

Ongoing Committees and Activities

Sunshine Committee - If you know of any member who should receive a get-well, congratulations or condolence card from KJCC, call Rene Rose, 852-3959.

Cemetery Information - If you wish to plan for the very distant future, you can reserve space at the Kendall Mt. Nebo Cemetery in the KJCC section. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

Picture Postcards - We have beautiful picture postcards bearing the Millard Wells representation of the KJCC, which was commissioned by Sisterhood. They can be packaged to fit your needs and mailed to you or your gift recipient. The price is \$36 per hundred but we will sell lesser quantities. Contact Joan Boruszak, 852-0833.

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

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

JNF Trees in Israel - A gift of a tree, or two or more, makes a long-remembered way to honor a loved one, a relative, a friend or an occasion. Both Israel and the KJCC benefit. Call Bea Graham, 852-0214.

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

Advertising in Chai-Lights - Your business ad will appear in every issue of Chai-Lights. Call Linda Pollack, 852-8575, for annual rates.

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

February Memoriam

By Mark & Sofy Wasser

In Blessed Memory of

MINNIE BERGER

Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Arthur Feinberg

In Blessed Memory of

WILLIAM FEINBERG

In Our Memory Always

By Janice Gorson

In Blessed Memory of

JOSEPH GORSON

Rest in Blessed Peace

By Paul & Barbara Bernstein

In Blessed Memory of

SUNNIE BERNSTEIN

Eternal Peace

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe

In Blessed Memory of

MORRIS FEINBERG

Long Blessed Sleep

By Robert & Eileen Hermann

In Blessed Memory of

FRED H HERMANN

Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Steven & Barbara Smith

In Blessed Memory of

MIRIAM BLINDER

Forever In Our Hearts

By Shirley Boxer

In Blessed Memory of

J.L. FIERBERG

We Remember Always

By Pauline Roller

In Blessed Memory of

SHIRLEY HOROWITZ

Always Loved and Missed

By Shirley Boxer

In Blessed Memory of

IDA BOXER

In Our Heart And Memory

By Joel & Linda Pollack

In Blessed Memory of

MALKA FRANK

With Loving Remembrance

By Melvin Jacobson

In Blessed Memory of

ISAAC JACOBSON

Eternal Rest

By Shirley Boxer

In Blessed Memory of

MAX BOXER

Always In My Memory

By Milton & Claire Geller

In Blessed Memory of

LOUIS GELLER

Sleep In Peace

By Michal Kamely

In Blessed Memory of

PINCHAS KAMELY

Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Mel & Blanche Taks

In Blessed Memory of

PAUL BUCHMAN

Rest In Peace

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

In Blessed Memory of

CHARLES GILSON

Forever Remembered With Love

By Gerri Weisberg

In Blessed Memory of

ROBERT KINNEY

Eternal Peace

By the Cohen Family

In Blessed Memory of

SARA J. COHEN

Rest In Eternal Peace

By Michael & Suzanne Gilson

In Blessed Memory of

ROSE GILSON

Always Remembered

By Michael Krissel

In Blessed Memory of

JOSEPH KRISSEL

Forever In Our Hearts

By Jim & Lynn Nobil

In Blessed Memory of

SARA J. COHEN

Always In Our Memory

By Marty & Bea Graham

In Blessed Memory of

NICHOLAS GOLDENBERG

Always Remembered With Love

By Arnold & Gale Lang

In Blessed Memory of

ROSE LANG

In Our Heart And Memory

By David & Pamela Marmar
In Blessed Memory of
SAMUEL MARMAR
Always In My Memory

By Ron & Dorothy Horn
In Blessed Memory of
IDA RATCHIK
Forever Remembered With Love

By Janice Gorson
In Blessed Memory of
A. JAMES WEISS
Forever In Our Hearts

By Stanley Nason
In Blessed Memory of
GLORIA F. NASON
Rest In Peace

By Robert & Sylvia Berman
In Blessed Memory of
LOU ROAZEN
Always Remembered

By Larry & Dorothy Wolfe
In Blessed Memory of
SAMUEL WOLFE
In Our Heart And Memory

By Jim & Lynn Nobil
In Blessed Memory of
IRENE NOBIL
Rest In Eternal Peace

By Pauline Roller
In Blessed Memory of
AL ROLLER
Always Remembered With Love

By Meredith A. Cline
In Blessed Memory of
REUBEN L. ZALK
Always In My Memory

By Mel & Blanche Taks
In Blessed Memory of
BEA PASCH
Long, Blessed Sleep

By Sid Samuels
In Blessed Memory of
SOPHIE SAMUELS
Never Forgotten, Always Loved

By Meredith A. Cline
In Blessed Memory of
SARAH P. ZALK
Rest In Peace

By Henry & Patricia Isenberg
In Blessed Memory of
FANNIE PHILLIPS
We Remember Always

By Steven B. Sanders
In Blessed Memory of
IRVING SANDERS
Always Loved and Missed

By Teresa Kwalick
In Blessed Memory of
M. TERESA ASTRAY-CANEDA
Eternal Rest

By Joel & Linda Pollack
In Blessed Memory of
WILLIAM POLLACK
With Loving Remembrance

By Robert & Lee Schur
In Blessed Memory of
JOHN A. SCHUR
Eternal Rest

By Larry & Stephanie Gilderman
In Blessed Memory of
ELSIE GILDERMAN
Remembered With Love

By Marjorie Present
In Blessed Memory of
AMOS M. PRESENT
Sleep In Peace

By the Sherman Family
In Blessed Memory of
LOUIS SHERMAN
Forever In Our Hearts And Memory

By Alan Beth & Candy Stanlake
In Blessed Memory of
KITTY NYMAN
Always In Our Memory

By Marjorie Present
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IDA O. PRESENT
Remembered With Love

By the Blumberg Family
In Blessed Memory of
DAISY WEINTRAUB
Eternal Peace

By Alan Beth & Candy Stanlake
In Blessed Memory of
TED NYMAN
In Our Memory Always



KEYS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

**We're having
a PARTY!**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL
FUNDRAISER**

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2008

**"CHAMPAGNE BUBBLES &
NOVA DREAMS"**

AT THE HOME OF ELAINE & JERRY HIRSCH

12:30 PM

BRUNCH, DRINKS, FUN AND PRIZES!

