



Shabbat & Holiday Candle

Lighting Times

Friday, January 20	5:28pm
Friday, January 27	5:35pm
Friday, February 3	5:41pm
Friday, February 10	5:48pm
Friday, February 17	5:54pm
Friday, February 24	5:59pm

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Featured Stories

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The JEA/SJF Gains Another Family Member—Read about the latest member of the JEA/SJF family, Rachel Epstein. She comes with the knowledge and ability of media graphics and communications know how, p8

100 years of Girl Scouting—The Girl Scouts reach their centennial year and Savannah's Jewish community has been involved all along, in the coming weeks lectures and an exhibit will highlight the history and connections, p10

Great Jewish Films, Brand New Format—2012 Savannah Jewish Film Festival

Ready, Set, Action! The 2012 Savannah Jewish Film Festival is nearing and it once again promises to be a cinematic journey that showcases the richness and texture of the Jewish experience.

Before the kick-off of the professional football league's championship game, Super Bowl XLVI, come and catch the kick-off of the 2012 Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial Savannah Jewish Film Festival on Saturday evening, February 4th.

This year holds some big changes, the Festival will be spread out over several dates, over several weeks and this year we'll have a meal preceding each film that relates to the film being shown that day. This year, you can buy individual film tickets at the door for

\$9 (JEA member tickets are \$8) and Full Festival passes are \$65 (JEA members passes are \$50). The fun, delicious, themed meals that precede the films are \$10 and a reservation is required at least two days prior to the day of the film. All films will be shown at the Jewish Educational Alliance.

Saturday, February 4th – Dinner at 7pm, Film at 8pm - Inside Hanna's Suitcase



Who was Hana Brady? That's the mystery an educator in Japan wanted to solve. Fumiko Ishioka

is the curator at the Children's Holocaust education centre in Tokyo. With nothing to go on but a suitcase lent by the Auschwitz Museum, Ishioka and a group of kids worked together on a Holocaust project, hoping to honour the little girl whose name was on the suitcase. All they knew at first about Hana Brady was that she was one of millions of Jewish children who died in a concentration camp during the Second World War. And they wanted to know much more. By the time Ishioka achieved what she set out to do, Hana Brady had become a person again, rather than a symbol, a statistic or a shadowy figure from the past. Ishioka's

See page 6

Community Purim Carnival—Just Around the Corner

Purim is the most festive of holidays, complete with certain traditions such as great revelry, dressing in masks, costumes, and having carnival-like celebrations. In keeping with these traditions the Jewish Educational Alliance and Savannah Jewish Federation staff

and Children's Committee of volunteers have planned a wonderful Community Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 4th with fun and festivities for all our friends and families. This year's Purim Carnival will take place at the JEA in the rear circle and playing fields starting at 12:15pm and where you can enjoy food, games, contests, and more until 3:00pm.

We are planning on keeping all the fun and excitement of last year's carnival, and adding a few new surprises! There will be pony rides, multiple inflatable activities, face painting, balloon animals, lots of games where tickets can be won for prizes, a Costume Contest, hamburgers, Hamentashen, all of your other favorite carnival goodies, and so much more.

Purim Carnival 2012 will be an event to remember. Here at the JEA we are



counting down the days until this AMAZING event. We hope you are too. Mark your calendars for March 4th because you won't to miss this special event. To learn about carnival developments and updates please seek the JEA out online at www.savannahjea.org and follow the JEA on Facebook by "liking" Savannah Jewish Educational Alliance. We can't wait to see you at this year's Community Purim Carnival!



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Planting for the Future of the JEA

If you've seen kids digging in the grounds around the JEA just before winter break, unfortunately we didn't find any treasures, but, we were just preparing the ground for Tu B'Shevat planting this year and creating a Holocaust memorial garden that we are intending to dedicate at the Yom HaShoah Remembrance program.

On Tu B'Shevat this year, as every year in Israel, thousands of children, youth and adults will go out to the Jewish National Fund forests in Israel to plant new trees, learn about nature protection and preservation and celebrate the trees new year. Certainly, everyone in Israel understands why we

celebrate Tu B'Shevat. The planting of trees, going out to nature and having a Tu B'Shevat Seder; one that resembles one celebrated in the 16th century by the kabbalist Rabbi Yitzchak Luria of Safed and his disciples that instituted this Seder in which the fruits and trees of the Land of Israel were given symbolic meaning. In Israel, the Tu B'Shevat Seder has been revived and is celebrated by many Jews, religious and secular. Special haggadot have been written for this purpose.

Here, too, such a celebration is planned in Savannah on February 5th we will plant trees and plants around the JEA. We'll have fun arts and crafts

projects for children related to recycling, nature and environment and have a short Tu B'Shevat Seder.

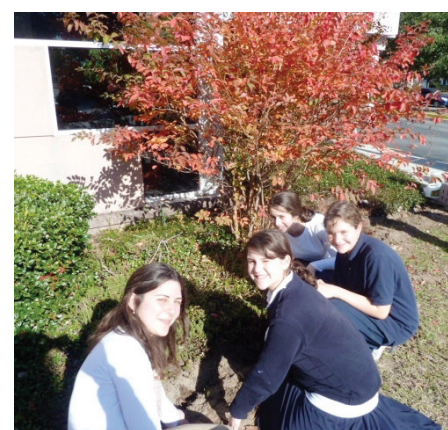
You're probably asking yourself why in Savannah do we celebrate by planting, why is there a holiday dedicated to talking about environmental issues and nature? Except for the obvious answer that it's going to be an amazing fun day for families, there is another answer.

Taking care of our world around us is important in Judaism and it has a higher message, and not just Israel. The first tree that I planted in Israel was actually a tree planted for my birth by my parents and I have a nice certificate next to my birth certificate with the number of the plot and a nice dedication and since then I've planted plenty of trees by myself. From Kindergarten, upper schools and even into my Army service; we plant trees on Tu B'Shevat. When I walk in a JNF forest, I know that I had a part in this and I also know many others also had a part; we had the same goal- the growth of the state of Israel.

In planting trees, we teach the next generation. The same way I was taught to love my country through investing time and energy in it and being part of the Idea of Israel. Planting has not only a symbolic meaning; man ties himself to a place by taking care of it for the



Tal Bratman,
Savannah Jewish
Community Shlichah



future of that place.

On Tu B'Shevat this year we will plant for our future and past, we will beautify the JEA and we will get to remember our past. On February 5th we will dedicate the daffodil garden that was a collaboration of the JEA and Am Yisrael Chai, a Holocaust education organization, that were planted by the Rambam kids in the memory of 1.5 million Jewish children who perished in the holocaust. In addition, there will be a chance for people to dedicate those daffodils to their loved ones, their kids and the community to tie your self to the past and the future of The Jewish community.

So come celebrate Tu B'Shevat at the JEA, help us do a mitzvah project and beautify The JEA.





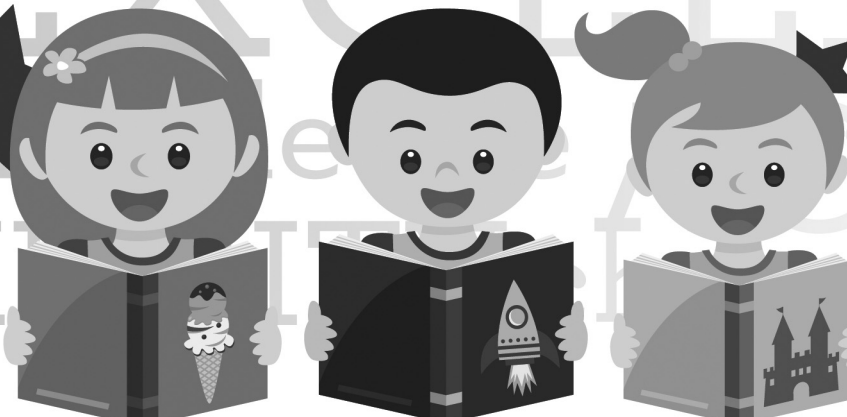






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The JEA Green Space Committee Needs Volunteers and Supplies!

Needed by Feb. 5th

Have you done your own improvements recently? Do you have supplies to help beautify the JEA? Do you have items that can be donated for this day?

Items Desired: -Gravel -Bricks (not clay) -Flower bulbs -Plants—vegetables & herbs -Fencing—4" wooden picket -Paint—water based preferred* -Paint primer (*no oil, spoiled or dried paints please)

Please contact Carol Greenberg before February 5th with specifics of what you are willing to donate, mstararts@gmail.com or call her, 912-355-1238.

Savannah Jewish News

Published by the
Savannah Jewish Federation

5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 355-8111

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SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Allan Ratner**

The objectives of the Savannah Jewish News are to foster a sense of community among the Jewish people of Savannah by sharing ideas, information, experiences and opinions, and to promote the agencies, projects and mission of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

The Savannah Jewish News is published monthly ten times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 10th of the month before publication. There are no February or August issues. All articles for the Winter and Summer issues should be submitted by December 15th or June 15, respectively.

