

SAVANNAH CELEBRATES ISRAEL

60 Years of Statehood



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Community-Wide Celebration Planned For May 18th In Forsyth Park

On May 18, 2008, the entire city of Savannah is invited to help celebrate 60 years of independence for the State of Israel. The Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish Educational Alliance are proud to be sponsoring the biggest festival celebrating Israel ever held in Savannah.

The history of modern Israel is one of a country faced with many challenges. But in its short history, Israel has flourished in every way and in many

different fields — culture, agriculture, medicine, science and technology.

The event celebrating this important milestone for this little country that could will take place on Sunday, May 18th in Forsyth Park from 12-4 pm. All activities are free and the entire community is invited to come and enjoy the many fun things planned for kids and adults.

Amos Timna, chair of the Israel at 60 Festival, has been hard at work



Pharaoh's Daughter

with a group of dedicated staff and volunteers since planning for the event began last August. He said: "Forsyth Park will be filled with booths, displays, activities and the best of Israeli products, culture and food. It will be a grand opportunity to learn, celebrate, socialize and hear a great concert. But most of all, it is a chance for us to show all of Savannah what Israel has come to mean to us and to the world."

In addition to all of the activities, there will be performances on the Israel at 60 Festival Stage throughout the afternoon, including the main event on the stage, the annual Jerusalem Concert for Peace sponsored by the City of Savannah Cultural Arts Commission, this year featuring the internationally renowned Pharaoh's Daughter. Pharaoh's Daughter has toured all around America, Europe and Israel performing their unique blend of Israeli rhythms

Continued on Page 4



The Palestine Post (precursor to The Jerusalem Post) -- May 16, 1948



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JEA Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 29, 2008

7:00 pm

5111 Abercorn St.

The officers and Board of Directors of the Jewish Educational Alliance invite you to join us for our annual membership meeting, installation of new Board members and presentation of awards.

Desserts will be served.



SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



I wish that when I am sixty...

I will see eight of my children win the Nobel Prize.

I will achieve gold medals in different sports.

I will contribute to the fields of medicine, hi-tech and agriculture.

I will have more lawyers than I really need.

I will be the biggest polished diamond exporter in the world.

I will have four children among the 500 richest people in the world.

I will be one of eight other people in the world able to send a satellite into space.

One of my businesses will be the largest company in the world in the field of voice mail technology.

Both Microsoft and Cisco will build their only foreign-based research and development facilities in my building.

I will have the highest number of

personal computers per capita in the world.

Outside of the United States and Canada, I will have the largest number of companies listed on NASDAQ.

I will lead the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce. with 145 per 10,000, as opposed to 85 in the U.S., a little over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany.

I will be responsible for the world's first civilian aircraft equipped with technology designed to protect airliners from a missile attack.

One of my universities will be leading the development of a robotic arm that can respond to the brain commands of a paralyzed person.

My children will have the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world.

I will be even more attractive than in my youth.

I probably will not be able to claim all of that when I turn 60, but Israel, the 100th smallest country in the world, with less than 1/1000th of the world's population, can.

I look forward to celebrating Israel's 60th birthday with all of you at the Festival in Forsyth Park on May 18th!



Eyal Blank,
Community
Shaliach

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

On May 1, we will observe Yom HaShoah, this sad anniversary, as we are doing each year. We read the names of some, or all, of the six million people who perished in the Holocaust, but it is also a time to learn: to learn that the Holocaust happened because virtually not a single country was able or willing to help us and only a very few offered asylum to our people. This is the sad truth! Israel existed only in dreams at that time.

We learned that we must have our old country reborn again. The Holocaust would never have happened if Israel, as we know today, would have existed at that time. It is our moral obligation to promote the best possible

relations between our own USA and Israel. Both are powerful democracies which will assure the safe future for our children and grandchildren.

Just a few words about my family's recent great achievement:

In November 2007, we secured a positive outcome in the Dresden court for our claim against the German Government for goods taken to Germany from my father's warehouse in Poland. At this time, the case is on the way from the court to the Restitution Office in Berlin for a practical resolution. We hope to have the final stage of our many years of effort very soon.

Best regards to our friends in Savannah,

George & Marlene Dynin

To the Editor:

I have lived in Savannah for thirty-nine years and have read with interest every Savannah Jewish News. The April 2008 edition was, in my opinion, the best edition by far.

This paper was eye-catching. The layout was intriguing and informative and even the print seemed clearer. The articles were captivating; stories by individuals and families were wonderful! I found myself reading every page eagerly. I really liked the "In

This Issue," telling me where to find particular contents. The use of color, while used sparingly, added greatly to the pleasing look of the paper.

Maybe I had new glasses, maybe I read more carefully, but even the weight of the paper felt good! Please know that the community does read this paper and I, for one, was extremely pleased with the quality and contents of the April Savannah Jewish News. Thank you so much.

Sherry Dolgoff

Dear Friends,

It took 2,000 years to dream it, 60 to plan it, and 60 more to bring it to life. This Yom Ha'atzmaut, the modern state of Israel will celebrate its 60th anniversary with great pride in its achievements and with the knowledge that many more are still to come.

In those short 60 years we've accomplished more than anyone present at Israel's founding could have ever expected. In 60 years we've made Israel a shining example of freedom, democracy, and equality. Today Israel ranks among the world's 25 most advanced and freest countries. In 60 years Israel has become a beacon of hope to the world's needy. Israelis are in the Amazon working on water purification. Israelis are in sub-Saharan Africa delivering food. In 60 years Israel has even changed it very landscape. Israel has made the desert bloom.

Today Israel is at the forefront of modern invention and innovation. Israeli technology is found everywhere you look. It is inside your computers, your cell phones, in your flash drives, and in countless other marvels of human ingenuity. Israeli advancements are literally saving the world. Israel is the global leader in water desalination and conservation technology. Solar panels are found on almost every Israeli roof. Israeli scientists are around the world, working with their colleagues to harness the power of the sun.

We are delighted to commemorate Israel's first sixty years, and are honored to share this celebration with the City of Savannah. Savannah has embraced Israel by supporting the country and its anniversary with wide ranging cultural events and festivities.

On behalf of the people of the State of Israel, I would like to sincerely thank the City of Savannah, the State of Georgia, the Savannah Jewish Federation, and the Savannah area Jewish community for the kindness they have shown us during our first sixty years. We wish the City of Savannah and its citizens a happy Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Ambassador Reda Mansour
Consul General of Israel to the Southeast



Shaliach Eyal Blank's parents
in Tel Aviv, Israel

*When Lea & Amos Blank
want to know
what's happening in the
Jewish community
of Savannah
they read
The Savannah
Jewish News*



Don't Be a Part of the Silent Majority All Clear

Jews are always alert to the threat of overt anti-Semitism. We remain vigilant to oppose those who would threaten the existence of Israel. We all acknowledge the inherent risk of assimilation and loss of Jewish identity which has come with our successful integration into American society. We try to arm our children with information to deal with those who would try to seduce them with other religions cloaked as Judaism. Our Jewish leaders have always taken up the fight to oppose those threats.

Sometimes challenges to Jewish life are less overt and more insidious. I knew that I was not the only person to read in amazement a front page story in the Savannah Morning News that a municipal judge reduces fines and penalties for driving violations if the defendant agrees to attend church—or a synagogue or a mosque. The judge apparently sees no problem with his “urgings” since he does not make church attendance a “condition” of his sentence. I am not a constitutional scholar or an attorney. I have no special insight into the “establishment clause” contained in the First Amendment, but I do think I know a bad idea when I hear one. I think the wise men who wrote our constitution did not intend for the judicial branch of our secular government to mete out sentences which could be satisfied by attending religious services. (I attend quite regularly, and though this may make me a better person, it is unlikely to make me a better driver.)

Is this some overt attempt to establish a state religion? Obviously not. Is this a threat to my right to practice my religion or to Judaism in general? Again, certainly not. So why should I waste my time and yours discussing this? It is not because this may be one more footfall on a “slippery slope” or one small brick loosened from the wall between church and state. Although as Americans, and particularly as Jewish Americans, we should always be concerned about such transgressions.

What concerns me is that, Jews and Gentiles alike, have begun to tacitly accept the intermingling of religious life in the affairs of state. I suspect that most people who read the article did

so with a sense of bemusement: a quirky Southern judge acting just like a caricature of a small town Southern judge.

We periodically read of concerns raised when one community builds a crèche outside of its town hall in December or mounts a copy of the Ten Commandments on its courthouse walls. Many Jews are uncomfortable with such trappings, but we seldom raise an alarm. Should we have concerns when the Georgia Legislature considers the use of vouchers to divert public monies to parochial schools? It nearly happened this year, but for the inability of our legislature to overcome its internecine squabbling. Do we consider the long term consequences of our national policy to promote the reliance of “faith-based” social programs to remedy social ills? Are we comfortable with a White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives? I fear that as a society we have become so complacent with such stories that we no longer notice.

To be sure, there is much good that comes from faith based programs. Many of us participate regularly in such programming. There are undoubtedly many members of our community who see no reason for concern here. There are also certainly some who feel that I have understated the magnitude of the issue. They may be right on both counts. I hope each of us at least spend some time considering what the Jewish position is in discussions of church and state. Like all things Jewish, there is no one proper position; but it is certainly important to have a position. Be aware. Discuss these issues with your family, your rabbi (or for even more fun, with another Rabbi) and with your Jewish and non-Jewish friends. Wherever you stand, consider what effect the policies of our government and our courts have on Jewish life and, in turn, on our American way of life. Be active. Be outspoken. Jews have never been part of the “silent majority”. We shouldn't start now.



Dr. Joel Greenberg
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

As a child growing up in New York, part of our routine in school was an Emergency Drill. A siren would go off in the school, Mrs. Delany, the Principal, would come on the loud speaker and the class would get up and shuffle into the hallway. We were instructed to face the wall, crouch into a ball and hold a book over our heads until the “All Clear” siren sounded. It was part of the Cold War, preparing for a missile attack or a nuclear bomb. Even then I think I could sense how senseless this was...how was a spelling book going to save me from nuclear radiation? What protection did my history book give if the walls were falling in? There was always that part of me that was scared. But the Cold War soon “ended,” as did the Fallout Drills.

It's hard to believe that my childhood memory is a constant occurrence in Israel. Thousands of children drill to respond appropriately in an emergency — how to get to the nearest safe room, how to put on a gas mask, how to find the closest bomb shelter.

