



Shabbat/Holiday Candle Lighting Times

Friday, May 7th	7:51pm
Friday, May 14th	7:56pm
First Night Shavuot	
Tuesday, May 18th	7:58pm
Second Night Shavuot	
Wednesday, May 19th	8:58pm
Friday, May 21st	8:00pm
Friday, May 28th	8:05pm

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JEA Annual Meeting May 26th

'One Community' is Samuels' Theme for JEA

On May 26th, the Jewish Educational Alliance will be holding its 98th Annual Meeting. At this meeting the 2010 – 2011 president of the JEA, Scott Samuels, will discuss the future direction of the JEA.

His leadership over the last year has been rewarding, if not without its challenges. And with one year as president under his belt, his second is assured to be filled with successes and changes as he strives to continue to lead the JEA.

"It is evermore critical at this stage that the community comes together. We face many immediate, as well as

future challenges and it will take the entire community to face and overcome these challenges," says Mr. Samuels.

Scott has served in leadership positions in Savannah for over a decade and will surely continue to provide guidance to the people of this Jewish community for years to come. He believes, "the



Scott Samuels

annual meeting is a time for the community to come together and a great opportunity to discover how our JEA is fairing."

In addition, as some board members' terms expire other new board members will be installed and this year's Harvey Rubin winner will be announced. Other special recognition awards will be presented too.

All members of the JEA are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting which will be held in the JEA on May 26th at 7pm. The meeting will include a dessert reception.

Golfing for Green June 14th

JEA & Friends hitting the links turns into a fun-fundraiser

Sometimes people simply want to have a good time for a good cause. The JEA has found that its' JEA & Friends Annual Golf Outing has become an important part of their annual fundraising efforts.

On June 1st, 2010, the Jewish Educational Alliance will host its' fourth JEA & Friends Golf Outing at the Crosswinds Golf Club. This year Ross Kaminsky and Mark Konter will Co-Chair this year's event. Lunch and registration begins at 12:00pm and Tee time will be at 12:30pm.

The previous two years have had close to 100 people participate. Kim Thebo, Director of Special Events for the JEA, said the outings have netted about \$20-23,000 each of the past two years. "The people that participate in the JEA & Friends Outing really enjoy coming each year." Kim explains, "They tell themselves they are getting a day off and most importantly, they are giving funds to a good organization. They are out there to have a good time and meet people they haven't had a chance to meet or spend time with before."

The goal is to make money through general corporate sponsorships, but also through donations for raffles, silent and live auctions and "hole sponsorships."

"It's a time for people to get together, have a great time and network.



Danny Kaminsky and Lew, Michael and Aaron Kooden at the 2009 JEA Golf Tournament.

The event is open to JEA members and sponsors. We invite those who aren't too proud and aren't too shy. The golf outing is a way to give back to the JEA through its sponsorships. We believe it is vital to invest in supporting and growing a strong community through the JEA Golf Outing," said Kim.

For more information on the JEA & Friends Golf Outing, please contact Kim Thebo at the JEA at 355.8111 or kim@savj.org.



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Are you ready for summer?

Come to the JEA Outdoor Pool Grand Opening May 30th!

Struggle for Timeless Memory

The smell of the burnt houses stood in the air. Sad cold breezes blew between the abandoned gardens, mourning the bustle of community life which suddenly stopped existing. In the middle of the village stood the house of worship, roofless. Inside, pieces of scorched Torah scrolls on the dusty, ashy flour. No songs were heard that day, not a remnant of the festive prayers, which took place not long ago.

Not far away from there, a “victory march” took place. The conquerors made a joyful parade, followed by a group of handcuffed Jews who left to be enslaved and mocked. On the hillside stood Cestius Gallus, the legate of Syria, who had examined a golden scoop then ordered his soldiers to put a Jupiter statue on the stage, on his feet the golden Menorah. Two of the enslaved Jews collapsed; they could not

stand it any more, but no one in the audience noticed.

Six years ago, one thousand nine hundred and thirty five years after the defeat of the Jews in “The Great Revolt”, I went with my class to Auschwitz, like many other Israeli high school delegations. The most significant moment took place in small room, which miserable Jews used to burn their brothers’ bodies. All my class, more than 250 people, was reading names, all of them relatives. I read the names of beloved family members who I will never have the chance to meet.

When I came back to Israel I forgot of it for a while, I had experienced so much in such a short time and I did not think about what happened there for a while. Two years after that, during my



Udi Tsemach

service in the army, I understood the obvious truth, that the next generations will not hear the story first hand. The Shoah will be a story to them, such as other stories in history. Moreover, it is hard to deal with an idea that is so far away from us, with suffering and destruction that we cannot grasp. Then I realized that we already have a Memorial Day in our tradition, Tisha B’Av, the commemoration day of the destruction of the first and second Temple.

It was astonishing to grasp the way the religious and the traditional community deal with Tisha B’Av, they fast and mourn for something that happened two thousand years ago, like it was yesterday. Crying for the Temple, now in ruins, for the lost sovereignty, for the Diaspora, for the loss of hundreds of thousands of souls and their dreams. Then I realized the power within the Jewish tradition, the power of common memory that links us to

events that took place thousands years ago, makes us live it again. That year I started to fast on Tisha B’Av.

Michael Kooden quoted from Pirke Avot during the last Holocaust Memorial Observance service, and in a single quote he closed a gap of more than one thousand and seven hundred years. He said that we take part in the community by having a common memory. By doing so, Michael identifies himself as successor of our sages, walking in the same path, the path of Jewish common memory.

The Jewish memory timeline contains the good and the bad. Sometimes the quick change in the atmosphere is comprehensible. This year on Monday, April 19th, a whole nation bowed her head for slain persons on Yom Hazi-karon (Memorial Day); then a few hours after that we celebrated the most joyful day, Israeli Independence Day.

A WORLD OF GOOD

TAL CHECOL is the newly elected chair of the Ethiopian Student Union in Israel. And he has something he wants to say: “Tell North American Jews that I am the return on their investment. I learned Hebrew at ulpan; I lived in a youth aliyah village; today I am on a full scholarship at law school. I want the Ethiopian children who come after me to have good role models. I want to lead my people. And my people are all the people of Israel.”

Thanks to your Annual Campaign gift, we’re bringing Ethiopian Jews like Tal home to Israel, and—just as important—helping them succeed there. With your gift, UJC Network funds programs like PACT, which enable Ethiopians to make the huge leap into modern Israeli society. You can help.

Identification Statement

Savannah Jewish News

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Consider it a Donation

The Federation and JEA are intertwined. The Federation campaign allocation is a major source of JEA funding and the JEA houses the Federation. Many confuse one organization with the other. For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, Federation allocated roughly \$278,000 to the JEA. That represents about 18 percent of the JEA budget for this year. Every year the JEA requires more and more campaign dollars and with the tough economic times, monies have been more difficult to raise. Speaking from a Federation standpoint, it would be nice if every Jewish family joined the JEA, regardless of whether they used the facility or whether they agreed with all of the policies... join just because it is a Jewish institution and needs the support of the Jewish community.

There was a time when there weren't fitness centers in every area of town and swimming pools in so many back yards. There was a time when Jewish children needed sports teams to play on, a day camp to attend, and a place to join friends, because other local options were not as welcoming as they are today. In those days, a higher proportion of Jewish families joined the JEA. Today we live in a different world, where Jewish families are accepted and included as never before. We should be thankful for this. It makes ours a much better world. The problem is that this acceptance diminishes the support of our Jewish institutions. Today approximately 25 percent of Savannah's Jewish population belongs to the JEA. The good news is that compared to other cities the percentage is very respectable. What is happening here is not unique; it is a trend all over America. The bad news is that in a town Savannah's size, membership

of a much higher percentage of the population is needed to make the institution successful. If 50 percent of our Jewish population were members of the JEA the financial challenges would nearly disappear. If 75 percent or more were members we could breathe easily.