Please send all materials to:
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For submissions to the eNews
Please send information to
adam@savj.org

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Not Just Another Tea Party

In December of last year I had the privilege and honor of attending a tea party. And no, this was not just an ordinary tea party. It was a Russian tea party. And no, it was not just an ordinary Russian tea party. It was a very special Russian tea party in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Russian Resettlement in Savannah. The tea party took place at the JEA. The small auditorium was filled with food, music, lively conversation, wonderful memories and many of the Russian immigrants that became a part of our community 20 years ago.

The tea party also had two very special honorees, Elaine Radetsky and Marsha Berens. Elaine and Marsha were being recognized by the Russian community for their tireless volunteer work during the resettlement process. During the ceremony there were incredibly heartfelt stories told through the eyes of the Russian immigrants and some of our community volunteers. Amy Pine read a school paper she had found in her attic that she had written 20 years ago. She expressed the wonderful feelings she and her family experienced at adopting a new Russian family and being responsible for helping that family become a part of our community. Michael Chernyak, a handsome college graduate who is back home working in Savannah, spoke about his memories of being a small boy walking off of the plane with his family here in Savannah and how it felt to be in a foreign place, unable to speak the language and unfamiliar with all of our strange customs and life styles. Michael also spoke of the generosity of the Savannah Jewish community and of all of the wonderful volunteers who helped Michael, his family and all of the Russian immigrants become part of our Savannah Jewish community. It was a wonderful celebration of both Elaine and Marsha's work in the Russian resettlement program as well as a fantastic tribute to our community's volunteer efforts during this important time in our history.

As I sat in the room listening to all of the moving stories and sensing the love and appreciation of each and every Russian immigrant and community volunteers, I began to wonder about

volunteerism and the changes that have occurred in the volunteer world both nationally and in our own community. I wondered if there was another need to resettle Jews in our community whether we

could find enough volunteers to take on the challenge. Would there be enough people who not only had the enthusiasm and time to take on such an enormous project but also volunteers who would really take ownership in such a project? As any volunteer leader will attest, it is becoming more and more difficult to find people who are willing to volunteer their time in the non-profit world. There have been numerous studies conducted by many different organizations into the disappearance of volunteerism. The causes are many and the solutions elusive.

I was convinced that if you were at the Russian tea party and felt and experienced the incredible life changing good that Elaine, Marsha and all of the community volunteers who participated in Russian resettlement accomplished through their volunteer efforts that we would never have a volunteer problem in our community. You have heard me say many times before that the work we do and the money we raise in Federation really does change lives. It goes without saying, but in order to change lives, we need volunteers. It's easy to volunteer and I promise you it will make you feel good to volunteer. Your volunteer efforts do not have to be as extensive or significant as the Russian resettlement program. There are countless volunteer opportunities at the Federation, the JEA, the synagogues and the schools. All of us, no matter how busy we may be in our day to day lives, can find some time to give to others. Make yourself a promise that in 2012 you will volunteer for at least one project in our Jewish community. I promise you that it will feel as good to you as it felt to all of us at the Russian tea party.



Jeffrey Lasky,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

A Relationship with Israel

Over the past months I have heard many people say that "*these are particularly challenging times for Israel.*" In looking back, I can't really remember a time when this statement was not true. In a country that has had numerous wars, absorbed millions of immigrants, constant issues with security, terrorism, challenges with water shortages...the list goes on and on.... Israel has proudly overcome them all (or at least managed them admirably).

"Our relationship to Israel is holy; it is part of our Jewish DNA. It must be unassailable."

It is with this background that we in the Diaspora have followed recent events that have challenged us all. The trade of over one thousand terrorists and enemies of the state for Gilad Shalit challenged the core of Israel's policy of "no negotiation with terrorists." Many opined that this was a major strategic mistake by the Israeli government. We watched as a huge social movement occurred in Israel over the high cost of living. Similar to the "Occupy Wall Street" movement, Israelis throughout the country camped in city centers to protest the lack of affordable housing, educational opportunities, and the high cost of food. The Israel Ministry of Absorption recently ran a series of advertisements that targeted Israelis living in the Diaspora. The ads subtly let the expat Israelis know that living in the Diaspora is a recipe for losing their Jewish identity. After significant protests by a number of groups, led by the Federation movement, the advertisements were promptly removed from the air. It was not long thereafter when newspapers throughout the world were full of stories about the actions of a small nonrepresentative group of Ultra Orthodox in Beit Shemesh who spat upon an eight year old girl who they deemed to be immodest. On the heels of this expose have been any

number of stories on the increasing victimization and marginalization of women in many locales in Israel.

Each of these stories serves to alienate Jews "on the fringes." Each of these incidents provides fodder to those who are ambivalent about Israeli society. But it is hard not to respond with anger when the Israeli government characterizes Judaism outside of Israel as a "spiritual wasteland." We understand the frustration of young men and women, fresh out of the IDF, protesting that they cannot afford apartments while getting their university education. Who among us does not respond with anger when we read about women being assaulted for not sitting in the back of the bus?

While there are issues within the country, and I do not make light about how challenging they are, the challenges from without also are significant. Increasing anti-Israel rhetoric has become mainstream throughout the world. The Arab world is undergoing a significant shift towards fundamentalism. A nuclear Iran is a threat to the entire world.

Yet, with all the questions we have about Israeli society, it is our Israel. We have a right to question what goes on in Israeli society. We have an obligation to understand the successes and the challenges. We ought to get angry, concerned, frustrated, sad, and proud. It is like a family who is committed to each other, a family whose love is unwavering-no matter what happens. We can argue, rally, and criticize, because this is what families do. It is OK to criticize and love Israel at the same time.

Our relationship to Israel is holy; it is part of our Jewish DNA. It must be unassailable.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

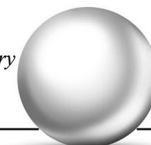
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Your Campaign Dollars at Work!

Savannah BBYO Holds Annual Sweetheart/Beau Dance

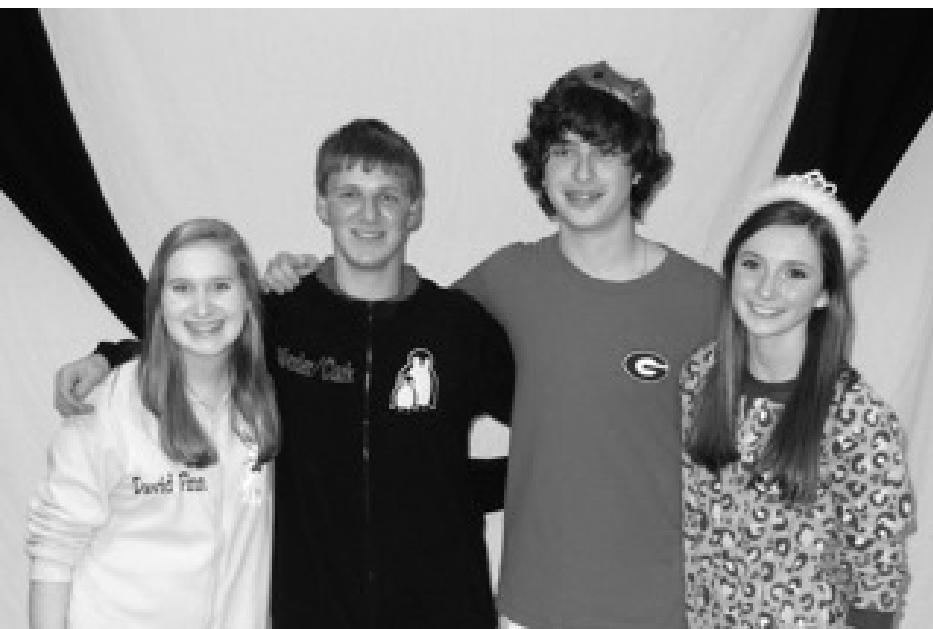
David Finn AZA and Wexler/Clark BBG were host to over 70 kids December 2nd weekend, for its annual Sweetheart/Beau dance. Shabbat services/program were held Friday night at the Hirsch', and Saturday morning services were held at the Kooden's. As part of the Friday night program, the Savannah kids honored their advisor, Rachael Cohen with going away presents, as she is moving to Atlanta. The Saturday night dance held at the JEA was a pajama party filled with lots of fuzzy slippers, flannels, and feetie coveralls! The girls crowned Jared Samuels as its beau, and the boys crowned Nina Luskey as its sweetheart. As part of the night's festivities, the Kosher Hypnotist put on a show for all to enjoy. After a breakfast Sunday morning at the JEA, a joint BBG/AZA business meeting was held, and then the kids

said goodbye to their friends from Charleston, Augusta, and Columbia who came in for the dance weekend. BBYO is for teens in the 9th-12th grade.

