



Shabbat and Holiday Candle Lighting Times	
Friday, January 18	5:27pm
Friday, January 25	5:33pm
Friday, February 1	5:40pm
Friday, February 8	5:46pm
Friday, February 15	5:52pm
Friday, February 22	5:58pm

Upcoming Events

Jan. 24th—Feb. 2nd

Savannah Jewish Film Festival

Seven days, Eight films
You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll eat!
see p4

Sunday, February 3rd

Opinion Minyan

Joel Zuckerman,
The Vagabond Golfer
see p5

Sunday, February 10th

Vine to Table

A gourmet experience to
choose your Passover wines
see p13

Sunday, February 17th

Purim Palooza

Kids of all ages, put on your
favorite Purim costumes and
join the fun at the JEA!

Join Savannah Mission to Israel

An Israel Mission can mean so many things to so many people — a dream vacation for some, a spiritual awakening for others. A call to adventure that must be answered, or a shared experience that can become the foundation for the rest of your life — and for those you love. So pack your bags — you're going home! The Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance have teamed up with the Jewish community of Charleston for Israel Mission 2013, October 31 – November 9.

What is a 'Mission'?

It is an exciting spiritual, historical and personal adventure to the land of Israel — the land of soul and vitality. It is an opportunity to meet the People of Israel — to talk to new immigrants on a one-to-one basis, to ask questions and to share ideas with new Israeli friends, to meet IDF "Lone Soldiers" who have left their homes all over the world to volunteer to defend the Jewish state. Missions are for people of all ages and all interests — they are an opportunity for families to spend time with one another,

for seniors who haven't been in a while to experience the major advances in the country, for learners young and old to tour the Israel Museum, for all to float in the Dead Sea and sample the finest cuisine — all within the context of 4,000 years of Jewish history. Along with Birthright Israel (a Federation-sponsored program) Jewish community missions are the Jewish world's greatest catalyst for

See page 2

Purim Palooza Fun Planned for Feb. 17

Children of all ages, it's time once again for the community Purim celebration. This year's *Purim Palooza*, put on by the JEA and The PJ Library, will take place on Sunday, February 17th, at the JEA. The fun begins at 10am sharp with something new this year — a pancake breakfast with all your favorite toppings (fruit, whipped cream, nuts), milk and juice, and coffee and tea for the grown ups.

After breakfast, you'll have so many choices of Purim merriment that you won't know where to begin. The Programming and Children's departments at the JEA have been working non-stop to create a lineup of events to keep you entertained. Look for your

favorites like the Bouncy Houses, face painting, and Critters to Go; and the arts & crafts stations where you can make everything you need for Purim — masks, groggers, and decorated bags for delivering Mishloach Manot. There will be games galore to play and *be sure to come in costume*; we'll be giving prizes for the best ones.

This year's Purim Palooza also will feature a photo booth so you and your family and friends can preserve memories of the fun you have together. And last but not least, be sure to catch The

PJ Library Story Time Puppet Show.

Purim Palooza runs from 10am – 1pm on Sunday, February 17th at the JEA (pancakes served only until 11am). The cost is \$8 per person; \$25 max. per family and includes the pancake breakfast and all activities.



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SAVANNAH, GA

2013 SJF Community Campaign Update



Just Say Yes



Community Campaign 2013
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The Jewish Community exists for
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As of January 8th from 710 donors

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8th Savannah Jewish Film Festival, Jan. 24 – Feb. 2
See You at the Movies!



The Greater Good

On January 22, National Elections will take place in Israel. In the United States it is hard enough to make a decision when there are two parties, now try to imagine choosing between 34 different parties.

The number of the parties that are represented is hard to explain. It's based on the fact that Israel is so plural and contains so many different groups—each with different needs and different agendas. Each and every party represents the needs of a distinct Israeli group.

This year there are four major candidates for the next Prime Minister of Israel: The current PM, Benjamin Netanyahu, is the head of the Likud Yisrael Beiteinu party (itself, an electoral alliance formed between

the center-right Likud and right-wing Yisrael Beiteinu). Shelly Yehimovitz is the head of the Labor party (a left-wing social-democratic and labor Zionist party). Yair Lapid is the head of 'Yesh Atid' (translated to "There is a Future," which is a brand new party created this past year by Mr. Lapid, an Israeli journalist) party and Tzipi Livni is the head of 'HaTnuah' (translated as "The Movement," which was formed last year by the dissidents of Kadima, originally a liberal offshoot of Likud)



Dorin Elhadad,
Savannah Jewish
Community Shlichah

party.

In Israel, the parties usually are divided into two sectors: the economic-security sector and the social sector. And it's not enough to win the popular vote – the person/ party who gets the most votes for prime minister will not necessarily win; there must be a majority coalition of the parties.

In the last elections (in 2009), it was Mrs. Livni who actually won the most votes for PM but because she didn't have enough coalition partners to form a majority, she could not build the government. Mr. Netanyahu, again, became the Prime Minister of Israel, in part due to his ability to build consensus.

There are so many groups in Israel: religious, secular, new immigrants, Sephardim, Ashkenazim, students,

suburban families, and all different socio-economic backgrounds – the list goes on and on. To me, this diversity goes to the heart of Israel: the need and willingness to make compromise for the greater good. So every group will find itself represented and taking part – to keep Israel a vibrant democratic state – and for now, the only democratic state in the Middle East.

Mission.....from pg 1

bringing Jews to Israel. As each group travels to Israel, so does our partnership grow with the Israeli people. *What will I experience on a mission to Israel?*

You will see the most beautiful country in the world; a country steeped in your history. You will experience the bravery of Masada knowing that you are standing on the ground of some of our most courageous ancestors. Walk the streets of Jerusalem and know you are in the city where our greatest sages lived. Stand by the Western Wall and know that this is your moment to feel the hopes and dreams of generations of Jews. Enjoy the culture and sophistication of Tel Aviv and remember that not much more than 65 years ago the city was little more than sand. Visit Zichron Yaakov; enjoy the special French-inspired architecture planned by Baron Edmond de Rothschild while sampling the wonderful regional wines. Going to Israel on the Savannah/Charleston Jewish community mission is not just a tour — it's a mission be-

cause you're taken behind the scenes. Whether military, cultural or political, we have access to all realms of society. The most experienced guides and renowned scholars in the country are your traveling companions. Writers, artists, politicians, the country's founders — all will eagerly meet our mission participants.

On a Mission you will have access to visit some of Israel's most innovative programs. You will meet the people who benefit from the love and contributions of the Savannah Jewish community.

The Savannah Jewish Federation believes that travel to Israel has the potential to transform you and to transform our community — and they want to invest in you: there is a \$1,000 subsidy offered for first-time travelers

to Israel (with a suggested minimum individual donation of \$500 to the Annual Community Campaign).

And if the Mission itself was not enough, the Jewish Federations of North America will be holding their annual General Assembly in Jerusalem, November 10 – 13. You will have the opportunity to add on attendance at this meeting, one of the most important gatherings of Jews each year, and always addressed by world leaders.

To learn more about the Savannah/Charleston Israel Mission 2013, please visit our home page at www.savj.org and follow the links — you will find all the information you need to make the dream a reality. Remember, it's not just a tour; it's a mission, because you're going home to be with family for Israel's 65th birthday! Join us in October in Israel.

Have you tried the new savj.org?
Community calendar, online donations and much, much more!

Savannah Jewish News

Published by the
Savannah Jewish Federation
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 355-8111
www.savj.org

SJF President: **Jeffrey Lasky**
SJF President-elect: **Stephen Greenberg**
SJF President: **Amos Timna**
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Allan Ratner**
SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**

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.

All submissions must be in MS Word format (articles) or pdf format with fonts embedded (advertisements). All color must be in the CMYK color format; all type in true black; photos in .jpg format.

Please send all SJN materials to:
sjnews@savj.org

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

Neither the publisher nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this paper. If you have questions regarding kashrut, please consult your rabbi.

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In 2013, experience the many Tastes of Hadassah

Savannah Hadassah has events and times for everyone's taste palette



Wednesday, January 23—"Chat Hadassah" - (4:15 to 5:15) our monthly social and business hour open to all at the JEA.
Sunday, February 10— Vine To Table with Hadassah — (5 to 7 PM) — Kosher Wine Tasting and Hors D'oeuvres at the JEA.
Wednesday, February 27 (5 to 7 PM) Celebrate Commitment & Creativity: Hadassah's 101st Birthday Party!
Begin a new Century of Hadassah at the opening reception of MStarArts' Women's Artist Exhibit **Jewish Journeys**
Thursday, March 21st (11:30 am to 2pm) Hadassah Presents: Lives of Illumination- Amazing Jewish Women of the Civil War.
This annual fundraiser History Exclusive with Rabbi Saul Rubin, author of *Third to None*, is at the Savannah Golf Club.
To receive updated invitations, make sure **Invitation Hostess Joanna Rich** has your email and correct address:
Joanna Rich, joanna@chirphealth.com, 912-480-4686. President Yelena Chernyak, welcomel2hadassah@gmail.com.

What's There Not to Love?

I want to share with you two experiences I recently had during a workout at the JEA Fitness Center that really got me thinking. While working up a sweat swinging a kettle bell, one of our retired non-Jewish members who works out regularly was proudly telling us that he had just given his wife a membership to the JEA for Christmas. He talked about giving her the gift of good health and how he could not wait for her to start using the facilities. After I finished my workout and was going to get stretched out, I passed another non-Jewish member who also works out every morning. Out of the blue he started telling me about how awesome the JEA was and how he tells all his friends that the YMCA cannot hold a candle to the JEA. He spoke about all the JEA had to offer and the customer-friendly staff. He ended by saying: "What's there not to love about this place?"

I could not get these two conversations out of my mind for a couple of reasons. I started thinking about the fact that these two non-Jewish members, neither of whom had any historical connection to the JEA, really appreciated many of the things the JEA has to offer and how they were spreading the good word about the JEA. More importantly, I could not stop thinking about the statement the one made when he said: "What's there not to love about this place." I did not limit my thoughts to the JEA but kept asking myself, "What's there not to love about our entire Jewish community?"

I thought about all the incredible things we do and all the lives we touch on a daily basis as a community. Just take a moment and think about the breadth of the reach of all of our Jewish organizations. Every year Federation raises money and distributes it to local and overseas organizations that provide direct services to Jews in need. Our Jewish Family Services program provides significant financial and counseling support to Jewish people in our own community who are in distress. Our Trading Places program allows our neighbors the opportunity to spend Christmas with their families while SJF volunteers work for them. Our Lions of Judah have a started a community service project that provides help at places like the Food Bank and Union Mission. We have raised money to help the victims of natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy. We honor the memory of the victims and recognize the survivors of the Holocaust at our annual Yom Hashoah program. We provide leaders both within and outside of our Jewish community. Adam will be the keynote speaker this year at the annual EOA Martin Luther King commemoration.