The world today is different than when the structure was built in the 1950's. Our population is less centralized and there are recreational facilities all over town that are more convenient. Sure, many of us don't utilize a JEA membership as before, but the JEA is still the center of Jewish cultural life and the building is certainly a strong symbol of Jewish Savannah.

Even if you are not a member, my hunch is that you use the building when you attend community events or meetings. What if the building weren't there? Where would we gather? Consider being a member of the JEA whether you use it on a regular basis or not. Consider it a yearly donation to the health and well-being of the Jewish community. All of us will benefit from having this central meeting place across our religious streams.

I don't belong to the JEA because I agree with everything that goes on there or because I think it's the best facility in town or the most convenient to use. I belong because it's a Jewish institution, because I am Jewish, and because I live in and love this community. Consider it a donation.



Linda Zoller
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Repairing the World through Literacy

Last month I had the honor to volunteer with Congregation Mickve Israel at their "Book Fair" at East Broad Street Elementary School. I use the word "honor" because I was privileged to be a part of the event. I really did no work and just got to do the fun part of the event—meet the children and guide them in their choice of books. The real work was done by Julie Hirsch and members of Mickve Israel.

As Julie Hirsch told me (and as my aging mind remembers), Julie was tutoring at East Broad last year when they were holding a "traditional" book fair. She watched as child after child approached the tables of gleaming new books only to be turned away for not having enough money. She vowed to bring about change, and for the following year she rallied the Mickve Israel community to donate gently used, age-appropriate books. Dozens and dozens of books turned into hundreds. Then Trish Guggenheim rallied a group of students at her school and *voila*, ten more cartons of books. Then a young man in New Jersey heard about the venture and he made it his Bar Mitzvah project. *Voila*, 800 more books.

Each and every child at East Broad received the book of their choice, free of charge. The next day, each child came back and was able to purchase up to four more books for 25 cents each.

What a joy it was to watch their thrilled faces perusing through the hundreds of choices. What a joy it was to listen to them excitedly read to me. They were so very proud.

It was half-way through the morning when I looked through the front lobby window to see a pickup truck slowly backing up to the front door. I thought it was quite odd to have a business delivery to the front door of the school. When I pointed it out to Julie, she said to me, "Oh, that's our Backpack Buddies program. He's delivering the food for the children to take home for the weekend." Not only were the children receiving "food for the mind," they were receiving "nourishment for the body"—all thanks to dedicated members of the Mickve Israel family who have "adopted" this school.

The concept of Tikkun Olam—repairing the world—is not a new concept. The expression *tikkun olam* is used in the Mishnah in the phrase *mip'nei tikkun ha-olam* ("for the sake of repairing the world") to indicate that a practice should be followed not because it is required by Biblical law, but because it helps public and social agendas. The concept is also deeply embedded with theological meaning, going back to Kabbalistic literature which states that the world is profoundly broken and can only be fixed by human beings.

Thank you, Julie for including me in the wonderful Mickve Israel project and providing me a morning outside the Jewish community to help perfect our world. You are certainly doing your part.



Adam Solender



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The Savannah Jewish Federation proudly provides space for a half-page ad to each local congregation in each issue of the Savannah Jewish News.

AGUDATH ACHIM



LAG B'OMER BBQ

WHO: Everyone is invited

WHAT: Hotdogs with the works
salad and chips

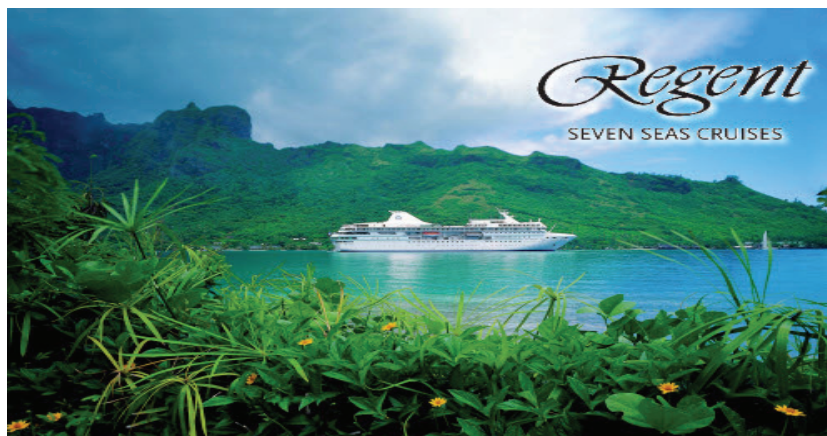
WHEN: Sunday, May 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Agudath Achim Synagogue
9 Lee Boulevard

COST: \$5 per person / \$15 max per family

RSVP: Synagogue Office 912-352-4737

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May Is Jewish American Heritage Month

Celebrate local Jewish heritage with a tour of Congregation Mickve Israel's history sanctuary and museum in the heart of the Historic District in downtown Savannah!

Tours are offered Monday - Friday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and again from 2:00 to 4:00 pm with the last tour starting approximately 30 minutes before the end of the session. Our temple docents will gladly provide you with a tour when you arrive within our tour times. (Suggested tour donation is \$5 per person.) Be sure to allow extra time to visit our Judaica Shop while you're here!

Mickve Israel is an active congregation affiliated with the Reform movement. In addition to special holiday events, we have Shabbat services on Friday evenings at 6:00 pm and on Saturday mornings at 11:00 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch.

Everyone is welcome to worship with us!

For more information, contact Mickve Israel at 912.233.1547 or visit www.mickveisrael.org.



Image by Attic Fire Photography



Hillel at Georgia Southern Celebrates Passover

By Alli Brenner

Going to college in Statesboro, GA has been a culture shock, not because of the weather or the type of people, but because of the lack of Jews. Growing up in Atlanta there was never a shortage of "members of the tribe". My parents are heavily involved in the local synagogue and I had been going to services and youth group events there since I was four.

When I entered college, four years ago, I didn't think that not being constantly surrounded by Jews would matter as much as it does. Although not being in services every Friday night was something I eventually became accustomed to, missing out on the Jewish holidays was something that was much more difficult. Thankfully, because of Hillel and the people I met there, I was fortunate enough to have people to celebrate Passover Seder with.

Abby Longwater, one of our newer Hillel members, and consequently one of my new friends, was kind enough to invite the entire Hillel, students and faculty, to her home in Savannah for Seder. Before I arrived, I was expecting to be treated as an addition, as a stranger, in their home. I was accustomed to spending holidays with my own family and I was familiar with our traditions. My family always treated Passover Seder as more of a prolonged family dinner rather than a ceremony of sorts. We recited the abridged version of the Haggadah and my father always made an effort to hide a piece of Afikomen for every child. I was concerned with what would happen if I did the wrong thing at Abby's house or if their Seder was vastly different than the one I was used to.

Thankfully, Seder at the Longwater's was nothing like I had imagined. She and her parents worked tirelessly cooking food, setting beautiful tables, and preparing their house for roughly 15 additional guests. When we arrived,



Georgia Southern University Hillel Passover Seder

Abby's family welcomed us with open arms and invited us in to their lovely home. In my family, it is practically a sin to stand around looking idle while there are things to be done before guests arrive. With this in mind, it just felt wrong to me to go and sit with the others in the dining area while Abby's family worked in the kitchen. I offered to help but they declined my assistance. Still, I used this time to talk to them and get to know them. Abby's mom introduced me to every family member that walked through the door as if I was just another friend they hadn't met yet.