**WE WELCOME ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP
SPONSOR ALL OR PART OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

PRINTING \$ 500

MUSIC \$ 500

RAFFLE PRIZES \$1500

PLEASE CONTACT JOAN STARK 394-2417

JOANSTARK@BELLSOUTH.NET



The Jewish Relationship With Community

The KJCC is organizing a new member drive. We are inviting family, friends, and neighbors who are not currently members of our Jewish community to come and learn more about our temple and congregation. We want to reach out to the Jewish community in the Keys and meet more of our *mishpoche*. Creating a vibrant community whose members are connected in multiple ways is an important part of the Jewish way of life.

Today, the importance of sharing experience and expressing communal support is practiced in Judaism by the idea of *minyan*, the quorum of ten which is traditionally required for a prayer service. Without a *minyan*, some prayers are not to be recited aloud. This is a metaphor for the void we feel when we are not fully supported by family and friends. God is not enough to overcome our existential loneliness. We need each other. Hillel said: "Do not separate yourself from the community." (*Mishnah Avot* 2:5). The desire for community is not necessarily the search for friendship. It is the search for shared responsibility.

Community is also our context for *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. In our prayers we say, *Sh'ma Kolenu* - "hear our voice" - indicating *our* collective, communal responsibility and power. We pray *for* the community, which reminds us that we belong to the community. Community comes from the word "common." The word makes us aware what we share in the most basic way: tears, loss, love, illness, joy, fear, birth, death, life.

We are not meant to live alone. We are not supposed to ignore what we have in common as human beings. That is the power of community, *kehila*. In Judaism, we recognize that the community is strengthened by individual action, *ma'aseh*, which is really individual responsibility coming together for the sake of the community. As Heschel wrote, "We must continue to remind ourselves that in a free society all are involved in what some are doing. Some are guilty, all are responsible." As Einstein wrote, "To be a Jew means to bear a serious responsibility not only to his own community, but also toward humanity."

Community does not come about spontaneously. *Pirke Avot*, (The Words of the Elders), tells us, "Find a Master, Acquire a Friend." We need to recognize our own vital role in creating community. Often this consists of seeking out an already existing community and trying to be part of it.

Judaism is lived most fully with family and community. We are fortunate to live at a time and place where we are free to choose how to live our lives as Jews. We are taught that what makes us a community is the sense of shared responsibility: when one is in need, the other simply responds. I believe that to be fully actualized as an individual, becoming an integrated person, you must belong to a larger community, asking yourself what you can do for your community.

In this spirit, I hope to see more than a few new members joining the KJCC this year and becoming part of our *mishpoche*. ◇



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JOANSTARK@BELLSOUTH.NET

World Jewish Report

Medina Roy



The comfort tree

A 150-year-old chestnut tree across from 263 Prinsengracht, in Amsterdam, is slated to be taken down by Dutch officials. The tree, said to have comforted Anne Frank while looking out her window as she hid from the Nazis, is ailing due to fungus and moth infestations. A campaign to save the tree has been started by a variety of non-profit groups and they have managed to postpone the tree's demise until all recovery efforts have been exhausted. "For Anne, the tree represented comfort, consolation... [and] a longing for freedom," said an official from the Anne Frank Museum. (*Dateline: World Jewry, Dec. 2007 / Jan. 2008*)

Bill Ott's best

Having arduously sifted through a year's worth of reading, Bill Ott, editor and publisher of "Booklist," and his staff, have selected Michael Chabon's "The Yiddish Policemen's Union," as one of his top three books published in 2007. In his review of the book, Ott says: "...Chabon creates an epic alternate history in which Alaska, not Israel, is the embattled Jewish homeland. ...what allows the novel to soar is its humor and humanity." "Booklist," published by The American Library Association, is a periodical for professional librarians. (*American Libraries, January / February 2008*)

The Diary That Almost Wasn't

From an essay written by David Oshinsky in the N.Y. Times book report: "In the summer of 1950, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. turned down the English language rights to a Dutch manuscript after reading a particularly harsh reader's report calling the diary 'very dull, a dreary record of typical family bickering,

petty annoyances and adolescent emotions.' Sales would be small because the main characters were neither familiar to Americans nor especially appealing. *The Diary of Anne Frank* would be rejected by 15 others before Doubleday published it in 1952." The year 2007 marked the 60th anniversary of the Dutch publication of Anne Frank's Diary. Nearly 40 million copies have now been published in 66 languages, making it one of the best-selling books in history. (*Newsletter of The Anne Frank Center, USA, Nov. 2007*)

Fatah's New Map

Founded in 1965, Fatah is planning to mark its 43rd anniversary this year with a new poster showing all of Israel as Palestine. The poster was designed specifically for the occasion featuring a map of Israel that is entirely draped with a Palestinian *keffiyeh* scarf, along with a drawing of a rifle, symbolizing the "armed struggle" against Israel. The message of the poster is that Fatah, like Hamas, has no intention of recognizing Israel's existence. The emblem violates Fatah's declared policy, which envisions an independent Palestinian state alongside, and not instead of, Israel. (*Jerusalem Post, 12-23-07*)

"Live Long and Prosper"

The Vulcan salute, which first appeared on the original Star Trek series in the second season-opening episode, was devised by Leonard Nimoy, the actor who played the half-Vulcan Mr. Spock. The salute consists of a raised hand, palm facing forward with the fingers parted between the middle and ring finger and with the thumb extended. In his autobiography, "*I Am Not Spock*," Nimoy wrote that he based it on the priestly blessing

performed by *Kohanim* on the Jewish High Holy Days with both hands, thumb to thumb in this same position, representing the Hebrew letter *Shin*. Nimoy wrote that when he was a child, his grandfather took him to an Orthodox synagogue where he saw the blessing performed and was very impressed by it. The blessing (*Birkat Kohanim*) is also known as *Nisiat Kapayim*, which translates to “raising of the hands.” (*TVLand, “100 Greatest TV Quotes and Catchphrases,” 12-15-07*)