And I ask you: What's there not to love?"

The JEA has programs throughout the year that enhance the communal connection between all of the different Jews in our community. Just click on the calendar at the community's website and you will see all of the activities and programs available at the JEA. Our seniors are taking advantage of the Silver Sneakers exercise program which will help them lead longer and healthier lives. The Opinion Minyan program provides a wide array of speakers to enhance the intellectual well being of our members. The JEA is about to embark on a new preschool program designed to attract the large number of Jewish families who want a different choice in the Jewish education of their children. The JEA summer camp provides a Jewish day camp experience to a large number of our community's Jewish children. And I ask you again: What's there not to love?"

The synagogues provide spiritual guidance to their members along with a vast array of educational programs. The AA and CMI have an active Back Pack Buddies program that provides meals to hundreds of underprivileged children who otherwise would not have enough to eat on the weekends. Rambam Day School and Shalom School provide high-quality educational programs to almost two hundred Jewish children. Hadassah is active again in Savannah, raising money for Hadassah Medical Organization and providing social service opportunities for its members. AIPAC and JNF are increasing their presence in Savannah. We are reaching out to Brunswick's Jewish community to explore ways to develop relationships with the Jews to our south. Again: "What's there not to love?"

Now, back to my fitness center experience and the lesson we all should learn from it. Think about how awesome it would be if all of our Jewish members at Federation and the JEA did the same things that these two non-Jewish members did? Just think about all of the positive effects there would be on our community if we all had that same pride in all that we have, if we urged anyone who is not an annual donor to campaign or a member of the JEA to get in the game and join. Ask yourself how much better our community could be if we all spread the message of "What's there not to love?" Personally, I cannot think of a single thing.



Jeffrey Lasky,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Quietly, Effectively, and with Great Compassion

Over the past few months we have spoken extensively about Jewish Family Services and the increasing needs in our community. Thanks to anonymous donors, who began the Tikvah Fund, we are working to create endowed assets to meet the needs of the community, now and in perpetuity. For every donation — \$18, \$50, \$100, or more — they will match the money.

When I recently met with the donors and gave them an update, I asked them, "What happens when we raise the \$20,000 that you are matching?" They immediately answered, "We'll find more match money. This is so very important. The community needs to understand how much need there is and we have to raise permanent endowments to support those needs."

Jewish Family Services, a social service committee of the Savannah Jewish Federation, quietly and effectively assists members of the community in need. With the able assistance of three social workers, we meet the financial, physical, and psychological needs of a significant number of members of the community. Some of those needs are ongoing case management; others are emergency intervention, while others are financial assistance and life planning. Each is unique; each needs direct one-on-one guidance.

"...we meet the financial, physical and psychological needs of a significant number of members of the community."

I often am told by leadership that we ought to highlight the cases that we provide for so that the community will understand the scope and complexity of the social services we provide. The challenge is sharing a composite of an issue without making the recipient feel that we have disclosed identifying information. In a small community such as ours, it is near impossible. Often, the client doesn't even want family members to know that there is an issue.

Most of the time, it is a caring community member who identifies individuals in need and brings it to our attention. With great sensitivity, we reach out in an appropriate manner so as not to embarrass the person in need. It's not an easy task and we are often met with initial resistance.

And then there are those in the community who provide help. Recently, we received a call from another social service professional in the community who had a Jewish client with specific

and unique challenges. Remembering a previous offer, I called Motti Locker, the Director at Agudath Achim Synagogue. As a professional, I knew that he would be discrete.

After a five minute phone call and one email, Motti had the basic knowledge as to what was needed. He enlisted the assistance of another member of the congregation and aided the individual. With the help of the onsite professional, he was able to quickly develop a relationship of trust (there was finance involved) with the client, did her banking, shopped for her in two different supermarkets, and delivered the goods back to her.

She wasn't a congregant. She wasn't an old time Savannahian. She was just a Jew in need who asked for help and Motti "stepped up to the plate" to provide it.

It's not an unusual thing in our community: ordinary people providing extraordinary care and compassion for other members of the Jewish community.

Not long ago we were presented with a community member with extensive dental challenges—he had two abscesses, significant gum disease, and decay throughout. It almost goes without saying—he had no insurance and no funds for dental care. I called Steve Berwitz who immediately saw the client and provided — free of charge — six different appointments to address the needs... another ordinary person doing extraordinary things — quietly, without recognition and with great compassion.

Every day, members of our community are quietly going about improving the lives of others. The Savannah Jewish Federation is proud to be the Jewish community's safety net for those you know and many who you don't who have such profound needs.

Your continued support of Jewish Family Services, whether by offering a service, product, or financial assistance, makes a significant difference in people's lives.

Your donations to the Tikvah Fund — which will be matched dollar-for-dollar — will make the same difference for our community in the years and decades to come.

Quietly, effectively, and with great compassion.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Jewish Film Festival Opens

January 24th

Come travel the world of Jewish film during the Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial Savannah Jewish Film Festival beginning Thursday January 24th. Opening night begins with a journey from the Sudan to Israel in the award-winning film *Live and Become*. The magnificent, epic film chronicles the story of a Christian Ethiopian boy who is airlifted from a Sudanese refugee camp to Israel in 1984 during Operation Moses. The film will touch your heart as the young man faces many complex issues including “Who is a Jew?”, immigration, racism and religious intolerance.

On Saturday, January 26th, our comedic double feature will take us to Israel and Argentina. *A Wonderful Day (Yom Nifla)* is an amusing short film that explores family, love and life through the relationship of a grandson and grandmother and their differing world views. *My First Wedding (Mi Primera Boda)* is a poignant comedy about the politics, complications and hilarity of the proverbial “Big Day”.

Sunday, January 27th features the documentary *Violins in Wartime*. You will meet violin maker Amnon Weinstein in Northern Israel during the Second Lebanon War in 2006. The war invades his life during his preparations for the internationally recognized Keshet Eilon Violin Master course. The film captures the essence of how music can keep us sane even in the most troublesome of times. A special live violin performance by Dr. Larisa Elisha of Georgia Southern University will highlight the evening.

Wednesday, January 30th brings us back to America for the dramatic feature *David*. This remarkable film explores the story of one eleven year-old Muslim boy who innocently and unintentionally breaks down interfaith barriers between Muslims and Jews in Brooklyn, NY. Michael Hofstein, professor of film and television at SCAD, will kick off the evening with a special introduction to the film and lead a brief Q & A afterwards.

Thursday, January 31st begins with an afternoon screening of the Israeli comedy *Salsa Tel Aviv*, a romantic comedy about Vicky, a talented Mexican Salsa dancer, and Yoni, a young Israeli scientist, who meet unexpectedly on a plane from Mexico to Israel. Vicky and Yoni are from completely different worlds and backgrounds but despite everything, they slowly develop a romance filled with passion, misunderstandings and comical twists and turns.

The evening of January 31st features the inspiring documentary *Nicky’s*



Family. The film takes us to Czechoslovakia just before World War II for the captivating story of Nicholas Winton, a young Englishman who bravely organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children just before the Nazi’s invasion. His story is an inspiring example how one person can make an incredible difference in the lives of many.

Closing night, Saturday, February 2nd, rounds out our Film Festival with the humorous and witty *Hava Nagila (The Movie)*. The film takes us around the world exploring the rich history of Judaism’s best-known piece of music. You’ll dance in your seat as the film celebrates 100 years of Jewish culture and spirituality with a brilliant cast of characters that includes Connie Frances, Harry Belafonte, Leonard Nimoy, Glenn Campbell and more!

In addition to the films, make it a night out by joining us for a meal or dessert reception prior to each screening. Go to www.savannahjea.org for details, menus and movie trailers.

To purchase Full Festival Movie Passes, make your dinner or luncheon reservations and to become a Film Festival Sponsor go to www.savannahjea.org. Full Festival Passes (good for all of the movies) are \$65 each for community members; the JEA member value price is \$50 each. To add on a delicious dinner with your FFP, community members pay \$14 each and the JEA member value price is \$12 each. An individual dinner and a movie can be had for the bargain price of \$24 per person; JEA members get the incredible value price of \$20 per person. Prices for lunch on Thursday, January 31, are \$7 and \$5 for the meal only and \$17 and \$13 for the meal and film, respectively. Individual movie-only tickets for all films can be purchased at the door 45 minutes prior to each film, \$10 for community members; JEA member value price, \$8 each.

The Savannah Jewish Film Festival is a joint project of the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish Educational Alliance. All films will be shown at the JEA.

We look forward to seeing you at the Savannah Jewish Film Festival!

2013 SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

January 24, 2013 - February 2, 2013

Thursday – January 24 – 7pm

LIVE AND BECOME (VA, VIS ET DEVIENS)

Drama / 140 min / 2005 / Hebrew, French (with subtitles)

Join us for dinner at 6 pm

Sauteed beef with sweet peppers, tomato & cucumber salad, vegetables, and dessert. **Last day to RSVP: January 22nd**

Saturday – January 26 – 7:30pm

A COMEDY DOUBLE FEATURE

A WONDERFUL DAY (YOM NIFLA)

Drama / 24 min / 2011 / Hebrew (with subtitles)

Followed by feature presentation

MY FIRST WEDDING (MI PRIMERA BODA)

Comedy / 102 min / 2011 / Spanish (with subtitles)

Preceded by a Dessert Reception (movies begin at 8 pm).

Sunday – January 27 – 7pm

VIOLINS IN WARTIME

Documentary / 70 min / 2011 / Hebrew (with subtitles)

Join us for dinner at 6 pm

Brisket, roasted potatoes, green beans with almonds & dessert.

Last day to RSVP: January 25th

Featuring special guest performance by Violinist Dr. Larisa Elisha.

Wednesday – January 30 – 7pm

DAVID

Drama / 90 min / 2011 / English

Join us for dinner at 6 pm

Chicken kabobs, grilled veggies, couscous, dessert

Last day to RSVP: January 28th

Professor Michael Hofstein will introduce the movie and lead a brief Q&A afterwards.

Thursday – January 31 – 1:30pm

SALSA TEL AVIV

Comedy-Romance / 100 min / 2011 / Hebrew & Spanish (with subtitles)

Join us for lunch at 12:30 pm

Homemade burgers, fresh french fries, cole slaw, and dessert.

(\$7 Community Member, \$5 JEA Member)

Last day to RSVP: January 29th

Thursday – January 31 – 7pm

NICKY’S FAMILY

Documentary / 96 min / 2011 / Czech Republic / English

Join us for dinner at 6 pm

Cranberry-orange roasted chicken, new potatoes, sautéed veggies, and dessert.

Last day to RSVP: January 29th

Saturday – February 2 – 7:30pm

HAVA NAGILA (THE MOVIE)

Documentary / 73 min / 2012 / USA / English

Preceded by a Dessert Reception (movie begins at 8 pm).