Once everything was set, it was time to sit down for the Seder. Her uncle Joey took the time to remember each member of Hillel's name and asked us to take part in the reading of the Haggadah. The rest of the family included us in conversations and made us feel like welcomed guests. The food was wonderful, the conversation delightful, and the people warm and welcoming. The Passover Seder I had been so nervous about ended up being one of the best I had ever had the pleasure to attend.

I would like to take this time to publicly thank Abby and her family for all they did. They welcomed us into their home, shared their food, and treated us with generosity. Beyond that, they gave 15 or so people a chance to feel like they were with family for the holiday. I greatly appreciate everything they did and I want to remind everyone that even when times are difficult, doing mitzvahs are a great way to spread happiness to others and to yourself.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Beverly Kramer, 2002

College(s): University of Maryland '10, Cardozo Law School '13

Majors: Criminal Justice and Jewish Studies

College Clubs: Tzedek Social Justice Initiative in which I ran food and clothing drives, campaigned for Darfur, and helped build homes for the needy.

Volunteer: Big Brother/Big Sister

Current City: New York City



Rambam instilled in me the foundations of Jewish knowledge that I was able to use to develop myself as a Jewish woman. The lessons I learned and the skills I developed there have been intrinsic in allowing me to further study and achieve various leadership positions in every place I've been.

Do you know a Rambam graduate that we should profile? Please contact office@rambamdayschool.org



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Harvey Rubin Memorial Award 2010

Applications due by May 19

Do you know a high school teen who has shown exceptional athletic ability AND leadership in the community?

How about nominating him or her for the Harvey Rubin Memorial Award?

Pick up an application from the JEA or check the website, www.savj.org, to download an application. Please drop them off to Stephanie Johnson by May 19th.

Contact Stephanie Johnson

355-8111 or stephanie@savj.org



Seeking Nominees for Harvey Rubin Award

The JEA is now accepting nominations and applications for the Harvey Rubin Award. Harvey Rubin was the son of Irvin and Madeline Rubin, brother to Abram Rubin and Elise Shernoff, and nephew to Ruth Sadler. Throughout his life Harvey displayed a commitment to athletics, especially in the area of Youth Athletics. With this in mind, in 1988 Barney and Ruth Sadler established the Harvey Rubin Memorial Fund. The Harvey Rubin Award is given to young JEA athletes in honor of their accomplishments.

To receive the Harvey Rubin Award one must be a JEA member for at least three years and must have participated in at least one sport per year (it need not be the same sport each year) for at least three years. He/she must have participated on a varsity level team for at least one season, must have displayed exceptional sportsmanship

while participating in athletics, must have displayed leadership in the community through volunteerism, youth group participation, etc.; and have an above average academic record in his/her school work as well as a history of good conduct in his/her school. The candidate must be nominated by a member of the JEA.

The past five recipients of the award were Steffi Yellin, Aaron Kooden, Sean Dane-Kellogg, and most recently Ross Kooden and Emily Kahn.

An application must be delivered to the JEA by May 19th. The winner will be announced at the JEA Annual Meeting on May 26th. If you would like to nominate a qualified young athlete, please contact Stephanie Johnson for an application at the JEA (355-8111) or download an application from www.savj.org and return it to the JEA by the application due date, May 19th.

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You are invited to submit your pictures and information for a special feature in the June issue.

Secure a form from the JEA, download from www.savj.org, complete it, and return it to the JEA by May 11th.

You may mail it to us at
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Pool Party @ the JEA

May 23, 2010

1pm—3pm

Join us for a pool party at the JEA

Come enjoy Hotdogs, Chips, Cold Sodas
and a Frozen Summer Treat
Plenty of Pool time and, of course,
we'll have a Story Reading time too!

RSVP is a MUST by May 14th

Feiler Discusses New Book on May 11

Savannah native and best-selling author Bruce Feiler will share thoughts on his new book during an upcoming book discussion at Memorial University Medical Center (MUMC). This event will be held at 7 pm, Tuesday, May 11, in the William and Iffath Hoskins Center for Biomedical Research at MUMC, and is open to the public.

In his new book, *The Council of Dads: My Daughters, My Illness, and the Men Who Could Be Me*, Feiler reflects on his battle with cancer and how he asked six men, from all the passages in his life, to be present in the lives of his young daughters. It is a moving, illuminating new work that touches on life and death, love and fatherhood, and offers inspiration for all.

Feiler is the *New York Times* best-selling author of eight books, including

Walking the Bible, *Abraham*, and *Where God Was Born*. He is an award-winning journalist and the writer-presenter of the PBS miniseries, *Walking the Bible*. Feiler has traveled to more than 60 countries on five continents, immersing himself in different cultures. The result is numerous acclaimed books that take readers on fascinating adventures and bring other worlds vividly to life.

He lives in New York with his wife, Linda Rottenberg, and their twin daughters.

This event is presented by the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Institute at MUMC.



Bruce Feiler

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Join us for our JEA Blood Drive!

Monday, May 24, 2:30pm – 6:30pm
JEA, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31405

Blood drive supported by: Congregation Agudath Achim, Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, Congregation Mickve Israel, and Rambam Day School.

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JEA BEAUTIFICATION DAY



Come “*pitch in*” with Farmer Eva & Farmer Scott on
Sunday, May 16th 11-3pm
*What ever your skill, whatever your age,
we would love to have you help enhance our home
Rsvp to the JEA Front Desk at 355-8111*





2010 Speaker's Series

Sunday, May 9, 2010—7:30 PM

David Lowe

"Was Churchill Right About Democracy?"

David E. Lowe is the VP for Government and External Relations at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a U.S. Foundation that promotes democracy in over 90 countries. In this capacity, he heads the President's Office which is responsible for outreach to Capitol Hill, as well as the Endowment's government and media relations, publications, events and Board-related activities. Lowe holds an MA and PhD degrees from John Hopkins and a BA from Brandeis. He has been an adjunct faculty member at George Washington University and lecturer on the U.S. Congress for the Graduate School of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Tickets: \$10 at the Door (Non member),
\$6 at the door (Member),
FREE for Active Military & Students

The 2010 Speakers Series is made possible thanks to generous support from the Judith Blumenthal Memorial Lecture Fund at the Jewish Educational Alliance.



JEA Beautification Day Sun., May 16th—11-3 pm

Please help us spruce up and beautify our JEA facility! We will be doing a little landscaping, painting, and some minor repairs. Green thumbs and handiness not required, but welcomed! No worries if you cannot attend the entire time – any amount of effort is appreciated! Please contact Joshua Reeves (joshuadreeves@gmail.com) to volunteer or if you have any questions.

A MOVIE & BEER!

Adults 21 and Over—
Join us at the JEA for a movie & a beer!

May 6th—Autumn Sun (Sol de otoño)—A lovely, middle-aged Jewish woman, because of an impending visit from her American brother, is forced to create a contrived relationship with a man of her own faith. She meets Raul, a well-spoken and charming man whom she soon discovers is a Gentile. Having no alternative, Clara proceeds to instruct Raul with an intensive course in Judaism. Their journey is both humorous and captivating, but not without pitfalls.



All movies shown at 7:30 pm
FREE to Members with ID—\$7 for Non-Members
FREE Beer, wine, beverages and popcorn

*Movie & Beer Night is generously sponsored by
Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein.*

You're Invited

JEA

98th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

7:00-9:00 PM

Dairy Dessert

Say "thank you" to our retiring Board Members, welcome our in-coming Board Members and enjoy being a part of the JEA - The Home of Our Community!

4th Annual Golf Tournament* Monday, June 14th Crosswinds Golf Club

**Great Fun
Great Prizes
Great Outing!**



Co-chairs:
Mark Konter &
Ross Kaminsky

Contact Kim Thebo for more info at
355-8111 or Kim@savj.org.