For more information, contact Joanne Kooden at threered@aol.com. Thanks to generous donors in Savannah Jewish community the Savannah Jewish Federation is proud to support the local chapters of BBYO.



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Pictured from left to right - Hannah Slotin, Elliot Kooden, Jared Samuels and Nina Luskey



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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Janet S. Reed

Who died on November 16, 2011

She is survived by her husband; Irwin Reed; two sons, Michael (Vanessa) Reed of Oakland, CA and Joel (Katie) Reed of Saratoga Springs, NY; one grandson, Jacob Reed of Santa Cruz, CA; one brother, Raymond (Renee) Silverman; and one sister-in-law, Fay Silverman.

Remembrances: Jewish Educational Alliance.

Philip Solomons

Who died on November 26, 2011

He is survived by his three sons and daughters-in-law: Philip Jr. (Cathy), Ralph (Carol), and Richard (Helen) and his five grandchildren: Delia, Danyse, Erin, Caleb, and Anne.

Remembrances: Armstrong Atlantic State University, the Coastal Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America, or Congregation Mickve Israel Building Fund.

Carole Adina Charney Herman

Who died on December 17, 2011

She is survived by her husband, Stephen Michael Herman; two daughters, Amy Elizabeth Herman (Jason Ian) Comander of Brookline, MA, and Nancy Alexandra (Michael) Hait, PhD of Easton, MA; one brother, David L. Charney, M.D. of Alexandria, VA; and four grandchildren, Lily Alice Comander, David William Comander, Emma Rose Hait and Annalise Sophia Hait.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim or the Savannah Jewish Federation.

Herman Barnett

Who died on December 30, 2011

He is survived by his wife, Sybil Seligman Barnett; one daughter, Janis (Lee) Javetz; two sons, Gary (Harriet) Barnett of Atlanta, GA and Rick Barnett; five grandchildren, Nanci (David) Aronstein, Leslie (Andrew) Walcoff, Jonathan Javetz, Karen (Steve) Denker, Scott Barnett; six great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah.

Allen Philip Rosen

Who died on January 3, 2012

He is survived by his wife, Arline Joyce Spizman Rosen; five daughters, Ronda (John) Cochran of Atlanta, GA, Alyssa (Grant) Schoonover of Rincon, GA, Eileen Dibutera and Cindy Porter both of East Setauket, NY, Robyn (Steven) Pikuritz of Coram, NY; five grandchildren, Jonathan "Daniel" Cochran, Eliot Martin Schoonover, Shawn Dibutera, Kaitlyn Dibutera and Danielle Porter.

Remembrances: American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association or The American Cancer Society.

Ruth Smalheiser Sadler

Who died on January 4, 2012

She is survived by one daughter, Lynne Sadler (Mark) Levine; three sons, Alan Sadler, Gary (Tara) Sadler, and Kenneth (Jodi) Sadler; eleven grandchildren, William, Brett and Marissa Levine, Eva, Lauren and Phillip Sadler, Scott and Bari Sadler, and Rose, Beth and Barney Sadler; and one brother, Marvin Smalheiser of Los Angeles, CA.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, the Jewish Educational Alliance or American Diabetes Association.

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Have an Opinion? Don't Miss the Minyan!

The JEA is proud to present the Opinion Minyan, an interactive, participatory discussion series which includes a buffet brunch.

Don't Forget to Save the Dates!

Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 10 am

"The State of Education in Savannah"

*Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas B. Lockamy, Jr. & Sharon S. Sand,
Chief Academic Officer of Savannah-Chatham Public School System*

Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 10 am

A Special Screening of ***Unmasked: Judeophobia***
with a discussion following. This is a joint event
with the ***Savannah Jewish Film Festival!***

Thursday, April 5, 2012* at 12:30 pm

*"Medical Ethics, Jewish Influences,
and Important Questions"*

Dr. Martin Greenberg

***A Special Pre-Passover Luncheon
will be provided at this event.**

*Admission is free for JEA members and \$8 for
non-members which includes the meal and speaker.*

*"The food was great, the
company was wonderful,
and the speaker was
very entertaining!"*



Visit us at www.SavannahJEA.org!



AIPAC Savannah Briefing
The Rapidly Changing Middle East:
Implication for Israel in the New Year

Major Elliot Chodoff

*Political & Military Analyst
Major (Res) - Israeli Defense Forces*

Thursday, January 26, 2012

7:30 p.m. ~ AIPAC Savannah Briefing

Agudath Achim Synagogue

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah, GA

Advanced Reservations Preferred ~ Please call or e-mail to RSVP

For additional information and RSVP's, please contact
Kate Sommers at AIPAC at (770) 541-7610 or ksommers@aipac.org

Festival.....from page 1

research took her around the world, a journey of discovery that involved one family specifically even as it addressed the kinship of all people. – *Documentary, 90 minutes, English*



Thursday, February 23rd – Dinner at 6:30pm, Film at 7:30pm – The Matchmaker

An affectionate, bittersweet feature set in 1960s Haifa: Teenager Arik Burstein's summer vacation explodes with novel attractions, including the sexy Iraqi-Jewish-American niece of his best friend and a seedy downtown movie theater run by Sylvia and a group of Jewish dwarfs who met at Auschwitz. But it is Yankele Bridematchmaker, shady businessman and Holocaust survivor-who captivates Arik in Avi Nesher's vibrant mosaic about coming of age and coming to terms with the past. – *Drama, 112 minutes, Hebrew*



Saturday, March 3rd – Dinner at 7pm, Film at 8pm – The Infidel

Mahmud Nasir (comedian Omid Djalili) is a salt-of-the-earth Muslim family man until his mother's death reveals he was adopted--and born a Jew! Mahmud is thrown into a full-scale identity crisis. He desperately seeks help from caustic Jewish taxi driver Lenny (Richard Schiff, *The West Wing*), trying to learn the ways of "the tribe"--from the hora and joys of matzo ball soup to Phillip Roth and the art of the "oy." Mahmud can almost come to terms with his new identity, but will his family, his son's conservative in-laws to be, the police and demonstrating Muslim extremists understand the transformation? This outrageous satire offers lighthearted hilarity with the serious subject of religious animosity between Muslims and Jews. – *Comedy, 105 minutes, English*

Sunday, March 11th – Breakfast and Film at 10am – Unmasked Judeophobia: The Threat to Civilization

From the creators of *The Case for Israel: Democracy's Outpost* comes a meticulous



examination of rising anti-Jewish ideology. Filmmaker Gloria Greenfield travels from Israel to Europe to North America, covering this phenomenon from all angles, including Christian and Islamic polemics against Jews, the proliferation of anti-Israeli bias in academia and cultural institutions, misinformation campaigns and state-sanctioned denials of Israel's right to exist. Wide-ranging interviews include such eloquent and respected voices as commentator Alan Dershowitz, Senator Joe Lieberman, former U.N. ambassador John Bolton, human rights activist Natan Sharansky, British attorney Anthony Julius, *Wall Street Journal* columnist Bret Stephens and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon, among many others. *Unmasked Judeophobia: The Threat to Civilization* is a call to action and urgent reminder that anti-Semitism is a menace not only to Jews, but to the human condition itself. – *Documentary, 81 minutes, English*



Sunday, March 25th – Dinner at 5pm, Film at 5:45pm – The Prince of Egypt

This is the extraordinary tale of two brothers named Moses and Ramses, one born of royal blood, and one an orphan with a secret past. Growing up the best of friends, they share a strong bond of free-spirited youth and good-natured rivalry. But the truth will ultimately set them at odds, as one becomes the ruler of the most powerful empire on earth, and the other the chosen leader of his people! Their final confrontation will forever change their lives and the world. – *Animated Feature, 99 minutes, English*

Thursday, April 26th – Dinner at 6:30pm, Films at 7:30pm – An Article of Hope and My Brother's Keeper

An Article of Hope is an inspiring documentary film that details the life mission of Col. Ilan Ramon, the first and only Astronaut from Israel, who blasted off on the Shuttle Columbia. He carries with him a cherished artifact, a

miniature Torah scroll, which survived the Holocaust. From the "Depths of hell to the heights of space," his simple gesture would serve to honor the hope of a nation and to fulfill a promise made to generations past and future. – *Documentary, 60 min, English*

My Brother's Keeper tells how out of the Ashes of the Holocaust came the



birth of a nation and a victory that led to the rebirth of the Jewish People. For 2000 Years the time had come to return and establish a Jewish State. Despite in-

surmountable odds and sacrifice, the men and woman that bound together to establish the State of Israel is told in this gripping documentary. My Brothers Keeper was filmed during the 60th Independence Day Anniversary Celebration in Israel in 2008 along side a group of 1948 Mahal Volunteers. My Brothers Keeper is a moving documentary that tells Israel's story of 1948 through the eyes and ears of those that were there. This inspirational story is dedicated to the State of Israel and the preservation of its Legacy. – *Documentary, 40 minutes, English*



Thursday, May 10th – Dinner at 6:30pm, Film at 7:30pm – My So-Called Enemy

In July 2002, 22 Palestinian and Israeli teenage girls came to the U.S. to participate in a women's leadership program called Building Bridges for

Peace. "My So Called Enemy" is a coming of age story about 6 of the program participants and how they reconcile their transformative experience in the program with the realities of life back home in the Middle East over the next 7 years. What unfolds is an emotionally-charged film about the human consequences of all conflicts--as seen through the eyes of 6 young women who are thoughtful, intelligent and articulate beyond their years. – *Documentary, 87 minutes, English*

Thursday, May 17th – Dinner at 6:30pm, Film at 7:30pm – Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story



Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story explores the connection between Jewish Americans and baseball, our nation's most iconic institution. More than a

film about sports, it is a story of immigration, assimilation, bigotry, heroism, the passing on of traditions, and the shattering of stereotypes.