And what about the people of Sderot? They are not preparing for contemplated emergencies, they are living real ones. They are in the midst of a second year of shelling from Gaza. Children walking to school, teens waiting for a bus, mothers going shopping — all must be on constant guard to respond when the sirens go off warning of an incoming missile. It's not a drill, it is everyday life. Hundreds of children have been traumatized by the constant threat, the wailing sirens, the running to the

safe room. Any semblance of “normal life” ceased long ago. Hundreds have left the area and many more wish they could.

In the north of Israel there is the constant threat from Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, terrorists based in Syria, and an Iranian dictator who would like nothing better than “to wipe Israel off the face of the map.” Yet with all of these threats, Israel exists. In fact, it thrives as the center of democracy in the Middle East, as a high tech hub, as a technological wonder, and as the home to the Jewish people.

We feel the pain of our Israeli brethren who face unyielding threats on almost every border. We feel pride as Israelis stand tall against a hostile world. We feel pride in the accomplishments of Israel. We stand for Israel and stand with Israel.

It is, therefore, with great pride, appreciation, respect and love that we celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary. Sixty years and three days after the United Nations voted to create the State of Israel, all of Savannah will gather in Forsyth Park to celebrate the miracle of the Jewish state. We will gather as a testament to the great courage, vision, and strength of so many that made Herzl's dream a reality. I hope I will see each and every person in the community there to honor the great achievements of Israel, a haven for all Jews.



Adam Solender

We regret the error...

In the list of donor's to the Savannah Jewish Federation's Sugar Refinery Family Support Fund published last month, we incorrectly identified a donor, the Herman and Greta Schwarz Foundation. We apologize for the error.

Anyone interested in advertising in the Savannah Jewish News should call Midge Schildkraut at 355-1839 or email her at mschildk@bellsouth.net.

Graduating High School and College Seniors are invited to submit their pictures and information for a special feature in the June issue. Secure a form from the JEA, complete it and return to the JEA by May 1st.

You can mail it to us at
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or email Midge Schildkraut at mschildk@bellsouth.net
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Celebration in Forsyth Park cont. from page 1

combined with musical traditions from all over the world. Bring something to sit on and enjoy an afternoon of great performances.

What would the Festival be without the great flavors of food from Israel? An alliance of Savannah's finest caterers and restaurateurs — Matt Cohen from the New South Café, Murray Gottlieb, of Alan Gottlieb Caterers, David Silverman of Spanky's Southside and local caterer Harriet Ullman — will be selling favorite Israeli treats throughout the festival: Falafel, Shawarma, Hummus, and Israeli salad along with local favorites like Spanky's chicken fingers and spuds, with an Israeli twist and Harriet's famous strudel. There will be delicacies to appeal to all tastes and ages.

The Israel at 60 Festival is made possible with generous support from the Georgia Ports Authority, Wachovia Bank, Betty and Norton Melaver, MASA Israel Journey and others.

Along with Pharaoh's Daughter, also not to be missed on the Festival Stage are the performances by the children of Rambam Day School and Shalom School in a special Israeli Folk Dance presentation, the Mickve Israel Choir, the Savannah Children's Choir,

and other special acts.

Some of the activities planned for the Festival and described in detail elsewhere in this issue include:

- Time Tunnel of Israeli History — Enter the Festival through a multimedia exhibit that tracks the history of Israel from 1948 – 2008;

- Dig the Past — A 'real-life' archaeological dig for ages 3 to 13;

- The Israel Maze — Find your way around Israel and pick up some knowledge along the way;

- Picture Yourself in Israel — Take home a souvenir photo of your "trip" to Israel;

- Friends of Magen David Adom (the Israeli affiliate of the Red Cross) will be here with an Israeli ambulance.

Other activities planned for the younger guests are a place for budding jewelers to create masterpieces (who knows, maybe the next Ayala Bar is right here in Savannah); face painting and story telling for the smaller children; cupcake decorating (and eating!) and much, much more.

Mark your calendars now for the Israel at 60 Festival on May 18th. This is one fun-filled day you and your family will not want to miss!

FUN-FILLED DAY PLANNED FOR MAY 18 AT FORSYTH PARK

Israel and Me Oral History 60th Birthday Card

Come by the Israel and Me booth sponsored by Coastal Oral History Project, May 18 at the Israel at 60 Festival in Forsyth Park and record your birthday message for Israel (five minutes or less) right at the Festival! Video clips of the full interviews already completed also will be available for viewing. Did you miss recording your video birthday message for Israel's 60th? Final appointments for longer interviews can be made at that time.

We would like to make a video of your personal, family or business stories and memorabilia of your connections to the land of Israel since that historic UN vote! Video sessions last between 30 to 90 minutes and are conducted at the JEA. All participants will receive a copy of their interview as well as one of the completed video-



card.

To make an appointment or donate to the project, call Carol Greenberg at 912-927-9922 or e-mail MStarArts@aol.com.

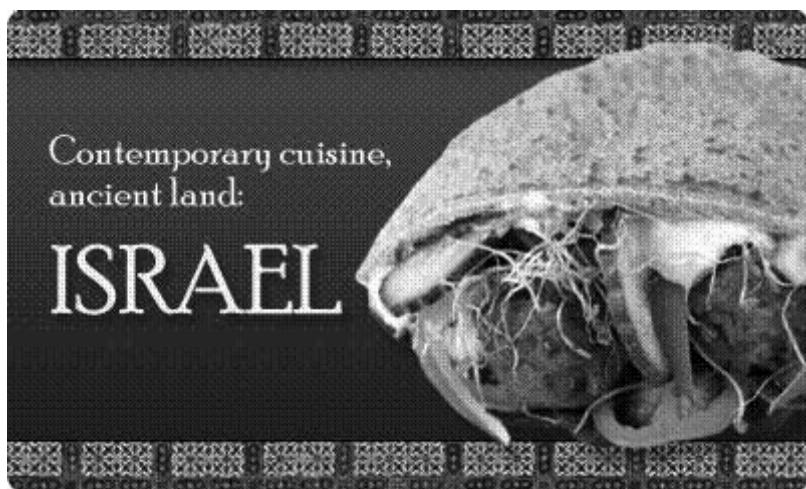
The Israel and Me Oral History 60th Birthday Card is a project of MorningStar Cultural Arts Group in conjunction with the Savannah Jewish Federation, the Jewish Educational Alliance, the Southern Oral History Company and the Savannah Community Foundation Arts Ashore Legacy Fund.

Picture Yourself in Israel

Choose from a number of beautiful places in Israel to have your picture taken and then take home a souvenir photo of your "trip" to Israel. It's a miracle — only you will know for sure if you were there!



Fabulous Foods for Sale at Israel @ 60 Festival Enjoy a Taste of Israel



Authentic Israeli treats including

Chicken Shawarma
Falafel
Hummus
Tahini
Chopped Salad
Bourekas

and local favorites with an Israeli twist:
Spanky's Chicken Fingers, Spuds,
Harriet's Famous Strudel and more.

New South Café
Spanky's Southside
Alan Gottlieb Caterers
Harriet Ullman Catering

On the Festival Stage

12:00 ISRAELI FOLK DANCE PERFORMANCES
BY RAMBAM DAY SCHOOL & SHALOM SCHOOL
12:30 CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL CHOIR
1:00 ISRAELI FOLK MUSIC SINGER SHAY BAR
1:45 WELCOMES AND PROCLAMATION
2:00 JERUSALEM CONCERT FOR PEACE FEATURED
ENTERTAINERS: PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER
3:00 SAVANNAH CHILDRENS CHOIR
3:30 SHAY BAR

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Dig the Past

Like Indiana Jones, children ages 3 – 13 can dig for historic artifacts from Biblical times and take home a souvenir of the experience. Right in Forsyth Park we'll be recreating a dig for ancient relics, just like the ones taking place all over Israel! Who knows what treasures you'll find?



Israel at 60 Celebrations Planned around the Country All Year Long

Are you traveling this year? Savannah's Israel at 60 Festival is just one of dozens of events planned around the country to celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary. Jewish communities all across North America are sponsoring festivals, concerts, lectures and more — just 'google' Israel at 60 and the name of the place you'll be visiting and see what pops up.

For example, if you're heading to our nation's capital you can join the Capital Celebration on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., June 1st from noon to 5pm. The event will feature popular Israeli singer-songwriter Regina Spektor, actor Mandy Patinkin, the Israeli band Machina, Sesame Street Muppets Oscar and Oofnik, and others.

Time Tunnel of Israeli History

Enter the Festival through a multimedia exhibit that tracks the history of Israel from 1948 – 2008. Take a journey through time with us and reacquaint yourself with the amazing

story of the small country that in 60 short years became one of the most modern and technologically advanced countries in the world.

The Israel Maze

Grab your map of Israel and find your way around Israel. Stop at five cities and learn their significance in both modern and ancient times and how Israel is home to the three ma-



jor, monotheistic religions of the world. Don't leave without getting your passport stamped along the way!

American Friends of Magen David Adom

The American support group for the Israeli affiliate of the Red Cross will be here with an actual Israeli ambulance for you to explore. Learn about how this important group, active since 1940, is helping Magen David Adom upgrade their emergency medical and blood services.



MYTHS AND FACTS A Guide to the Arab – Israeli Conflict

By Mitchell G. Bard

MYTH

"Israel must negotiate with Hamas."

FACT

Hamas controls the Gaza Strip and therefore some people, including knowledgeable Israelis, argue that Israel must negotiate with the terror group. No one seriously believes that Hamas is interested in any lasting peace with Israel, but the advocates for negotiations believe it may be possible to reach a ceasefire agreement in which Hamas promises to stop firing rockets into Israel and Israel ceases its military operations against the group in Gaza. A byproduct of such an agreement is hoped to be a prisoner exchange that would lead to the release of Gilad Shalit who was kidnapped by Hamas 21 months ago.

Israel has not pursued this strategy for a number of reasons. First, Hamas has given little indication it is prepared to end its terror campaign. On the contrary, its spokesmen continue to make belligerent statements. On March 28, for example, Hamas leader Khalil al-Haya, declared: "The Zionist enemy doesn't have a vision of peace. Only force... fighting and holy war works with [Israel]."

Hamas also remains committed to its covenant that calls for the destruction of Israel.