* A JEA Fundraiser



JEA Donations (as of 4/14/09)

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Charlie Becker
Nita Kramer

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Derrie Lee Hughes
Victor, Elise, Jason & Heather Shernoff
In memory of Beryl Bernstein
Victor & Elise Shernoff

HENRY W. CENTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Cherie Minkovitz
Sara Rigel

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

FREE
CENTER



Join us at the JEA After School Program!

Who: Our program is for all children ages 4years-5th grade. Our college-degreed instructors will offer homework help in all subject areas to every age.

What: In addition to homework help, we have gymnastics with Coach Wayne, Kids Yoga, art, cooking, sports, swimming and much more! We will also be doing appropriate holiday crafts.

Where: We pick up from Rambam and provide transportation from most local schools to the JEA (Heard Elementary, Jacob G. Smith, Charles Ellis) *Minimum Participation Required*

When: Our after school program ends at 6 pm Monday-Thursday and 5 pm on Friday (the JEA closes at 5 pm on Friday).

Price: Members-\$50/week (\$10 per day). \$12 for individual days (\$15 late registration fee.)

Non Members-\$75/week (\$15 per day). \$18 for individual days.

Transportation: \$30/month or \$3 per trip.

Supersaver: All 1/2 days off from school are included for the regular price of aftercare.

For more information, contact Ashley Frankel, 355-8111, ext. 225.



Art at the JEA



Lilies and Lilies
Maureen Kerstein



Pathways
Ruth Hunter

May Artists—Maureen Kerstein & Ruth Hunter

Maureen Kerstein - Biography

Says Kerstein, "After moving to the Savannah area I was drawn to the water and the beautiful coastal landscape. My goal is to capture the essence of my subject by giving the viewer just enough information to spark their imagination. I want to draw the viewer in to participate in the painting, take a closer look, and experience the reason I was motivated to paint this particular painting."

Maureen E. Kerstein is a full-time artist painting in both watercolor and pastel. She also enjoys developing unique experimental techniques that have been published in various art magazines. Along with painting in her home studio, Maureen has decided to venture out from her home studio to paint outdoors. She is one of the founders of the local organization: The Plein Air Painters of Savannah.

Maureen E. Kerstein has been awarded the honor of Signature Membership with the Georgia Watercolor Society. Maureen is also a Juried Member of Aquafolio, a group of international artists exhibiting in 7 countries, and an Exhibiting Member of The Southern Watercolor Society.

Ruth Hunter - Biography

Ruth Hunter was born in Dallas. Her formal education included fine art studies at Eastfield and Richland Community Colleges. Since 1992, Ruth has worked as a full-time artist. Using her life drawing skills, Ruth developed a gestural approach to drawing quick portrait sketches in such tourist destinations as The West End Marketplace in Dallas, Texas; St. Augustine, Florida; City Market Savannah, Georgia; and various festivals and fairs along the East coast.

Ruth has been exploring an intuitive painting approach to image making through the medium of oil and wax. With an ardent interest in mythology, psychology, and the spiritual, she immerses herself through painting Inner Landscapes. Combining abstract elements, color and emotion with the figure, Ruth conveys the dreamlike world of the subconscious.

In addition to painting, Ruth shows her work at Fine Art festivals regionally, teaches workshops in oil pastel techniques and portrait sketch techniques, and is represented by several galleries.

Says Hunter, "Maureen and I met through our association in Alvida Art Gallery. Our personalities just 'clicked' and we've been friends since 2004. We share a mutual respect and admiration of each others artwork. It is an honor to hang my work beside hers and work with her on an exhibition project!"

Artwork available for viewing May 2-31, 2010.

JEA Basketball Camp



Coach Trason Teaster is here to improve your skills with Basketball Camp. Coach Tra grew up in Arkansas. In High School his team won over 100 games, all while being one of the smallest schools in the state. Teaster made all-region & all state, then played for Mississippi County Community College.

***From beginner to advanced,
he is here to help your game!***

Ages: 8 to 16 (3 groups: 8-10, 11-13 & 14-16)

Camp dates: July 19 - 23

Camp time: 1 pm to 5 pm

Where: Large gym at JEA

Early Bird: \$100 per member until May 31st

\$125 per non-member until May 31st

Late registration: \$125 per member until July 19th

\$150 per non-member until July 19th

Contact 355-8111 or Stephanie@savj.org

Join the JEA Tornadoes in 2010

FOR KIDS AGE 5 AND UP

First Practice: Tuesday, May 17th

8 & under 5:45-6:30 pm

9 & up 6:30-7:30 pm

REGISTRATION:

\$100/ Members \$125/ Non-Members

SWIMMING BUILDS:

- Discipline
- Strong Bones & Lean Muscles
- Confidence
- Self-Esteem

A Virtually Injury-Free,
Life-Long Sport!

Call Stephanie, 355-8111 or
Stephanie@savj.org for more info.



Billy's Boot Camp



The class participants are enjoying a different class routine every week. Those that have stayed with the program are starting to notice and experiencing benefits in a short amount of time. Billy and his recruits are inviting you to come and experience a great workout on either **Sunday at 1pm or Wednesday at 6 pm** in the large gym. Please make sure that you bring your water bottle with you.



JEA Summer Camp 2010

12 Awesome Weeks of Fun!



Pre-Camp: June 7th-11th & June 14th-18th

Meet-N-Greet: June 20th, 1-3 pm

Post-Camp: August 16th-20th &
August 23rd 27th

Kids, Enjoy Games, Swimming,
Field Trips & More!

Contact the Ashley at the JEA for more
information, 355-8111.

Save 5% off each summer camp tuition when enrolling multiple children from the same family

K'Toni / Yeladim Campers

Week #1 - June 21-25
Dinosaur Discovery—Dinosaurs, big and small, where did they come from? Dig for dinosaur bones, put them together and make your own fossils.

Week #2-June 28-July 2
Golf / Mixed Media Art—Improve hand-eye coordination while learning the game of golf with our PGA Pro. Also, create artwork in a wide variety of media: marsh-mallow sculptures, spin art, mosaics and more.

Week #3 - July 5-9
Journey to the bottom of the Sea—Swim with sea creatures and transform our rooms into an underwater haven.

Week #4 - July 12-16
Puppet World—Puppet crafts engage the imagination and draw on child s artistic talents. Campers will bring to life favorite characters from children s literature.

Week #5 - July 19-23
Outdoor Adventure—Join us as we travel to far-away places to learn and explore: each day a new country! Each destination will bring opportunities to experience the food, culture, landmarks and animals that make that place special.

Week #6 - July 26-30
Super Hero's & Fairy Tales—Celebrate our heroes both real and make believe. Transport yourself to a world of princesses, magic and dragons. Have a blast making superhero costumes, swords and magic wands.

Week #7 - Aug. 2-6
Dance / Cooking—Following steps, timing, patience and consistency will all be worked on in this week. Refuel in the kitchen while learning to bake.

Week #8 - Aug. 9-13
Maccabiah Games (Color War) - An opportunity to promote camp spirit through engaging in physical and mental team challenges.

Chaverim / L.I.T. Campers

Week #1 - June 21-25—Camp Invention
A nationally-acclaimed enrichment program focusing on science, math, history and art. A child s ability to learn is enhanced through teamwork and subject immersion.

Week#2-June 28-July 2
Golf / Mixed Media Art—Improve your golf game with our PGA pro. Focus on hand-eye coordination through golf activities. Learn to putt, drive and chip.

Week #3 - July 5-9
Ocean Commotion—Dive into this underwater adventure week. Learn to scuba dive, check out a coral reef or clean up an oil spill.