\$25 Million Matzos

The Streit’s matzo factory, on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, where thousands of matzos a day roll out of two ovens and then get shipped across America, is on the market for \$25 million. The bakery, started in 1916 by Aron Streit, an Austrian immigrant, is America’s last family-owned matzo factory. Customers of the historic bakery include some of New York’s most famous delis – Katz’s, Carnegie Deli and the 2nd Avenue Deli. The real estate agent handling the 47,000 square foot property expects a developer to convert it into luxury residential or commercial space. It is a change that mirrors what has happened to the neighborhood which was once populated by generations of Jews. The factory will keep producing matzo (about 16,000 pounds a day) until the family builds a new factory, most likely in New Jersey, in about a year. (*Associated Press, 12-22-07*)

Jewish Pitcher Named in Steroids Report

Of the 80 named baseball players linked in some way to steroid use, pitcher Scott Schoeneweis was the only Jewish player named in the report headed by George Mitchell, the former U.S. Senate majority leader. The left-handed pitcher, who has played for 5 teams since 1999, is not as famous as others who were named in the report but has been a solid player. Back in 2006, he was 0-2 with a 5.03 ERA in 70 appearances with the NY Mets. Schoeneweis was cited in a report by ESPN that he received six shipments of steroids while he

was playing for the Chicago White Sox from 2003 through 2004. Schoeneweis has denied the ESPN report. (www.jta.org, 12-14-07)

“Last Chance” Targets Nazis

Most of them would now be in their 90s and they have managed to keep their identities hidden and escape punishment. Concerned that they might die without being held accountable, the Simon Wiesenthal Center has announced plans to ramp up efforts to locate and prosecute elderly Nazi war criminals living in South America with “Operation Last Chance.” Efraim Zuroff, the top official with the Center, was quoted as saying, “The natural tendency is to be sympathetic toward people after they reach a certain age, but these are the last people on earth who deserve sympathy. ...in no way does the passage of time lessen their crimes.” There are 1,019 ongoing investigations of former Nazi war criminals in 14 countries. Since the beginning of the program, 488 suspects have been identified. In particular, the operation is targeting Aribert Heim, wanted for the deaths of hundreds of prisoners at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria from surgeries done without anesthesia. Heim is believed to be living in Chile or Argentina despite claims by his family that he is dead. (*Washington Post 12-6-07*)

A Charity You Can Count On

Charity Navigator, America’s premier independent charity evaluator, has bestowed its second consecutive four-star rating on the Jewish National Fund (JNF) for the organization’s sound fiscal management. “This indicates that JNF, United States, outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate the most fiscally responsible way possible. Started in 1901, The Jewish National Fund began collecting coins in blue boxes to purchase land and return the Jewish people to their homeland. Among its many achievements, JNF has evolved into a global environmental leader in its 106-year history. It has planted 240 million trees, built over 1,000 parks and recreational areas, discovered drip irrigation and new ways to grow plants under

arid conditions and, most notably, brought green to the desert. JNF has built over 190 reservoirs and water recycling centers, increasing Israel's water supply by 10 percent. (*www.jnf.org, 11-8-07*)

Will an Arab be honored at Yad Vashem?

Although no formal request has been submitted to have Mohammed V, a former king of Morocco, admitted to Yad Vashem's "Righteous Among the Nations," which recognizes non-Jews who risked their lives to rescue Jews during the Holocaust, it is happening behind the scenes. Morocco and Israel have a longstanding relationship involving quiet diplomacy and discreet intelligence cooperation. In his book, *Among the Righteous: Lost Stories From the Holocaust's Long Reach Into Arab Lands*, Robert Satloff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, describes the persecution of Jews in Arab countries during WWII and sheds new light on the positive role played by Mohammed V, who died in 1961. Of Yad Vashem's 22,000 Righteous, some 70 are Muslims, most of whom are from Turkey and the Balkans. Mohammed V would become the first Arab admitted. The most difficult criterion would be proof that the late king actually risked his life to save Jews. (*The Forward, 12-12-07*)

Muslim Student Fights for Jews

On the night of December 7, 2007, Has-san Askari, a 20-year-old Muslim student at Berkeley College in Manhattan, came to the aid of Walter Adler when he and three friends were attacked in an apparent hate crime on a New York subway train. Ten men and women, aged 19 and 20, verbally and physically assaulted Adler and his friends after they wished the assailants "Happy Chanukah" in response to their "Merry Christmas" wish. Askari tried to fight off the attackers, which gave Adler time to pull the emergency brake on the Brooklyn-bound train. The assailants were arrested at the next stop. (*World Jewish Congress Foundation, 12-13-07*)

CNN "Hero"

From a list of more than 7,000 candidates nominated by CNN viewers, a celebrity panel of judges considered Rick Hodes, who runs the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's (AJJDC) medical program, for the top spot in CNN's "Heroes." A Johns Hopkins-trained physician, Hodes oversees the treatment for thousands of people in Addis Ababa seeking to emigrate to Israel. In his spare time, Hodes and a group of nuns care for people suffering from TB, malaria and cancer at Mother Teresa's Mission, also sponsored by JDC. In addition, he has taken several of his younger patients into his home and paid for their treatment himself. (*The Forward, 12-12-07*)

National Yiddish Book Center

At its midwinter conference in Philadelphia, the American Library Association held a session on January 13th entitled, "A Morning with Aaron Lansky." Lansky, at age 24, set out to rescue the world's Yiddish books by locating priceless books in basements, attics, demolition sites and dumpsters. Today, the National Yiddish Book Center, the nonprofit organization he founded, has recovered almost 1.5 million volumes. (*American Libraries, January / February 2008*)

Israel's First National Library

In November 2007, the Israeli Knesset unanimously passed a historic law, effective January 1, 2008, creating Israel's first national library to be established in Jerusalem.