How to Buy Tickets

- Individual tickets are available 45 minutes before each movie.
- Full Festival Pass and Dinner & Movie packages are available online at www.SavannahJEA.org or at the JEA front desk.
- All films are shown at the JEA, 5111 Abercorn Street
- Please visit www.SavannahJEA.org for more information about the Savannah Jewish Film Festival.

Hadassah Presents New Palette for New Generation

by Carol M. Towbin Greenberg

Vine to Table, a kosher wine tasting featuring a fine array of wines perfect for Passover, may not be your mother's idea of a Hadassah meeting, but is a new fundraiser that complements the annual *Hadassah Presents* by offering a choice of time, place and ambiance of event. Open to Hadassah women, the curious and our male associates for a minimum contribution of \$36, this relaxing, gourmet evening is proudly presented by Hadassah, the Jewish Educational Alliance, Circa Lighting, and Habersham Beverage. The event, which benefits Hadassah and the JEA, takes place Sunday, February 10, from 5 to 7pm at the JEA with Kashrut supervised by Rabbi Gold.

February's "Vine to Table" is sandwiched between January, Hadassah's fundraising month — the time to

make personal donations and corporate sponsorships — and March's main *Hadassah Presents* event: *Lives of Illumination* "Amazing Jewish Women During the Civil War" an oral history by Rabbi Saul Rubin, author of *Third to None*. Presented by Circa Lighting, with a minimum contribution of \$50 per guest, this 11:30am luncheon will be held Thursday, March 21st at the Savannah Golf Club. Sponsorships, RSVPs and other information about *Vine to Table* and *Lives of Illumination* should be directed to Sue Ruby, (912) 236-3395 or iruby64@comcast.net.

Hadassah, the largest women's Zionist organization may be 100 years old, but is anything but retiring! In addition to these fundraising options, the local chapter of Hadassah, under the leadership of President Yelena Chernyak, has a full calendar of free monthly educational, social and ser-

vice events including a Women and Health wellness series, the Green Grocer, Chat Hadassah, and Gourmet Baking Classes. Savannah Hadassah is celebrating the start of their new century on Wednesday, February 27 (5 to 7pm) with the opening of the *Jewish Journeys* art exhibit at the JEA.

The board has creatively added and varied the content of programs, the days and times of events, and made all events (except our *Hadassah Presents* fundraisers) free and open to members and prospective members to attract women (and their men) of all ages. Membership places one among more than 300,000 remarkable women

participating in incredible projects and in general doing what Hadassah members have always done extremely well — serving the needs of their families and

communities while supporting Israel through Hadassah's cutting edge medical research, hospital, youth and environmental projects. For general information about Hadassah and our programs contact Yelena Chernyak at welcomel2hadassah@gmail.com.



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Have an Opinion? Don't miss the Opinion 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 Date!

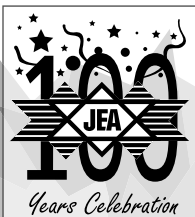
Sunday, February 3, 2012 at 10 am

The game of golf can bring out the best and the worst in its players. Join us as Joel Zuckerman, aka The Vagabond Golfer, weaves a story for us about how the game of golf can truly reveal human character through a peek into the lives of famous golf pros and famous players.

Joel Zuckerman is one of the most respected golf writers today having published 6 books and countless articles in national and international publications about the game. His most recent book is *Kiawah Golf – The Games Elegant Island*.

Admission is \$8 for Community Members and FREE for JEA 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!

Getting Nerdy with BBYO

by Sophie Lichtman

"I think that nerds, if you want to call them that, have only gotten more hip and assimilated into the culture." – Weird Al Yankovic

Every year on the first weekend of December, Savannah's BBYO chapter has a great time hosting Jewish teens from all around the Southern Region. This year, teens came from all over Georgia and South Carolina; cities included Charleston, Columbia, Augusta, and of course Savannah. The weekend was filled with fun activities such as the Shabbat services that were held riverside at the home of Sophie Guggenheim and a Chanukah trivia game that followed. As usual, the end of Shabbat meant the start of the annual Sweetheart and Beau dance, the highlight of every BBYO weekend. Last year, Jared Samuels and Nina Luskey were elected Savannah's BBYO Beau and Sweetheart and they spent months planning this year's weekend activities and dance theme.

The theme for this year's dance was "Nerd Alert: Be There or Be Square." Everyone had a fantastic time dressing up for the dance; the JEA was filled with teens in suspenders, nerd glasses, and high-waisted pants! The small auditorium was decorated with lunchboxes overflowing with candy, gold medals, and of course

science fair trophies. When the teens-turned nerds weren't taking pictures at the professional photography stand, they were doing group dances to songs like Cotton Eye Joe and The Cupid Shuffle. A fun time was definitely had by all.

Toward the end of the night, the new Sweetheart and Beau were elected. The highly sought after Sweetheart nominee spots were taken by Natalie Ourhaan, Marissa Levine, and Hadley Gordon. The Beau candidates included Sam Raskin, Max Strauss, and Jack Kronowitz. After a close election, Hadley Gordon and Max Strauss were voted the new Sweetheart and Beau and will take on the responsibilities of planning next year's dance! When asked why he was excited to be elected the 2013-2014 Beau, Max replied, "Because I'm excited about being able to work with Hadley to plan an awesome dance next year." I have no doubt that they will!



(Clockwise): Outgoing Beau Jared Samuels, Incoming Beau Max Strauss, Incoming Sweetheart Hadley Gordon, Outgoing Sweetheart Nina Luskey



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- Gifford K. Lockley
Principal
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2013 Jewish Community Directory

We need your help to ensure that ALL your information is correct. **Respond by March 1, 2013**

*if we do not receive your 2013 information your listing will be the same as your 2012 Jewish Community Directory.

Please take a moment to complete the information below. If you do not want certain information listed in the 2013 Jewish Directory, please leave the line blank.

Last Name(s): _____

First Name(s): _____

Address Line 1: _____

Address Line 2: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

His work #: _____

Her work #: _____

Email address: _____

Please return completed form to: JEA Directory

5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405

You can also update your information at www.SavannahJEA.org

Noted Jewish Ethicist to Speak at JEA

Dr. Jonathan Crane, a renowned Jewish ethicist, will speak to the community on Friday, January 25th, at a luncheon at the JEA. Dr. Crane will discuss "The Meaning of Life" at the event coordinated by Hospice Savannah and underwritten by Bart, Meyer & Company – Estate Planning. The event is open to the public and there is no charge. RSVPs are required.

Jonathan Crane is a dynamic, intellectual force in the field of modern Jewish ethics. Dr. Martin Greenberg, long time board member and ethics committee member with not-for-profit Hospice Savannah, Inc., recently heard Dr. Crane speak at a bioethical conference and was immediately impressed and fascinated by him. Due to Dr. Greenberg's enthusiastic endorsement, arrangements were made for Dr. Crane to be the featured speaker for the 2013 Annual Hospice Savannah Lecture Series. This will be the fifth year that Hospice Savannah

has brought a nationally acclaimed speaker to address Savannah's medical community and the public.

"This young man graduated with a B.A. (summa cum laude) from Wheaton in 1995, earned his MA (in international peace studies) just two years later from Notre Dame, and then earned a Masters of Philosophy from Gujarat Vidyapith in India the next year!" Dr. Greenberg exclaims. "And the really interesting thing to me is that he received both rabbinic ordination and a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College in New York in 2003 before going on to earn a Ph.D. in religion from the University of Toronto."

Currently he is the Raymond F. Schinazi Junior Scholar of Bioethics and Jewish Thought at Emory University's Center for Ethics. Having served Jewish communities in China, India and North America, he has presented around the world on Judaism, inter-

faith relations, Gandhian philosophy, and many ethical issues. He is a board member of the Society for Jewish Ethics.

Our Jewish community and the community at large are warmly invited to attend the complementary kosher luncheon and lecture by Dr. Crane at the JEA on Friday at 12 noon. Dr. Crane's presentation will include reflection on the moral and spiritual dilemmas caregivers face when making end of life decisions for their loved ones.



Dr. Jonathan Crane

The remainder of the 2013 Hospice Lecture Series includes a talk for area social workers and staff at Hospice House at 12 noon on Thursday, January 24th entitled "Dying Stories: Euthanasia and the Saga of the Talmudic Narrative." That evening Dr. Crane will address the medical staff of St. Joseph's/Candler at an invitation-only dinner talk on "Medical Futility and Liturgical Utility." Friday morning Dr. Crane will address the medical staff of Memorial Health UMC at the 8:00am Grand Rounds on "Disclosing Demise: Informing Patients of their Imminent Death."

To RSVP for the JEA lunch lecture, please contact Jamey Espina at Hospice Savannah, (912) 629-1095.



When: Every Sunday at 10:00 am at the JEA

Fee: \$20 per month / \$7.50 per class **Members**

\$40 per month / \$15 per class **Non Members**

For safety and planning purposes, paid reservations are required! Space is limited to 12 families per session. Babysitting available, with reservations, for older siblings!

www.SavannahJEA.org
Facebook.com/SavannahJEA

To make your paid
reservations call
912-355-8111



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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of

Harold Phillip Javetz
Who died January 6, 2013

He is survived by his wife, Rochelle Boblasky Javetz; four children, Lainie (Brian) Saul, Jay (Lynn) Javetz and Scott (Shannon) Javetz all of Savannah; and Paren (Bart) Hardison of Atlanta; daughter-in-law, Andrea Javetz of Athens, GA; brother, Lee (Janis) Javetz of Savannah; sister, Deanne (Morris) Whitlock of Atlanta; 10 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rachel and Abe Javetz; and his son, Marc Javetz.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405 or the American Diabetes Association, 5105 Paulsen St., Suite C236, Savannah 31405.

Isser "Sweet Roll" Gottlieb
Who died December 25, 2012

He is survived by his wife, Ava; their three children, Richard, Laurence and Michael, and his sister, Arlene Jaffie.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.

Bernice Kirschner Bernstein
Who died December 22, 2012

She is survived by her daughter, Iris Bernstein Franklin of Palmyra, NJ; one son, Richard Bernstein of Richmond Hill; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

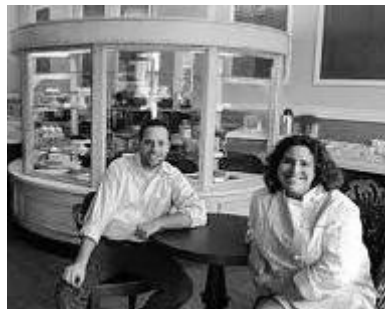
Bernard A. Hirshberg
Who died November 28, 2012

He is survived by his sister Frances (Larry) Waggoner; his sister-in-law, Tillie Salter; and several nieces and nephews, as well as great and great-great nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405; Davenport House Museum, 324 East State St., Savannah 31401 or Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah 31416-0190.