"You should be an attorney or a doctor, but not a ballplayer," one former major leaguer remembers, describing the prejudices that he and other Jewish athletes faced. But despite the stereotypes, and in the face of hostility from fans and even violence from opposing players, there have been standout Jewish players in every decade from the 1860s to the present. *Jews and Baseball* is the first major documentary to tell their stories. – *Documentary, 91 minutes, English*

The Savannah Jewish Federation with support from our numerous sponsors are proud to present to the Savannah community this year's Jewish film festival. To make reservations for the dinners or pre-purchase Full Festival Passes, please contact the Savannah Jewish Federation, 912-355-8111 or go online to www.savj.org. We look forward to seeing you at movies!

In honor of
Tu B'Shevat - the
Jewish Arbor Day

JEA
Beautification
Day

Sunday, Feb.
5th, 2012—
12:15pm—3pm





THE JEA AND THE SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION PRESENTS THE JOAN AND MURRAY GEFEN MEMORIAL
SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

PLEASE JOIN US FOR 8 UNFORGETTABLE NIGHTS OF ENTERTAINMENT!
EAT A MEAL AND WATCH A MOVIE

★
ADMIT ONE
★

SAT. 2/4 "INSIDE HANA'S SUITCASE"
MEAL AT 7 PM / MOVIE AT 8 PM
THU. 2/23 "THE MATCHMAKER"
MEAL AT 6:30 PM / MOVIE AT 7:30 PM
SAT. 3/3 "THE INFIDEL"
MEAL AT 7 PM / MOVIE AT 8 PM
SUN. 3/11 "UNMASKED: JUDEOPHOBIA"
(JOINT EVENT WITH THE OPINION MINYAN)
BAGEL BREAKFAST AT 10 AM

SUN. 3/25 "PRINCE OF EGYPT"
FREE MOVIE ADMISSION! FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!
MEAL AT 5 PM / MOVIE AT 5:45 PM
THU. 4/26 "AN ARTICLE OF HOPE & MY BROTHER'S KEEPER"
MEAL AT 6:30 PM / MOVIE AT 7:30 PM
THU. 4/11 "MY SO CALLED ENEMY"
MEAL AT 6:30 PM / MOVIE AT 7:30 PM
THU. 5/17 "JEWS AND BASEBALL"
MEAL AT 6:30 PM / MOVIE AT 7:30 PM

★
ADMIT ONE
★



**TICKET PRICES AND
SPECIAL DEALS**

MEAL AND A MOVIE
JEA MEMBERS: \$18.00
NON-MEMBERS: \$19.00

MOVIE ONLY
JEA MEMBERS: \$8.00
NON-MEMBERS: \$9.00

FULL PASS (NO MEALS)
JEA MEMBERS: \$50.00
NON-MEMBERS: \$65.00



**Did you know that the Savannah Jewish Archives has
more than 6,000 photographs in our collection?**

B'nai B'rith Jacob Hebrew School, 1934



Recently donated by Martin Rabhan and Doris Klugman

Front row (left to right):

1. Wilbert Bonchek
2. Jessie Max
3. Rabbi Morris Max

Center row (left to right):

1. Goldie (Adelman) Klugman
2. Eunice (Friedman) Sheills
3. Jeannette (Wexler) Shiffman
4. Dorothy (Nathan) Palefsky
5. Esther (Lieberman) Solomon
6. Lillian (Rosenzweig) Director
7. Florence (Kolman) Adler
8. Samuel Blumenthal

Back row (left to right):

1. Beatrice (Heyman) Goodman
2. Tillie (Center) Lefkowitz
3. Evelyn (Center) Goldberg
4. Rocky (Kaplan) Shindell
5. Martin "Maier" Rabhan

Would you like to see a photo of your grandparents, or read an interview of one of your childhood friends? In addition to the Archives, the Live Oak Public Library on Bull Street has copies of most of them in the Local History Room. Local History Room hours are: Mon-Tue 4-8; Wed-Thu 9-6; Fri-Sat CLOSED; Sun 2-6. For more information contact our archivist, Lynette Stoudt, at 651-2125 or lstoudt@georgiahistory.com.



Helping those who need help... for over 30 years. We offer a full range of services from simple companionship, homemaking and errands, to personal care and skilled nursing. We can provide services in the home, hospital, assisted living facility and anywhere else you may need it. We're available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Please let us know how we can help you or your loved ones.

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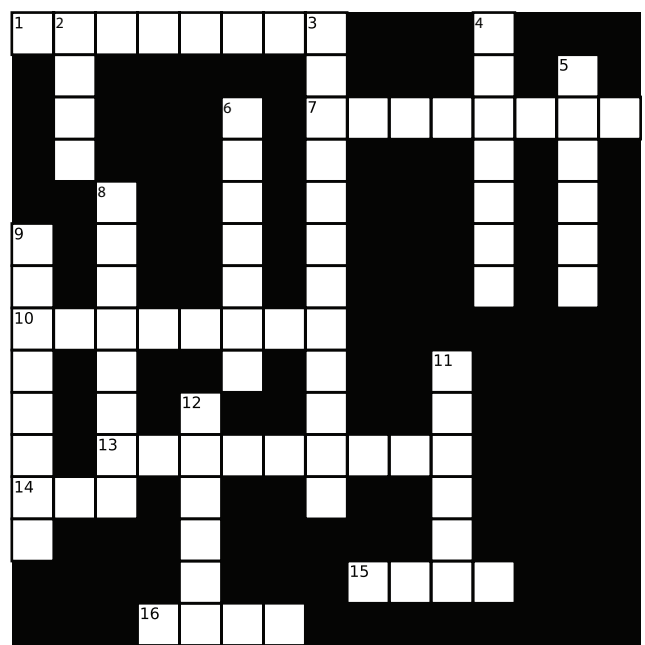

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- Located in the heart of midtown near the corner of DeRenne and Abercorn
- Book your block of rooms today for Bar and BatMitzvah's
- Banquet Space accommodating up to 300 people
- Contact Melaina Jaudon at 912-721-5173 or Melaina.jaudon@hilton.com



Purim Crossword Puzzle

The Jerusalem Connection



- Across
- Down
- 1 Meat filled dumpling served at Purim

7 Esther's cousin who raised her

10 Wherever the edict of the king went there was joy and X (Esther 8:17)

13 The King's name

14 What Mordecai put on his head after hearing of Haman's evil plan

15 Ester was "born for such a time as X"

16 Month of Purim on the Hebrew Calendar
- 2 What did the King take back from Haman and give to Mordecai (Esther 8:2)

3 Kind of cookies eaten at Purim

4 The King held out to Esther his golden X

5 Haman constructed this for Mordecai

6 Noisemaker used at Purim

8 Esther's Hebrew name

9 The Hebrew scroll on which the book of Esther is written

11 The King's wife before Esther

12 Esther prayed and X before confronting the King

Your Campaign Dollars at Work!

My Trip to Israel

By David Sokolin

At first I wasn't expecting to go on a trip to Israel; however, after some quick convincing by family and friends, I was eager to go. Months turned into days, which turned into minutes until I finally landed in Tel Aviv. Israel was nothing like I anticipated. The city life in Israel was modern; the scenery was beyond words and the food, of course, spoke for itself. Camel riding in the Negev desert, banana boats in Red Sea port city of Eilat, the Western Wall, swimming in the Dead Sea and the beautiful cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem were just a slice of the experience.

If my trip taught me anything, it was that I should be proud to be Jewish. I have never felt such a strong sense of heritage and nationalism. I'll give you just one example: dancing with Israeli soldiers at the Western Wall. Yes, we've all seen photos and sent letters to soldiers, but it doesn't truly resonate until you're there in person. It was spiritually uplifting, emotional and everything in-between. It finally allowed me to understand why people sacrifice their lives not only for a country, but a religion. I knew, then and now, that it is important to practice Judaism in my everyday life. At this important moment in my life, the transition from high school to college and into the real world; it was a per-

fect message from G-d to maintain my Jewish identity.