Week #4 - July 12-16
Wii Challenge YOU! - Wii week will allow campers to take on different personas, from Robin Hood at an archery competition to an Olympic skier in a downhill race.

Week #5 - July 19-23
The Great Outdoors—Rock Climbing, Fire Building, Archeology and more. Campers will explore different aspects of the outdoor world.

Week #6 - July 26-30
CSI: Forensic Science—Learn how to take teeth impressions, remove fingerprints, distinguish a mystery powder and calculate a criminal s height and weight based on a footprint.

Week #7 - Aug. 2-6
Dance / Floor Hockey—Learn the robot, work, running man and hip hop. Then we ll learn how to shoot and pass with our floor hockey expert.

Week #8 - Aug. 9-13
Maccabiah Games (Color War) - These games are an opportunity to promote camp spirit. Campers will engage in physical and mental team challenges.

**** Field Trip's EVERY Wednesday**
**** Overnight's Week #4 & #7 (Thursdays)**

MAY FITNESS CLASSES					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	5:00-6:00 am Master Swim	8:30-9:15 am Spin Class	5:00-6:00 am Master Swim	8:30-9:15 am Spin Class	5:00-6:00 am Master Swim
9-10 am Pilates	8:30-9:30 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:30 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:30 am Firm It Up
10-11 am Total Body Blast	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize		10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize
	10:30-11:30 am Gentle Yoga		10:30-11:30 am Gentle Yoga		
	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers® MSROM	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers® Cardio Circuit	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers® MSROM	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers® Cardio Circuit	
1-2 PM Billy s Boot Camp	Noon-2:00 pm Noontime Basketball		Noon-2:00 pm Noontime Basketball		Noon-2:00 pm Noontime Basketball
	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball
	5:30-7:30 pm Karate		5:30-7:30 pm Karate		
	6:00-7:00 pm Spin Class		6:00-7:00 PM Billy s Boot Camp		
	6:30-7:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics	6:30-7:30 pm Step & Weight Aerobics	6:30-7:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics	6:30-7:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics	
	6:00-7:00 pm Yoga Power Hour	6:30-7:30 pm Badminton	7:00-8:00 pm Yoga Flow	7:00-8:00 pm Total Body Blast	
	7:00-8:30 pm Aikido	7:00-9:00 pm Savannah Fencing Club	7:00-8:30 pm Aikido	7:00-9:00 pm Savannah Fencing Club	



JCC Maccabi Games - Team Savannah

The Savannah Delegation is taking 11 teen athletes to Richmond, VA to compete against other Jewish teen athletes from around the country. The teens that are competing are Isaac and Matthew Freedman, Samuel Raskin, Jared Samuels, Allison Hagan, Max Strauss, Elliott Kooden, Marissa Levine, Josh Goldstein, Sophie Lichtman, and Evan Bridges.

These athletes are continuously fund raising in order to fund the trip. The following are things that they are going to be selling through June: \$1 shoes, \$12 Krispy Kreme doughnut cards, car washes, and grilling by the pool. If you would like to purchase any items or donate to the cause, please call Stephanie Johnson or the front desk at 355-8111.



Young Jewish Savannah

May 8th Margaritaville Party at the home of Jeff & Stacy Lasky Live entertainment, pool and Hot tub, *copious beverages*, and catering by Driftaway Cafe!

Stay tuned for a Happy Hour and End-of-Year Schmooze-and-Schmear.

Year Around Youth Basketball

Do You Love Basketball?

Do you want to improve your skills before next season?

Coach Trason is here to help! Ages 8 to 13



- * Sunday afternoons year around
- * 4 (1 1/2 2 hrs) sessions
- * \$25 JEA members / \$45 non-members

****Must register on a monthly basis****

****Starts in April **Minimum enrollment**

Call 355-8111 or email Stephanie@savj.org for more info.

The 2010-2011
Jewish Community
Directory will be
published in
September.



Get ready for a
new look!

May 2010						
May 2010	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Daily Calendar Events ➔ On-Going Programs	Aquasize -10 am Gentle Yoga -10:30 am SilverSneakers -10:30 am Senior Lunch -12:30 pm Water Aerobics -6:30 pm Yoga Power Hour 6 pm	Pilates 8:30 am Kibitzers Kafe -10 am SilverSneakers -10:30 am Aquasize -10 am Step & Weight Aerobics 6:30 pm	SilverSneakers - 10:30 am Gentle Yoga -10:30 am Senior Lunch -12:30 pm Bridge -1pm Water Aerobics -6:30 pm Scrabble -6:30 pm Yoga Flow 7:00 pm	Pilates 8:30 am Aquasize - 10 am Mah Jongg - 10:30 am SilverSneakers - 10:30 am Senior Lunch -12:30 pm Senior Program -1:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics - 6:30 pm	Aquasize -10 am
	25 Yom Ha atzma ut Event 12:30 pm	26	27 Poker Tournament 7 pm	28	29 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program	30
	2 Lag B'omer	3 Rambam 8th Grade Play 6:30 pm	4	5	6 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program Movie & A Beer- 7:30 pm	7
	9 Speakers Series 7:30 pm	10	11	12 Yom Yerushalayim	13 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program	14
	16 JEA Beautification Day	17	18 Erev Shavuot JEA Closes at 5 pm	19 Shavuot-Day 1 JEA Closed	20 Shavuot-Day 2 JEA Closed	21
	23	24	25	26 JEA Annual Meeting 7 pm	27 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program	28
	30 Outdoor Pool Opens	31 Memorial Day JEA Offices Closed	June 1 Rambam Graduation 7:30 pm	2	3 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program Movie & a Beer 7:30 pm	4





Savannah Remembers



**Yom HaZikaron
4/11/10**



**Photos by Dick Hochman, Adam
Solender and Tuvia Mittman**



Thoughts from Rambam

On April 8th, the fifth grade class from Savannah Christian visited Rambam Day School. Mrs. Wright our assistant principal made arrangements with the Savannah Christian fifth grade teacher that our students would get together and make all kinds of butterflies to symbolize the lives lost in the Holocaust. Our 8th grade class will be making a presentation to this fifth grade class teaching them basic facts and history about the Holocaust.

Their first visit was to get acquainted, do the butterfly projects and have lunch together. The butterflies will be displayed through out Rambam. Mrs. Robinson, our pre-k teacher helped put together the various stations where the children visited each station making various butterflies.

Additionally, there was a question and answer period which gave the fifth graders a chance to ask questions about anything they wished to know. They asked questions about the Holocaust, trying to understand why Hitler did what he did. They asked a lot of questions about Judaism; the purpose of a yarmulka, what foods we are not allowed to eat, how is the synagogue different than a church, why do some girls wear only skirts, why are some boys sideburns long, how do boys keep their yarmulkas on, how are our holidays different, what are some of the laws that we follow daily.

It was a wonderful experience for the students from both schools. It was a learning experience for our students to hear what interested the students from Savannah Christian, and it was a wonderful experience for our students in communication as they tried to answer many of the questions that were asked. The following are thoughts from the Savannah Christian students about their visit to Rambam;

"I sort of knew a lot about the Jewish culture because my friend is Jewish, so I didn't feel weird." Lakelyn

"I was really excited" Hannah

"I had a good time and learned a lot." Rebekah

"I loved it a lot. I never knew so much about Jewish people." Hannah

"I found the trip enjoyable." Faiza

"I was very happy about this trip." James

"I had fun and was happy I learned something about the Holocaust." Ethan

"It was so cool." Sarah

All the questions asked about the Holocaust and Judaism were answered directly, as concisely as possible while giving as much information needed to appropriately answer any question, and with a sensitivity that these were just 5th graders. However, we felt it our obligation, that if they agreed to come, and they came to learn, we had a responsibility to fulfill.