The Jewish National and University Library has acted as the *de facto* national library since its creation in 1892 as the "Abarbanel Study Library." It was taken over by the Zionist Congress in 1905 and incorporated into the Hebrew University of Jerusalem when it was founded in 1925. The Jewish National and University Library houses over 90 percent of known Jewish manuscripts and is also home to handwritten Maimonides manuscripts. The library also has two copies of every work published in Israel since the 1950s. (*Jerusalem Post, 11-27-07*) ◇

Eye On The Arts Gloria Avner



The Season is upon us, dear friends and culture buffs; February is as full swing as it gets. Let's delight in and take advantage of the music and art offerings spread before us on this splendid table. Most of the events listed below take place in our Upper Keys or Miami. Make plans, invite friends, create outings, carpool, volunteer!! My recommendations are the **concert offerings of the South Florida Center for the Arts, I.C.E. performances**, and the **Art Shows** starred below. (Yes, this shows blatant favoritism).

****Now until April 30th:**

Jewish Museum of Florida, Miami Beach.
Look! Up in the Sky! It's a Bird, It's a Plane! It's Zap Pow Bam, a colorful dynamic exhibit that immerses visitors in **an interactive world of Super Heroes, highlighting the Jewish creators of comic books from 1938 – 1950.** (*Let's get a group together for this one. Highly recommended reading: "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay."*)

Now through May 31st:

Lichtenstein at the Fairchild; The Fairchild Tropical Garden kicks off a new exhibit featuring the work of acclaimed pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. 10901 Old Cutler Road.

****Tuesday, January 29th:**

South Florida Center for the Arts Concert Series presents **Arvel Bird and One Nation.** Native American music. 8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. sfca-arts.org. (*Best Native American Instrumental Group-2007*)

****Thursday, January 31st-Sunday, February 3rd:**

noon – 9 p.m., **The Original Miami Beach Antique Show**, Miami Beach Convention Center (305) 673-7311 (*The most amazing*

collection of art, collectibles, jewelry, and antiques you'll ever see; wear comfy shoes.)

Saturday, Feb, 2nd

Keys Images Past and Present 5-7:30 p.m. The Artists Gallery at DeClue's Fine Art Printing and Framing, Tavernier Towne Shop Cntr. MM 91.3, Tavernier. 852-4840.

****Saturday, February 2nd and Sunday, February 3rd:**

"Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival." Lorelei Restaurant Field, MM 81 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada. 664-3571.

****Tuesday, February 5th:**

Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company presents A Compás! at I.C.E. Islamorada TIB Amphitheater; 8 p.m.; Email: jes-sica@keysice.com; 305-395-6344 (*This should make another excellent group outing.*)

****Saturday, February 9th - Sunday, February 10th:**

Pigeon Key Art Festival. Juried outdoor art show. Music, food, art raffle. \$7 adults/\$3 students/children free. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Marathon Community Park, MM 49 Overseas Hwy., Marathon. 289-9555. (*One of the best of all So. Florida Art Shows*)

****Tuesday, February 12th:**

South Florida Center for the Arts Concert Series presents **Puccini's "LaBoheme"** Seven singers perform this classic opera in concert style. 8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. 304-9059. www.sfca-arts.org.

****Friday, February 15th:**

Purple Isles Art Guild presents "Birds in Nature." Art among the gardens. Francis Tracy Garden Center, Key Largo. 852-7494.

Saturday, February 16th:

Keys Community Concert Band outdoor concert. "That's Entertainment." Bring blankets, lawnchairs. Free. 4 p.m. Islamorada Founders Park, MM 87, bayside, Plantation Key. 853-7294.
keyscommunityconcertband.org.

****Saturday-Monday, February 16 -18:**
Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

The Coconut Grove Arts Festival is one of the nation's premier outdoor fine arts fairs.

****Saturday, February 16th:**

South Florida Center for the Arts presents "Yesterday: A Tribute to the Beatles." A celebration of the music of the "Fab Four." 8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. 304-9059.
www.sfca-arts.org. (*Perfect Valentine's Day Date--"All You Need is Love"--Diamond Heart pendant to be raffled--benefit for "Arts for Youth" Scholarship Fund*) Don't miss this memory-filled fun evening!!

****Saturday, February 16 - Sunday, February 17:**

Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival. Waldorf Plaza, MM 100 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo. 664-3571.

Monday, February 18th:

Middle Keys Concert Association presents Ji Yong, pianist. (Rising Star series) Winner of New York Philharmonic Young Artists Competition. 7:30 p.m., San Pablo Church, 122nd St., Marathon. 743-4687.

****Monday, February 18th:**

I.C.E. Islamorada TIB Amphitheater, MM 87 bayside, 8 p.m., **Will Maring and Robert Bowlin**, e-mail: jessica@keysice.com
Call: 305-395-6344

Sat., February 23 - Sun., February 24:

Key West Art Center presents 43rd Annual Old Island Days Art Festival. A juried fine-art show with exhibitors from across USA and Canada. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Whitehead and Caroline Streets, Key West. 294-1243.
keywestartcenter.com.

****Saturday, February 23 - Sunday, February 24:**

Upper Keys Rotary Nautical Flea Market / Purple Isles Art Guild Big Tent Gallery. Founders Park, MM 87 bayside, Plantation Key. 853-1685.

Sunday, February 24th:

I.C.E., Islamorada TIB Amphitheater, MM87 bayside, 8 p.m., **Pierre Bensusan**; e-mail jessica@keysice.com; Call: 305-395-6344

Monday, February 25th:

I.C.E. TIB Amphitheater, MM87 bayside, 8 p.m., **Michael Pickett**, e-mail: jessica@keysice.com Call: 305-395-6344

****Tuesday, February 26th:**

South Florida Center for the Arts Concert Series presents **New Orleans and Dixieland Jazz classics with Marcus, Charlie and Joan.** 8 p.m. Coral Shores Performing Arts Center, MM 89, Tavernier. 304-9059.
www.sfca-arts.org.

