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JEA: 110 and Counting

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Educational Alliance is proud to announce that in the first ten months of the current fiscal year the JEA has seen a net increase in membership of 110 units. In a time of economic uncertainty, the JEA is a great investment in Health & Wellness. Add to that, great classes, cultural opportunities and superior facilities, the JEA remains at the "center of the community."

JEA President, Scott Samuels stated, "Our growth is a clear message that our programs and services are resonating with the Savannah community. Members are telling their friends who are coming to sample what we have to offer. Most of those people then become new members!"

With continued membership



growth over the upcoming year, it is anticipated that there will be continued investment in the physical plant. In the last year there was significant investment in Aquatics as the outdoor pool was completely rehabbed with a new surface, pumps, lounges, chairs, and recreation equipment.

There also was significant investment in upgrading the indoor pool including the purchase of new mats for the deck around the pool and additional water exercise equipment.

JEA Executive Director, Adam Solender stated, "Nothing is more exciting than to see new people joining and former members returning to the JEA. Our goal is to have satisfied members – we have always maintained a true open door policy, and hope that members will take the opportunity to let us know how to best serve them."

Growth in membership will allow the JEA to continue to expand programs, invest in personnel and equipment, and to offer the best in amenities in the building.

Try the New *Great Gala*

Let's play Jeopardy. The clue is: Fun and delicious dinner parties hosted by community members. The question/answer is: What are always the most popular auction items at the JEA's annual fundraiser? But there never seem to be enough of them to go around.

Well not anymore. Join the JEA on Sunday, August 30th for the first Great Gala with a Goal (formerly the Great Gelt Gala), where dinner parties to suit everyone's fancy will be the featured items up for grabs. JEA

Past Presidents, community leaders and others have stepped forward with a menu of exciting and interesting parties to choose from that are sure to entertain you and delight your culinary senses. There will be all kinds of experiences to choose from, including small, intimate dinner parties and large, rollicking bashes.

The party hosts all are donating everything needed to create wonderful events for you to bid on; and to help make the festivities meaningful for them, they get to select the ultimate goal for the JEA that the proceeds from their party will benefit. The hosts will choose from among a variety of JEA programs and capital needs to be "beneficiaries" of their parties, such as: the aquatics department, children's programming, health and wellness, carpet replacement, senior programming, etc.

But the evening

won't only be about fundraising. As always, it will be a wonderful opportunity for friends to be together for some great food, great drink and great entertainment. Local jazz legend Huxsle Scott and her son, Rethyl Thomas, will be on hand to perform.

So watch your mail for the "menu" invitation with full details on all of the parties being offered for auction and start thinking about which of these events you want to be part of — but here's fair warning, it's not going to be easy to choose, come prepared to party!



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We are now preparing the
Honor Roll of Contributors
to the Savannah Jewish Federation 2009 Annual Campaign
for publication in the Savannah Jewish News, the SJF Annual Report
and on the Dena and Lawrence Bodziner Donor Recognition Wall.

On your pledge card you were asked if you would like your name included in the list of contributors. If you responded yes, you were further asked if you would like your name included by category. If you responded to these questions on your pledge card, no further action is necessary; your wishes have been honored.

If you are not certain whether you responded to these questions or if you want to verify how your name will be listed on the Honor Roll, please contact Lynn Levine (355-8111 or lynn@savj.org) no later than August 10th.

Donor Listing Categories:
Major Gifts, \$50,000+
Chai Society, \$18,000+
For Men & Women, Gifts of:
\$10,000+
\$5,000+
\$2,500+
\$1,500+
\$1,000+
Below \$1,000
No Category Specified





Shalom, Maia Party - August 6th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
See p4 for details



Letters to the Community

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

I write to commend Maia Koiller to you for an absolutely outstanding presentation at The Learning Center at Senior Citizens, Inc. As you may know, we here at TLC have begun offering this spring a number of courses with a focus on Jerusalem and Israel. One of these courses is an examination of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A number of friends of mine – among them Jane Kahn, Melinda Stein, and Candy Lowe – brought Maia's name to my attention as a possible guest speaker. Her presentation today exceeded my highest expectations.