From Israel's perspective, a ceasefire would be exploited by Hamas to build up its forces. Without Israeli counter-terror operations, the group will be free to continue to smuggle in weapons and money from Iran and elsewhere, and to develop longer range missiles capable of striking Israeli population centers. In exchange for a short-term respite in attacks, many Israelis fear they will be allowing Hamas to become a far more dangerous adversary in the future.

It is often said that you don't make peace with your friends, you make peace with your enemies, but this assumes the enemy you are negotiating with is not committed to your destruction. Golda Meir said it best when she explained the conflict had nothing to do with territory. "We're the only people in the world where our neighbors openly announce they just won't have us here," she observed. "And they will not give up fighting and they will not give up war as long as we remain alive. Here.... They say we must be dead. And we say we want to be alive. Between life and death, I don't know of a compromise."

**Myths and Facts is brought to you as a service of the
Community Relations Council of the
Savannah Jewish Federation.**

You Can Help!

Volunteer Committee Chairwomen JoAnne Kooden and Sally Greenberg still have a job for you at the Israel at 60 Celebration at Forsyth Park on May 18. Events like this take an enormous amount of volunteers...that's why we look to YOU. Would you be willing to help? Israel @ 60 needs many people to help set up and man booths, assist in organization, and more. There is a

role for everyone — young and "young at heart." To volunteer, call Eshel at the JEA at 355-8111 or send an email to eshel@savj.org.



Single and in your 20s, 30s or 40s?

Start the fun on May 18th at a special schmooze, just for singles, at Smooth coffee and smoothie bar. Meet us at Susan Jaffie's popular downtown spot to schmooze for a little while before joining the fun in Forsyth Park.

When: May 18, 2008

Where: Smooth, 143 Bull St. (between Liberty St. & Wright Square)

Time: 11am

For more information, contact Robyn Lebowitz, rmwheelock@hotmail.com.

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Israel at 60: A Remarkable Story

By Uriel Heilman, JTA

Though many basic questions about Israel's character remain unanswered 60 years after the state's founding, its successes and quasi-normalcy in the face of relentless challenges make the story of Israel at 60 a truly remarkable one.

Being in Israel in the 21st century, one often wonders what Theodore Herzl, the founder of Zionism, would think of this modern-day state if he could see it.

The malarial swamps of pre-state Palestine have been replaced by rapidly growing cities with glitzy shopping districts, carefully landscaped parks and six-lane highways that run between high-rise office buildings and limestone apartment complexes.

The agricultural pioneers, the halutzim who struggled to sow the seeds of the new nation-state armed with triangular hats and simple hoes, have been succeeded by sunglasses-wearing settlers in the West Bank's Jordan Valley who have installed high-tech drip-irrigation devices to hydrate hybrid tomatoes for export to markets in London, Paris and New York.

And the nation whose birth defied the odds in a war of independence against invading Arab armies to the north, east and south has become a regional military superpower with an assumed nuclear arsenal, a crack air force and peace treaties with two of its four Arab neighbors.



Looking at the Old City of Jerusalem

Agricultural settlements have turned into sprawling cities, the 1948 population of roughly 800,000 has swelled to more than 7 million and — perhaps most important of all — the Jewish state has become home for Jews from Russia, Europe, Iran, Ethiopia, Argentina, Egypt, North America, India and too many other places to count.

Sixty years on, Israel has much to celebrate, having raised a vibrant, diverse and occasionally bewildering society virtually from scratch.

In all likelihood, Herzl would not even recognize the place.

"I think Herzl would be so perplexed," says veteran Israeli journalist Yossi Klein Halevi, a senior fellow at the Shalem Center, a conservative think tank in Jerusalem. "He wouldn't know in what proportion to be thrilled and disappointed. Israel bears no resemblance to what Herzl imagined, conceiving a Jewish state from the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire."

Herzl envisioned a socialist utopia that would combine the best of European culture and Jewish ingenuity. In his famous work "Altneuland," Arabs hardly merit mention.

Halevi says Herzl would find Israel's radical Jewish diversity most perplexing.

"The East-West mixture, the racial mixture of Israel, Ethiopian culture, Moroccan music — all the elements that make Israel so unpredictable and so interesting are elements Herzl couldn't conceive of sitting in Vienna in the beginning of the 20th century," Halevi says.

In many ways, however, Herzl's dream of a Jewish state has been fulfilled.

Israel has secured its place among the nations even though its leaders bemoan the existential threat posed by Iran and the demographic threat represented by Israeli Arabs. A state like any other, Israel boasts metropolitan cities, concert halls, theaters, centers of science and learning, skyscrapers, a stock exchange and a thriving non-profit sector.

Of course, as a state like any other, Israel also has poor people, failing schools, government corruption, run-down neighborhoods, traffic, drug problems and criminals.

And after 60 years, Israel still faces basic questions of existence and character most countries have resolved long ago: Can the state be both Jewish and democratic? What will the final borders of the country look like? Where, exactly, is the balance between religious and secular, Arab rights and Jewish character, change and preservation, future and history?

Sixty years on, the battle for Israel's soul is far from over.

Tel Aviv leftists debate right-wing

settlers about whether the final borders of the state should encompass the West Bank or run along the pre-1967 border. Secular yuppies from Herzliya lobby to be able to buy pork products and shrimp in their local supermarkets while Knesset-sanctioned inspectors slap fines on malls that open on Shabbat.

Russian Israelis say Israeli immigration policies unfairly exclude their non-Jewish relatives, while yeshiva rabbis warn that an influx of foreign laborers and non-Jewish immigrants erode the state's Jewish character. Arab Israelis from Jerusalem ask why their Palestinian cousins from nearby Bethlehem are barred from visiting them while a Jew from Chicago can become an Israeli citizen simply by showing up at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv with a letter from her rabbi.



Restored Bauhaus Apartment Building in Tel Aviv

These are the growing pains of a state that 60 years after its founding still hasn't quite decided what it wants to be.

Yet even as they struggle with these basic questions, Israelis are continuing to build the state.

One would be hard-pressed to find another country in the world that has experienced as rapid growth over the span of just six decades. That the growth has occurred amid frequent wars, the constant scourge of terrorism and other daily challenges has made it all the more remarkable.

And despite the apparent lack of natural resources in Israel — the country has no oil reserves to tap, no verdant breadbasket and a relatively small population — Jewish ingenuity has made Israel a center of innovation.

Israel has more companies listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange than any other outside the United States. The world's leading technology companies, including Intel, IBM and Microsoft, maintain extensive R&D facilities in Israel. The country has the



Tel Aviv skyscrapers rise behind 19th century German Templar settlement

highest proportion in the world of university graduates per capita. Outside of Europe and North America, Israel leads in the number of patent applications.

Israelis invented the video camera that fits inside a pill, giving doctors a new non-invasive way to view their patients' insides. Four young Israelis invented the first instant-messaging technology, known as ICQ, which was later sold to AOL. The disk-on-key, now almost universally used in place of diskettes, was created in Israel.

"Israel has the highest concentration of talent in the world," says Moshe Kaveh, the president of Bar-Ilan University.

Despite the worrisome headlines about Iran, Hezbollah's resurgence along the Lebanon border and Hamas' growing power in the Gaza Strip, Israel has become an increasingly stable, normal country. In 2007, terrorism-related deaths in Israel fell to 13 — the lowest level in years.

The question for Israel isn't so much whether people will be able to live in the country in 10, 20 or 30 years but whether they will want to.

After 60 years of focusing on survival, Israel must now address its internal challenges, Israelis say, particularly the ones that threaten national unity: the religious-secular gap, the Arab-Jewish gap, the rich-poor gap, the right wing-left wing gap.

This, essentially, is how Israel has developed throughout its six decades — always in a state of emergency, under the threat of wars or terrorism, and with the great questions of society still unanswered.

Yet all the while, Israelis have forged communities, launched companies, started rock bands, built cities, gone to cafes and raised their families. This perseverance — the carrying on of daily life, despite all the craziness in the country — is what makes Israel at 60 a story worth telling.



Reflections on Israel from Savannahians living there

A Continuing Miracle

from Daniel Kahn

After living in Israel for the past seven months, seeing this country turn 60 is something that I look forward to with great excitement. Through the countless wars and unforeseen events that this country has faced, it is quite clear to me that Israel is a country of miracles. The one thing that continues to fascinate me is the fact that no matter how grave the challenge or threat that Israel is faced with, it is always moving forward. From the cranes that fill the horizon in Netanya to the innovations in sci-



Daniel Kahn (r) with his father, David, sister, Abigail, and mother, Diane, on the Burma Road

ence and technology, nothing seems to slow Israel down. I look forward to watching this country continue to grow in the coming years.

Embracing the Diverse Collective

from Lisa Bodziner

People. When I walk outside of my apartment, I am taken by the people I encounter. Benyamin's markolet (mini-market) has just opened up, run for 45 years by an 80 year old Israeli man who grew up in the neighborhood. As I stroll along my little street, I encounter two more shop owners, Yemenites, the lady I call ishah yaffa (pretty lady) and her husband. They wait for business; there is always a siddur with him; I wonder, is he chanting psalms and prayers, hoping for wealth, a life of health, a life of peace?

I cross over Betzalel Street, named for



Morning prayers are said in a shop on Ben Yehuda Street

the biblical figure that was, as his name suggests, "on the side of G-d." Betzalel was instructed to build the tabernacle. The midrash explains Betzalel heard all that G-d told to Moshe, he was however, "on the side," therefore G-d only had to reiterate Betzalel's righteousness, skillfulness, talent, and strong heart. A simple street name carries me back through thousands of years of history and meaning, and also carries me forward as I think in wonderment of what this country has to offer, has to teach, and has to give.

I cut through the alley ways, where men are crawling out of their shteip'las (small schuls). Morning prayers have

been said; it's a regular day in Jerusalem. The Sephardim, the Ashkenazim, the Te'emanin, the French, the Americans, the Poles — everyone is heading to the shook. The smells of delicious Israeli and Turkish coffees brewing, fresh baklava baking, pitot ready to be stuffed for lunch, Maccabee beers ready to be tapped open, delight us all as we head to the shook.

The shook (market) is a microcosm of the Jewish people and the diversity of Israel today. What produce will you buy due to the Shmitta year? What Ethiopian spice for your green peppers? Which Russian liquor for your Shabbat after dinner drink? Will your challot come from the hippie natural bakery or from your neighbor who runs a bakery outside their house? The options are limitless as every person; every Jew, rich or poor, Israeli or American comes together at the shook. Musicians are playing in the road; the Rabbis are encouraging everyone to get home earlier to light Shabbat candles. Security guards monitor the entrances, secular Israelis are headed to Tel-Aviv for the weekend, and all of us together, standing at the shook, are the diverse collective. We sit at the same tables to eat falafel. We sit at the same tables to drink our Café Hillel coffees. We sit at the same tables to play shaishaish.