Friday, February 29th:

Pipe organ concert with special guest artist Charles Stanley. 8 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 108 Ocean Dr., Tavernier. 852-0621.

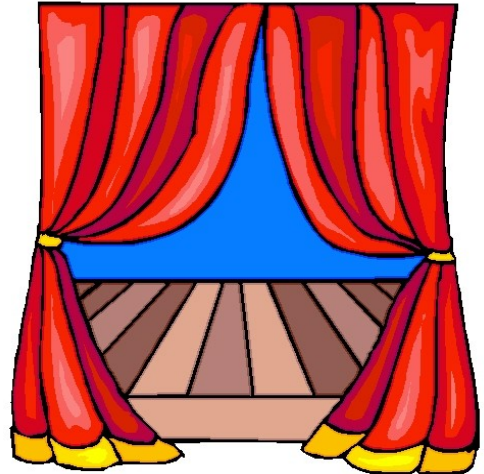
Saturday, March 1st:

Key West Pops presents THE PAJAMA GAME. Starring Lee Roy Reams and Glenn Wilson. Conductor Vincent Zito. Choreographed by Lorinda Haver and Penny Leto. \$40, \$60, \$100. 8 p.m., Tennessee Williams Theatre, 5901 College Rd., Key West.
Call 305-295-7676 or keystix.com.

Saturday, March 1 - Sunday, March 2:

"Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival," City Events Field, Marathon. 289-7656. ◇

Keys Jewish Community Center



Sunday, March 30, 2008 ♦ 2:00 pm

Actors Playhouse ♦ Coral Gables

Donation \$36

Call Bea Graham for tickets
and information 852-0214

Nominated for 4 Tony Awards and has the potential to become the next Grease with its high energy, exuberant entertainment, bursting to life with music, romance, and dance. One of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory, the FOOTLOOSE sound track was #1 on the billboard charts. Stage adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie and based on the original screenplay by Dean Pitchford, music by Tom Snow, lyrics by Dean Pitchford and additional music by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar, Kenny Loggins, and Jim Steinman.

The Thirteenth Month

The Adar I / Adar II Mystery Explained

by Joel Pollack

There is much confusion associated with the lunar Jewish calendar, especially when a congregant purchases a *yahrzeit* plaque. They want to know whether to inscribe the Hebrew date or the English date. The English date may change from year to year but the Jewish date is always the same. For example, Hanukkah is always the 25th of *Kislev* even though it may appear on a different day each year on the solar, or Gregorian, calendar.

The Jewish calendar is based on three astronomical phenomena: the rotation of the Earth about its axis (a day); the revolution of the moon about the Earth (a month); and the revolution of the Earth about the sun (a year). These three phenomena are independent of each other, so there is no direct correlation between them. On average, the moon revolves around the Earth in about 29½ days. The Earth revolves around the sun in about 365¼ days, that is, about 12.4 lunar months.

The Gregorian calendar used by most of the world has abandoned any correlation between the moon cycles and the month, arbitrarily setting the length of months to 28, 30 or 31 days. The Jewish calendar, however, coordinates all three of these astronomical phenomena. Months are either 29 or 30 days, corresponding to the 29½-day lunar cycle. Years are either 12 or 13 months, corresponding to the 12.4 month solar cycle.

The lunar month on the Jewish calendar begins when the first sliver of moon becomes visible after the dark of the moon. In ancient times, the new months used to be determined by observation. When people observed the new moon, they would notify the *Sanhedrin* (the Jewish High Court). When the *Sanhedrin* heard testimony from two independent, reliable eyewitnesses that the new moon occurred on a certain date, they would declare

the *rosh chodesh* (first of the month) and send out messengers to tell people when the month began.

The problem with strictly lunar calendars is that there are approximately 12.4 lunar months in every solar year, so a 12-month lunar calendar loses about 11 days every year and a 13-month lunar gains about 19 days every year. The months on such a calendar "drift" relative to the solar year. On a 12-lunar-month calendar, the month of *Nissan*, which is supposed to occur in the spring, would occur 11 days earlier each year, eventually occurring in the winter, the fall, the summer, and then the spring again. To compensate for this drift, an extra month was occasionally added. The month of *Nissan* would occur 11 days earlier for two or three years, and then would jump forward 29 or 30 days, balancing out the drift. In ancient times, this month was also added by observation. The *Sanhedrin* observed the conditions of the weather, the crops and the livestock, and if these were not sufficiently advanced to be considered "spring," then the *Sanhedrin* inserted an additional month into the calendar to make sure that *Pesach* would occur in the spring, on the full moon. (It is, after all, referred to in the Torah as *Chag he-Aviv*, the Festival of Spring!).

A year with 13 months is referred to in Hebrew as *Shanah Me'uberet*, literally, a pregnant year. The additional month is known as *Adar I*, *Adar Rishon* or *Adar Alef*. It is inserted before the regular month of *Adar* (known in such years as *Adar II*, *Adar Sheini* or *Adar Beit*). Note that *Adar II* is the "real" *Adar*, the one in which *Purim* is celebrated, the one in which *yahrzeits* for *Adar* are observed, the one in which a 13-year-old born in *Adar* becomes a Bar Mitzvah. *Adar I* is the "extra" *Adar*. ◇

Photo Gallery



Andrea Kluger poses with some of her new Kappa Delta pledge sisters at Nashville's Vanderbilt University. (That's Andrea second from right.)

The January 4th service saw the premiere of The Shabbatones (left to right): Linda Pollack, Susan Gordon, Musical Director and arranger Gloria Avner, and Yardena Kamely. They were supporting the guy in the middle as he led his first service.