She represents Israel extremely well, and we here in Savannah are quite fortunate to have her among us, even if only for a short time.

Sincerely,
Roger Smith
Community Outreach and
Development Director, The Learning
Center at Senior Citizens, Inc.

Dear Editor,

Rambam Day School is generating a lot of "buzz" about the Georgia Private School Tax Credit. An overview of the program is located elsewhere in this edition of the Savannah Jewish news, and details (including complete instructions and printable forms) are available on Rambam's web site, www.rambamdayschool.org.

In summary, the program allows every Georgia taxpayer to divert some or all of their state tax payments for 2009 to Rambam Day School scholarships at no cost to the donor. Savannah should not and cannot let this exceptional opportunity pass us by.

As a proud Past President of the Savannah Jewish Federation and Past Chairman of the Federation's Endowment Fund, I am uniquely aware of the increasing financial pressures on this community. Donations, which can be made to the Apogee Georgia School Choice Scholarship Fund, will directly benefit Rambam and indirectly benefit the entire community by decreasing the burden put on the community to fund all beneficiary organizations.

The initial response to the schol-

arship fund has been encouraging, as Rambam has already generated over \$80,000 in scholarship dollars in Rambam's designated fund. This program is a classic example of what we can achieve through alternate forms of funding. In effect, we decrease the responsibility of our community to fund the Jewish education of our children and grandchildren. Potentially, the program allows us to redirect funds within our community appropriately as long as the law remains in effect and our community responds. Last school year, Rambam granted over \$180,000 in scholarship funds to qualified students. Next year, due largely to our turbulent economic climate, Rambam anticipates dramatically increased needs.

Please, familiarize yourself with this incredible opportunity. Participate, and encourage others to do so, too. This unique program allows our community to earn tax credits while funding scholarships for Jewish education in Savannah.

Sincerely,
Freddie Rabhan
SJF Past President

Dear Friends and Family in the Community:

I have been overwhelmed by all of your phone calls, visits, flowers, food, cards, contributions, kindness, prayer lists, and love that you have given me during my current illness. I want to thank everyone for everything you have done for me. I hope you will continue to stay in touch. It means very much to me that so many people care and give me so much support. I am blessed for every day that I feel better.

Wishing you all good health.
Love,
Barbara H. Rubin

To our community members:
For muffins and soup,
Kindnesses too many to recoup.
For card, gifts or rides or
Your advice to confide;

Encouragements you wrote
For donations & mitzvot.
Donated time on our behest
(So that Carol could rest)
For just being you--
While caring about us too:
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

This Jewish community has had an incredible response to our need and we are humbled and very grateful. Donations in honor of all our community friends and their many kindnesses have been made to the Savannah Jewish Federation's Greenberg Health Resources Fund.

Thank you.
The Towbin & Greenberg Family

Shalom Savannah,

My name is Ehud (Udi) Tsemach and I am excited to be the Shaliach in Savannah next year. The first time that I heard of Savannah was two months ago and since then I've been thinking about how it looks and what it feels like and what experiences I will face there.



Udi Tsemach

However, it's hard to think about leaving Israel for a year and changing the way of my life. It is even harder after a meaningful and intensive service of five years in the IDF. It seems almost impossible not to wake up in the morning and breathe the air of Jerusalem, the city in which I have lived and loved for the past two years. It is hard to imagine that I will not be attending Shabbat dinners in my parent's home in Sha'ary Tikva, eating and talking with my parents and my two older brothers. Not to wake up Shabbat morning and walk through the olive fields surrounding Sha'ary Tikva, to watch and feel the Tanahic view.