We should consider, what does it mean to be a collective of individuals, all with different laws, customs, codes, all with different mother-tongues, motherlands, colors of skin?

Israel, in 60 years, has brought an infinite diversity of people together, in one homeland. We, as Jews, whether inside or outside of the homeland, have an obligation to know that we are also a part of that diverse collective.



Lisa Bodziner

Greetings from the Holy City of Jerusalem

from Lee Rosenzweig Dor-Shav

As we prepare to celebrate the sixtieth year of the modern State of Israel, we are overwhelmed with a great mixture of emotion. My family and I are grateful to be living in the land of our fathers—to walk daily in the footsteps of history and to participate in its great adventure.

Our children proudly accept responsibility for building the Jewish homeland by serving in the army or doing other National Service. We share the growing pains—of which there are many—and take pride in the daily accomplishments and miracles. We are threatened from every side; our borders are not yet secure; tensions run high, but life is full of joy.

Holiday time is a national happening, felt on the street, in shops, school, radio and TV. It is shared by people from every corner of the earth and every variation of Jewish culture. The hills and fields are full of people enjoying the beauty of spring flowers. Even the youngest will remind us not to pick them because, "They should be for everyone to enjoy." I think the flowers are saying that despite the difficulties, the beauty of our land blooms



An ancient pathway in Jerusalem

forth.

This Independence Day is especially meaningful. It reminds us how far we have come and how far we still have to go!

Come! Share the journey, visit and experience the strength and beauty of our amazing country. Let us sing with all Am Yisrael the words of Hatikvah, "to be a free people in our own land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem."

Estate Home for Sale



**312 Jackson Woods Boulevard
Habersham Woods - Savannah, GA
Within walking distance of Synagogue**

Elegant 1 story 3000 sq ft Custom Brick Home in Prestigious HABERSHAM WOODS on Jackson Woods Blvd. Lg Beautifully Lndsp'd Lot, Bricked Privacy Wall, patio, & pool. Dbl Car Gar. w/Utly Rm., Lg Lndry Rm., 2 Mst Br., 2 Guest Br., 3 Full Ba, 1/2 Ba., Lg Den w/Fp, Wet Bar. Frml LR & DR.

Appt. only
912 354-1895 Or 656-9933.
\$425,000.00



One Girl's Ultimate Jewish Teenage Experience

from Naomi Bayla Gordon

I had booked a ticket to Israel with the group flight that was organized by the school. It was me and about 40 new faces with whom I'd spend the next ten months in seminary discovering our Jewish homeland.



Naomi Bayla Gordon (left) in Israel with Savannah friends Chana Frost, Ruchie Slatius, Bracha Garfunkel

Despite our exhaustion, once we arrived at our new home for the year we had a trip to the Kotel (Western Wall). This included Kriah (the tearing of one's clothing), some words from the Torah (Bible) and some personal time by the Kotel. It felt like it was too good to be true, like one was staring at a piece of art. To be standing at the one place in the world that everyone's Tifilah has come. WOW! Then the journey really began.

When traveling to different sites on our Tiyyulim (trips), it is as though all of the yearning from our previous years has become a reality. When touring the country we are accom-

panied by a tour guide who uncovers the history of the ground we walk on, providing an educational aspect to the Tiyyulim.

It has been very inspirational for me to be able to spend the chagim (holidays) in Jerusalem this past year. It was very thrilling walking down the streets filled with Sukkot (temporary dwellings). Families came together to have their festive meals and to sing traditional songs. During the holiday of Chanukah, it was so thrilling to see every window of each apartment twinkling with the Chanukah candles and to know that the great miracle of Chanukah happened here.

Along with the fun we are having, there are many keys to our future. Each class has brought new insights of everyday life, which has left us yearning for growth. The classes are a constant source of guidance, taught by those who support us daily. Many

of the subjects that we are studying seem to be more alive here in Israel, especially when you learn sections of the Prophets. While studying these holy writings and then visiting these places that others have talked about has made a great impression on me. 'This year brought me a tremendous amount of growth, independence, direction and most importantly, a deeper connection with my Creator.

May all of you have the opportunity to gain more depth and clarity to lead a more fulfilling life.

Naomi Bayla is the daughter of Rabbi Jeffrey and Shelley Gordon. She is studying at P'ninim Seminary in Jerusalem for a year.

Reflections on Israel's 60th birthday

from Steve and Thelma Miller

After living in Israel for most of the last 30 years, it is worth reflecting on our personal feelings on its 60th birthday. We often ask ourselves whether it was the correct decision for ourselves and for our children to come here rather than immigrating to a Western country.

The country is very Western in its technology but the people in many ways are similar to the type of people in the area in which it is situated. The Zionism which we saw when Israel was established is basically dead. This has been replaced by religiously based Zionism brought to this country by Jews who emigrated from Arab countries and by the local religious population.

Israel has also changed from an egalitarian country to a country where the gap between the rich and poor is growing wider all the time with many conflicts between different sectors of



Steve and Thelma Miller

society. There is continual change, politically, socially and culturally which makes Israel an exiting country to live in. We never know what tomorrow might bring.

Are we happy we came here? Yes and no.

We love the excitement of living here with our family and being with fellow Jews but we miss the calm, the caring and the community of Savannah.

How Savannah Helps Israel, One Student at a Time

from Beverly Kramer

For many college students, spring break means sandy beaches, gallons of beer, and wild parties in destinations like Miami Beach and Acapulco.

This March, I decided I wanted to do something different for spring break. I traveled with over 100 other college students to Israel on Jewish National Fund's Alternative Spring Break volunteer trip. For six days, we worked in vineyards, farms, and forests in the Negev Desert in order to bring much needed assistance to the residents of these communities. We cleared land, painted old buildings, and insulated a farmhouse with mud.

One of the places we worked was a single-family farm. Originally, there were three families that worked on the farm together, but as time passed, two had to leave. Now, there are only three people living on that farm: a man, his wife, and their four-month old baby. This one man is responsible for several acres of farmland. His farm grows grapes to make wine, but as he is the only one working on the farm, he only is able to produce a batch of wine every four years or so. He told us that because of the work we did, he would be able to make wine this year.

Although JNF is most famous for planting forests and creating green areas in Israel, the organization aides Israel in countless other ways, which I was able to learn about on my trip. Building irrigation systems, roads, and infrastructure for new communities



Beverly Kramer farming the Negev

are all part of JNF's work.

Alternative Spring Break is sponsored by various JNF benefactors who paid for the trip's expenses. In order to participate, I was required to raise at least \$1,050 in donations which will go directly to JNF's Blueprint Negev campaign to populate, develop, and preserve the Negev Desert.

I found that the people of the Savannah community were so willing and eager to donate to JNF. In just a few days of fundraising, I was able to not only meet my minimum goal, but to actually raise over \$1,300 for the land and people of Israel. Thank you, Savannah, for participating in such an important mitzvah!

Beverly Kramer is the daughter of Andy and Cherie Kramer. She is a sophomore at the University of Maryland.

Your connection to

Jewish Savannah
Synagogue Life
The Savannah Jewish News
Jewish Family Services
Israel Mission Travel
Yom HaShoah remembrance
Shaliach Program
Theatre, Concerts, Film
Political Advocacy
Israel @ 60 Festival
Family Education
Weekly Email Bulletins



Contact us to find out about volunteer and leadership opportunities



2008 JEA Golf Classic

The JEA will be hosting its' 2008 Golf Classic Fundraiser on May 12th, 2008 at The Savannah Golf Club.

The JEA Golf Classic is a great day of golf supporting the JEA. Last years golf outing was a sellout! Michael Kooden and Danny Klugman's team won first place. We had great prizes and plenty of food and drinks.

Don't miss the 2008 Classic. Registration forms will be mailed soon.

For more information, please contact Kim Thebo at the JEA 355.8111 or kim@savj.org.

AARP Defensive Driving Class

Please reserve both June 22nd and 29th, 1:00-5:00 PM (8 hrs. total) for AARP Defensive Driving class. For Drivers who want a discount on their auto insurance. Materials provided by instructor. **Make checks payable to class instructor on the first day of class. Call 912-355-8111 to RSVP. Class size is limited.**

Savannah Arts Academy Silver Winds Ensemble Thursday, May 15th - 7:00 pm FREE & Open to the Public

This program is titled “Dance” and is a musical presentation of classical dance music written by great classical composers.

Each year, SWE members audition and are selected to the Governor’s Honors Program, various University honor bands, the Georgia Music Educators Association District One Honor Band and others. The Georgia House of Representatives and State Senate has commended Silver Winds on several occasions in the area of performance.

Michael Hutchinson, SWE’s conductor, now in his 25th year of teaching, was named Savannah Arts Academy’s 2000 Teacher of the Year.

Please join Silver Winds for a magical music extravaganza!



Harvey Rubin Award

We are now accepting nominations and applications for the Harvey Rubin Award. As some of us may recall Harvey Rubin was the son of Irvin & Madeline Rubin, brother to Abram Rubin and Elise Shernoff, and nephew to Ruth Sadler. Throughout his life Harvey displayed a commitment to athletics, especially in the area of Youth Athletics. With this in mind Barney & Ruth Sadler established the Harvey Rubin Memorial Fund. The Harvey Rubin Award has been given to youth JEA athletes in honor of their accomplishments.

To receive the Harvey Rubin Award one must be a JEA member for at least 3 years and must have participated in at least 1 sport per year (it need not be the same sport each year) for at least 3 years. He/she must have participated on a varsity level team for at least 1 season, must have displayed exceptional sportsmanship while participating in athletics, must have displayed leadership in the community through volunteerism, youth group participation, etc.; carry an above average grade level in his/her school work and have a history of good conduct in his/her school. The candidate must be nominated by a member of the JEA.

The award has been given since 1988. The past five recipients include, Alex Zerden, Daniel Brody, Steffi Yellin, Aaron Kooden and Sean Dane – Kellogg.

An application must be filed with the Harvey Rubin Award Committee by May 20. The winner will be announced at the JEA Annual Meeting on May 29th.

Contact Elaine Fox or Dawn Tanis for an application if you know a young athlete who would qualify.