I would like to thank all those who helped make this an experience I will not soon forget. Thank you to the benefactors at the Jewish Educational Alliance for the scholarship that made it possible for me to attend this program. Also, I want to give a special thanks to Rabbi Lobe and Rabbi Rabhan. I couldn't have done it without you. Of course, thank you to my family, friends and the Jewish community for making this unforgettable experience possible.

David Sokolin participated in the NCSY Jerusalem Journey with support from the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign. He is now a freshman at the University of Georgia and grew up in Savannah. David is a member of Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, attended Rambam Day School, and graduated from Jenkins High School.



Aaron Solender and David Sokolin

Welcome Rachel Epstein,

Our Graphics and

Communications Director

Hailing from Charleston, SC and having started in September, we welcome Rachel Epstein to Jewish Education Alliance family. She grew up in Charleston and has been an active participant in Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, the Reform Jewish congregation of Charleston. As a younger person, she has worked at the JCC summer camp and really enjoyed her involvement in the Jewish community there. Rachel attended the College of Charleston but transferred and then graduated from the University of South Carolina in Columbia with a B.A. in Fine Arts with a concentration in Graphic Design.

She also has a local connection to Savannah through the Lasky's. Rachel's mother was college roommates with Stacey Lasky. She very pleased to be living in Savannah and with the Lasky's here, "they're like my second family," said Epstein. When not helping to elevate the quality of messaging that comes from the JEA and the Federation, she enjoys the more athletic activities like sailing and rock climbing but, she's just as happy watching a movie. She's very pleased to be engaged with and working in the Jewish community setting again.



Rachel Epstein



SAVE THE DATE

for Our Next 100-Year Celebration Event



Sunday, April 29, 2012

A Night with "The Stranger" - Billy Joel Dinner Theatre

Join us for a delicious family-style Italian dinner & dessert, wine & beer, and the musical talents of the complete premiere

Billy Joel Tribute Band

\$72 per person (can be purchased on-line or at the JEA)
Doors open at 5:15 pm

*"A bottle of white, a bottle of red.
Perhaps a bottle of rose instead.
We'll get a table by the street, in our old familiar place
You and I, face to face, at Savannah's JEA"*

'The Stranger' is the complete premiere tribute to the music of the Piano Man himself, Billy Joel. Fronted by accomplished pianist & vocalist Mike Santoro, and backed by some of the finest seasoned musicians in the business, this 6-piece band brings together an authentic replication of Billy's timeless music, crowning it with soulful, spot on vocals that make a Billy Joel song what it is. So much so that you will find yourself taking a second look. Join us for an amazing evening as the JEA is transformed into an Italian restaurant, serving up a traditional Italian dinner with wine and beer, proceeded by a night of wonderful entertainment with music by everyone's favorite Piano Man, Billy Joel, performed by Mike Santoro and his 6 piece band.



Coming soon, Camp Savannah 2012!

Check back here or online at SavannahJEA.org for updates!

New JEA Members

The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset! (New Members as of 11/9/11-12/30/11)

Mary Allcott
Shirley Benfante
Adina Crawford
Vernon & Melissa Donovan
Ellis Drew
Leroy Felder
Victoria Klouda

Jeremy Lambert
Karl Perreira
Craig Reichert
Alan & Jennifer Rice
Michael Weiland
Cooper Westbrook

VISIT THE
NEW
SAVANNAHJEA.ORG!



**Have You Seen the New
JEA Website?**

Visit www.SavannahJEA.org

Get fast information on our JCC, our programs, schedules, sign-ups and more! You can even donate to the JEA fund of your choice, right through the website!

You can also reach this site through
www.savj.org.

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
CENTER PIECE

The JEA Green Space Group Invites you to
Tu B'Shevat Family Fun Day

Sunday, February 5, 2012 / 12:15-3pm
Outdoor and indoor activities for all ages including
Tu B'Shevat Seder & Children's Garden

Activities are FREE!
(nominal charge for optional lunch)

Co-Sponsored by: Hadassah, Shalom School,
& Rambam Day School

Call 912-355-8111 to RSVP
Tal Bratman at tal@savj.org to help OR
Carol Greenberg MStarArts@gmail.com
to join the committee



COMMUNITY PURIM CARNIVAL



Admission:
\$5 per child, \$15 per family

Concessions sold separately

Pony Rides & Face Painting

Hotdogs & Hamburgers

Inflatables, Games & Prizes

Performance by Prodezra Beats

Costume Parade @11:30 (kids may
come dressed up)



2012 JEA Spring Soccer

U10 and U12

- Registration ends Feb. 17th
- Practice starts Feb. 19th
- Times to be determined
- Practice behind the JEA
- Need to bring water bottle, shin guards and soccer cleats
- Games will be at Savannah Celtic soccer field

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

Registration information can be found at the front
desk, as well as on our website at
www.savannahjea.org

Baseball and T-Ball Registration

KIDS NEEDED! The JEA Youth Sports
Department is in need of children from the ages
of 4-12 for T-Ball and baseball. Age divisions are
4-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12.

T-Ball Information:

- Parent guided
- Plays in the Hunter League
- Practice days & times TBD
- Practice starts March 19th behind the JEA
- Games start in April

Baseball Information:

- Parent guided
- City League for U8, U10, U12
- Pitching machine for U8, U10, U12
- Practice days & times TBD

Cost: Members: \$50-\$75
Non-Members: \$75-\$100

Parent volunteers and sponsors are needed. If
you're interested in helping, let Stephanie know.
Registration forms are available at www.savj.org
or at the front desk. Contact Stephanie with any
questions, 355-8111 or stephanie@savj.org.

Saturday Night Out

Children 4 years - 6th grade
Check out our amazing events for Saturday Night Out!

Jan. 21, 2012 - *Polar Bears and Penguins* - Test how brave you are by enduring the
polar bear swim, followed by a hot chocolate social with friends and a movie!

Feb. 4, 2012 - *Tu B'Shevat Party* - Come celebrate the New Year of the Trees with
an ecological evening.

Feb. 18, 2012 - *Fiesta* - We saved the best for last: An evening filled with music, pinatas,
food, games and fun for everyone!

Where: JEA

When: 7-ish -10 pm - Check with the JEA for specific start time.

Who: 4 years - 6th grade

Cost:

Members: \$10 a child or \$25 a family

Non-Members: \$18/child or \$30/family

- Please RSVP and make payment by the Thursday before the event.
- There is an additional \$5 late fee for those registered after the Thursday deadline.
- Only available to the first 30 children to RSVP.

Enjoy themed games, movies and dinner at each Saturday Night Out.
For more information, call DJ at (912) 355-8111.



JEA Aftercare Program

Aftercare Hours:

Mon-Thurs - 3:00-6:00 pm, Fridays - 3:00-5:00 pm

Open most days out of school

Cost: \$50/week \$12/day

Transportation from Jacob G. Smith,

Charles Ellis & Garrison

Transportation cost: \$30/month \$3/per trip



- **Swimming**
- **Gymnastics**
- **Sports**
- **Yoga**
- **Much more!!**

- **Homework Help**
- **Daily Snacks**
- **Cooking**
- **Fitness Fun**
- **Art**

Why a Mid-Morning Snack Could Help Your Weight-Loss Efforts



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Your stomach is growling, but lunch is hours away. You could have a snack, but you think it’s best to wait for lunch. Not so, if weight loss is your goal.

Although you may feel guilty about snacking, snacks aren’t necessarily bad. In fact, well-planned weight-loss diets allow for snacks to help manage hunger and

reduce bingeing. Eating a healthy snack of a piece of fruit or some raw veggies can tame your hunger without ruining your appetite.

The key to incorporating snacks into your weight-loss plan is to keep moderation and balance in mind. Choose healthy snacks.

Select foods that satisfy your hunger and supply your body with energy. Opt for snacks of 100 calories or less to stay within your daily calorie goal. You can eat more of foods with low energy density, such as carrots, grapes and air-popped popcorn, for your 100 calories. Choose snacks from these food groups:

- Fruits and vegetables. Eating fruits and vegetables provides a feeling of fullness with little to no fat and only a small number of calories.
- Whole grains. Low-fat whole-grain snacks are rich in fiber and complex carbohydrates,

- which give you energy with staying power.
- Nuts and seeds. Nuts and seeds provide protein, so you will feel fuller longer. Nuts and seeds are high in calories, however, so don’t eat them in large quantities.
- Low-fat dairy products. Cheese, yogurt and other dairy products are good sources of calcium and protein, plus many other vitamins and minerals. Some yogurts have extra added sugar, so look for low-calorie or “light” varieties.

What does a 100-calorie snack look like?
Although snacks can contribute to a healthy diet, they can also be a source of excess calories if you aren’t careful. For example, a small handful of almonds (about 14 nuts) contain 100 calories. But eat a cup of almonds, and the calorie count jumps to over 800 calories.