Despite my fears I am eager to come to your community. I am eager to meet new people, share thoughts, and tell you about my beloved country. I want to have new experiences and make new connections. Since high school,

where I first learned about "Hahshart Levavot," I have wanted to be part of it. The phrase means "preparation of the hearts" which aims to strengthen the bond between the Jewish people to their homeland, between Jews and their ancient culture, and most importantly, between Jews and Jews.

I know that I can never really leave Israel because it is part of my core, and for me, it is more than a beautiful landscape and beautiful people – it is an idea. When I think of leaving Israel I imagine our fathers leaving their homeland to new places and unknown journeys. Their spirits were guided through their journey, and finally, in one way or another, they came back – more experienced, more complete.

Maia told me about the warm community, the lovely hospitality, and the great experience she had in Savannah. I hope we will have a meaningful time together. You are welcome to write me, ask questions and even just chat.

Hope to meet you soon,
Udi
Udi.tsem@gmail.com

Identification Statement

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Invitation to Realtors

Participate in our Preferred Realtor Program and be listed as one of our select Realtors who are recommended by the Federation to those inquiring about relocating to Savannah.

Your Job: In addition to showing homes, familiarize our newcomers with synagogues, the JEA, Federation, and our Jewish schools and organizations, as appropriate.

Your Commitment: There is no registration fee, instead all we ask is a minimum donation of \$54 to the Savannah Jewish Federation for each home you sell or rent through this Preferred Realtor Program.

Please contact Vicky at the JEA (355-8111) to receive a registration form and be put on the Preferred Realtor List.



You Don't Have to Be Jewish

As some of you may know, I do much of my homework in the wee hours of the morning. I may channel surf or watch some recorded programs on the DVR. So it was that I encountered two programs Carol recorded as I was sitting down to write this. What was unusual was not the programs, but their origin. I first sensed something curious when I encountered a five minute marathon commercial for the Israeli Tennis Foundation, followed by an advertisement for Nefesh B'Nefesh, inviting me to make Aliyah. I was watching Jewish Life TV. There nestled among the other faith-based and religious channels was 24/7 Jewish programming here in Savannah!

Okay. I don't think HBO, Comedy Central, ESPN or even the Weather Channel will have to worry about losing market share. Nonetheless, it is somehow satisfying to know the satellite can bring Jewish programs to me with the click of my remote. I suspect that I am not alone. I would venture to guess that even in New York there are few people who keep their sets tuned to JLTV. The point is simply that it is there at all.

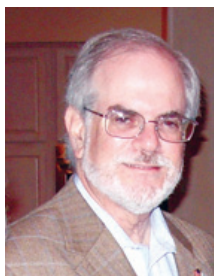
Of course we do have other sources of Jewish programming available to us. For about as much as I pay for cable TV, and much less than I pay for satellite TV, I have access to the cultural, educational and entertainment programs of the JEA and Federation... and it is all pretty much commercial-free.

You don't have to be Jewish to appreciate this. Over the last several months the JEA has seen a surge in membership; many of these new members are not Jewish. This is not a local phenomenon. Nationwide, many

JCC's have large numbers of non-Jewish members who appreciate the value and spirit that Jewish community centers offer. The real question is why some members of the Jewish community still do not take advantage of all that is offered?

The Federation and the JEA are approaching completion of a new strategic plan for our community. Central to our ongoing success is securing a critical mass of members to support our programs and to participate in them. That means we need everyone in our Jewish community to participate in the annual campaign at some level and hope that every individual or family will become members of the JEA, utilize the facilities and attend at least some of the programs. It is your participation that will make the difference.

Like the presence of Jewish channels or a production of "Fiddler on the Roof", coming across a Jewish food festival or museum, knowing we have the JEA and successful Federation, Jewish schools and three active synagogues gives me a sense of pride. I hope it is for you too, and I hope you will actively participate in securing the future of this very unique Jewish community. Living in Savannah is a wonderful experience; and even more so being a Jewish Savannahian. You don't have to be Jewish, but it helps.