There has been a lot of conversation about Jewish education in our community... imagine if we had only answered their questions about the Holocaust in very general terms. What if our answers lacked substance and did not provide much information. Then we would have been contributing to the Holocaust being forgotten and being viewed as trivia within our history.

Imagine if we educate our young about their heritage and we are very general, giving minimal information... then we would be presenting our heritage as a trivia within our history and we would be responsible for being irresponsible.



Ester Y. Rabhan,
Rambam Principal

From The Shalom School

I am writing this as my last article as Principal of Shalom School, inasmuch as I have decided to retire at the end of this school year, after ten years of service. In concluding my term as Principal, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Congregation Agudath Achim and Congregation Mickve Israel, their Rabbis and lay leaders, for the wonderful encouragement and support I have been given in my endeavors. I also want to thank our Shalom School Boards of Directors, who have worked with me and given me the incentives and support to continually strive for excellence. I wish to thank the parents of my students, who have given me their children and entrusted me with the task of imparting to them a love of Judaism. Last, I give eternal thanks to my wife, Phoebe Kerness, our parent educator and, most important, the source of my inspiration and commitment, who has guided me through this last decade with our children. I could not succeed without her.

During my years at Shalom School, I look back on many successes and not a few shortcomings. On the plus side, our School has found its focus in Judaic studies, casting aside traditional didactic learning for the experiential CHAI Curriculum, an innovative program model based on the three cornerstones of our faith (Torah, Worship and Acts of Loving kindness). Our Hebrew program, too, has found new directions and focus, preparing our children well in Hebrew reading skills and giving them a deep appreciation of our Shabbat and Holiday services. Indeed, this year has seen our students participating in and even leading Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services at our synagogues.

Another meaningful achievement is our initiation of a successful parent education program at the same time our children are in Sunday School. Each week, for the last four years, a group of motivated parents sets the best example possible for life long Jewish learning, by studying the basics of Judaism, the meaning and content of prayer services and, this year, delving into Torah with all its midrashim and commentaries. Bravo for the Shalom School for Parents!

I also take great pride in having recruited and retained an able and dedicated faculty, all highly professional people with a strong love of Judaism who act as important role models for our children. Our teachers have been enriched with periodic infusions of Jewish "ruach" through their participation in annual conferences of the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE), a victim of our economic downturn which recently closed its doors. Thank you my teachers: without you and your dedication, the education of our children would be a pointless task.

On the negative side, I have tried during my decade here at Shalom School, to further the cause of Jewish education of our children after the year of Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Our School has moved through a series of program models: from weekly evenings of dinner and classes, to overnight Shabbatonim and weekend study programs, to monthly classes for seventh through tenth graders. Despite innovative curricular offerings, excellent teachers, and exciting experiential programs like our Tybee-based studies of Judaism and Ecology and our weekend in Washington, D.C. at the Holocaust Museum, our numbers seem to dwindle after the age of 13. Of this I have written in great detail in recent articles in this newspaper. The task is still undone and is left to my successor.

I leave Shalom School with the knowledge that our School is a far stronger one in so many ways than the one I inherited. I only wish the best of luck to my successor, and the hope that Shalom School will rise, in coming years, to greater, more intensive, and exciting learning levels in the quest to implant in our children the basics of our faith and an incentive for life long Jewish learning.

L'Shalom,
Jules Kerness, Principal



Jules Kerness,
Shalom School
Principal

Jerald M. Gottlieb, Ph.D.

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Visit our website at: www.drpsych.com or email us at: coolpool@aol.com

Know anyone 22-40?

Check out Young Jewish Savannah, www.savj.org or find us on Facebook.



Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

Oral History Excerpts

Our Archives holds an excellent collection of oral histories. In the coming months we'll continue showcasing excerpts from the early interviews. Other excerpts appear in our publication *Voices of Savannah*.

IDA (BRONITSKY) STEIN
(1909-2005) interviewed
March 1999



Ida Stein

And we used to go to Tybee on Sunday morning... By train... The train was at the foot of

President and, I think, Reynolds Street there. It took about half an hour, no, about three quarters of an hour to get there... Sunday morning was fried chicken and potato salad, and it was packed

in a lunch, and we'd take... a train about 10:00 o'clock in the morning or 10:30. I don't know what the price was. All us kids, 11, 12, 13 years old, we'd get to the front of the train and the parents would be in the back. When the conductor came around, they said the moms would have the tickets. There they had the beautiful pavilion that burnt down... And they had a place to change your clothes... And above the locker room they had a great big pavilion with tables and chairs and all, where you could sit and have your lunch comfortably. It was a massive place. But it was so nice. And the main dance pavilion was out on the water. Built pretty

much like the one is today... And all the old bands... They would come in and play on the pavilion, and so you could come on a Saturday night and dance... and had all the refreshment stands with cokes and hot dogs and all of that. Tybee was really lovely at that time.

Broughton Street was the street... You could go window shopping at night, you know. The lights were on in the stores and you walked up and down Broughton Street, and then you went into Jerry George's Ice Cream parlor and had yourself an ice cream cone or a dish of ice cream... I guess it was five cents.

We used to get a wagon - I don't remember where we used to get a horse and wagon - and fill it full of straw and go out to Coffee Bluff out Bull Street. For a picnic there. There was a peanut farmer nearby. And there was a spring with fresh water, and you saw turtles floating around in it. They had the pipe with artesian water. I went over to get a cup of water one time, and it tasted like eggs, and I said, "We didn't bring any egg salad with our lunch today..." Finally, it took me a while, a month or so, a year or so... when I found out that that was the taste, that that was the kind of water. It was artesian water.

If you wish to read more from this oral history or from another in the collection, or if you wish to purchase a copy of *Voices of Savannah*, contact Archives staff at (912) 651-2125, ext. 34 or lstoudt@georgiahistory.com.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Dr. Fred C. Kazlow

Who died on March 21, 2010.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria S. Kazlow, two daughters Susan Kazlow Friedland and Jodi Dawn Kazlow, and son, Dr. Gary Kazlow; four grandchildren, Arielle Kazlow, Sam, David and Mariah Friedland; a brother, Bernard (Bernice) Carson; a sister in law, Dr. Carol Kerr, and several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Temple Mickve Israel.

Harold H. Hirsch

Who died on April 10, 2010.

He is survived by three sisters, Sonya Diamond, Georgia, Bess H. (Lou) Freeman, of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Irene H. Baker of Charleston, South Carolina; one brother, Julian (Celia) Hirsch, of Memphis, Tennessee, and several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim or the charity of the donor's choice.

Beryl Benjamin Bernstein
Who died on April 10, 2010.

He is survived by three daughters, Joan Bernstein of Atlanta, Lynn B. (Evans) Fruitticher, of Newington, FL, and Lois B. Legg, of Orlando, FL; two sons, Samuel Bernstein and Robert (Arlene) Bernstein, of Huntsville, Arkansas; three grandchildren, Nathan Fruitticher, Joshua Bernstein, and Rachael Bernstein; one great-granddaughter, Halie Fruitticher, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: American Cancer Society or Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob.

Erwin Gaspin

Who died on March 31, 2010.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann DeAnda Gaspin; one brother, Myron "Mutt" (Nancy) Gaspin; two nephews, David E. Gaspin and Seth J. Gaspin, and one uncle, Sidney Cohen.

Remembrances: The Humane Society.

Did you know?

Shavuot (weeks) commemorates the anniversary of the receiving of the Ten Commandments by Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai. It is one of the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals and marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer. The date of Shavuot is directly linked to Passover. On Passover, the Jewish people were freed from slavery; on Shavuot they were given the Torah and became a nation.