So what are some smart choices? Here are several suggestions for 100-calorie snacks:

- 1 cup sliced bananas and fresh raspberries
- 2 cups of carrots
- 3 1/2 cups air-popped popcorn
- 5 melba toast crackers, rye or pumpernickel
- 2 tablespoons of peanuts
- 2 domino-sized slices of low-fat Colby or cheddar cheese
- 1 fat-free chocolate pudding cup

When a snack fills in for a meal
With today’s busy world, healthy meals often lose

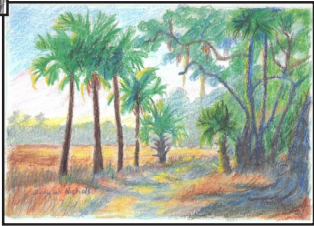
out to busy schedules. A grab-and-go snack could be the difference between some nourishment and none at all. You’ll find it easier to choose good-for-you snacks if you stock your refrigerator and shelves with foods that are fast. These ideas for healthy snacks minimize fat and calories. They’re all around 200 calories.

- Toast one-half of a whole-wheat English muffin. Top with one slice Canadian bacon, a tomato slice and one slice low-fat American cheese. Microwave until the cheese melts.
- Spread 1 tablespoon part-skim ricotta cheese over one-half of a small cinnamon-raisin bagel. Sprinkle with cinnamon if desired and top with a thinly sliced apple.
- Top a small baked potato with 2 tablespoons fat-free plain yogurt and sprinkle with Cajun seasoning.
- Layer a 6-inch soft corn or flour tortilla with 2 tablespoons shredded low-fat cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese. Microwave until the cheese melts. Slice into bite-sized pie shapes. Dip into some salsa if desired.
- Mix 1/4 cup cold leftover chicken or convenience-type chunk chicken with sliced seedless grapes, 1/2 tablespoon sunflower seeds, 1 tablespoon plain low-fat yogurt or fat-free mayonnaise, and a dash or curry powder. Stuff into half of a whole-wheat pita pocket.

Heed your hunger pangs, but forget the guilt!

JEA FITNESS CLASSES					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	5:00-6:30 am Master Swim		5:00-6:30 am Master Swim		5:00-6:30 am Master Swim
9:15-10:15 am Pilates	8:30-9:45 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:45 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:45 am Firm It Up
10:15-11:15 am Total Body Blast	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am SilverSplash		10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize
	10:30-11:45 am Gentle Yoga		10:30-11:45 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	
1:00-2:00 pm Extreme Toning					Noon-2:00 pm Noon Basketball
	4:30-7:00 pm Max. Patterson Dance	4:30-5:30 pm Max. Patterson Dance	4:30-6:00 pm Max. Patterson Dance	4:45-6:00 pm Max. Patterson Dance	
	5:30-7:30 pm Karate	5:45-6:30 pm Zumba	5:30-7:30 pm Karate		
		5:00-6:00 pm Rambam Basketball		6:00-8:00 pm SCPD Basketball	
		6:00-8:00 pm Savannah Kenpo	6:00-7:00 pm Boot Camp	6:00-8:00 pm Savannah Kenpo	
		6:30-7:30 pm Total Body Blast		6:30-7:30 pm Yoga Flow	
	6:00-7:00 pm Eve. Water Aerobics		6:00-7:00 pm Eve. Water Aerobics	6:00-7:00 pm Eve. Water Aerobics	
		7:00-9:00 pm Sav. Fencing Club		7:00-9:00 pm Sav. Fencing Club	

Art at the JEA



January Artist - Judy Nichols

Judy Nichols - Biography

Judy Nichols began painting as a child with her grandmother who taught art in her home. Her grandmother painted oils and watercolors of regional landscapes. Her landscapes of azaleas in bloom, especially at Bonaventure Cemetery, were very popular.

Judy has a BA in art from Georgia Southern University. Her career was as a librarian in Savannah, Georgia (MSLS Emory University) and she retired in 2002.

Judy has worked in watercolor, oil, pencil and other media. In the fall of 2007, at the start of the school year when all the school supplies were put on display, she spotted a set of 36 Bic markers. She thought that with so many colors, she could do a painting using markers. Her first few pictures were inspired by Picasso, but as she learned the new medium, she branched out. Her collection of markers has grown to hundreds of colors. Her earlier work was more impressionistic, but the markers made her see shadows and voids as shapes with edges. Markers also let her feel free to be less literal in depicting subjects and to work more abstractly.

Artwork available for viewing Jan. 2-31, 2012
Art Reception January 5, 2012, 5-7 pm



February Artist - Samantha Claar

Samantha Claar - Biography

Samantha's Gullah series began as hundreds of artist trading cards done with pen and ink. In 2010, they began to evolve into full size portraits with backgrounds that helped tell their stories.

Although art is always interpretive, each canvas tells a complete story known to the painter and the character who presented for painting. One of Samantha's joys is hearing the stories that they tell you when you look at the art. "These people have stories they want to share, so look for a long, loving relationship with these Gullah folk."

The simplicity portrayed in the art create a sense of beauty. Ms. Claar resides on Tybee Island and is well known for her *TybeeCats*, before beginning the Gullah Living series. She uses vivid colors and her philosophy is, "life is a canvas, so use bright colors." She paints "everything that will stand still long enough."

Ms. Claar has been painting since the mid 90's. She is the daughter of an artist, and credits her years of "MotherArt," with teaching her "enough to be confident in my own style." "I love this series, and the feedback I get is a tremendous incentive to keep on painting," says the artist.

Artwork available for viewing Feb. 1-29, 2012
Art Reception February 5, 2012, 2-4 pm



JEA Donations

(11/10/11-12/21/11)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND
In honor of Walter Lowe's birthday
In memory of Janet Reed
Marilyn Seeman
In memory of Carole Herman
Nancie & Fred Clark

JEA BUILDING FUND
In memory of Janet Reed
Sharon Galin
Betty & Larry Lasky

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS
A generous donation
Susan & Martin Cohen
Nancy V. Lewis
In memory of Janet Reed
Phyllis Freedman
Mr. & Mrs. Courtney Clark
Betty & Walker Beeson
Phyllis Freedman & Tom Glass
Sally & Herb Sanders
Gregory N. Crawford
In memory of Mickey Murphy
Sylvia & Burton Udinsky
In memory of Lewis Kooden
Dr. Jack Eades
In honor of Doris Goldstein's birthday
Reggie, Arlene S., Jackie, Ava,
Nancy R. & Arlene R.

RAYMOND & MORRIS ROSEN MEMORIAL FUND
In honor of Marcia & Michael Schwarz
Laurie & Jeff Rubnitz

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND
In honor of Bernie Wilker's speedy recovery
In honor of Walter Lowe's birthday
Elise & Victor Shernoff
In honor of Amanda & Josh Reeve's triplets
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND
In memory of Philip Solomons
Sally & Steve Greenberg

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In memory of Anna Ruth Clark
In memory of Hal Kanter
Miriam Center

SARAH & SAM STEINBERG JEA CAMP FUND
In very generous donation by
J.C. Lewis Foundation

TREE OF LIFE
In honor of Walter Lowe's birthday
The Kole Families

January-February 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 15 JEA Sock Hop- 6 pm	16	17	18 Rambam Science Fair- 12 pm	19 Rambam Science Fair	20	21 Saturday Night Out- 6:45 pm
22	23 Hadassah Program- 7 pm	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Feb. 1	2	3	4 Sav. Jewish Film Festival Dinner & Movie- 7 pm Saturday Night Out- 7 pm
5 JEA Garden Fun Day- 12:15 pm Art Gallery Reception- 2 pm	6	7 Erev Tu B'Shevat	8 Tu B'Shevat	9	10	11
12 Opinion Minyan- 10 am	13 Black Heritage Jazz Concert- 7 pm	14	15	16	17	18 Saturday Night Out- 7:10 pm
19	20	21	22	23 Sav. Jewish Film Festival Dinner & Movie- 7 pm	24	25
26	27	28	29	Mar. 1	2	3 Sav. Jewish Film Festival Dinner & Movie- 7 pm

What Being a Jewish Doctor Means to Me

By Dr. Dina Linfoot

It's December again, and as I write this, I am at the hospital and doing one of my most favorite duties as a "Member of the Tribe": working Labor and Delivery on Christmas Day. It's actually a lot of fun: great food, great spirit, and camaraderie amongst those working, and it's usually a pleasant (easier) workload. Food and Ruach: both very Jewish concepts.

One of my favorite things about Judaism is the way in which we celebrate our life cycle events. Judaism places a tremendous importance on family and tradition: from birth all the way through death. And therefore, I take great pride in the fact that each year I make it so that my fellow physicians get to be at home with their families, creating and sustaining their own family's traditions.

As a physician and as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist in particular, I have the remarkable opportunity to be an integral part of a major life cycle event with my patients. This, of course, is the birth of a child. For a young couple, the prospect of new life brings with it promise and unbridled optimism. Some of my

favorite visits are the early counseling sessions when there is just so much educating to be done. I find that Jewish teachings often creep into my discussions and certainly influence the way that I counsel patients.