Dr. Joel Greenberg
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

New Leadership, New Possibilities

It has been interesting to watch the machinations that have been going on at United Jewish Communities (UJC), the umbrella organization of the Federations in North America, as they searched for a new Chief Executive Officer. UJC resulted from a merger (ten years ago) of the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Jewish Appeal. In an effort to build an organization that was efficient and effective, two organizations—and two cultures—were combined into one. It has been a grand experiment that has (depending on who you talk to) been a moderate success, an abysmal failure, or a ten year work in progress.

UJC is a mammoth organization located in New York City that is our connecting fiber to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel—our two overseas partners who provide for rescue and relief for Jews throughout the world. UJC lobbies on our behalf on a myriad of domestic social issues, has a missions department which arranges for travel to Israel, develops information and marketing to the national community (www.ujc.org), provides professional development opportunities, and mounts campaigns wherever and whenever they are needed, be they fundraising, social awareness or other.

Which brings us back to the search for a new CEO. The first three CEOs for UJC have come from within the system. They were seasoned leaders from the largest communities in the country who were taking the next steps in their professional careers. Each took the position with a sense of obligation to the American Jewish community. It's not an easy job; they had to deal with arduous travel schedules, conflicting cultures (imagine having to make Jews in every country happy!), shrinking budgets, and grow-

ing expectations. Their greatest strengths were that they were from within the system; their greatest weaknesses were that they were from within the system.

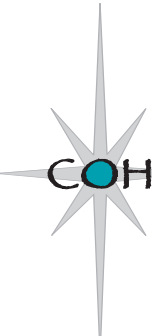
Now we find that the world has changed dramatically, but the largest organization in the Jewish world has not. There is a need for leadership that understands the history of Diaspora Judaism, systems and organizations, and has significant business acumen, but also can adapt to our rapidly changing society.

Last week, the UJC Search Committee announced the hiring of Jerry Silverman as the next leader of the United Jewish Communities—the Federations of North America. He comes from the business world. A former high level executive at Levi Strauss and Stride Rite, Silverman most recently was head of the Foundation for Jewish Camping. In that position, Silverman was feted as being a results-oriented, visionary leader. And that's what "the system" needs right now.

With dwindling resources and a contracting economy, every donor is looking for greater efficiency and effectiveness. The Savannah Jewish Federation looks carefully at every dollar we raise and spend in an attempt to be the most effective leadership organization we can be. We hope that new leadership at UJC will be able to do the same—to make the changes so desperately needed to remain relevant and vibrant in the 21st century. Good luck Jerry!



Adam Solender



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My second home, Savannah

By Maia Koiller

If someone ever asks me: "Maia, where is your second home?" I will have to say, Savannah, Georgia. I can't believe that a year flew by this fast. A year ago I came here, a little bit scared, to begin a wonderful journey with the community.

I learned a lot of things about Savannah: People here say Shalom y'all, people use mops to clean their floors, and the houses in Savannah usually have floor-to-floer (*editor's note: wall-to-wall*) carpets. People in Savannah love to drink iced tea. In Savannah you can eat dishes like gumbo and fried chicken. In Savannah everyone is somehow related or friends of someone else, there is always something going on in the community, and it rains also in the summer.

I also learned that this is the type of community that if you need help everyone will come to give a hand. It is a community that will never let you eat alone on Friday night or Shabbat, or on any holiday. The truth is that this is a community that will never let you starve. People in Savannah always know how to say the right thing when you are sad or missing home, and everyone who comes to the community falls in love with it, because people in Savannah are the warmest people I know.

The community of Savannah cares about Israel. The community doesn't

only bring a Shlichah here but invites her to talk about her home in different synagogue programs, to tell the children in the schools about Israel, and to go to the universities and share it with the students.

From seniors to kindergarten children – all ages – everyone in the community welcomed me so nicely, asked me questions about my life in Israel and was interested in my opinion about different matters.