MAKE A SPLASH IN 2008!

JEA TORNAADOES SWIM TEAM

Our program provides an environment where children of all talents can participate and feel as though they have contributed to the team’s success. All children are welcome to join the team as long as they can swim safely. You don’t have to be fast to be on the team, you just have to want to come out and have fun!

FOR KIDS AGE 5 AND UP

Registration:

Thru April 25th	\$100/Members
	\$125/Non-Members
After April 25th:	\$125 Members
	\$150/Non-Members

Swimming builds strong bones & lean muscles, discipline, confidence and self-esteem.

First Practice: Monday, May 19th



*Jeff Burkhamer's
“Shooting for the Stars”
Basketball Camp Here at the JEA*

**June 30th-July 3rd
Boys and Girls ages 6-16**

Join Coach Burkhamer and the AASU Men’s Basketball Team for a session on basketball FUNDamentals.

\$85/Members \$100 Non/Members



Kids Klub

**2 years - Kindergarten
Monday-Thursday 3-6 pm
Friday 3-5 PM**

PRICE: \$200 (per month)
NON-MEMBERS: \$240
ACTIVITIES: \$45 (per month)
TRANSPORTATION: \$20 for 1/2 days
\$25 for full days

Featuring:

Mon - Cooking
Tue - Art with Maggie
Wed - Gymnastics with Coach Wayne
Thu - Sports with Coach Dawn
Fri - Nature Walks

Must Sign Up One Day Prior



Club U

**1st - 4th Graders
Monday-Thursday 3-6 pm
Friday 3-5 PM**

PRICE: \$200 (per month)
NON-MEMBERS: \$240
ACTIVITIES: \$45 (per month)
TRANSPORTATION: \$20 for 1/2 days
\$25 for full days

Featuring:

Mon. - Art with Maggie
Tues. - Sign Language
Wed. - Gymnastics
Thurs. - Water Kickboxing
Fri. - Sports

Must Sign Up One Day Prior





Sunday, May 4th, Noon-4:00 PM

Test your skills! Boys and girls ages 8-13 may participate in this **FREE** event. Registration is the day of the event.

Basketball - 12 Noon in the Large Gym

Tennis - 1 PM on the Racquetball Courts

Soccer - 2 PM on the Soccer Field

Track & Field - 3 PM on JEA Back Field

Participants MUST fill out waiver form and provide a copy of birth certificate to verify age.
Winners in each age group and gender category will go on to compete in the Regional Skills Competition in Springfield, GA, on May 30th.



July 7-25, 2008

Registration Deadline—May 30th
Rising 4th-9th Graders

\$190—Full Day of JEA & Drama
\$100—Drama Camp Only

Choose from Acting Basics; Costuming, Stage Make-Up and Program Design; Dance & Movement; Set Design & Construction; Storytelling or Theatre Games/Improv.

Drama Camp is part of JEA camp and children can choose to do one or both.

Call 355-8111, ext. 225 for more information.

Fitness Schedule

Activity	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Adult						
Indoor Pool	9 AM-5 PM	7 AM-9 PM	7 AM-9PM	7 AM-9 PM	7 AM-9 PM	7 AM-4 PM
Master Swim		5-6 AM		5-6 AM		5-6 AM
Spin Class			8:00 AM		8:00 AM	
Firm It Up		8:30 AM		8:30 AM		8:30 AM
Pilates			8:30 AM		8:30 AM	
Open Basketball		12-2 PM		12-2 PM		12-2 PM
Aquasize		10 AM	10 AM		10 AM	10 AM
Gentle Yoga		10:30 AM		10:30 AM		
Chair Yoga					11:30 AM	
Dynamic Yoga		7 PM				
Gentle Flow Yoga					7 PM	
Tai Chi				10 AM		
Sr. Aerobics		10:30 AM			10:30 AM	
Fencing			6 PM		6 PM	
Eve. Water Aerobics		6:30 PM	6:30 PM		6:30 PM	
Women's Self Defense			6 PM		6 PM	
Wallyball			6 PM	7:30 PM Men Only	6 PM	
Open Court Racquetball		4-6 PM	4-6 PM	4-6 PM	4-6 PM	4-5 PM
Kids						
Karate		5:30 PM		5:30 PM		
Jr. Swim		4 PM		4 PM		
Dance (Tap, Jazz, Ballet)		4 PM	4 PM	4 PM	4 PM	



Weekly Camp Themes

Week 1: The Great Outdoors (June 16-20)

Week 2: Dancing and Soccer (June 23-27)

Week 3: Clown Camp (June 30-July 3)

Week 4: Water Week (July 7-11)

Week 5: Basketball & Cooking (July 14-18)

Week 6: Gymnastics & Floor Hockey (Jul. 21-25)

Week 7: Volleyball & Pottery (Jul. 28-Aug. 1)

Week 8: Color War (Aug. 4-8)

SPECIALTY CAMPS—All specialty camps run on a different daily schedule.

JEA Theatre Camp: Let your dramatic side shine and have fun playing games, learning lines and meeting new friends. We have a troop of actors waiting to help you become a stronger and better actress/actor.

Armstrong Basketball Camp: Join Jeff Burkhamer and the AASU men's basketball team for a week of skills development and basketball fun!

L.I.T.: For campers 7th grade and up! Wondering what to do this summer? We have it covered. We will be going on 3 extended trips, daily trips and so much more. Our awesome trips will be to Orlando, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. This program will run from June 16th to August 8th. When teens are not going on trips, they will be aiding counselors.

Lunch: The JEA maintains a strict kosher facility so that everyone can participate in meals. Please send your child with a Kosher Dairy or Parve lunch Monday - Thursday. Fridays include a special cookout lunch for your child (hamburgers and hot-dogs).

SWIMMING:

It's not summer without **SWIMMING!** All campers will receive lessons four times a week, plus free swim daily. Swim class will be divided by age and ability and will run for 30 minutes. It is not only instructional, but also fun. The K'toni campers will learn basic skills as well as water safety. The Yeladim campers will learn basic skills - stroke development, as well as Red Cross age-appropriate water safety skills. The Chaverim campers will learn stroke development, deep-end skills and junior lifeguard drills.



Family Discounts: A 5% discount is offered for each additional child from the same family when enrolled in the same camp session. The discount will apply to the lower fee and does not apply to extended care or specialty camps.

Scholarships: Financial assistance is available so every child can come to camp, regardless of ability to pay. Submit your camp application, scholarship request form and a \$25 deposit. Requests are kept confidential and are awarded based on a demonstrated need basis. Applications for financial assistance are available at the JEA front desk.



University of West Georgia

Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, May 15th at 1:30 pm
FREE Lunch Time Concert at the JEA

The University of West Georgia Jazz Ensemble is a band of musicians under the direction of Dr. Daniel Bakos, professor of music at UWG (Carrollton). The ensemble performs big band jazz music of famous and historic bands such as Count Basie, Buddy Rich, Duke Ellington, and Stand Kenton, and more contemporary works from artists such as Tom Kubis, Lew Anderson, John Fedchock and others. Chris Vadala, Vince DiMartino, and Gary Foster are some of the well-known musicians who have played with the ensemble.

The ensemble performs extensively throughout the Southeast, toured Europe in 2001, and currently is looking toward a second European tour. The jazz ensemble hosts the annual Sunbelt Jazz Festival during April. The Jazz Ensemble will present a concert, free to the public, at the JEA immediately following the Senior Adult Lunch Program at 1:30 PM on Thursday, May 15th.



A MOVIE & BEER!*

7:00 PM at the JEA. FREE to Members.
FREE Beer, wine, beverages,
popcorn and peanuts.
*Adults 21 and over only please

May 15th—*Fictitious Marriage*—This dark comedy about life, love and lies focuses on a quiet high school teacher, husband and father who sets out from his Jerusalem home for a trip to New York -- and is detoured by a midlife crisis to the Hotel California in Tel Aviv. A powerful, provocative film, *Fictitious Marriage* courageously confronts the myths of everyday existence with intelligence, insight and humor.

May 29th—*James’ Journey to Jerusalem*—In an imaginary village, James is chosen to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. At the airport, James is suspected of trying to infiltrate the country in order to work illegally. He is jailed and destined for deportation. As James prays to God to allow him to complete his mission, a miracle occurs. A stranger posts bail for him. It soon becomes clear that James' freedom has a price - his savior is a manpower agent, who rescues illegal migrant workers in exchange for employing them in hard labor jobs. From then on, James' journey to Jerusalem turns into an unpredictable journey through the cruel heart of our economic system. With good teachers, a bit of luck, and some lateral thinking, James learns the tricks of the game and plays it towards an inevitable end.

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



Art at the JEA



Carol Fleischaker Cohen

This artwork will be for sale and for viewing from May 1-30, 2008

Moments of clear understanding of life have been the ones that have led me to art and to the producing of spiritual art.

For the past twenty five years I have studied Hermetic literature, Kabbalah and the related mysticism of other religions in an attempt to better understand what I do. Yet, the knowledge of the printed word seems to pale to the creative experience which comes infrequently, but is more than worth pursuing and sharing.

After graduating from UGA in Athens, I spent thirty years as a Visual Arts teacher. I have attended honor seminars for the top teachers at the S.C. Governor’s School of the Arts and was an AP Master teacher. I have won several juried contests and love to teach, as well as produce.