On the Personal Side

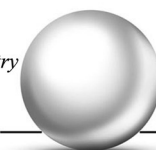
Mazel tov to... **Daniel and Tammy Berkowitz**, on the continued success of their growing bakery business, *Sweet Tammy's*, in Pittsburgh, PA. Their all-pareve business, supervised by the Vaad HaKashrut of Pittsburgh, garnered rave reviews at the recent Kosherfest food expo in Secaucus, NJ. Tammy is the genius in the kitchen, responsible for the delectable sweets and artisan breads; Daniel is the marketing whiz, responsible for their Squirrel Hill storefront staying busy as well as for their product placements in certain Whole Foods markets and other retail locations. They soon will be offering e-commerce on their website (www.sweet-tammys.com), too. In the meantime, you can check out the menu online and then give them a call to place an order. Daniel and Tammy are the son and daughter-in-law of Dick and Lynn Berkowitz.



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Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

The success of last year's 100th anniversary of the JEA can be attributed to many people and their experiences throughout the years. As a final tribute to the JEA's 100th anniversary, we present this excerpt from our oral history collection.

WALTER LOWE on January 19, 2001

My memories of Savannah, really, other than my family, would have to be what centered around the Jewish Alliance. Because friendships were made, lasting friendships that endured for 50, 60, 70 years until this very day, were begun at the old Alliance. That, because of the lack of mobility that we have now, the kids have now, and the lack of television, we, that was the meeting place. That was our recreation, entertainment, and education. Funny the things you remember - that Marvin Arkin and I shared locker number 8 at the old J.E.A. I'm 79 now, and I guess that's when I was 11 or 12 years old, so it goes back a pretty good ways. The Alliance was, as I say, central to most all of the Jewish kids in those days.

Remember so many things that went on there - the clubs, the athletics, the people who ran the J.E.A. The executive director was Rabbi Jerome Labovitz. After Rabbi Labovitz, the athletic director was Mr. Jerome Eisenberg, who was the math teacher *par excellence* at Savannah High School, and he coached basketball at the Alliance. He was a part-time employee, but he always seemed to be there for us. Sonya Geffen was the only person in the office besides Rabbi Labovitz, and Alan Rivers was the janitor. It's amazing - I don't know what the Jewish population was then as compared to now, but there were no computers, there was next to no sophisticated equipment, and yet they managed to be in contact with everybody in the community. In retrospect, they just did an amazing job with that little bit of help.



Walter Lowe (JOH 003 crop, no. 54)

Loving Your Neighbor

by Robin Reineri

As florists and greeting card companies have launched full mode into sales of love and friendship targeting the secular population, let this time be a celebration and reflection of “chesed” for the Jewish community. This Hebrew word is often translated in English to mean kindness, the merging of values and emotions with deeds. The well-known rabbi Benjamin Blech observed that February 14th can be “a day in which to acknowledge the power of love to make us fully human.”

Leviticus 19:18 commands, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” This can be accomplished through small acts of kindness, participation in mission trips, support of charitable programs. Each is a way to express Jewish loving-kindness.

One outstanding individual who merges values with deeds is Toby Hollenberg, the Chair of the Savannah Jewish Federation’s 2013 Community Campaign. She is dedicated to raising funds to help all Jews. No matter what the need, Toby encourages us to consider all the people one can reach with a single donation to the Federation. In a recent conversation with her about Jewish chesed, she extolled the value of such a donation and made this

plea: “One gift to Federation enables each of us to show our caring for others, as Federation supports many facets of Jewish life and meets the needs of people here in Savannah, in Israel, and around the world. I saw firsthand how valuable Federation is to keeping Jewish life alive when I participated in the Mickve Israel mission to Cuba a few years ago. Please make a pledge to express your love and kindness for Jewish life.”

During Toby’s trip to Cuba, she was surprised to see just how much the Jewish community there relies on the JDC — one of our Federation partners — and just how much the JDC actually does to keep hope and Jewish life alive. The early 1990s brought great poverty to Cuba. JDC soon re-entered the country to assist the neediest and help the Jewish community rebuild itself. While visiting a small community, Toby witnessed how these disadvantaged Jews were able to practice their faith and provide a Jewish life for their families thanks to the religious and holiday items provided by JDC. In addition, JDC provides medicines to pharmacies, meals for Shabbat dinners, holiday food deliveries, visiting rabbis to conduct life cycle events, a Jewish Sunday School, and many other services. The Jewish citizens of Cuba are being cared for and loved by their Jewish neighbors. The annual Overseas allocation from the Community Campaign goes, in part, to JDC who is doing the work on all of our behalf.

JDC is the leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization in the world. In Israel and more than 70 other countries, JDC provides aid to the poorest Jews, including at-risk children and the isolated elderly, rescues victims of global emergencies, helps to develop Jewish leaders of tomorrow, and revitalizes Jewish life in needy areas. It epitomizes the example

of Jews being responsible for one another and providing for the most vulnerable. It exemplifies our core value of caring for and loving your neighbor.

What is happening in Cuba happens all over the world. A young, disabled woman named Lela lives with her family in the small, town of Gori, in Georgia’s countryside, in a dilapidated house on just \$100 a month. She anxiously awaits her weekly visit from a Hesed welfare volunteer who will bring basic food items and oil for heat. The Hesed welfare center in Gori relies one hundred percent on JDC funding to provide materials for house repairs, heat, food and medicine for families like Lela’s.

In Japan, the JDC responded to the 2011 earthquake disaster by providing many services, including bringing Jews and Buddhists together as the Jewish community worked to repair the Buddhist Temple in northern Japan, supplying life-saving medications and newborn baby equipment to the Israel Defense Forces Field Hospital, delivering emergency supplies, psychological support training for mental health workers, equipping a temporary kitchen to feed evacuees, and furnishing three schools with furniture and supplies to get children back in schools as soon as possible.

Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Dean of Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at American Jewish University, stated: “...in a world so afraid that it routinely erupts



JDC helps coordinate Shabbat dinners and Jewish holiday celebrations in Santiago de Cuba, home to one of Cuba’s five active synagogues.

in hatred, we are commanded to love. In a world in which children go to sleep without knowing that they are safe, or that there will be a meal tomorrow, we Jews are commanded to love. In a world in which people believe they can bully the State of Israel out of existence, we are commanded to stand tall for the liberation and national self expression of all peoples, and to love. In a world in which some go to bed hungry, some go to bed impoverished, some go to bed sick or lonely, we Jews are commanded to know what makes them hurt, and we are commanded to lift them up. Love is the ability to integrate all our powerful emotions and in consistent empathic behavior... chesed is resolute, strong, insistent and fair. But it is, above all, love.”

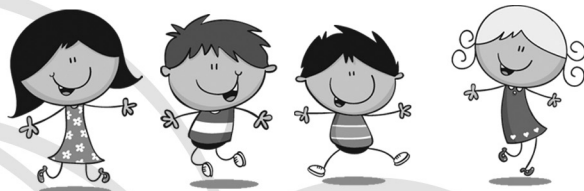
So, as many in this world are expressing various forms of romantic love, why not use this time to rededicate yourself to expressing Jewish love? Love that perpetuates shared values, integrity, and fulfills Jewish law? Let the greeting cards with the poems of romance have their day. Use your day, as you would any day, to express the Jewish love of compassion. And please consider a pledge to the Federation. Reach out in the spirit of chesed. Find your way to love your neighbor as yourself.



Mission participants delivered donations to the community pharmacy in Havana, started by JDC, which makes medicines available to anyone who needs them throughout the island.



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OCTOBER 31-
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HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- > Old City of Jerusalem
- > Kotel
- > Yad Vashem
- > Pre-Shabbat at The Shuk
- > Masada
- > Float in the Dead Sea
- > Visit Wineries in Zichron
- > B'hai Gardens in Haifa
- > Meet IDF "Lone Soldiers"
- > Palmach Museum
- > AND SO MUCH MORE!

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- > E-mail: geshermission@savj.org



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GESHER 2013 MISSION TO ISRAEL OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 10, 2013

Have you ever imagined getting on a
plane in Savannah and deplaning in Israel.
Imagine no more.

Walk in the footsteps of our forefathers in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Jaffo, Haifa, Caesarea, and Zichron. Learn from our Tour Educator, Ophir Yarden, work in a soup kitchen in Jerusalem, sip fine wines from the original Carmel Winery, pay homage to the memories of those who perished in The Holocaust at Yad Vashem. Enjoy the sights, smells, and sounds at The Shuk as all of Israel prepares for Shabbat.

As if this was not enough, the Savannah Jewish Federation is providing a \$1,000 per person subsidy for those community members who have never been to Israel (with a minimum suggested per person donation of \$500 to Campaign 2014).

Join us to build a bridge between Charleston and Savannah.
Join us as we build a bridge with Israel.

**GESHER 2013 MISSION TO ISRAEL
OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 10, 2013**

CHARLESTON

SAVANNAH



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

Jan./Feb. 2013



Children's Programming

Saturday Night Out

February 2nd, 2013 7:00 to 10:00 pm
"Shiver Me Timbers"

Ahoy mates! Saturday Night Out is taking to the high seas. Complete with enthusiastic pirates, plank-walks, and a treasure hunt, this will be an adventure you don't want to miss! Bring your bathing suits and we'll supply the eye patches.

Dinner will be provided at no additional charge.
Ages: 4 years - 6th grade

Event Prices: \$20/a child
\$45/a family of 3 or more

Member value price \$15/a child
\$35/a family of 3 or more

Please RSVP and pay by the Thursday prior to the event. Only 30 spots available for each Saturday Night Out. There will be an additional \$10.00 late fee applied for those who register after the Thursday deadline. Please call (912) 355-8111 or email kids@savj.org for more information.

JEA Aftercare Program

Monday - Thursday 3:00-6:00 pm
Fridays - 3:00-5:00 pm
Cost: \$50/week OR \$12/day

Transportation from Jacob G. Smith,
Charles Ellis & Garrison
Transportation cost: \$30/month OR \$3/per trip



DAYS AT THE JEA

What are Days at the JEA?

Is it difficult to take days off of work when your child is out of school? The JEA offers year-round vacation programming for children pre-k to 8th grade. Your child will enjoy Days at the JEA, as each are packed with activities such as field trips, swimming, cooking, sports and crafts!

The next Days at the JEA are Jan. 21st (MLK Day) and Jan. 22nd (staff planning day)

What to bring:

Swimsuit
Towel (marked with name)
Sack lunch (dairy or pareve)
Change of clothes
Plastic bag for wet clothing
Positive attitude, ready to have fun!

Single Days at the JEA: \$40/day
\$30/day (**Member value price**)

Discount: Register two (2) or more children for the same day(s) and receive 5% off your total.