On Tu B'Shevat

One of my favorite teaching stories is about a young boy watching an old man working hard digging a hole in which to plant an olive tree. The boy asks the man how long it will be before they can eat from the tree. The man says, "in about 70 years." The boy blurts out, "But you'll be dead." The man replies, "When I came into this world there were already fruit trees planted here for me."

The trees were ready, both the



Photo Gallery

Key Lime from my backyard and the avocado from Bea and Marty's. The pineapple was a bonus. Bags of fresh, wholesome dirt provided by the Werthamers lay on the ground. Anticipation filled the air.

Students brought every form of fruit, fresh and dried, pitted and seedless, to share, bless, thank, and eat. It was a birthday party, a New Year's celebration for the trees. The four glasses of grape juice—symbolic of the seasons, ranging in color from pure white through rose to red—were blessed by our students' voices, and drunk. It was time to plant.

If I could use only one word to describe the core of all Jewish ceremony, I would choose the word "gratitude." (It was nearly a tie with "love," but that poor word has such a burden already, and somewhere deep, I suspect the two are synonymous). What are we really teaching our children? What are all the blessings and psalms really talking about? As Jews, we are always in partnership with the Creator. *HaShem* cannot live by bread (stars?) alone. The full act of creation requires co-operation. Literally.

I offer this story to the puzzled (and this reference to the learned: Rav Assi, Talmud, Chullin, 60b: it was put to parchment some 2500 years ago): On the third day of creation, all vegetation came into being—the trees, the grasses, flowers and weeds. But, according to this interpretation, none of it was higher than



the surface of the earth. All was present, but only "in potentia." It was only after *HaShem* created the first humans and placed them in *Gan Eden* that the true nature of our partnership appeared. Adam and Eve needed two intrinsic gifts, awareness/appreciation of the natural world and a sense of a force larger than themselves, in order to survive. They needed to pray for rain. Their prayers were heard. The rain came. The grass grew. The trees shot up. Fruit burst forth.



(OK, they made a mistake and were exiled from lush life in the Garden. Instead of just the one command to work the garden, they now had to work hard to raise children, endure wars, and rise above crushing

hardship, but still, we, their "fruit," survive.)
Back in our own garden, grownups join the children. More songs are sung. Generations

Photo Gallery

Scenes from KJCC's January 20th celebration of *Tu B'Shevat*: At left, the children plant a tree. Below, Bernie Ginsberg leads a prayer of gratitude. Herb and Elinor Grossman, just back from Toronto, are pictured at the seder that followed.



join together in prayer, larger than their individual selves. The young trees, fruitless so far, are not unlike our young students, beautiful in their "potentia." We nourish the children as we nourish these plants, trusting that in years to come, their knowledge of these prayers, this language, this partnership, their memories, will sustain them and grow them good lives as members of the larger tribe: our community. All prayer is, at bottom, recognition of *HaShem's* bounty and thankfulness for it. (What, after all, does the word for Jewish people, "Yehudim," mean? It comes from the tribe Yehudah, but the root of that word is "hodah," from which we get the word "todah," or "thanks." Jewish people are "the ones who appreciate.") One day our avocados will grace a Shabbat dinner and our students will return to taste a "haimische" Key Lime pie. And we will all be appreciative for our blessings once again. -Gloria Avner

Photo Gallery



After the plantings on the KJCC grounds, teachers, students, parents and everyone else gathered to dance in appreciation of the bounty at hand and the precious bounty to come. Corey Wasser and Joe Beth, at right, are shown at the seder held in the Ruth Richardson Social Hall.



Linda with cousin Ruthie at the Golan Heights. Below, Ruthie's son Yuval, right, alongside his cousin Matan.

gather to observe cranes on their annual migration between Europe and Africa in the autumn and vice-versa in the springtime. This area is also a place where farmers have learned to co-exist with 30,000 cranes—naturally.

In order to not have the cranes disturb the agriculture, by swooping down on the fields and damaging the crops, the farmers have set aside 175 acres for the birds. There they scatter two tons of corn kernels for the cranes each day during the winter months. They also flood the farmland, to drive the rodents up and out of the ground, which provides additional food for the birds and all the while enables them to control the rodent population, both things at the same time without the use of chemicals! A very good thing!

My cousin Ruthie, her husband Mati and I enjoyed a fun day at the monkey park in the Ben-Shemen Forest with the baby, and one

Visiting Family in Israel

By Linda Rutkin

A favorite bumper sticker: Not all who wander are lost.

This past September/October I returned to the wonderful land of Israel, in order to spend precious moments with many family members of my mother's sister and brother. The extra-special thing about this trip was to get acquainted with the newest member, Shira, who turned one year old while I was there. How very exciting that I got to attend all three of her wonderful birthday parties!

We traveled, and saw numerous interesting sites, for example the newest section of *Yad Vashem* (not to be missed!), Utopia Park (full of exquisite orchids) and Park Mini-Israel (the entire country on a small scale). The Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) Hula Valley, where Lake Agmon is located, has become an extremely popular international bird-watching site, where people





Top photo: Linda at the Rosh Hanikra border crossing into Lebanon. At bottom, Linda with first cousin Ilan (Ruthie's brother), his wife Shula and their son Eran.

day experienced a very relaxing time at the *Hamei Ga'ash* kibbutz spa, which Mati said has more salt content than the Dead Sea!

Yet another day, Ruthie walked me through a most interesting town museum located in Ra'anana, the city in which they live. In its infancy it was referred to as "the little city of New York," because it was begun by 24 Zionists, mostly of European origin, who had gathered in New York and wanted to obtain land in Israel. The year was 1912.

We picnicked with another cousin, Ruthie's son Yuval, who is an army officer and stationed on the Golan Heights at the Syrian border. (Visits from home and family are always welcomed, and very much appreciated—especially when they include delicious homemade brownies.)

It was terrific to attend classes with Ruthie, who teaches arts and crafts, and we made decorations for the *Sukkot* in those classes. It was also great to go to exercise classes, to see how Pilates is done the Israeli way!