Artist’s Reception - Sun., May 4th, 2-4 PM

May 2008

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Yom HaShoah <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Mah-Jongg</u> - 10:30 am <u>Senior Fitness</u> - 10:30 am <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm <u>Sr. Lunch Program</u> -1:30 pm <u>Yom HaShoah Program</u> -6 pm	2 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-4 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am	3
4 <u>Angel Of Ahlem</u> Screening - 11 am & 1:45 pm <u>Jr. Olympic Skills Competition</u> -12 pm <u>Art Gallery Reception</u> - 2-4 pm <u>JEA Speaker's Series Event</u> - 4 pm	5 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Gentle Yoga</u> - 10:35 am <u>Sr. Fitness</u> - 10:30 am <u>Senior Lunch</u> - 12:30 pm <u>Mah-Jongg</u> - 1 pm <u>Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	6 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Kibitzers Club</u> - 10 am <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	7 Yom Hazikaron <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Tai Chi</u> - 10 am <u>Gentle Yoga</u> - 10:35 am <u>Senior Lunch</u> - 12:30 pm <u>Bridge</u> - 1 pm <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm <u>Yom Hazikaron Program</u> - 7-8 pm	8 Yom Ha'atzma'ut <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Mah-Jongg</u> - 10:30 am <u>Senior Fitness</u> - 10:30 am <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm <u>Sr. Lunch Program</u> – 1:30 pm <u>Israeli Folk Dancing</u> - 6:00 pm	9 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-4 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am	10
11	12 <u>JEA Golf Outing-Savannah Golf Club</u> - 11:30 am <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Gentle Yoga</u> - 10:35 am <u>Sr. Fitness</u> - 10:30 am <u>Senior Lunch</u> - 12:30 pm <u>Mah-Jongg</u> - 1 pm <u>Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	13 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Kibitzers Club</u> - 10 am <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Yiddish</u> - 3 pm <u>Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	14 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Tai Chi</u> - 10 am <u>Gentle Yoga</u> - 10:35 am <u>Senior Lunch</u> - 12:30 pm <u>Bridge</u> - 1 pm <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	15 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Mah-Jongg</u> - 10:30 am <u>Senior Fitness</u> - 10:30 am <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm <u>Sr. Lunch Program</u> - West Georgia Jazz Ensemble - 1:30 pm <u>Movie & Beer Night</u> - 7 pm <u>Silver Winds Ensemble</u> -7 pm	16 Yom Yerushalayim <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-4 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am	17
18 <u>Israel @ 60 Celebration-Forsyth Park</u> - Noon-4 pm	19	20 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Kibitzers Club</u> - 10 am <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	21 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Tai Chi</u> - 10 am <u>Gentle Yoga</u> - 10:35 am <u>Senior Lunch</u> - 12:30 pm <u>Bridge</u> - 1 pm <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	22 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Mah-Jongg</u> - 10:30 am <u>Senior Fitness</u> - 10:30 am <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm <u>Sr. Lunch Program</u> – 1:30 pm <u>Israeli Folk Dancing</u> - 6:00 pm	23 Lag B'omer <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-4 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am	24
25 <u>JEA Pool Opening</u> -11 am	26 Memorial Day Fitness Center and Pool Open 9 am-5 pm Offices Closed	27 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Kibitzers Club</u> -10 am <u>Aquasize</u> -10 am <u>Yiddish</u> - 3 pm <u>Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	28 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Tai Chi</u> - 10 am <u>Gentle Yoga</u> -10:35 am <u>Senior Lunch</u> -12:30 pm <u>Bridge</u> -1 pm <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	29 <u>Indoor Pool</u> - 7 am-9 pm <u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Mah-Jongg</u> - 10:30 am <u>Senior Fitness</u> - 10:30 am <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm <u>Sr. Lunch Program</u> – 1:30 pm <u>JEA Annual Meeting</u> -7 pm	30	31



Reflections on Israel...

From a few Israelis now living in Savannah

Eshel Hershkovitz:

"To me Israel is everything...my heart, my soul, my life. I would give my life for Israel. I think service in the army, which pays so little it is almost like volunteering connects you to the land of Israel. When tourists ask me about Israel, I think of four things...Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, the sun and the beaches. Israel for me is a combination of spiritual life and energetic life. I come from a big city, Tel Aviv, where there is action and activities 24 hours a day, and still I can find a place to be quiet and where I can relax."

Eshel is a native Israeli who has lived in Savannah for the past two years and is currently working at the JEA.

Motti Locker:

"Israel for me is a place where I feel safe, where everyone thinks and speaks my language and the place where my history and my future are."

Motti was Savannah's first community shaliach and is currently working as executive director at Congregation Agudath Achim.

Danit Bornstein:

"I have been thinking about the meaning of Israel for me and the only word that comes to mind is HOME. It's where I was born, where my parents were born, where my whole family is, where I built myself as a person. I am happy to say that I feel very much at home in Savannah as well and that is something I could not say about other places that we lived in."

Danit has been in America since 2000 and in Savannah since 2002. She is a full-time mother and homemaker and also designs jewelry and does other crafts from her home.

Ido Friedman:

"Israel is a modern miracle, but it still has a way to go. It has achieved so much, but now Israel must deal with the issues of its less fortunate citizens — the elderly, the homeless and those who are sick and weak."

Ido has been in America for 18 years and is a successful podiatrist in Savannah.

About our Israel @ 60 Designs

Our Israel @ 60 posters and banners were designed by local artist Teresa Farley. Though Teresa was born and raised in Iowa, she has called Savannah home for nearly 12 years.

Teresa began painting as a child. In 1989, her work was selected to hang in the U. S. Capitol. She studied at Iowa State University and received a degree in Drawing/Painting/Printmaking and then received a Master's of Fine Arts degree in 1996 from Savannah College of Art and Design. While at SCAD, Teresa ventured into computers and graphic design, creating eclectic designs that draw on her fine arts background.

She still paints, mostly with oils and pastels, favoring portraits of people and animals that are photo-real-

istically detailed but sensitive to her subjects.

Teresa's works have been shown at the Photoworks Gallery and the Pinnacle Gallery in Savannah, GA, and she was recently a featured artist in LIA (Life Imitating Art) Magazine. Teresa is also an ADDY award winning graphic designer, freelancing for several local companies including Travelhost Magazine, the Savannah Riverboat Company, and Cunningham, Tallman and Pennington.

Teresa is available for freelance or commission work and can be reached at tfarleygraphics@bellsouth.net or (912) 398-6293. You can view her paintings at www.portraitsbyteresa.com.



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Distance Learning — the Savannah/Israel Way

By Joseph Shaw

Ten-year-old Malka Shaw reads into the mouthpiece of the headset which rests atop her light brown hair tied back in a pony-tail. Her petite body doesn't fit her father's office chair, but nobody notices the incongruity as she sits alone in the quiet room of her home in Jerusalem while she reads to a listener 7,000 miles away.

The listener is Malka's great-grandmother, Sylvia Slotin, a busy young woman of 81, who is helping Malka learn to read English. She corrects Malka's mistakes, asks questions, and explains unfamiliar words to her phone-pal.

"The only thing that reminds me of my age is my age," says Sylvia.

Sylvia's grandson, Joseph Shaw, has lived in Israel for eighteen years, where he and his wife Chana are raising Malka and her siblings. Their children speak English at home but Hebrew everywhere else. Malka's parents, who are teachers, want their children to know English better than



Malka Shaw practices reading in English with her Great Grandmother

just a second language.

"Her English teacher suggested that she read to an adult for 20 minutes a night. Well, with four other children with similar assignments, it became impractical for us," said Malka's mother. But her father came up with an idea. He phoned his grandmother in Savannah and asked if she would be willing to help by listening to Malka read several times a week. Sylvia was more than happy to oblige. "I had a copy of the book sent to my grandmother so she could follow along as Malka reads." He ordered the book from an online discount book-seller which, coincidentally, funds literacy initiatives around the world.

Six weeks later, Malka finished the 340-page book. Her father ordered the next book in the series to be sent to Savannah.

What does Malka say about it?

"I'm happy that I'm learning to read English, and even happier that my Great-Grandma and I have become special friends."



Sylvia Slotin follows along in Savannah

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Cookbook Offers Recipes for Food and Remembrance

by Sherry Dolgoff

There are so many wonderful cookbooks these days that one more might go unnoticed. But when someone dear to me gave me the Holocaust Survivors Cookbook as a gift, I knew at once that this particular cookbook could never go unnoticed. This is not your ordinary cookbook. It is not divided into sections such as soups, appetizers, and desserts. This cookbook is different.

Recipes from families of Holocaust survivors — that may include soup and dessert — are placed together along with the story of that survivor. The editors ask that as you serve the recipes you also read the story of the survivor. By doing this you will keep both the recipes and the stories alive for years to come.

So often we remember the millions of Jews who died in the Holocaust. That is very important. Now we have a way to celebrate some of the survivors' lives and memories in our own homes.

The two women who compiled and edited the book, Joanne Caras and Gisela Zerykier, traveled to Israel to visit their children who had made aliyah soon after their marriage. The young couple volunteered at the Carmei Ha'ir Soup Kitchen. Carmei Ha'ir serves over 500 meals every day to poor hungry Israelis. Waiters take orders and serve meals to people at their ta-



bles. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Those who are able to pay do; those who cannot pay do not. There is a tzedekah box near the door.

Joanne was so moved by what she saw that she decided to raise money to support the soup kitchen with a new book of Jewish recipes. Soon after, Gisela's mother, a Holocaust survivor from Belgium, passed away and Gisela wrote a moving tribute to her mother. After reading it, Joanne thought of a new concept for the cookbook: great Jewish recipes from the families of Holocaust survivors, accompanied by the stories of those survivors.

I don't know about you, but for me, there is meaning above and beyond delicious recipes. These are stories you want to read and share with children and grandchildren. These books will be available at the JEA during the Holocaust Book Fair from April 30th to May 6th. They are \$36 each and we have only 50 books to sell. I look forward to seeing you there.

The Jewish Influence in My Art

by Carol Fleischaker Cohen

As with all learned skills, Art and its many expressions take different directions as the originator learns and grows in all life areas. So it has been with my work. Jewish themes such as the Chuppa, the state of Ecstasy, the Book of Life, Soul Mates, the Universal Unconscious, Creation, Zim Zum, the 23rd letter of the Hebrew Alphabet and enlightenment, have evolved into visual thoughts on canvas.

Knowledge and growth in one area effect changes in the expression of others. I have searched continuously for hints of knowledge which could improve the way in which my Art might better communicate my experiences and feeling. The first such knowledge came when I read that the words of Hashem were black fire on white fire and that the white fire was the real word, but we have lost the understanding of this negative space. It was a wake-up call for me, for artists work with negative space as much as positive space. Three quarters of the world are totally unaware of negative space. So I began my search. I initially was interested in the mystical aspects of communication with Higher Entities, I wandered through literature on the major religions through Theo-

sophical and Theological approaches, up the Meditation Experience and down the Hermetic Ladder of arcane secrets. After more than two decades of searching, I came back to my roots (don't we all?). I made a hair-pin curve back to my home in Savannah and the traditions and the Teachings of my People, The Jews. I found that we stand eye to eye with any other practical religion and esoteric philosophy. I became fascinated with both practical Kabbalah and Hermetic principals such as "As above so below" or "All is mind: Everything is thought." The Baal-Shem felt that Kabbalistic knowledge was to be shared with everyone. I attempt to do this through my art.