Contact the JEA: DJ Horton E-mail kids@savj.org
Phone (912) 355-8111



discover *your* community

Save the Date

January 20

Hadassah/PJ Library Tu B'Shevat Family Fun Day, 11 am

January 24

Savannah Jewish Film Festival (SJFF). Dinner. 6 pm. *Live and Become*

January 26

SJFF. Dessert. 7:30 pm. *My First Wedding* and *A Wonderful Day*

January 27

SJFF. Dinner. 6 pm. *Violins in Wartime*

January 30

SJFF. Dinner. 6 pm. *David*

January 31

SJFF. Lunch. 12:30 pm. *Salsa Tel Aviv*

SJFF. Dinner. 6 pm. *Nicky's Family*

February 2

SJFF. Dessert. 7:30 pm. *Hava Nagila*

February 2

Saturday Night Out, 7 pm. "Shiver Me Timbers"

February 3

Opinion Minyan w/Joel Zuckerman. 10 am

February 7

Movie and a Beer. 7 pm

February 10

Hadassah/JEA Wine Tasting, 5 pm

February 12

Black Heritage Jazz Concert, 7pm

February 17

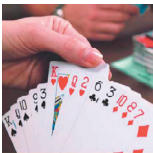
Purim Palooza Breakfast Carnival, 10 am

March 2

Saturday Night Out. "JEA Camp Savannah Blast from the Past." 7:00 pm



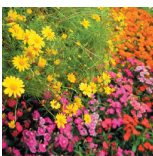
Adult Programming



Bridge - Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Scrabble - Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Mah Jongg - Thursdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



JEA Mid WeekGarden Group Wednesdays 9:00 am to 10:30 am

We meet twice monthly on alternate Wednesdays for no more than 90 minutes to tend our JEA gardens. Feel free to bring your own garden gloves, tools, hat and water. Some tools are available. Dates: Jan. 23, Feb. 6 & Feb. 23.



New! The Stories of Our Lives: One Page at a Time

Tuesdays January 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Wanted: People who love a good story, people who are open to remembering their own stories and people who want to capture their memories on paper for themselves and their loved ones. Facilitators: Sherry Dolgoff and Debbie Rotkow

Price: \$60 for 4 two-hour workshops (*Class Limited to 8 participants)

Register today at the JEA Front Desk or by phone 912-355-8111.

*Payment required at time of registration



Computers Made Easy

Thursdays January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & February 7, 14, 21 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Instructor Bill Fox makes learning fun and easy! Learn to use the computer for communication with family and friends, day-to-day organization, learning, games and even entertainment. Learn at your own pace and in a small group setting! (*Class size is limited to 10 participants) Register today at the JEA Front Desk or by phone 912-355-8111. *Payment required at time of registration.

Price: \$60 JEA Member Value Price = \$50



Thursday Lunch Bunch Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

JEA Donations

(November 13 to December 17)

JEA BUILDING FUND

In honor of Don Kole

Betty & Larry Lasky

Arlene & Allan Ratner

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A generous donation

Martin & Susan Cohen

In memory of David Byck III

Sarabel & Ross Stemer

In memory of Martin Schwartz

The Sprunt Family

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of David Byck III

Elise & Victor Shernoff

Abram Rubin

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of David Byck III

Harriet & Paul Kulbersh

Betty & Larry Lasky

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of David Byck III

In memory of Phil Scharf

Sally & Steve Greenberg

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Leo Center

Harriet Zabusky-Zand & Howard Zabusky

Sally & Steve Greenberg

Nancy & Leon Slotin



Movie & A Beer*

Thursday, February 7th - 7:00 PM

Once a month Dorin Elhadad will host the screening of an Israeli film where you can enjoy a bottle of beer or glass of wine. In February, we'll view *Turn Left at the End of the World*. In this film, a family from India moves to a desert neighborhood in southern Israel in the early '60s. The film focuses on the struggles of the Moroccan and Indian Jews who live there. After viewing the film, we'll have a discussion about Israeli immigration in the early '60s and about Israel as a cosmopolitan country.

March 7th - A Matter of Size - When Herzl, who struggles with his weight, loses his job and starts washing dishes in a Japanese restaurant, he discovers the world of Sumo. Herzl falls in love with the sport, but his dedication to this men-only sport threatens his budding relationship with a plus-size social worker.

FREE to Members with ID \$7 for Non-Members FREE Beer, wine, beverages and popcorn *Adults 21 and over only please

Movie & Beer Night at the JEA sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein.

18 Days celebrating
Jewish women through
Culture, Food and Study

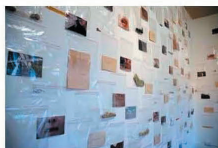


Exhibit Dates: February 27 to March 17, 2013

Opening: *Celebrate & Illuminate* 5 to 7PM

Art workshops, talks, text study, performances:

Sunday March 3 & 10 (10-12, noon and 2-4)

Wednesday, March 6 (5-7)

Free and open to the public
Some classes open to women only
Jewish women's health fair
All events at the JEA



exhibits historical, cultural, physical, and religious
visions that help women pave the way for exploring their
Jewish spirituality.

For full schedule and event registration go to:
[MStarArts.org/ women](http://MStarArts.org/women)
MStarArts@gmail.com or call 912-308-1024



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and health events educate, empower & entertain
diverse audiences and have done so since 1989



Health & Wellness

Core Training for Reducing Back Problems and Injuries



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Weak or poorly-controlled core muscles have been associated with lower back pain. The back muscles are responsible for movements such as extension and flexion of the spine and rotation of the trunk.

Excessive or uneven shock on the spine may lead to back problems. This may be exaggerated because weak core muscles lead to improper positioning or a forward pelvic tilt. In many exercises that use the back muscles, the abdominal muscles contract isometrically, stabilizing the body.

The stronger and more correctly balanced the core muscles are, the less the uneven strain on the spine. You will appreciate that getting those washboard abs require a different approach than simply crunching out lots of sit ups. Also, remember that core strength training is NOT about focusing purely on your abs.

Slouching sabotages your six-pack. Training your core helps correct poor posture. However, an hour a week of core work cannot compensate for the 50 hours spent slumped over your keyboard. The fix:

stay tall through your hips; keep your head up and shoulder blades back and down all day long.

If you want six pack abs, then yes, core strength exercises should predominate in your routine, not because they blast your ab muscles; they don't. However, they will help you reduce your body fat stores and increase the muscularity of your rectus abdominus and they will give you the most return for your efforts.

Many exercises that you can do in the gym will not only activate your core muscles, but will also engage them and make them stronger all the way around. Personal Trainers will have clients do compound exercises in order to maintain a tight core area. Some that you will see are v-sits, side bridge, plank, side planks, butterflies, and glute bridges. The more traditional exercises like good mornings, squats, and oblique twists will target a few of the muscles of the core, but not all, which means that you have to do more exercises and spend more time in the gym to get the same effect.

In order for all this to come together in a cohesive unit, you will still need to focus on your diet and it won't do you any harm to add a few ab specific exercises like crunches and leg raises into your sessions.

Winter Fitness Classes

Sunday

9:15 am - Pilates
10:15 am - Total Body Blast
1:00 pm - Extreme Toning

Monday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - Gentle Yoga
10:30 am - Range of Motion SS*
6:00 pm - Zumba Toning
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Tuesday

8:30 am - Pilates
10:00 am - Water Exercise SS*
10:30 am - Cardio Circuit SS*
5:45 pm - Zumba
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
6:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Wednesday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:30 am - Gentle Yoga
10:30 am - Range of Motion SS*
6:00 pm - Billy's Boot Camp
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Thursday

8:30 am - Pilates
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - Cardio Circuit SS*
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics
6:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club
6:30 pm - Yoga Flow

Friday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
12:00 pm - Noon Basketball

SS*=Silver Sneakers program

**Tu B'Shevat
Family Fun Day!**

Hosted by the PJ Library and Hadassah
Sunday, January 20th, 2013, 11:00 am at the JEA

Celebrate the World's Original Earth Day:
Tu B'Shevat, The Birthday of Trees

Enjoy a special Tu B'Shevat Seder, stories, ecology crafts and fun!

RSVP Jennifer Rich at 355-8111 or programming @savj.org

**The Savannah
Jewish Film
Festival Starts
January 24th**



JEA Art Gallery

February Artists: Marcia Neblett & Beth Baronian

Marcia Neblett studied drawing and anatomy at Cornell University and the Arts Students League of New York before turning to printmaking. While taking a woodblock printmaking course at the State University of New York (SUNY) she met Master Printmaker, Antonio Frascioni. Marcia registered for all the school's printmaking and bookmaking classes. Her drawings and prints have been exhibited in museums and galleries throughout the US and Asia, in venues as diverse as the AIR Gallery in New York City and The Nehru Center in Mumbai.

Marcia's prints play homage to masterful printmaking of the past while being of their own time and sensibility. She frequently finds inspiration in the subject matter of fruit, vegetables and flowers. Marcia admires the dual simplicity and complexity of these forms. Her focus is on intricate line and pattern that translates well into the bold, black and white outlines of the woodcut medium.

Marcia is currently a professor at SCAD.

Beth Baronian began her career as an applied artist in the field of costume design. Her first artistic endeavors started in high school with designing costumes for the theater. She further developed her craft at San Francisco State. She received a full scholarship at Carnegie-Mellon University to pursue a Master of Fine Art in the field of costume design. While in school she worked in film and television costuming and also support in make-up endeavors local to Pittsburgh such as "Mister Roger's Neighborhood." After graduating Baronian free-lanced in the entertainment industry, costuming for a great variety of companies ranging from Ringling Brother's Clown College, to working on television and film projects in Hollywood such as "Terminator II." During this period the desire to focus only on drawing and painting increased and lead to the study of traditional animation at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

There she met a lifetime friend and teacher who changed her life: James Wu. Although he had worked at DreamWorks as a traditional animator, he turned away from his job to pursue a career as a fine artist. Baronian found a love of foundation drawing and painting while working on her reel. She completed her reel, "Nirvana? Nirvana!" and won first place that year at the Academy, for the category "Full Color Short Film," in the animation department. However the passion for fine art had taken hold.

Professor Beth Baronian is now teaching full time at SCAD.

Artwork available for viewing Feb. 1 to 28, 2013

Art Gallery Reception February 3, 2013, 12 to 2 pm



JEA Preschool Savannah

- ★ Warm, welcoming and safe classroom environments.
- ★ Qualified and experienced teachers.
- ★ Age-appropriate curriculum designed for each level of learning.
- ★ Respect for all children, teachers, and families.
- ★ Direct and consistent communication with parents.
- ★ Children as active and engaged learners.

The mission of JEA Preschool Savannah is to provide for the social, emotional, and cognitive growth of the young child in a Judaic setting in order to develop productive citizens.

JEA Preschool Savannah welcomes all children from ages 16 months - 4 years old.

Our doors will be opening August 2013.
Core program 8:30 am-12:30 pm.
We also have convenient extended hours for working families 7:00-8:30 am and 12:30-6:00 pm.