Pikuakh Nefesh. Judaism places great emphasis on the preservation of life, and on improving the quality of life. The Torah itself sees the preservation of life as its highest goal. We are commanded to take all reasonable actions to preserve life. This is exactly why Judaism allows physicians to work on Shabbat and Holy Days, if necessary. And why pregnant and nursing women are forbidden from fasting on Yom Kippur. As an Ob/Gyn, I am cultivating and sustaining life on a daily basis, sometimes guiding patients through some of life's most difficult decisions.

Doctors are often teachers, too. We spend our days (and nights!) educating our patients about their health, lifestyle choices, medications, etc. Empowering my patients to participate confidently



Dr. Dina Linfoot

in their health care decisions is very rewarding. I often say that if I wasn't a Doctor, I would indeed be a teacher.

Judaism places a great importance on education as a measure of success. I can vividly recall my Grandmother introducing me and my younger brother to her friends at her Florida retirement community as "my Doctor (me)" and "my Lawyer (him)." I know that I serve as a role model for my patients, family and friends as a successful physician, mother, wife, and friend. I have grown close to many patients over the years, and have developed lifelong friendships. One of my favorite parts of my job is seeing the fruits of my labor and watching my patients' families grow.

Pru urvu. Be fruitful and multiply! I treasure all the pictures, birth announcements and holiday cards.

I know that my job as a physician requires sacrifice by both my family and myself. There are many times where I feel the need to be in two places at once, and I fear that inevitably I will let someone down. But I know that my heart is in the right place, and that I succeed most (but certainly not all) of the time. The practice of Medicine itself is a Mitzvah. And it is one that I am honored and privileged to do as a lifelong endeavor.

Dr. Dina Linfoot is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist and through Memorial University Medical Center

A *bissel* (little) Yiddish I always wondered what was said?

Nudnik - an obtuse, boring or bothersome person
Don't call our yard guy to fix the computer; he's a *nudnik* when it comes to fixing computer issues.

Pupik - belly-button

"Good health to your *pupik*" is not a blessing you want bestowed in seriousness, really, it's a left-handed compliment.

Faces of Hadassah

Meet Renowned Author and
Hadassah Member

Maggie Anton

For an evening of Delightful Discussion
and Decadent Desserts!

Monday, January 23, 2012
7:30 P. M.

At the Agudath Achim Synagogue
9 Lee Blvd. (between Bull & Abercorn Streets)



"The novels
were
amazing—
the author is a
delight—
Prepare to be
dazzled!"

All people (male & female, member & non-) are welcome
Co-sponsored by Savannah Hadassah and the Sisterhood of Agudath Achim

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All three books in her popular series

Rashi's Daughter described as "Novels of love and Talmud in Medieval France" as well as
Secret Scholar, a novel for young adults about Joheved will be available for purchase.

She will discuss her newest series *Rav Hisda's Daughter* ("Love, Talmud, and Sorcery in Third-century Babylonia") available 2012 and will sign copies. Ms. Anton will also sign books already owned.

For information: **Ellie Galin, AA Sisterhood President, elxga@aol.com or 912-355-2259** or
Joanna Rich, Savannah Hadassah President, joanna@chirphealth.com, 912-480-4686.

HA
DAS
SAH.

Ynet was launched on June 2000 in Hebrew only, but since 2004 operates a short English edition, Ynetnews, which deals mainly with news and commentary. In addition, Ynet hosts the online version of Yedioth Aharonot's media group Magazines: Laisha (which also operates Ynet's fashion section), Pnai Plus, Blazer, GO magazine, and Mentha. For two years, Ynet had also an Arabic version, which ceased to operate in May 2005. Ynet's main competition comes from Walla! and Nana. Since 2008, Ynet is Israel's most popular internet portal, as measured by Google Trends. According to Alexa Internet traffic rankings, Ynet is among the top 1000 websites in the world and the top 10 sites in Israel.

It's A Funny Thing

By Melinda Stein

When our kids were young, we adopted a kitten, who developed the habit of covering her eyes with one paw, as if saying the Shema prayer. The children decided that though Cloudy had been born Cat-olic, living with us had converted her to Mewish!

A young man was dating a non-Jewish girl. His father told him, "Son, if you get involved with a woman who isn't Jewish, you'll have a problem."

The couple got engaged, the girl converted, and they were married.

Sometime later the father called. "So how's married life?"

The son replied, "Well . . . my wife won't let me watch Friday night football. She says we have to light candles and observe the Sabbath."

Dad answered, "Didn't I tell you that if you got involved with a non-Jewish girl you'd have a problem?"

Izzy and Moe were penniless immigrants. Walking around New York, they saw a sign on a church reading, "Jewish Immigrants: Come in, Convert, and Get \$25."

Izzy says, "I'm going to do it! The conversion doesn't mean anything to me and we'll be able to get a decent meal." In he goes, and after an hour he comes out.

Moe: Did you convert?

Izzy: Yes I did.

Moe: Did you get the \$25?

Izzy: You Jews, all you can think about is money!

A nurse was driving in her Jewish Home Services car when it ran out of gas. She decides to walk to a nearby gas station and purchase enough gas to get to her patient. The only container in her car was a bedpan, so she set off with it. Returning to the car, she began pouring the gasoline from the bedpan into her gas tank. A bystander commented, "If her engine starts up on that, I'm converting to Judaism!"

"Laughter is an instant vacation!" --Milton Berle



Melinda Stein

Vital Statistics

Mazel Tov – Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Templer of West Newton, Massachusetts, announce the engagement of their daughter, Victoria Lynn to Eric Warren Rotkow, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Rotkow of Savannah, Georgia. Victoria is the granddaughter of the late John and Janet Templer and the late Jack and Jeanne Schenberg. Eric is the grandson of the late Fred and Dorothy Rotkow and Irene and the late Joseph Tabackman. Victoria is currently completing her Doctorate degree in Psychology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Eric is employed as a Consultant with Freedman and Associates of London, England. A Summer 2012 wedding is planned. Mazel Tov – Amanda and Josh Reeves on the birth of their triplet boys; Raymond Zedd, Evan Philip, and Charles Matthew on November 28. Mazel Tov - The Honorable Judge Ron Ginsberg and Tennis Professional Faye Kirschner were inducted as "Notable Alumni" for Armstrong Atlantic State University for 2011. This was part of the 75th anniversary of the college.



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Saturday, February 11th Agudath Achim Members 2nd Annual Havdalah "Progressive Dinner"

Please call the Synagogue office at 352-4737 to RSVP

Cost is \$25 per person

Location for this year:
The Landings



We will start with Havdalah and move to different locations for dinner.

Join Us At Mickve Israel

Mickve Israel extends to you an open invitation!

To Worship: In addition to special children services and holiday events, we have Shabbat services on Friday evenings at 6:00 pm. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, our Friday evening services will be held at 6:30 pm. Instead of being held in our historic sanctuary, these Exotic Resort Location services will be hosted at member homes around the community. Our Saturday morning services are at 11:00 am and are followed by a Kiddush lunch.

To Tour Our Historic Sanctuary and Museum: We offer docent-led tours Monday through 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. The suggested donation for a tour is \$5 per person.

To Shop: Our Judaica Shop is stocked with a variety of items for children and adults. If we don't have what you are looking for, we can order it for you! The shop is open during tour times and other times upon request.

To Eat: The Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival will be held in Forsyth Park on Sunday, October 28, 2012 from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm.

For more information on the third oldest Jewish congregation in America founded in 1733, which is right in your community, contact Mickve Israel at 912.233.1547 extension 26 or visit www.mickveisrael.org.



Image by Attic Fire Photography

Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Sherry Dolgoff,

Retired Teacher and Community Leader/Volunteer

1. Where and how did you first begin to get involved with being a community leader?

I first got involved with being a leader through BBYO in Houston. Several older girls mentored me from the time I was a MIT. They were indefatigable, each in their own way, in molding me into who I am now. Yes, I have grown a little on my own, but without the huge push they gave me, I might still be that shy, reserved girl. One very special woman (then a senior in high school) refused to allow me to say that I could not do something. "If you try your best, you usually can accomplish anything," she would say. "The only certain failure is not trying!" With lots of trepidation I found out that she was correct. I also learned that, with confidence, one positive experience often leads to another. When I was a senior in high school and President of my BBG chapter, I co-chaired the UJA Drive for BBYO. There was something remarkable about being able to help (and encourage other teens to help) Jewish people in Israel and wherever Jews were in need. The idea of each individual making

a difference? Powerful stuff! Life changing for me.

2. You are involved in several leadership positions and activities in the Jewish community; what has driven your involvement?