Why are there so many creative people of Jewish heritage in the "ARTS"? Everyone except the Jew is shocked to hear we are but one quarter of one percent (0.0025) of the World's population. What makes us creative out of all proportion to our numbers (beside pushy parents)? Could it be the inheritance of our ancestors in both genes and a love of searching for better answers? I'm convinced that I have been the recipient of such Jewish gifts and I am thankful.

Carol Cohen's art is on display in the JEA Art Gallery for the month of May.

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Zionist Organization of America upon the declaration of the State of Israel, May 15, 1948. Pictured: Morris Horovitz (?), Ida (Slotin) Wilensky, Philip Bodziner (?), Benjamin Silverman, William Hartsfield (Mayor of Atlanta), Jack M. Levy, Emanuel Lewis, Rabbi A. I. Rosenberg, Abe Rabhan



Bonds for Israel dinner, 1961.
l-r: Ethyl (Richman) Rosenzweig,
Abba Eban, Isadore "Izzy" Karpf



Blake Berman, c. 2000



United Jewish Appeal food and clothing drive, November 1946. l-r: Elizabeth (Eisenman) Bernstein, Hyla (Lewis) Hirsch, Edith (Berman) Silverman, Ruth (Weiser) Silverman, Sophie (Richman) Black, Minnie (Bronitsky) Feinberg Robbins



The Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan visits Savannah for a program of song and dance at the JEA, July 1987



Savannah's celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary, May 1998: Scott Spech and Millicent "Millie" Melaver

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Lesson of Tolerance Repeatedly Taught at Rambam

In Parshas Eikev, Chapter 10, Verse 19, it states the Jewish law of being kind to a convert because we were once strangers in a strange land. The lesson found within this mitzvah is the need to understand how important it is for an individual to be tolerant, sensitive and caring. The commentator Rashi explains the commandment by expressing that a person should not say about others what is true about himself. This idea emphasizes not judging an individual until you are in their shoes and to keep in mind that we ourselves are not perfect.

The lesson of tolerance and how one should act is a lesson that repeatedly comes up in the learning experience of Rambam children in their Chumash (Bible) studies. What is beautiful about Rambam is when the lessons learned in Chumash are reinforced in the children's secular studies. Ms. Loring Fields' 8th grade Social Studies class is learning about tolerance. I accompanied the 8th grade class with Ms. Fields to go to the Inner City Night Shelter.

The children brought food that Ms. Marie (the school's cook) prepared and they served the 70 homeless individuals that came for dinner. The

children worked hard but at the same time were exposed to a group of people with whom they wouldn't ordinarily mingle. The children left appreciative of their own homes and families and proud of the deed they had done. They conversed with the homeless and marveled at how they were the reason for these people smiling and expressing gratitude that evening.

The eighth grade, as a continuation of their studies, visited Jenkins High School. They went onto the open field and were engaging with some moderately mentally challenged students. They were teaching the students how to play golf as they were preparing for the Special Olympics in which these students will be participating. The Jenkins High School students were so happy to see new faces. These students were so thrilled to have these children take the time to show them how to hit the golf ball, run and collect the balls for them and cheer them on! When it was time for the Rambam students to leave, there were hugs and lots of smiling, happy faces saying goodbye.



*Ester Y. Rabhan,
Rambam Day
School Principal*

Shalom School Celebrates 275 Years of Savannah Jewry

In this, my closing article for this school year, I would like to report on a special event where our Shalom School students had the opportunity to learn about and commemorate the two hundred seventy fifth anniversary of the founding of Judaism in the State of Georgia. Special thanks go to one of our most talented teachers, Teresa Victor, who devoted many weeks to the creation of special program materials geared to the interests and abilities of children from Kindergarten through Confirmation class.

In addition, to set the stage for our school-wide Georgia Anniversary Day, our children, under the creative direction of our wonderful art teacher, Rochelle Frank, prepared an extraordinary mural of the William and Sarah, the ship that carried the forty-two original Jewish settlers from England to the shores of Savannah in 1733.



*Teresa Victor, holding the game board
she designed for the children*

Gothic sanctuary, a place where many of the children have sat for services over the years. Phoebe Kerness, another docent, introduced the children to many details of Judaic symbolism found in the sanctuary, particularly in the extraordinary stained glass windows, as well as further information on the history of the congregation.

The children then returned to their classrooms and were furnished writing prompts for a page of a journal. They were encouraged to imagine what it would have felt like to be a teen in some previous part of the congregation's history from the time the conversos left Portugal, traveled through England, and lived in Savannah through some of the turbulent early times.

The younger children were treated to a board game created to trace the partially imaginative history of the historic 15th century Sephardic Torah from the time it was scribed to its current location at Mickve Israel Synagogue in Savannah, GA. They enjoyed pretending to see the history of the congregants through the eyes of the Torah as they moved from

space to space on the board game.

Each of our students explored an age-appropriate history of the families of the first Jews who sailed on the William and Sarah, landing in the colony of Georgia on July 11, 1733. Each student left with an appreciation of the history of the local community in which they live and study..."

B'Shalom.

The following, in Teresa Victor's own words and accompanied by appropriate photo illustrations, is a record our March 9 school-wide celebration:

"... (Our) students were introduced to the history of the early Jewish settlers in Savannah, Georgia's colonial capital. Each group was given an age-appropriate tour of the extensive collection of memorabilia housed in the museum at Congregation Mickve Israel. The tours were conducted by Savannah native Bobbie S. Levy, a regular docent of the sanctuary and museum.

The older children then completed a scavenger hunt to locate facts about the history of Savannah's Jews. The oldest children then moved to the historic 1876 neo-



*The third graders playing the wonderful board game
showing the journey of our historic Torah through the years*

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each child's education with Jewish history, laws and customs, language and values.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 30-Monday, May 5

Holocaust Book Fair

Student Holocaust Art Exhibit

All kinds of books about the Holocaust will be available for purchase. Student art works will be on display.

JEA lobby; daily

Thursday, May 1

Reading of the Names of Holocaust Victims

By volunteers

JEA; 9am – 9pm

Thursday, May 1

Savannah Community Yom Hashoah Observance

An Evening of Readings, Reflections and Remembrances featuring local students and participants of all ages presenting special readings, poems and dialogues about the Holocaust.

JEA; 7pm

Sunday, May 4

Angel of Ahlem

The documentary film will be shown, followed by a panel discussion with local Holocaust survivors and Ben Berkenwald, one of the survivors featured in Angel of Ahlem.

JEA; 11am—Coffee and bagels will be served; panel discussion, 12:15pm; second screening of the film, 1:45pm

Sunday, May 4

Olympic SkillsTest

For boys and girls ages 8-13.

Test your skills in basketball, tennis, soccer and track and field.

Registration is the day of the event.

JEA; Noon to 4pm

Sunday, May 4

Art Gallery Reception

Greet Carol Fleischaker Cohen, the May artist of the month.

JEA Art Gallery; 2-4pm

Wednesday, May 7

Yom Hazikaron

To honor the memory of the Fallen Heroes of Israel's Wars and Victims of Terrorism. Memorial service and screening of *A Hero in Heaven*.

JEA; 7pm

Monday, May 12

JEA 2008 Golf Classic

A great day of golf and fun, all in support of the JEA.

Savannah Golf Club; call Kim Thebo for information, 355-8111

Thursday, May 15

University of West Georgia Jazz Ensemble

Free concert by musicians under the direction of Dr. Daniel Bakos

JEA; 1:30pm

Thursday, May 15

A Movie and a Beer

"Fictitious Marriage"

JEA; 7pm; Free to members; Adults 21 and over only please.

Sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein.

Thursday, May 15

Savannah Arts Academy Silver Winds Ensemble

Free concert is open to the public

JEA Auditorium; 7pm

Sunday, May 18

Israel at 60 Festival in Forsyth Park

A fun-filled, festive event for the entire Savannah community.

Forsyth Park; Noon to 4pm

Thursday, May 22

A Movie and A Beer

"James' Journey to Jerusalem"

JEA; 7pm; Free to members; Adults 21 and over only please.

Sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein.

Friday, May 23

Deadline for Rubin Award Nominations

This award recognizes youngsters for their dedication to athletics, leadership and scholarship. Call Elaine Fox or Dawn Tanis at the JEA, 355-8111, for application or information.

Thursday, May 29

JEA Annual Meeting

Annual membership meeting, Installation of new Board members, awards presentations. Dessert and coffee will be served.

JEA; 7pm

Monday-Friday, June 16-August 8 Camp Savannah – Summer 2008

A summer of fun for children of all ages.

JEA; call 355-8111 for more information.

Monday, July 7

JEA Drama Camp opens

Program is for rising 4th through 9th graders. Registration deadline is May 30th.

JEA; call 355-8111 for more information.

Friday, July 11

275th Anniversary of Congregation Mickve Israel and Settlement of the Savannah Jewish Community

A weekend of programs and guest speakers are planned.

Mickve Israel; for more information, call 233-1547.

If you have an event that you would like included in the calendar, please submit it to Midge Schildkraut, mschildk@bellsouth.net or call 355-1839. Final determination is at the discretion of the editor.

Yom HaZikaron Program Honors American Hero

By Eyal Blank

During the last sixty years, more than twenty thousand Israeli soldiers and civilians died defending the State of Israel and her right to exist. Every year we honor their memory on Yom HaZikaron. The very next day we celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Is it a bit unusual to have a day of remembering and grieving and then, right after, to have twenty-four hours of joy and celebration? Perhaps, but that is the only normal

way for us in Israel – we remember those who can't be with us on joyous occasions and then we celebrate life, and we always feel like they are with us.

We will observe Yom HaZikaron this year on Wednesday, May 7th, at 7:00pm at the JEA with a memorial service followed by a screening of *A Hero in Heaven*.

Behind every Israeli soldier who died serving Israel there is a story: a story of family, friends, neighbors, people who met him or her once. And then there are stories we will never hear. *A Hero in Heaven* is the story of one of these very brave soldiers.

On August 1, 2006, Michael Levin was killed in combat at Aita-Al-Shaab in Lebanon. Born and raised in the United States near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Michael grew up in a traditional, loving Jewish home. At the young age of sixteen, Michael decided that he

wanted to move to Israel and join a front-line combat unit in the Israeli Defense Forces and defend his Jewish homeland. The story of how Michael made his dream come true is one of perseverance and incredible bravery. He was the only American to die in the 2006 war with Hezbollah and was buried in Israel's national military cemetery on Mount Herzl on Tisha B'Av. He was 22 years old. To this day, he is mourned throughout Israel as a true hero.