Contact JEA Preschool Director Jodi Sadler by phone at 355-8111 or by email at preschool@savj.org

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 11/9/12-12/17/12)

Lisa Bakke & Ramon De La Cruz
Oscar & Gina Betancur
Harry & Jo Hickson
Patrick Hogan
Jackie Hough
Patrick & Tara Kelsey
Kevin Klinkenberg
David & Theresa Malouf
Jerry Nemecek
Lucy O'Dowd
Jermal Patterson
Julie Sappington
Todd & Vicki Titus

Join the JEA!

Join the JEA and you will be glad you did when you take advantage of our special member pricing, FREE classes and events! The JEA provides many different types of memberships to accommodate everyone.

Types of Membership include:

Family Plans
Couple Plans
Individual Plans
Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

Visit us at 5111 Abercorn Street or online at www.SavannahJEA.org for more information!

JEA CAMP SAVANNAH 2013

JEA Camp Savannah is back and better than ever!

- Brand new exciting themed weeks
- Awesome & energetic staff
- New and improved 3 and 4 year old program
- Wacky & zany themed dress up days
- Comprehensive swimming program
- And of course, memories to last a lifetime!



Registration for 2013 summer camp will begin in January. For more information on everything camp browse our website at www.SavannahJEA.org





JEA Preschool Savannah News

January / February 2013

Monthly Spotlight

First Teacher Hired!



JEA Preschool Savannah Director Jodi Sadler is excited to announce the hiring of the Pre-K teacher, Penny Berkman. Ms. Penny comes to us with a BA in

Elementary Education and teaching experience from Pre K through middle school. She has taught children both in one-on-one situations and in classroom settings. JEA Preschool Savannah believes that teachers should be warm, loving, and fun when engaging children in learning and Ms. Penny embodies that philosophy. Her genuine love for children is apparent the moment you meet her. We are so lucky to have found her and so happy that she is joining our family.

Early Childhood expert to visit our NEW preschool program

Alison Pepper, the JCCA National Vice President of Early Childhood Education and family engagement, will be visiting Savannah on January 28th and 29th. Her responsibilities include consulting with JCCs on exemplary practices and current research in early childhood education and family engagement. Alison will bring her expertise in curriculum and developmentally appropriate practices to JEA Preschool Savannah. She will be meeting with the ECE Steering committee and subcommittees to share her ideas and knowledge and provide support for the program. We're looking forward to learning from her about the latest developments in JCC preschools.

Enrollment is Open!

We're ready and excited to enroll your child in our new and dynamic pre-school, JEA Preschool Savannah! We currently are accepting children 16 months through 4 years old.

To enroll your child: Call the JEA at 912-355-8111 or contact Jodi Sadler at preschool@savj.org. Forms available for download beginning February 1st.

Want to be a part of a NEW dynamic Preschool program? JEA Preschool Savannah is looking for qualified teachers!



JEA Preschool Savannah, a brand new preschool in midtown Savannah, is seeking fully qualified toddler/preschool lead and assistant teachers to join our staff of warm, caring and devoted instructors.

We offer a variety of flexible working schedules: Part-time, Full-time, salaried or hourly, year-round or seasonal positions. Our program will run from 7am until 6pm, five days a week, throughout the entire year (Monday through Friday, 7am - 6pm) serving children from 16 months to 4 years of age.

We are seeking organized, loving, creative, patient and enthusiastic professionals to join our team. Lead teachers must have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in ECE or a related field. Assistant teachers must have a minimum of a high school diploma. Experience in toddler or Preschool setting required.

If you are interested in becoming part of JEA Preschool Savannah's staff you can apply online or download the application at www.savannahjea.org.

'Graduating' from Mazel Tots to JEA Preschool Savannah

Lots of noise and singing is what you hear when you walk by the door of our Mazel Tots class on Sunday mornings at the JEA. Parents and children are engaged in learning and fun as they sing songs and finger plays, play musical instruments, and listen to flannel board nursery rhymes. You can also hear moms and dads interacting with each other and making plans to go to the park together with their families.

One of our regular participants, Stellan, loves to pull up on the shelves with all the toys and pull the balls and trucks onto the floor in order to find the bottle of bubbles. He hands the bottle to Ms. Jodi to blow the soapy mixture so he can pop the bubbles and giggle with joy. What a precious sound it is!

Stellan is learning and having so much fun in Mazel Tots that his mom and dad are enrolling him in JEA Preschool Savannah in the 16-month old class. They want him to continue to thrive in such a positive and play-based program and they know that Stellan will be in a loving and safe environment at JEA Preschool Savannah.

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 at the JEA for Mazel Tots. You, too, can be a part of what Stellan and his parents experience! Mazel Tots is for families with children who are newborns to 24-months old. Just call the JEA at (912) 355-8111 to reserve your spot.



Jewish Journeys Workshop Registration Opens in February

by Carol M. Towbin Greenberg

Jewish Journeys is an 18-day art exhibit at the JEA (beginning with a 5pm reception on Wednesday, February 27) celebrating Jewish women through culture, food and study. The event will feature the work and ideas of area women who through their creativity have paved their own path to Jewish identity. The works are varied, including large paintings of historical journeys, short performances and intimate workshops that explore Jewish spirituality through words and music.

The event's opening reception on February 27 not only honors the artists but is planned as a birthday party to kick off the new century of Hadassah on the occasion of its 101st birthday and features a Jewish sing-a-long and performance by Julie Hirsch, a welcome from Hadassah President Yelena Chernyak and Jewish humor by Me-

linda Stein.

Though the art exhibit itself will be open to men and women of the Jewish community and the general public during posted hours throughout the eighteen days, the workshops (Sundays March 3rd and 10th; Wednesday March 6th from 5pm to 7pm), though free, are open only to registered participants and some are offered only for women. Some classes (like knitting yarmulkes) require some skill level and a supply fee for those wishing to create as well as watch; most classes and forums (Jewish Bookbinding, Jewish Art as a Means to Social Change, Quilting and Jewish tradition, etc.) will have no posted skill level, but will require advance registration. The Sundays are divided up into morning, lunch and afternoon sessions. Participants can come for one class or stay for the day, with special events that are being developed with the three synagogue sisterhoods.

Special guests will be featured at the events, such as Dr. Linda Sacks providing a lunch-n-learn text study on Women of Valor, Libby Malphrus, the organizing force behind the ovarian cancer organization Helping the Hoo-Hahs, who will moderate a panel on Jewish genetic disease, and author Bruce Feiler who, though clearly NOT a woman, will speak about *The Secret of Happy Families*, because who better to represent Jewish journeys than our own local seeker? A partial list of artists and presenters include Rochelle Frank, Margery Diamond, Debbie Rotkowitz, Sherry Dolgoff, Marlene Seidman, Nancy Louer, Helen Cranman, Barbara S. Flexner, Lois Bialac (z'l), Paula Bennett, Susan Bialac, Alice Gerber, Carol Cohen, and Barbara Ruckett.

A full eighteen day schedule will be available and registration will open Friday, February 1 for workshop days. The schedule will be available on the

MStarArts.org website, the Jewish Journeys- an Art Show Facebook page or in the JEA lobby. Registration forms for classes will be available through the JEA, can be filled out in person or by calling 912-355-8111. Donations and sponsors are still needed for the event. For information, call Carol Greenberg at 912-352-1238 or email MStarArts@gmail.com.

This is the only show MStarArts (MorningStar Cultural Arts Group) has ever arranged that is limited to female Jewish artists on the thematic topic of Jewish Journeys, but applicants were told to feel free to dream and the theme has been interpreted in diverse and interesting ways by applicants. MorningStar Cultural Arts Group, a 501C3, 100% volunteer charity founded twenty-four years ago, is funded solely by donations and has served the Coastal Empire with more than 720 events.

Joan Schwartz Memorialized

by Leni Ram

At Bonaventure Cemetery a graveside service for Dr. Joan Schwartz was held on March 7th, 2011; in his eulogy, Rabbi Daryl Crystal, interim Rabbi at Congregation Mickve Israel, cited similarities between Joan Schwartz and Queen Esther (note that Dr. Schwartz's death occurred around the time of Purim). Queen Esther was a formidable and remarkable woman who had accomplished so much and had made a positive impact on so many. Joan Schwartz was a dedicated teacher for many years in the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools and for the past sixteen years in the Childhood and Exceptional Student Education Department at Armstrong Atlantic State University. She was consistently kind, truthful, and non-judgmental to students, colleagues, and all who had contact with her; she believed in herself and others.

At Armstrong University's School of Education holiday parties, Dr. Schwartz never failed to light her menorah brought from home and to recite the story of Chanukah to the delight of everyone there. Her annual



Joan Schwartz's children on the Memorial Bench, (l-r): Robert Epstein, Laurence Epstein, and Dawn Berlinsky. Photos courtesy of Katherine Arntzen and Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Passover Seders were attended by family members, friends, and colleagues. This lovely lady touched so many in meaningful and memorable ways; she will not be forgotten by her children, grandchildren, other family members, and all those who worked with her.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to this special lady, organized by her colleagues, students, and family, occurred recently at a dedication ceremony honoring her with a "gift" of a Memorial Bench on the Armstrong campus. The plaque on the back of the bench reads: *In Loving Memory of Dr. Joan Schwartz, College of Education Professor. From Faculty, Students, Family and Friends. November 27, 2012.*

It does seem so appropriate that Rabbi Crystal likened Dr. Joan Schwartz to Queen Esther!

Israeli Astronaut's Story on PBS

On Thursday, January 31, 2013, PBS will premiere *Space Shuttle Columbia: Mission of Hope*, in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Columbia shuttle disaster.

Space Shuttle Columbia: Mission of Hope is the untold inspirational story of Colonel Ilan Ramon, a fighter pilot and son of Holocaust survivors who became the first and only astronaut from Israel, embarking on a mission with the most diverse shuttle crew ever to explore space. Ramon realized the significance of "being the first" and his journey of self-discovery turned into a mission to tell the world a powerful story about the resilience of the human spirit. Although the seven astronauts of the Columbia perished on February 1, 2003, a remarkable story of hope, friendship across cultures, and an enduring faith emerged.

The documentary goes behind the scenes to explore the "mission within the mission" for Ramon, who carried into space a miniature Torah scroll that had survived the horrors of the

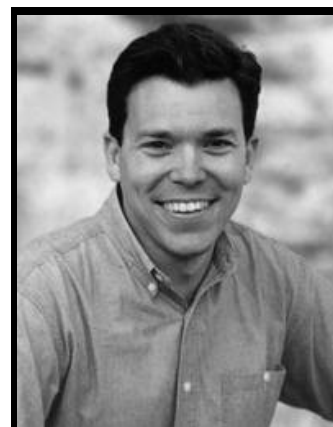
Holocaust. The Torah originally was given to a boy in a secret bar mitzvah observed in the pre-dawn hours in the notorious Nazi concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen.