Besides its significance as the day on which the Torah was given by God to the Jewish nation at Mount Sinai, Shavuot is also connected to the season of the grain harvest in Israel. These customs, largely observed in Ashkenazi communities, are: eating dairy (such as blintzes and cheesecake), reading of the Book of Ruth, reading Torah all evening long, and decorating homes and synagogues with greenery. It might be one of our most delicious holidays!

Attention Rising 9th—12th Graders

The Savannah Jewish Federation is pleased to announce
Jewish Teen Summer Programming
Scholarships for Summer 2010
to be used towards expenses for a Jewish teen
experience that enhances Jewish identity.

Applications are available at www.savj.org or contact
Lynn Levine (lynn@savj.org or 355-8111) for more information

Applications are due by May 21, 2010



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Fret-Free Frittatas from Gefilte Girl

Chai y'all!

One of my favorite dishes on the planet is the frittata. Don't be put off by how exotic it sounds, making this dish is simpler than making an omelette. It's one of the true universal foods, able to be served for breakfast,

lunch, dinner, or my personal favorite, brunch. (Great with mimosas and bloody mary's!)

Both the Spanish and the Italians claim that the frittata originated in their country, so you know it has to be good if that's a point of contention.

What is a frittata?

It is an unfolded omelette often containing chopped vegetables or meats. Basically, it's a crustless quiche.

Sound simple? It is!

Please make sure that when you're making this dish, use a heavy bottomed non-stick oven proof pan.

Traditional Spanish Frittata (serves 2 hungry people)

4 eggs
1 Tbs water
1 small potato, peeled and cut into small cubes
1/4 onion, diced
2 Tbs parmesan cheese
salt and pepper to taste
2 Tbs olive oil

Preheat the oven to 350°. Bring a small pot of water to boil, add potatoes and cook until slightly soft, drain and cool 10 minutes. Whisk together eggs and water, set aside. Heat olive oil in pan, when hot, add onions and cook until soft, add potatoes, stir, then add eggs.



Gefilte Girl
Elizabeth Hale

Sprinkle parmesan cheese and salt and pepper. Cook on stove on low-medium heat for a minute then put the pan, uncovered, in the oven until cooked through.

Here's the only tricky part- remove the pan from the oven, (using oven mitts please)- and flip the frittata onto the serving plate.

Now for my favorite variation on the frittata! (I've converted it!)

Gefilte Girl's Frittata (serves 2 hungry smoked salmon fans)

4 eggs
1 Tbs water
lox (chopped)
cream cheese (cubed)
chives (optional)
salt and pepper
2 Tbs olive oil

Preheat your oven to 350°. Whisk eggs and water, set aside. Heat your oven proof non stick pan on the stove. Add eggs over low-medium heat, when they start to bubble, sprinkle in the lox and cream cheese (and chives), salt and pepper. Put the pan in the pre-heated oven and cook until done, about 5-8 minutes depending on how you like your eggs. Turn the pan over on the serving plate and slice like a pizza! Yum....

***If you have any questions, need any dinner ideas or simply want to drop a note contact me at gefiltegirlsavannah@yahoo.com.

Elizabeth Hale is a member of Temple Mickve Israel, a graduate of Johnson and Wales Culinary School, professional chef for 15 years, and has owned several restaurants in South Florida. She currently resides in Bluffton, SC, where she is busy planning her wedding.

Local Realtor Joins in the Fight Against Crohn's & Colitis

By Sherri Levin Wildstein*

Blake Weinberger looks like a typical twenty something found on River Street or Savannah's Southside. He gets up each morning, goes to work at Seabolt Brokers, and plays golf, jogs and swims regularly. He even teaches a ballroom dancing class in the evenings at Essi's Dance Studio. You would never know that just a few short years ago, Blake was in the hospital fighting for his life.



Blake Weinberger

For Blake, ulcerative colitis was a surprise and came on very quickly after he graduated from college in 2004. "I was hospitalized and underwent an array of drug treatments that were unsuccessful," recalls Blake. After exhausting medication treatment options, Blake underwent surgery. His colon was removed and there were a variety of complications, ultimately leading to 23 abdominal and rectal surgeries in 18 months.

Ulcerative colitis is a devastating disease that most commonly attacks people in the prime of their lives. Ulcerative colitis, or UC, is closely related to another chronic illness called Crohn's disease. Collectively, these digestive diseases are known as "inflammatory bowel disease", or IBD. Symptoms of IBD can include abdominal pain and cramping, persistent diarrhea, loss of appetite, unexplained fatigue, weight loss and joint pain. IBD affects 1.4 million Americans, and a staggering 30,000 children and adults are newly diagnosed each year.

"Having gone through all this has certainly strengthened my appreciation for life," Blake says. "I try to live everyday to the fullest and more than ever appreciate the importance and support of family and friends."

Blake does relate one positive aspect to his battle with ulcerative colitis. Blake was introduced to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA).

CCFA is non-profit, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to finding the cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Blake has been a dedicated volunteer for CCFA for many years, even spending a week as a counselor at Camp Oasis, a summer camp for children living with Crohn's or colitis. Today, Blake continues to be an ambassador for CCFA. He is a facilitator for the Savannah support group for Crohn's and colitis patients, and also is a "Local Honored Hero" for the inaugural *Savannah Take Steps for Crohn's & Colitis* walk, being held on Sunday, June 6th in Daffin Park.

Take Steps for Crohn's & Colitis is CCFA's national evening walk and celebration and is the nation's largest event dedicated to finding cures for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. While many patients suffer in silence, Take Steps brings them together with other patients, their families and members of the community and encourages them to make noise and be heard. "The money raised through Take Steps helps support patient programs, education efforts, and furthers crucial research," says Marcia Greenburg, a native of Savannah and now Regional Director for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. "In the past two years alone, we have been able to bring together over 75,000 people and raise over 13 million dollars to help further our mission of finding a cure, and we are looking forward to continued success with the addition of the Savannah walk this year."

For more information on how participate or to volunteer with Take Steps or CCFA, please contact Amy Suiter at 404-982-0616 or orasuiter@ccfa.org.

* Sherri Levin Wildstein is a native Savannahian, and the daughter of Phyllis and the late Irving Levin. Raised in Swainsboro, Sherri returned to Savannah during her college years. Sherri is an active community volunteer, and currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Georgia chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America. Though she lives in Atlanta and is always on the go, Sherri considers Savannah her hometown, and returns frequently to visit her Uncle Leon Aronson and Aunts Zena Kaplan and Iris Hornstein.

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Savannah Dentist Volunteers in Jerusalem

By Carolyn Zalesne

The call to help others, a tenet of Jewish life dating back to "Love thy neighbor as thyself" (Lev 19:18), inspired my husband, Savannah dentist Dr. Jonathan Holskin, to volunteer in a children's dental clinic in Israel in March.

Dental Volunteers for Israel (DVI) invites dentists from around the world to the Trudi Birger Clinic in Jerusalem to provide free dental care and oral health education to poverty-stricken children. In the program's 29 years, 4,500 dentists have responded. DVI dentists perform between 1,000 and 1,200 treatments each month, seeing thousands of children each year. The clinic depends on these dentists, as well as on the generosity of friends and suppliers.

"I worked with three other volunteer dentists — one from Australia, one from Holland, and one from Great Britain — and together with our Israeli colleague, we saw, on average, 40 children of many races and religions each

day," recalls Jon. "The clinic itself is well-organized, well-stocked, and well-staffed and, because it's all one big room (four dental chairs each with a dentist, a patient, assistants, and surrounding families), I often heard four or five different languages spoken at the same time. This was my first visit to Israel; the idea of going there to donate something I could do with my hands particularly appealed to me.