We believe we must never for-

get our fallen heroes, even when we are happy and joyful. We carry with us their smiles and laughter and we will always remember that they gave their lives for us and for Israel. We celebrate those lives — for who are we if not because of them?

What: Savannah's Yom HaZikaron Observance

When: Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Where: JEA

Time: 7:00 pm



Michael Levin's grave on Mount Herzl

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Local BBYO Win Chapters of the Year Awards

*Your Campaign Dollars at Work*Savannah's Wexler-Clark B'nai
B'rith Girls chapter and David Finn
AZA (boys) chapter were awarded
Chapters of the Year by the B'nai B'rith
Youth Organization's Dixie Council.
The awards were presented at the AprilSpring Convention in Columbia, South
Carolina. Dixie Council is made up of
chapters in Savannah, Charleston, Co-
lumbia and Augusta. Emily Kahn and
Ross Kooden are the local chapter Pres-
idents. Savannah's David Finn chap-
ter also won Program of the Year forPictured: Dixie Council officers—Ross Kooden is in the back
row, 3rd from left; Sheeri Borenstein and Caroline Eichholz are
in the front row, 2nd from right and 2nd from left, respectivelyits new member
kidnapping/in-
duction program.
Sheeri Bornstein
was elected Dixie
Council Sh'lichah
(coordinator of
Judaic Program-
ming) and Caro-
line Eichholz was
elected Mazkirah
(secretary and
coordinator of
fundraising and
sisterhood pro-
gramming). RossKooden was also elected Moreh (the
new member recruiter/trainer).The Dixie Council Tree of Life
Award was presented to Ross and
Barney Sadler for signing up at least
six AITs (new members) for the year.
The Spring Convention was the culmi-nation of BBYO's 2007-2008 program
year.*BBYO is known as the largest and most ef-
fective provider of identity-building and lead-
ership development programs for Jewish teens.
Savannah BBYO is a beneficiary agency of the
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Vital Statistics

WED

Lynn and Dick Berkowitz of Sa-
vannah announce the marriage of their
daughter, Abby Reiss to Brian Eric
Nelson, son of Steve and Terry Nelsonof Clermont, FL. The wedding took
place on March 8, 2008 at the Agudath
Achim Synagogue in Savannah and
was officiated by Rabbi Ken Leitner
and Rabbi Donald Tam of Atlanta.Abby is the granddaughter of Fran-
ces and Julius Rudikoff of Savannah
and the late Abe and Estelle Berkowitz
of Birmingham, AL. Brian is the grand-
son of Terry and Bob Dill of Clermont,
FL and Dayton and Pauline Nelson of
Bellingham, MA. The couple resides in
Orlando, FL.**BORN***A son, Benjamin Aaron, to Jill and
Ken Goldstein of Atlanta on Febru-
ary 28, 2008. Grandparents are Sandy
and Skippy Goodman of Savannah and
Judy and Ronnie Goldstein of Atlanta;
great grandmother is Bea Goodman. A
brit milah was performed in Atlanta by
Rabbi Shmuel Khoshkrman.**Beyond the party. Beyond the family.
Beyond the hora. Beyond all the gifts**How do we make our
children's Bar and Bat
Mitzvah the life-changing
meaningful experience
that we wish it could be?
What can we do as par-
ents to make this impor-
tant rite of passage an
introduction to life as a
responsible, giving Jew
and human being?The Jewish Community
Foundation of Savan-
nah's B'nei Tzedek youth
philanthropy program
offers an engaging solu-
tion. By giving kids the
opportunity to be philan-
thropists, we place in
their hands perhaps the
most important B'nai
Mitzvah gift we can give
them—we teach them how
to give.By learning to give, our
children become more
conscious of the world
around them.B'nai Tzedek is simple:
Your teen is invited to
establish an individual
B'nai Tzedek fund by
making an initial gift of
\$250 (or more) to the
Foundation. The Foun-
dation will match the
initial \$250 contribu-
tion in your child's
name. Each year your
teen will be able to
donate a percentage of
his or her fund to a
qualified charity.**For more information
on creating your child's
B'nai Tzedek Fund at
the Jewish Community
Foundation of Savannah
please contact Lynn
Levine at lynn@savj.org
or (912)355-8111.**Hannah Slotin created a B'nai
Tzedek Fund after her Bat
Mitzvah in December, 2007**JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SAVANNAH**
*Savannah Jewish Federation***Photos by Becky**
Professional Photography7805 waters ave suite 1b * savannah ga * 31406 * 912 401 0136
www.photosbybecky.net * becky@photosbybecky.net**For Sale, Two Bedroom /Two
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6401 Habersham in a Gated
Community , Unit 5A, \$205,000.
If interested, please contact
Harvey Gray at 404-870-7376 or
by email at hgray@grsmb.com.**

On The Personal Side

MISCELLANY. Savannah businessman and environmentalist **Martin Melaver**, CEO of Melaver Inc. was a featured speaker for Fortune Magazine's first-ever "Brainstorm: GREEN Conference" April 21-22 in Pasadena, Calif. This was an invitation-only event with business and environmental leaders gathered to discuss the impact of the green movement. Melaver was part of a breakfast roundtable on the future of green cities... **Linda Zoller** is currently serving as Chairwoman of Savannah's Youth Futures Authority Board. She is leading the agency's response to a challenge from Mayor Otis Johnson to tackle the problems of youth in Savannah... **Milton Towbin** and the Greenberg family want to thank everyone for their well wishes, kind thoughts and prayers during his recent illness.

ACADEMIA. **Hadley Gordon**, a student at St. Andrew's School and the daughter of Marc and Kelly Gordon, has been accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum. Gordon will join a select group of students in Washington, D.C. October 13-19 to earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions.

She will examine the characteristics of American leadership during times of national challenge and prosperity. Forum delegates will also participate in small-group discussions and exercises to experience firsthand how successful leaders develop strategies, make decisions, build consensus, and foster change.

Gordon was nominated and ac-

cepted for the honor based on outstanding scholastic merit, civic involvement and leadership potential.

The program is coordinated by People to People Student Leadership Programs to fulfill the vision President Dwight D. Eisenhower had for fostering world citizenship when he founded People to People during his presidency in 1956.



Hadley Gordon

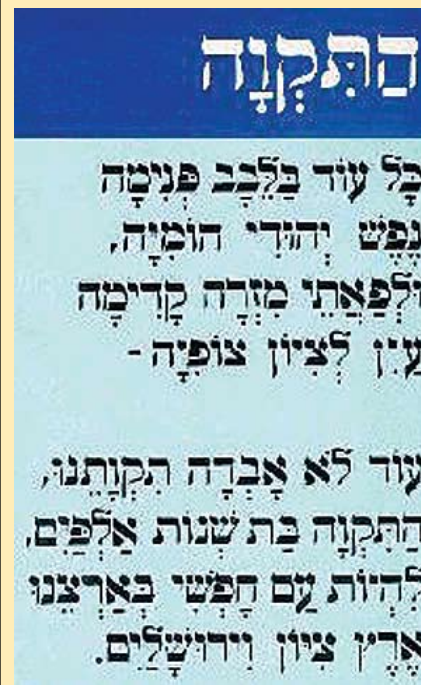
Be a Part of a Record Breaking Event

Join us at the JEA on Wednesday, May 7, when Savannah will sing Hatikva simultaneously with other Jewish communities all around the world in honor of Israel's 60th anniversary.

Hatikva – the hope – is Israel's national anthem. Even before Israel became a country in 1948, the song was a popular representation there of the dreams of the Zionists for a homeland.

This world-wide event will be held in hundreds of cities and is being monitored for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records in hopes of setting the record for the "most people singing an anthem simultaneously."

We will be singing at exactly 3:50pm (10:50pm in Israel). Let's make history!



Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Louis B. Eisner, M.D.

Who died April 9, 2008.

He is survived by four daughters, Erika Eisner and husband Martin Young, Gainesville, Florida; Adrienne Eisner and husband Asaf Rosental, Bradenton, Florida; Jessica Eisner and husband Eric Clark, Hartford, Connecticut; Kate Larsen, Ponte Vedra, Florida; and a grandchild Eliana Eisner Young. He is also survived by a sister, Sara N. Eisner, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Remembrances: Bnai Brith Jacob Synagogue.

Celia S. Hirsch

Who died March 30, 2008.

Surviving are her loving husband of 70 years, David Hirsch; three sons, Alvin S. Hirsch and his wife, Kay, Carl M. Hirsch and his wife, Lee, and Marvin R. Hirsch and his wife, Barbara; a

daughter-in-law, Lina Hirsch; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; one sister, Gert Barr, and one brother, Sammy Scheer and his wife, Maryanne.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah, Post Office Box 13190, Savannah, Georgia 31416.

Sadye Yermovsky Poller

Who died March 29, 2008.

Survivors include daughters, Renee Teller of Athens, Georgia, and Marcia Poller Garon of Bend, Oregon; a son, Michael Poller of Savannah; a brother, Ralph Yermovsky of Waycross and a grandchild, Roseanne.

Remembrances: Vista Care Hospice of Athens, GA.

Herbert S. Traub, Jr.

Who died March 20, 2008

He is survived by his son, Herbert S. Traub, III, daughter-in-law, Dr. Ulrike Patzl, and grandson, Herbert S.

Traub, IV, of Vienna, Austria; his son, Richard Lilienthal Traub, daughter-in-law, Mary Whiting, and granddaughters, Sarah and Rebecca Traub of Blue Hill, Maine; daughter, Kimberly Kron Traub Ribbens and grandsons, Pieter and Lucas Ribbens of Savannah; his brother, Stephen L. Traub and sister-in-law, Elizabeth Traub of Savannah, and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation, Herbert S. Traub Jr. Award, 11935 Abercorn Street, Savannah, 31419.

Gladys Epstein

Who died March 2, 2008 in Birmingham, Alabama.

She is survived in Savannah by her daughter, Marlene (Michael) Dobbs and by other loving family, elsewhere.

Remembrances: charity of your choice.

Anyone interested in advertising in the Savannah Jewish News should call Midge Schildkraut at 355-1839 or email her at mschildk@bellsouth.net.

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Celebrating Israel's 60th Birthday!

Sunday, May 18, 2008
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2 pm • Forsyth Park Main Stage

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