That bar mitzvah boy, Joachim "Yoya" Joseph, grew up to become Israel's lead scientist for the space mission. The film follows the scroll's path into Ramon's hands, and the dramatic moment when he tells its story live to the world from the flight deck of Columbia. 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.

Space Shuttle Columbia: Mission of Hope premieres Thursday, January 31, 2013, at 9pm ET on PBS (check local listings).



Ilan Ramon



SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, March 10, 2013
10am at the JEA**

**Savannah's native son
Bruce Feiler**

talks about his latest book

The Secrets of Happy Families



Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Mark Silvers

JEA member Mark Silvers capped off an impressive eleven-week competition on the Golf Channel's *Big Break Greenbrier* with a thrilling 18-hole match play victory that aired December 18th. As the winner of the reality show competition, Silvers (who plays on the NGA Tour and has earned conditional status for 2013 on the Web.com Tour) earned an exemption into the PGA Tour's 2013 Greenbrier Classic, \$50,000 cash, a \$10,000 gift certificate to Dick's Sporting Goods and an Adams Golf equipment deal. The 2013 Greenbrier Classic will be held July 4-7 at the Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia, where *Big Break* was taped this past summer. Silvers, 25, also played golf for Savannah Country Day and the University of South Carolina. He told us: "What made everything so much fun was all the support of everyone in Savannah and knowing I had the whole city behind me."

What made you decide to apply for the show? Were you a fan of past seasons?

They were holding auditions for the show at a mini tour event where I was playing. I'd met people who'd been on the show before and I thought it would be a fun opportunity.

Several times during the taping of the show you talked about competing with a heavy heart

so soon after your father's death. Can you talk a little bit about your dad and how that experience seems now?

It was a tough stage I was going through. [*Big Break* began taping six weeks after Mark's father died.] I know Dad would have wanted me to get out there and compete. The less idle time you have at a time like that, the better it is, so the show couldn't have come at a better time for me. The show gave me a chance to get out there and compete in his honor.

Besides the obvious dream of becoming the overall champion, did you have any hopes or expectations going into this adventure and were they realized?

I signed up with one goal and that was to win. Obviously, you want to represent yourself well on TV. But for someone who plays on the mini-tours, winning this opens up new opportunities — to get to the PGA Tour — that main 'big break.'

Do you have any advice for any reality show hopefuls out there?

Yes, definitely stay true to yourself, don't become who they want you to become. You want to make sure that when the show comes out, that's the real you on TV.



Sign up today and receive a top rated Jewish book or CD FREE every month! This is the perfect way to share time with your children, share our heritage, and learn the rich values of Judaism.

The PJ Library in Greater Savannah is available to children six months to 8 years old and is a gift of Jane Slotin, Nancy and Leon Slotin, the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Go to www.savj.org to register for The PJ Library. It's FREE!



You are Cordially Invited

VINE TO TABLE

KOSHER WINE TASTING
Featuring a Fine Array of Wines for Passover
Kashrut supervised by Rabbi Gold

Sunday, February 10th, 2013
Jewish Educational Alliance
5:00-7:00 pm, \$36 per person



Gather your friends and join us at the JEA on Sunday, February 10, 2013 from 5pm-7pm as we sample a variety of kosher wines perfect for any Seder table!

Hadassah and the JEA are co-hosting a unique evening of wine tasting with Bubba Rosenthal of Habersham Beverage, who will share his vast knowledge of Kosher for Passover wines and guide us through a formal tasting of wines.

These Kosher for Passover wines will be available at a discount, and for every bottle or case of wine purchased, Habersham Beverage will also make a generous donation back to Hadassah and the JEA.

Cheese and fruit will be provided to please the palate as you embark on your tasting journey.

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Sharon Hughes
from the Jewish community of Savannah
Congratulations on 32 years of exemplary service to the City of Savannah. We wish you all the best on your retirement and the next phase of your life.



Rambam Happenings

To bring in the Chanukah spirit, Rambam hosted a pre-Chanukah party for our parent body. Over 70 people attended and enjoyed; pizza, wine, beer, latkes and doughnuts. The night was filled with good food, laughter and fun. We concluded the evening splitting everyone up into teams to play Pictionary. You think children are competitive!

The first day of Chanukah Rambam hosted an Open House for prospective parents and for our current parent and student body. The turnout was incredible and fun was had by all. The pre-school rooms housed drinks, the elementary rooms housed all kinds of sweets and the middle school rooms housed fruit. All the parents who attended left some kind of creative message for their child to receive the next day when they arrived at school. The children who attended the Open House participated in various activities, (so did some parents): sand art, painting, Chanukah Bingo and more. The children were fed Chanukah cookies, doughnuts and drinks.

The fifth night of Chanukah the students put on a Chanukah production: Welcome to the Chanukah Wax Museum. First through eighth graders decorated the JEA auditorium into a museum with multiple cubicles depicting various Chanukah scenarios; one cubicle even demonstrated parents giving and children receiving presents each night of Chanukah. The children who portrayed the parents actually looked like many parents must feel as they agonize over whether they have chosen all the right gifts! The children were remarkable – they remained frozen in their places when it was not

their turn to perform. They were perfect wax figures! Throughout the evening the audience's responses gave away they were having a great time. There was standing room only. Kindergarten sang Chanukah songs and the audience clapped along and sang along. The evening ended with doughnuts and latkes!

And now the halls of Rambam are more on the quiet side as the students wind down from the first half of the school year. It has been a wonderful first half of the year, and the smiles on the children's faces express it was a happy one, too!

In the aftermath of the tragedy that took place in Connecticut, Rambam teachers addressed the students, each grade on its appropriate level. Seventh and eighth grade students were engaged in the most in depth conversation, tackling not only the difficulty of the tragedy but as well the role G-d played.

Why did G-d let this happen? We ask this question after most tragedies. Why didn't G-d cause the gunman's car to break down? Or have the kids somehow not be in the classroom? Or have his guns get stuck? G-d could have saved those children so why didn't He? G-d should be sued for malpractice.

We discussed with the children that we don't always understand the ways of the world, like why there are bad people, but we need to focus on being safe and the good in the world. Our students decorated hearts and wrote positive messages on them and we sent them to Newtown.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Not a Diet Program!

Only a few weeks have passed since Shalom School celebrated Chanukah: the students put together a great performance, we played games pounded with our very special "little dreidel" move and ate latkes and donuts!

I am barely recovering from eight days of jelly donuts when the words "best hamentashen recipes" start coming up in almost every conversation. I have the feeling that we live not from holiday to holiday, but from donuts to hamentaschen to matzah!

Those three very traditional Jewish foods all have their origin in the greatest empires and civilizations of all times. Mighty empires that plotted to destroy the Jewish nation again and again.

Ancient Greece and its kings, like Antiochus, set its mind on getting rid of us. But only stones and statues are left to witness the grandeur of that empire while Jewish people all over the world eat donuts every Hanukkah to celebrate the triumph of a few over so many.

To remember Aman's evil plan and our days in the Kingdom of Persia we'll have Hamentaschen. Every year, a new generation of Jewish children

learns how to fold the piece of dough the right way so we can all eat cookies shaped like this villain's ears.

The mighty and powerful Egypt, with its generations of Pharaohs, led the Middle East in its time. Well, this world supremacy is gone, crunched and defeated; Crunched like the matzah we eat every year on Passover...

Not only do we not get stuck in the negativity of our historical threats or focused on the bitterness of the past, but we take past dramas and traumas and turn them into joy, into celebration, into sweetness. We turn those sad times into holiness and holidays.

As we start a new Gregorian year, we can all individually look within ourselves for this strength common to our people: turn our personal past challenges into sources of growth, force and maybe joy.

We Jewish people are people who celebrate life... and definitely people who like to eat!



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

Do you have a product or service to promote?

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A November to Remember

What do you get when you combine more than eight thousand dedicated and passionate early childhood educators, one thousand learning sessions, and hundreds of exhibitors? The answer is the National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC) conference which was held in Atlanta in November. As a Lasting Legacy Scholarship Recipient, I had the opportunity to attend this four-day conference filled with learning and networking with men and women (mostly women) from all over the world. I attended sessions on a variety of topics including practical classroom ideas for transitioning time, recruitment and retention of personnel, computer technology and the young child, and music and movement.

Mem Fox, a famous children's author, was the key note speaker and

shared her vision and love for reading books to children. Mem's philosophy includes spending at least ten minutes every single day reading children at least three stories (and it may be the same story). The stories should be read aloud with animation and voice inflection. But, most of all, Mem's message is to read to children with joy and passion. It is one of the greatest gifts you can give them. I plan to share her Ten Read Aloud Commandments with my staff as we design curriculum and activities for the preschool classes.

In addition, I met Jewish preschool



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

educators from other Jewish community centers, synagogues, and independent schools at the National Jewish Early Childhood Network conference, held in conjunction with the NAEYC. I also visited Atlanta's Greenfield Hebrew Academy and their Reggio -inspired preschool classrooms. The Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education grew out of child centers in Italy. This program is based upon the concepts that children drive the curriculum with their observations and questions and teachers using this system of instruction spend much time documenting children's work both in words and photos. The Reggio classroom environment uses lots of natural light, plants, children's work, mirrors

and places to climb so children may see things from different perspectives. It was an informative and enlightening experience where I got a real sense of this specific philosophy for the education of the young child. I hope to incorporate some of the ideas into our program. It was a busy and exciting time in Atlanta and the experience was monumental. I already am applying the knowledge and resources I gained through this opportunity to my work establishing JEA Preschool Savannah. Hiring staff, recruiting families, and enrolling children, are all part of the process as we move forward with this new and dynamic program of excellence.



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It's A Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

The resumption of rocket bombardments from Gaza into Israel brought great damage, fear, and anger, but also a number of comic moments to break the tension.

Mock Israeli weather reports predicted: "Cloudy with a chance of rockets."

According to one humor column, Israeli students asked Hamas to please target their school — and even volunteered its GPS coordinates — in order to avoid a math final.

When Israeli forces killed Hamas military leader Ahmed Jabari in an airstrike on his car, a satirical news headline read, "Hamas Chief's Death Reveals Dangers of Driving in Middle East."

One Israeli complained about staying overnight in a bomb shelter. Early the next morning he met his 70-year-old neighbor in the stairwell, who'd run out without her shirt on.

"Then I *really* considered myself a trauma victim," he said.

When the air raid siren went off in Tel Aviv, Hannah rushed down the stairs toward the basement, while her husband was much slower. She stopped and shouted back up the stairs, "Come on, Isaac; get moving will you?"



Melinda Stein

Isaac shouted down to her, "Wait a minute, Hannah. I'm looking for my teeth."

"Never mind your teeth, Isaac," Hannah shouted back, "what do you think they'll drop on us — smoked salmon bagels?"

