

Congregation Beth Israel

KOLEINU (Our Voice)

October 2020

Visit us online at www.bethisraelofocala.com or on Facebook: Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala



Sisterhood / Congregation

Our CBI board met this week and it was decided by a unanimous vote that the congregation itself would no longer be viable. One of the many reasons for this is that we are basically “losing three members of the board”

who will be out of the area at least most of the year. While we will not have any scheduled religious services now it is likely that some form of services will resume under the auspices of our Sisterhood.

Sisterhood will continue to function, headed by Judy Donnenberg and Fredda Goodstein. We hope to hold both activities for charitable purposes and activities for cultural/learning fun.

The money in our treasury:

The money in the CBI treasury will be disbursed to members who paid their dues in 2019 on a pro-rated basis. There is not enough money to give back 100% of what was paid. Our treasurer, Richard Lawrence, will be working on the numbers and members will get a percentage of what you paid. In other words if he finds that we would get back 50%, for example, of what you paid, those who paid the full \$225 dues would get \$112.50. Sometime in October you will receive a check in the mail if you paid dues in 2019.

As Sisterhood will continue the money currently in that fund will stay and be controlled by the Sisterhood. Money that was in the Esther Ellner fund is being returned to Esther's daughter, Janis Cohen. She will be donating it to two charities.

In the hopes that someday our congregation can resume its goals, Janis Cohen whose family donated the torah will be keeping the torah in her possession as will Mary Chang the ark which was donated by her and her sister. Please keep your siddurs and mazhors for the future and for your own use.

I will continue to send out periodic newsletters and emails as warranted.

We mourn the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsberg who we lost just as Rosh Hashanah was beginning. No words can express what she meant to our country and to the Jewish people. She did so much for equal rights of women and all people. She was an icon, a role model, and a hero to many. She is the first woman to lie in state in the US Capitol.



Editor:
Mary Chang
Board:
Janis Cohen
Don Donnenberg
Lois Gherman
Fredda Goodstein
Steve Lande
Richard Lawrence
Elaine Morrison
Andrea Paprocki
Janet Sadowsky

Upcoming
Holidays:
Sukkot – 10/03
Simchat Torah -10/11



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our thoughts and prayers to Jackie Ludmer who is in Hospice care.

Yahrzeits for October

Francis Siegal	father of	Phil Siegal
Louis Cohen	father of	Judi Siegal
Max Gherman	brother of	Ernie Gherman
Louis Morrison	brother-in-law	Elaine Morrison
Harold Goodstein	father of	Fredda Goodstein
Myron Symons	father of	Gale Lazarus
Sylvia Plafker	mother of	Sandra Wolf

Anniversaries for October

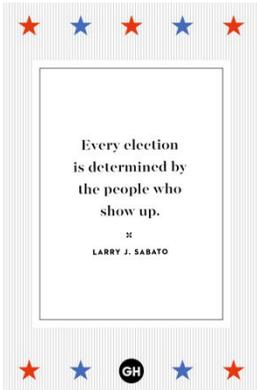
Birthdays for October

Lois and Ernie Gherman	Dolores Lopez and Fredda Goodstein
Dolores Lopez	Sandy Wolf

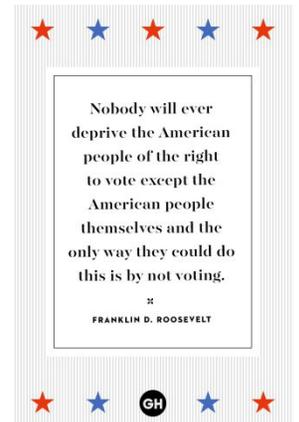
Support your local restaurants: for great salad, soup and pizza



VOTE, VOTE, VOTE



"It's more essential now than ever to cast your ballot. While the importance of voting has been hammered into your head since the day you turned 18, some of you probably still wonder, *what's the point?* These insightful voting quotes are here to remind you that your opinion matters and your voice needs to be heard. Election results can often come down to a select few who decided voting is worth the effort."



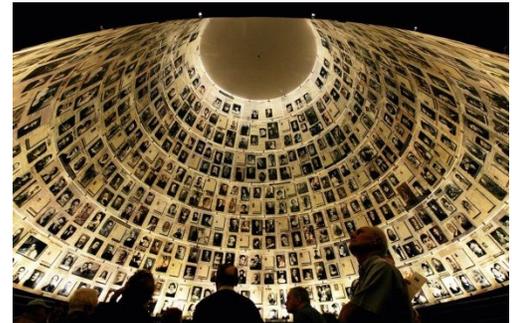
Tuesday, November 3rd

Survey finds 'shocking' lack of Holocaust knowledge among millennials and Gen Z

Sixty-three percent of those surveyed did not know 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. Over half of those thought the toll was under 2 million.