It truly was a FULL three weeks of pure fun and enjoyment with family, and as always I have returned with lots of nice memories to forever cherish. ◇



Keys Jewish Community Center

5th Annual Women's Seder

MONDAY

APRIL 14, 2008

6PM @ KJCC

**Homemade Seder Dinner
w/Wine**

**Limited seating - Contact
Meredith at
451-3664 or
maccline2@aol.com
Donation \$15**

**Join us in celebration as we
continue our efforts of
Tikkun Olam - repair the
world.
Tzedakah donations are
encouraged.**



The Native Tourist

This is our first entry in a special series highlighting activities or attractions in South Florida that you may not have heard about. They are off the beaten path, off the tourist radar, or just off the wall. Keep them in mind if ever you are looking for a different diversion when family comes to visit, or even just for something to do on the weekend.

Our first stop:

Knaus Berry Farm
15980 SW 248th Street
Homestead, FL 33031
305-247-0668

Tucked away in the Redlands is a family-run farm stand with a delicious difference. Not only do they have beautiful u-pick tomatoes and strawberries, but they also have fresh baked goods and fabulous ice cream treats. Additionally, they feature a wide selection of seasonal vegetables, herbs and even fresh-cut flowers. But the lines you'll see snaking around the property on Saturday mornings are for two particular items—fresh baked, hot-out-of-the-oven cinnamon rolls and made-to-order milk shakes and ice cream sundaes.

The bakery here makes everything from breads to cakes to shoo-fly-pie. But the big sellers are their infamous cinnamon rolls. People buy them by the dozens. They carry them out in cardboard flats, aiming to take them home for Sunday breakfast, or to put them up in the freezer. But you'll see more than a few of these patrons sitting in their cars eating one or two (or five) of these



temptations before they can even make it home. Next up are the ice cream shakes and sundaes, which they make with their own strawberries, as well as the usual flavor and nut varieties. This berry farm even has homemade jams, jellies and honey.

A visit to Knaus Berry Farm makes for a nice drive through country scenery on a Saturday morning, and you get the added bonus of a tasty rest-stop once you're there. After you've had your ice cream or

cinnamon roll (or both), don't forget to get a loaf of bread and a dozen rolls for your freezer! ◇

IF YOU GO: They only take cash, so make sure you have some. They are open seasonally from Mid November through April, Monday-Saturday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed Sundays.

COLLEGE DIARY

Andrea

This month's journal entry will be much more exciting, as I now have 170 new siblings! That's right, 170 new sisters—well, sorority sisters. I am a new member of the Kappa Delta chapter at Vanderbilt and couldn't be more excited about it. Greek life seemed pretty foreign when I came to Vanderbilt and rush took me for a whirlwind. A whole week of sucking up to older girls was not something I thought I would ever partake in. Fortunately, I was accepted into the chapter that I have wanted to be in since the very beginning of school, because throughout my first semester I learned that KD girls are the most down-to-earth of all the sororities on campus.

After only a few days of officially being in Kappa Delta, I will tell you a little bit about what it is like, or at least what I know so far. First of all, sororities at Vanderbilt are run very differently than they are at most schools. The houses are not as big as the ones at big state schools. There are six bedrooms within the houses, which belong to the officers of the sorority (president, VP, recruitment chair, etc.) and those are the only people who live there. At most other schools 50 people could live in the house. There are also a ridiculous amount of people who rush at Vanderbilt, and the number is growing. They estimated that 70 percent of girls in my freshman class rushed this year and there are 51 girls in my pledge class, where last year's pledge class, I believe, had 43.

We were initiated a few days ago in a very interesting ceremony. Everyone wore white and we walked around a special room in a very specific pattern while reading an oath and signing papers. So I am officially a

pledge. Now comes the two-month period where I am showered with gifts by my older sorority sisters. We have been given t-shirts, blankets, cups, bags, and of course I received some wonderful gifts from my amazing parents :). This week consists of us attending events like "Sundays with Sophomores," and "Junk food with Juniors," to help us get to know everyone in our sorority.

Getting away from Greek life...school is great. I am actually taking classes that I enjoy, whereas last semester I was just trying to fulfill some requirements. All of my classes are incredible (with the exception of one), but my favorite is my American Government class. I have always been very interested in politics, and I would pretty much say that no matter

what the subject material is or who the professor is, any political science class would intrigue me. However, this particular class is special for two reasons. First of all it is election time, which means that everything we talk about in class serves a purpose and can be related to what we are reading in the news. It is soooo nice to listen to the thoughts and beliefs of my well-educated professor rather than watch....oh, I don't know...FOX!

But this class is special for another reason. You would assume that my American Government teacher would be American, right? Wrong. He is a cute little British guy! And let me tell you it is truly a privilege to hear just how our country is operated from someone who was not raised in our system.

Well, I am off now to take sorority pictures. They take graduation-looking pictures of us and then display our pledge class in a gigantic frame. Remember....GO KΔ!!



Suzie

It's certainly been an amazing year. So much has happened: moved to a new city, started a



new life. I've met so many new people and learned about things that I had never before even contemplated. My life has become a busy bubble of school, studying, theatre, and college life. And I absolutely love it.

This past month has been a bit strenuous, though. After Thanksgiving and *Pippin*, I started gearing up for my winter vacation. But I had to get through finals first. After spending days studying for one test, I woke up the morning of only to find it had been postponed. I'm actually taking it on Monday. So that was a real bummer. There was so much snow in the city that weekend; I could have been skiing!

The day after my presumed test, I had my tonsils removed. My mom and family came up to take care of me and make life easier by allowing me to stay here instead of flying home. So I spent my winter break in New Hampshire quietly convalescing. My sister Kelley had just returned from the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, so we all had so much to catch up on.

There's really not much to tell about my break. I spent most of it on the couch, with ice cream and smoothies, my two best friends, keeping me company. I did manage to come down to the Keys for a couple of days before school started. Now I'm taking two classes and finishing up my exams. So, physically, not much has been going on. But in the past few weeks I've really been giving a lot of thought to my future.