Hamas began dropping Hebrew propaganda over Israeli cities. A journalist printed examples of the poorly written flyers with the advice to Hamas, "Next time you want to propagandize our people, use spell-check first."

When the cease-fire took effect, shortly before Chanukah, "Now it's time to deal with the real threat at hand," one commentator wrote online. "Jelly donuts."

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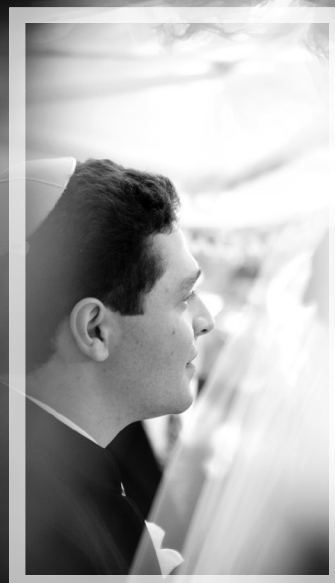
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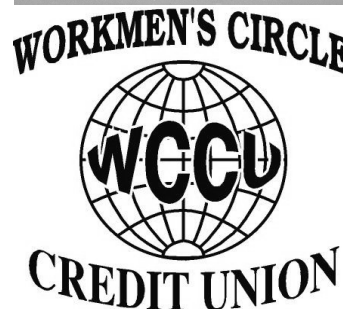
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Adam Kaminsky



Ross Kaminsky



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



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Upcoming Events and Programming

2nd Annual Scotch Tasting

Sunday, January 20th



NCSY Shabbaton

Friday-Sunday

January 25-27th



Brotherhood Superbowl Party

Sunday, February 3rd



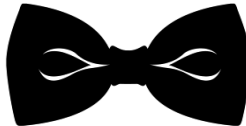
Kollel Community Shabbaton

Friday-Shabbos

February 8-9th



BBJ Brotherhood's
Annual Louis Black Affair
Sunday, February 17th



BBJ Sisterhood's
Purim Seudah
Sunday, February 24th



Please contact the shul office for full details of these and all other events or classes.

Join Us At Mickve Israel for these January & February Events

Our Worship Services

- Friday Night Fever Rocking Shabbat Service & Oneg on 1/4 & 2/1
- Young Family Shabbat Dinner followed by Service on 1/11
- Choir Service on 1/18 & 2/15
- Shabbat Service with Tu BiSh'vat program on 1/25
- Shabbat Service 2/8 & 2/22

Kabbalat Shabbat Services at 6 pm. Shabbat Morning Services at 11 am followed by a Kiddush lunch & Torah study.

Mickve Israel Introduces Two New Prayerbooks

Want to know more about our new prayerbooks? Then join us for some training! The session for *Mishkan T'Filah* will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, 1/10. The session for *UPB Sinai, Revised* will be at 9:30 am on Saturday, 1/12.



Educational Opportunities

Text, Schmooze & Jews:

- 1/15 & 2/12 (at Mickve Israel).

Talmud Sessions:

- 1/30 & 2/27 (in South Carolina).

Other Activities

Watch the e-news, Contact & upcoming Winter/Spring Guide for more details on these & other events:

- 222nd Annual Meeting, 1/27
- Super Museum Sunday, 2/10
- Purim events, 2/23 & 2/24.

Need Judaica?

If our Judaica Shop doesn't have what you are looking for, Glenda McNew can order it for you. 912.233.1547, extension 307 or gmcnew@mickveisrael.org.

For more information, contact Mickve Israel at 912.233.1547, visit mickveisrael.org or check us out at [Facebook.com/CongregationMickveIsrael](https://www.facebook.com/CongregationMickveIsrael). Join our email list by contacting lauree@mickveisrael.org.

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah GA 31405 / 912-352-4737 / AgudathA@aol.com / Agudath-Achim.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

February 1-3, 2013 at Agudath Achim with

Rabbi Benjy Segal

Past President of the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

TOPICS: *The Essence of Shabbat*: Friday following 6pm services

The Revolution of Jewishness in Israel: Saturday following 9:15am services

A Stone's Throw Away: Sunday following 8:30am services

Judaism on One Foot

Judaism's contribution to civilization is deep and enduring. Come learn foundational elements of Judaism and the wisdom it offers to our world today.

Topics will include:

- * Jewish views of the afterlife
- * Kosher Sex
- * Guess who's coming to dinner: Intermarriage - opportunity or challenge?
- * The State of Israel: Jewish Democracy
- * How to read the Bible
- * Is Kabbalah Jewish?



ALL ARE WELCOME

Wednesdays - February 27th, March 6th and March 13th @ 7:30 PM

Congregation Agudath Achim - 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah GA 31405

Presented by Rabbi Ruven Barkan

www.agudath-achim.com

Phone (912) 352-4737

E-Mail Agudatha@aol.com

Agudath Achim's 3rd Annual Progressive Dinner



Sunday March 3rd @ 5:30pm

Come dine and enjoy Jewish Southern Hospitality
in Savannah's Historic District

RSVP @ 352-4737

Memories of Hebrew School

by Sally (Karpf) Krissman

When I was about eight years old I started Hebrew school. It was back in the early fifties (so already I'm revealing my age!). The Hebrew School building (white clapboard) was located on the corner of Abercorn and Hall Streets, which is now the parking lot of the Mansion Hotel, and was very close to downtown Savannah. I believe at that time it was called the Hebrew Community School. One thing I definitely remember is that back then Hebrew school was four days a week (check that out folks, who now complain about two days!).

My brother Buzzy and I, as well as our next door neighbor Arlene (Gottlieb) Jaffie, were picked up by the big yellow Hebrew school bus driven by the diminutive driver, "Shorty." As soon as we heard the first blast of the

"Our Jewish community is full of people with interesting and thought provoking experiences."

horn in front of our house, either Buzzy or I, or both of us, developed an immediate stomach ache. Our beloved housekeeper, Evelyn, was usually home and in charge of us. We would beg and plead with her not to make us go and sometimes we actually talked her into letting us stay home, with a promise that we wouldn't tell our mother. She would amble out to the bus and tell Shorty that we weren't feeling too well that day. She was such an easy person when it came to us!

Another memory of those days is that both Arlene and I took piano lessons a few days a week after Hebrew school. Our teacher lived in a big house on the corner of Huntingdon and Lincoln Streets, and we would walk there for our lessons. It is probably a block and half away from where the

Hebrew school building was. Our mothers let us cross Abercorn Street alone, oy vey!! I guess in those days it wasn't as busy as it is now.

I think it was about 1955 when the new JEA opened "way out south on Abercorn Street." Hebrew school then was held on the second floor of the building. I do remember that a lot of the boys were not very nice to the poor teachers, especially the men. One in particular, Cantor Holtzer of Congregation Agudath Achim, often was the target of their "bullying." He, however, would slap them on the hands with his big yardstick or throw an occasional blackboard eraser. The girls didn't usually get into too much trouble, except for the day that I escaped through the girl's bathroom window out onto the roof and climbed down the ladder to freedom! That was a big deal for me because I was usually an obedient girl.

One funny thing, when I graduated, after attending for six years, my mother said that she was the one that deserved the diploma for making me go, and she was probably right. One thing that's



Michael (Buzzy) Karpf and Sally (Karpf) Krissman waiting for the Hebrew school bus, circa 1955

for sure, I'm glad my parents insisted that I finish (because back then a lot of girls didn't). I think about this a lot when I am in shul and can read Hebrew "with the best of them."

Memory Lane

Albert Einstein once said: "The only source of knowledge is experience." Our Jewish community is full of people with interesting and thought provoking experiences. Do you have some Savannah memories you would like to share? Whether you are young or old, whether your experience took place fifty years or fifty months ago, we would love to take a stroll down Memory Lane with you. Please contact Nancie Clark (354-8360, nancieclark@yahoo.com) to share your stories with the Savannah Jewish News.

**JEA
PURIM
CARNIVAL!**

Time for some fun and celebration!

When?

Sunday, February 17th
10:00am - 1:00pm

Where & Prices?

Jewish Educational Alliance
\$8 per person, \$25 per family

- ★ Pancake breakfast with delicious toppings bar
- ★ Costume Contest
- ★ PJ Library Puppet Show
- ★ Mishloach Manot Exchange
- ★ Art Stations
- ★ Bouncy Houses and Games Galore!



The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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Charitable Giving Post - 'Fiscal Cliff'

Now that Congress has enacted its so-called "fiscal cliff" tax law, it is possible to know what changes might be in store for charitable deductions. There appear to be two or three significant changes in the landscape.

Perhaps the biggest change is the extension of what is known as the IRA charitable rollover. The rule, first introduced in 2006, allows individuals who are 70-1/2 or more years old to transfer cash (up to \$100,000 per year) from a traditional IRA to a qualified charity. The rule had expired at the end of 2011, but the recently passed law extended it through 2013, and included a short provision for 2012 donations. Simply stated, the rollover allows IRA owners to have the custodi-

ans of their IRAs send money directly to charities, instead of to themselves, and these charitable donations can count against the minimum required distributions the IRA owners would otherwise be required to take.

Because of the timing of the passage of the bill, Congress made a few exceptions for IRA owners to make cash donations directly in 2012, but they apply only to people who did not take their IRA distributions until December. And the cash donations to charity must be made by January 31st. Consult your tax advisor to see if you qualify. In 2013, all distributions must be made directly to the charity by the IRA custodian.

The good news for the people in the

highest earning brackets who saw their tax rates increase is that the impact of their charitable giving on their tax deductions will be greater than ever. They now will save \$39.60 in taxes for every \$100 they give to charity (vs. \$35 previously). A new study by the think tank Urban Institute estimated that as a result of the tax law changes, charitable giving will grow by 1.3% in 2013, with almost all of the growth coming from taxpayers in the top one percent of income distribution.

The study also considered the rise in capital gains taxes from 15% to 20%. Presumably, people with stock or other property that has risen sharply in value will choose to donate it, escaping not only the higher capital

gains tax, but also benefitting from the larger 39.6% tax savings on the gift (if they are in that tax bracket).

According to *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, the Urban Institute's study concluded that the so-called Pease limitation (named for the Ohio Congressman who proposed the amendment to limit itemized deductions with a complicated formula) would have "negligible effects" on charitable giving.

This information is intended as an educational tool. The information presented is to provide general information only and should not be construed as legal or accounting advice. Because tax and financial consequences involved with any gifting program depend on personal financial circumstances, individuals should consult with their own financial, legal and accounting advisors to review any charitable estate planning options.



WE BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER.

We believe that no child should go to bed hungry. That every senior in our community has the right to live with dignity. And that all Jews should be able to live without fear of persecution—anywhere in the world. That's why the Savannah Jewish Federation's annual campaign is so important. With your support, we can help people in need, rescue people in danger and keep our Jewish community vibrant and strong. Together we can do extraordinary things to make the world a better place.



Savannah Jewish Federation

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THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

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