"A nationwide survey released Wednesday shows a "worrying lack of basic Holocaust knowledge" among adults under 40, including over 1 in 10 respondents who did not recall ever having heard the word "[Holocaust](#)" before.

The survey, touted as the first [50-state survey of Holocaust knowledge among millennials and Generation Z](#), showed that many respondents were unclear about the basic facts of the genocide. Sixty-three percent of those surveyed did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered [in the Holocaust](#), and over half of those thought the death toll was fewer than 2 million. Over 40,000 concentration camps and ghettos were established during World War II, but nearly half of U.S. respondents could not name a single one.



The findings raise concerns not just about Holocaust ignorance, but also about Holocaust denial. Just 90 percent of respondents said they believed that the Holocaust happened. Seven percent were not sure, and 3 percent denied that it happened. One of the most disturbing revelations, the survey noted, is that 11 percent of respondents believe Jews caused the Holocaust. **The number climbs to 19 percent in New York, the state with the largest Jewish population.**

Part of the problem may be social media, experts say. The survey shows that about half of millennial and Gen Z respondents have seen Holocaust denial or distortion posts online. Fifty-six percent reported having seen Nazi symbols on social media or in their communities within the past five years.” (source: NBC News article)

**from the Book of Joel
by Joel Rosenblum**

Why Start Yom Kippur with Kol Nidre?

We begin our prayers on Yom Kippur eve with a famous piece of liturgy -- Kol Nidre-- usually sung in its classic haunting melody.

The rendering of this revered piece is an ancient custom mentioned in the Zohar, and the text can be found in prayer books dating as far back as the Second Temple era, making it well over 2,300 years old.

Contrary to what one may expect, Kol Nidre is neither flowery nor inspiring (at first blush). Rather, it is a legalistic text in which we declare in the presence of the beth din (rabbinical court) that our vows should be null and void.

Why was this dry text selected to be the overture of the Yom Kippur service? Throughout the year, we make pledges to do one thing or another but we often forget all about them, and don't even come to annul them, causing us unintentionally to transgress our vows. Therefore, right at the onset of Yom Kippur, when we clean our proverbial slates, we ask forgiveness and annul our oaths so that we don't further forget about them and accidentally transgress them.

In Modern Hebrew teshuvah means 'return'. God's love for us is the question, and our teshuvah – our "turning" of the heart toward Him – is the answer. Teshuvah is one of the great gifts God gives each of us – the ability to turn back to Him and seek healing for our brokenness.

The problem is that there are many promises and vows that we may not even remember making. Therefore, as we enter Yom Kippur, a day on which we ask forgiveness for all of our other sins, it is appropriate first to annul our vows and ask forgiveness for them, which Yom Kippur itself doesn't do.

One annuls vows on the day that was set aside by G-d for forgiveness, Yom Kippur.

Aside from the legalistic reasons for starting off Yom Kippur with Kol Nidre, there are more mystical and deeper reasons for this solemn and holy “prayer” as well. The text of Kol Nidre reads, “All shall be hereby absolved, remitted, canceled, declared null and void, not in force or effect,” alluding to these negative avowed decrees.

Thus, with our annulment we pray that God act in a reciprocal fashion and will honor His vow, bringing about the final redemption and the coming of the Moshiach.

Ultimately, that is what we are all praying for.

History repeats itself. Came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic.

This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed,
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.



Sent to me by Ernie Gherman, this poem speaks to what is going on today and to our hope for the future.

The JCNCF publishes a weekly newsletter containing all sorts of information about activities and events you can join. They support our area with so many good programs; why not support them. They are in the midst of their annual fund drive now. All donations are appreciated. You can find them at www.jcncf.org

A Public Webinar Discussion

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

7:00pm



The Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida invites you to join us for a critical and lively discussion of the 2020 election in Florida and the Jewish vote. Which way might Florida swing and why? What internal dynamics are at work in the state? Will voter suppression be a factor? How might the recount of 2000 be repeated? What is the importance of the Jewish vote in Florida? What does "good for the Jews" and "good for Israel" mean in this election?

Check out their website to register.