I'm pretty much set on a Brain and Cognitive Sciences major, versus the Aerospace Engineering that I had intended at beginning of the year. I've found myself a mentor, one

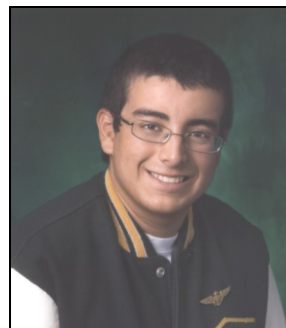
of my friends from the Theatre Guild, and planned the next couple of years out. As for my new major, well, there are actually lots of different concentrations. I personally am thinking about a neuroscience path. My interest is basically how the brain works on a cellular level. As part of my major, I have to take psych classes and learn about the behavioral and cognitive aspects of the brain, but I am more focused, right now, in the science of the brain: how the brain conveys messages and "talks" to the body, how it works, what makes it tick, that sort of thing.

I'm really getting excited about my future. It seems so bright, with no barriers except that I can't do everything at once. Maybe next Chanukah I'll ask for a couple extra limbs and brains :).

Joe

Hello once again. Spring term has begun and everyone is choosing classes. I am now taking English 2, college algebra, business intro and a marine biology class. I am really looking forward to this term's classes.

This semester's English class is one of my favorites this time, a big improvement from last term's. I am constantly making new friends and I have no complaints regarding this term's classes or professors. Although I must say my algebra instructor does have a quirk, which is that he says the word



"what" way too much during his lectures. It got so out of hand that I started counting the number of times he said it. I counted 150 times during the 50 minutes we were there on the first day of class. Besides the "what" professor there really isn't much else I can say that is a negative about this term at all. But I will keep you informed in the Diary articles to come, as classes proceed. Well, I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe month. ◇

KJCC Annual Second Passover Seder

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

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



Sunday, April 20, 2008

6:30 pm

Islamorada Fishing Club

PASSOVER

Adults \$40

Children 12 and under are our guests.

New Year's Scrapbook

A look back at how KJCC members celebrated the New Year.

KJCC members filtered in and out of Michal Kamely's house on New Year's Eve. Among the revelers were Linda Rutkin and Cammie Berk, bottom left, and Bea Graham with granddaughter Liati Mayk, below right.





Chai-Lights columnist Medina Roy along with Liati, enjoying the buffet.

A Busy New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve Day was a fine four-act play for me. It started with a morning canoe ride through parts of Pennekamp with the skinniest trails I've ever paddled. Three times I had no choice but to flatten myself--not easy while still sitting on a seat (a water-borne "limbo" dancer) in order to make it through to clear waters. From Starfish Lane to Spoonbill Cove (um, don't look for these names on maps), we alternately paddled and lolled in breeze-filtered sun, reveling in non-doing and nature. Dinner with good conversation and a friend in a favorite cafe, The Keys Conch House, was followed by a warm, semi-spontaneous get-together at the home of Michal Kamely. While there I saw a great variety of KJCC drop-ins, young and old, all glowing and eager to share tales and food. I'd be happy if any one of these events became "annual" but all were firsts. The traditional party came last, the annual outrageous, rip-roaring music, food, and dance-filled extravaganza at the Feders', which seems to expand effortlessly to embrace all comers. Armed with creative noisemakers of wooden spoons and pot lids, revelers welcomed the New Year with gusto, though I do admit that being a single at midnight makes for a little

awkwardness, even among good friends. I was happy to spend the moment outside under the night sky, celebrating, with Orion.

New Year's Day at the Steinbocks' made for a warm, community-deepening start to the New Year. Many thanks, Steve and Carol.

-Gloria Avner

New Years Day. The maiden voyage of my first kayak. Yardena not only teaches Hebrew, she is an able instructor in kayaking. We had a dedication (Channukat Kayak), and named it Shannah, for the New Year. *-Joyce Peckman*



Our nonagenarian matriarch, Pauline Roller, along with KJCC Ritual Chairman Alan Beth at Alan and Candy's house party New Year's Day.

The Annual Islamorada New Year Blessing of the Fleet

Our theme for this year was *Aloha Islamorada*. It is a wonderful way to start the New Year. We have participated for ten years and loved every moment. What a great place to live and what fun we have. -Gene Silverman



There were about forty boats and three or four local clergy and myself, representing KJCC

and the local Jewish community. My blessings, delivered in both Hebrew and then English (translation courtesy of Michal and Yarden Kamely) included:

May it be thy will, our Father in heaven, that You guard this ship and crew from storm and tempest and grief. And may You bring forth from your storehouses a propitious wind to

carry this ship and may You sustain and preserve those who sail it.

All the boats congregated one-half mile out from Whale Harbor Bridge. Each clergy and I delivered a

blessing over the VHF radio. Then the boats traveled in single file, following the Coast Guard boat, down to the bridge. As each boat passed, the clergy and I took turns delivering a blessing.

-George Swartz



Aboard Mort and Gene Silverman's AuSum II were Skip and Rene Rose, Bernie Ginsberg, Joel and Linda Pollack, and Elaine Schulberg.



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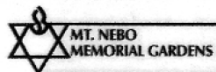
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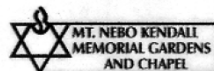
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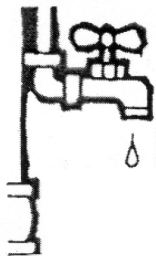
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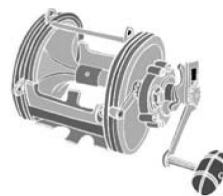
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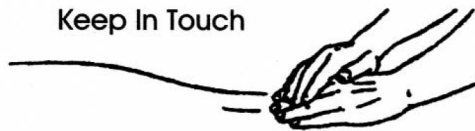
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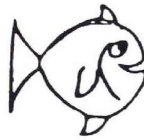
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