"One of the nicest features of the DVI experience was the apartment they provided for me on Lincoln Street in Jerusalem's *Talbieh* neighborhood, near the Fuchsberg Center, the King David Hotel, and Ben Yehuda street. Jerusalem is a walking city; from this apartment I easily explored Jerusalem on foot. Working in the clinic and living in an apartment in an Israeli neighborhood was a special experience: I felt part of the community — as though I belonged there — rather than like a tourist."

At the conclusion of his volunteer commitment, Jon traveled throughout Israel and returned to Savannah feeling

fortunate. "This entire experience was quite meaningful for me. Not only did I absorb what Israel has to offer, I shared with Israel my expertise. And I would do it again."

One humorous footnote: Early in his trip, Jon e-mailed me some pictures of the dental clinic, the apartment, and the Old City, including some of himself at the Wall. He asked me to post them on Facebook so others could share his experience. While posting a picture of my husband placing a note into a crevice at the Western Wall, I noted that "it seems Jews have been posting notes on 'walls' long before anyone ever heard of Facebook!" (If you don't understand this Facebook reference, ask your children to explain it to you).



Jon Holskin with his dental assistant and their patient at the Trudi Birger Clinic in Jerusalem

DVI encourages more dentists, especially endodontists, to participate in their volunteer program. For more information, please visit their website at www.dental-dvi.co.il. Jon would be willing to discuss his experience with anyone who may be interested in participating; you can reach him at jholskin@aol.com.

JEA SPEAKER SERIES David Lowe

"Was Churchill Right About Democracy?"
JEA, Sunday, May 9th, 7:30pm



David E. Lowe is the Vice President for Government and External Relations at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a U.S. foundation that promotes democracy in over ninety countries around the world. In this capacity he heads the President's Office, which is responsible for outreach to Capitol Hill, as well as the Endowment's government and media relations, publications, events, and Board-related activities.

Lowe holds M.A. and PhD. degrees from Johns Hopkins and a B.A. from Brandeis. He has been an adjunct faculty member at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management and a lecturer on the U.S. Congress for the Graduate School of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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The “Gently Used” Book Fair

When a child comes to a school book fair clutching only a single \$1.00 bill.....when the new books at that commercial book fair can cost \$16.95.....there's a sad child who goes home without a book. And inner city children, who often don't have many books at home, need books very badly.

Julie Hirsch, of Congregation Mickve Israel, saw that happen last spring at East Broad Elementary School when she was there for her weekly stint as a L.O.V.E. tutor. She knew that 90% of the families with children in that school live on incomes below the federal poverty level. Paying close to \$17.00 for one book isn't easy for them.

Since her mother had bought used books for her at garage sales when Julie was young (including one poetry book which she still treasures) - the family's immediate post-war-years' circumstances didn't permit the buying of too many new books - Julie thought the Broad Street Elementary school-children could also use some “Gently Used Books”. “We could sell them for no more than \$.25 each, not \$16.95!” she said. The beginning of what became Mickve Israel's Social Action Committee's “Gently Used Books” book fair was a carton of free, used children's books that Julie and her husband Norman brought back a year ago from the Upper Saddle River, NJ public library, courtesy of a dear friend, a retired K-4 principal now on the library's board.

“We then sent out a call to the congregation”, she told us, “and set up a

decorated barrel in our temple atrium next to the barrel in which we collect donations of food for our Backpack Buddies effort of feeding 58 of the neediest children at that school on the weekends. When members came to temple they donated books that their children and grandchildren had outgrown. Family members and friends from out-of-town were informed and one new temple member brought back five shopping bags full from her daughter and grandchildren in New Jersey.”

Temple member Tricia Guggenheim, a teacher at Hancock Day School, put her fifth graders to gathering used books and sent over 10 boxes that the children donated. And an unexpected number of books came from out of the blue....and from New Jersey again.

Young Ethan Hartman at River Edge, New Jersey's Temple Sholom where, coincidentally, Julie had once taught 7th grade, decided to do his mitzvah project for his bar mitzvah this past March 13th for a cause in Savannah. Why? He was honoring a well-loved lady, Ms. Bernice Young from Savannah, now retired, who had been a mainstay of his family for three generations. Ethan had the same used book idea and a beautiful connection was made. Ethan gathered- and he and



Ethan Harman

his mom Stephanie sent - 800 books for this effort.

Julie tells us that they had almost 3,000 books by the time they stopped collecting last month. “The barrel in the Mickve Israel lobby has been filling up with books (and we've been emptying it and storing them with difficulty) since last spring”, she said. “Our committee volunteers stamped them “With love from Congregation Mickve Israel - Happy Reading!” and separated them into genres. Norman really chuckled when he stamped a book we'd once given to two of our grandchildren! That book went to Maryland a few years ago and, with others, is now back here.”

Current Social Action chair Marcia Berens saw to it that the tables were decorated with skirts. The able teacher liaison, Diana Radcliffe, insured that the books were laid out by reading level, that flyers went home and that all was ready. Mickve Israel volunteers Yvette Karnibad, Susie Carnes, Matiel Leffler, Toby Hollenberg, Arnie Ram, Phoebe Kerness, Lucile Smith and Adam Solender took two hour shifts - or longer - on the book fair days, helping children find the kind of books they both liked and which were suited to their abilities. Norman Hirsch, the originator of the Backpack Buddies program at Mickve Israel, was there all day, both days, and was Julie's indefatigable mainstay.

Every child at the school got a free book the first day. The day after they could buy up to four books for \$.25 each. Dr. Charlene Ford, the school principal, agreed that it was heart-



Book Fair 2010

warming to watch the children look for books each would like. Some started reading as they sat on the floor by the lobby wall while classmates completed their selections.

The leftover books will now be divided among the classrooms for in-class library shelves from pre-K through next year's first 6th grade.

To Julie's great surprise, when Principal Ford contacted the PR person at the HQ of the Chatham County school system, the local TV stations all sent teams to cover the book fair. WTOG named Julie as its “Hometown Hero” of the week on April 1st.

The real heroes are all those who gave books, who lugged them upstairs and down and from place to place, and who sorted them and stamped them and delivered them with love. And now other books are coming in.....well.....

I would like to thank my Jewish family for all the cards, phone calls, food and all the special thoughts shown towards me and my family during our time of bereavement. I especially thank you for enabling me to purchase a head stone for my Mother and Father. Your love and kindness is greatly appreciated and cannot be measured with words.

**Love,
Sharon Hughes**

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Jewish tradition teaches that one of our key duties is to make the world a better place for future generations. The Talmud shares, "I did not find the world desolate when I entered it. And as my parents planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me." In Savannah, these roots are buried deep. Generations have been cherished and entrusted with this community—for 277 years thus far.

Chances are that many of you already sustain the Savannah Jewish community generously through synagogue dues, Jewish education tuition, donations to the Savannah Jewish Federation, membership in the Jewish Educational Alliance or a combination of these. For all of these affiliations and support, thank you. But have you considered what the community will be like for future generations? Have you considered including the Jewish organizations that mean so much to you now in your will, so your thoughtfulness and foresight can make a difference for generations to come?

Whether you use a will or other estate planning vehicles, your generosity can do a world of good for the Savannah Jewish community. Your gift

to future generations can reflect your passions and fund anything that is important and meaningful to you. The legacy planning process can engender heartfelt conversations with your family and build bonds with your partners in the community.

If you would like more information on planning a legacy gift to the Jewish community, please contact Adam Solender or Lynn Levine at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah (adam@savj.org or lynn@savj.org, 355-8111). Begin the process of legacy planning and discover how your bequest to future generations empowers you to complete the work of your heart and impact the future of this community.

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