People have driven my involvement in the Savannah Jewish community! A few years after we moved here, someone asked me to come to a women's luncheon for the Jewish Federation. The program not only interested me, I was encouraged to become more involved in community activities. That wasn't always easy to do because I was teaching and many events for women were during the day. So someone (I don't remember who it was) called to ask if I would serve on the JEA Board of Directors. I was thrilled to do so, and served for 10-12 years. Being on the any board is a learning experience. The more I learned, the more I understood what needed to be done. Being on the Yom HaShoah committee has become tremendously impor-



Sherry Dolgoff

tant to me. I am involved simply because I care about our community, which now is my community, too.

3. You lead a writing workshop for the Savannah community through the Senior Citizen Center on Bull, tell us about that? What else do you doing in the greater Savannah community?

I am a co-facilitator of a memoir writing class with Debbie Rotkow at the Senior Citizens Learning Center. (Without Debbie I would be at home reading books until my eyes became bleary). In 1991 Debbie encouraged me to register for "the hardest class I have ever taken." Those were her words and I nervously followed her advice and took the five week Coastal Georgia Writing Project the summer of 1992. Pat Fox and Rich Raymond, the instructors, were remarkable models of teaching excellence.

It changed my life as a teacher. It changed my outlook on learning. I began to learn from my students as they were learning new strategies and techniques from me. The whole experience was transformative. I have never been the same since, thank goodness! When I worked full time and volunteered in the Jewish community, it didn't leave much time for other commitments.

4. What has been your secret to being so engaged as a leader in the Jewish community and what message do you

hope your grandchildren can learn from it? How can your energy to help and your cheerfulness in all you pursue be bottled and shared with others?

There is no secret to being engaged as a leader in the Jewish community. For me, being needed is the real motivator. I was a teacher for 38 years. Twenty-four of those years were at the Savannah Hebrew Day School and Rambam Day School. Knowing many of the terrific people in this community through teaching their children got me more and more involved in the community as a whole. After all, if you love the children you already are involved in what you hope is best for the community.

I did initially volunteer to be a positive example for my daughters. (That worked, by the way!) But, again, the most important motivator for me is always being needed. Last year, when I was asked to be the Federation's Campaign Chairperson, I was shocked and honored to be given that responsibility. It is my good fortune to live, work and volunteer in Savannah. Of course, sometimes when people really need me, and it is all at the same time, my need to be needed becomes problematic. This community has allowed me opportunities to serve, nurtured my passion to help and work with other like-minded people and given me the confidence to be all I can be. For all of that, I thank you.



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A Perspective of Chanukah

As we stood in front of our menorah, and the flames flickered gently, back and forth, our thoughts wandered to all the blessings bestowed upon our family. The simplicity of just being blessed with family was certainly foremost in our thoughts.

How often when considering our blessings, do we give consideration to being part of an extraordinary people? It is conventional when lighting our menorahs to contemplate the great miracles of Chanukah; the minute amount of oil found in the Temple lasting for eight days; and the miracle of the small band of Chashmonaim (the Jews who fought) defeating the enormous Greek army. We can't help but appreciate that G-d was good to the Jewish people and saved us from doom.

However, we owe it to the crown of glory placed upon the heads of the Jewish people when G-d referred to us as the Chosen Nation, to look a bit deeper into the meaning of Chanukah. When the Almighty united with the Jewish people at Sinai, G-d committed Himself to us. At that moment in our history, we famously responded and said, "We will do and we will listen", we were openly acknowledging a faith in the Almighty, as well as admitting we did not know the depth of what we were accepting. During the period when the History of Chanukah unfolded, the Jewish people reinvigorated their bond with G-d and clearly eternalized it. At Sinai when Hashem made the covenant with the Jewish people, He knew they would be tested and surpass the challenge. When the Jewish people stood up and fought

for their spiritual survival during the time of the Greeks, G-d's promise was vindicated.

Our relationship with G-d is compared to a wedding. A marriage becomes binding at the wedding (the Jews at Sinai) and it becomes eternal when it survives challenges. Love is solidified when it emerges successfully through sacrifice and difficulty. Our successful emergence through the many sacrifices and challenges the Jewish people face, solidifies our dedication to our people and to G-d.

Rambam Day School's Student Council sponsored a "Race for Raise" triathlon to raise money for the Savannah Jewish Federation. This effort was to express our deepest appreciation for all the Savannah Jewish Federation does for our school. Rambam raised \$1,523.30. Rambam was proud to give back to those who reach out to us and to so many others in our Jewish community. One of the greatest gifts we can give to the Almighty is harmony amongst His people.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School



Different Interpretations of Tu B'Shvat

In few weeks we will be celebrating Tu B'Shvat, the holiday that marks the New Year of the trees.

While I was talking with my Shalom School students the other day, a first grader asked: "Mrs. Eva, why do trees have to have a New Year?" I liked the question and I went on to explain that as Jews, we have some obligations to the land we farm, such as the obligation to give one tenth of our harvest for Tz'dakkah, or the interdiction against eating from a fruit-bearing tree during the first 4 years of its life. For that last reason, and few others, we must keep track of how old a tree is. That's why trees have a New Year and a birthday.

But later, I had some additional thoughts on the matter: Tu B'Shvat is a great example of a holiday that has evolved and changed through the years and, as a result, has a deeper meaning for me as the principal of Shalom School.

In the Mishnah and Talmud it was about tithing and oral (the fruit of a young tree that is forbidden to be eaten). In the 16th century, the kabbalist, Rabbi Yitzchak Luria of Safed, and his disciples, instituted a Tu B'Shvat seder in which the fruits and trees of the Land of Israel were given symbolic meaning. In later years and with the Zionist movement, Tu B'Shvat became a tree planting holiday and a symbol of revival and blossoming of a restored

Jewish nation. More recently, with the establishment of the environmental movement, Tu B'Shvat has taken on an additional role as the Jewish equivalent of Earth Day.

As we can see, over its 2,000 years of existence, Tu B'Shvat has taken on different focuses and meanings as the reality and related needs of the Jewish people have changed.

Good trees, just like Tu B'Shvat, are the ones with deep, strong roots and leaves that have the ability to adapt to wind, drought and sunlight.

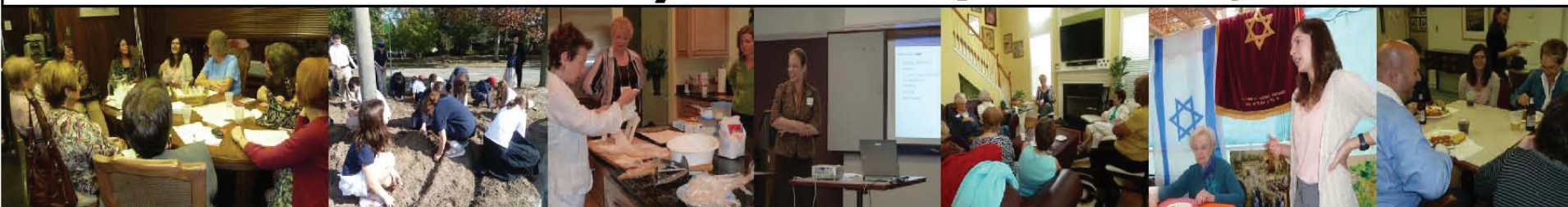
In Shalom school, we teach our students about their heritage, history and traditions while adapting to changes in the way we do things. As teachers, we are challenged to teach our kids lots of knowledge in a short time. We have to create a positive experience every Sunday to make sure that our students stay and grow with us. Our students are coming from different backgrounds and different Jewish experiences. But, just as with all trees, our belief is that: if you plant the right seed, water regularly and nourish it, you will end up with students who have strong roots, flexibility and the ability to thrive. Just like the holiday of Tu B'Shvat.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

Want to know what's happening in the Savannah Jewish Community?
Check out www.savj.org & www.savannahjea.org to find out.

Countdown of the Century: In 5772 Imagine Your Story with Hadassah



HA DAS SAH.	1912 Hadassah Began!	2012: Monday, Jan. 23	2012: Sunday, Feb. 5	2012: Sunday, Feb. 12	2012: Tuesday, March 20	
	Making History! 100 years ago people imagined that they could change the world... and they did. Join & Participate!	Special Event! Maggie Anton 7:30 at AA Advance \$10; \$12 at door Author of <i>Rashi's Daughter</i> series and new <i>Rav Hisda's Daughter!</i>	Tu B'Shevat Family Fun Day at the JEA 12:15 to 3 Join JEA Green Space Team, Rambam Day School & Shalom School for food & holiday fun.	Road Trip! Meet at the JEA to travel together for luncheon in Beaufort, SC. and meet new friends — other gals of the SE Region.	Hadassah Presents: 10 Decades of Hadassah Fashion Tea Celebrate the 100th year with this most special event.	

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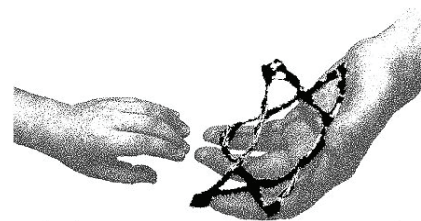
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