During the operation in Gaza I was very worried and nervous. The community kept me motivated and helped me feel that Israel is not alone. Although we have our problems, and life in Israel can be complicated, we are lucky to have this connection with communities outside of Israel. It's a wonderful bond that we must keep working for. A lot of people go and visit in Israel, and love the country in a way that can't leave you untouched.

We had so many programs this year, and I was very proud to take part in them. I will never forget Yom Ha'atsma'ut where so many people came to celebrate with Israel or the



Maia Koiller

butterfly project on Yom Ha'Shoah, where hundreds of butterflies reminded us of the lives that were stolen. I guess I should stop or my article will never end...

I was happy that people encouraged me also to speak to groups out of the Jewish community. A better understanding of our lives in Israel for good times (and there is so much good!) and also in bad times can add a lot of perspective that sometimes is hard to see in the news or in the media.

Dear friends, this is my last letter this year. And I need to tell you all, thank you!

I am truly going to miss you. I am a better person because of this year. I learned a lot and I love you. I believe more in my power as a person, and in the power of a community.

I believe that with love and dedica-

tion you can do a lot of things, that the sky is the limit.

I believe that together, our history is closer to us and our future is brighter.

A new Shaliach is coming soon, his name is Ehud. I know that he is very excited! I wish him a lot of good luck and I must admit that suddenly I am a little bit jealous that he is starting this wonderful journey.

In the meantime, please keep in touch. My e-mail address is maiakoiller@gmail.com. If you come to Israel you must let me know!

Shalom Savannah.
Thank you for this opportunity.

I love you!
Maia Koiller
Who used to be the
Community Shlichah...

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

David Hirsch
Who died June 7, 2009.

Surviving are his wife, Celia Scheer Hirsch; three sons, Alvin (Kay) Hirsch, Carl (Lee) Hirsch, and Marvin (Barbara) Hirsch; three sisters, Sonya Diamond of Savannah, Bessie (Lou) Friedman of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Irene Baker of Charleston, SC; two brothers, Harold Hirsch and Julian Hirsch; seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah or Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob.

Cantor Sheldon Feinberg
Who died June 13, 2009.

Preceded in death by his parents, Ju-

lius Feinberg and Gussie Meyer Feinberg.
Surviving are his wife, Selma, of Port Royal, SC; one son, Jeremy Feinberg of Port Royal, SC; two brothers, Ira Feinberg of Fort Lee, New Jersey; Milton Feinberg of Colorado.

Harriet Weiss Karesh
Who died July 6, 2009.

Preceded in death by her parents, Nathan Weiss and Rose Ginsberg Weiss.

Surviving are her husband of 48 years, Jack L. Karesh of Savannah; two daughters, Michelle Tirey and Amy (Victor) Fishman, all of Savannah; five grandchildren; one sister, Betty (Larry) Lasky, and one brother, Stanley (Sheila) Weiss, both of Savannah, and nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, Hospice Savannah, or the American Cancer Society.

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Please Join Us
Thursday, August 6th
as we say
Shalom, Maia!
Is she thinking about all the children she taught?
All the BBYO teens she did programs and rode buses with?
All the college students she had to her home for Shabbat dinner?
All of us who she tried to teach Hebrew, share her thoughts on Israel and so much more?
WE ARE!
Come for burgers, dogs, chips, slaw & more and bid farewell to Maia before she returns to Israel!
August 6th, 5:30-7:30pm, JEA Auditorium
Suggested donation: \$5 per person, \$18 per family
RSVPs Required by August 3rd!
Call 355-8111 or e-mail jea_federationhotline@savj.org



JEA Annual Meeting Highlights

On May 27, more than 200 members of the community gathered at the Jewish Educational Alliance for its 97th Annual Meeting. Marcy Konter stepped down at the end of her two year term as President and was recognized for her great service to the community.

The evening included many aspects, most importantly, the installation of the organization's

50th President, Scott Samuels, Treasurer Eva Locker and a new Board of Directors. Elise Shernoff announced the 2009 winners of the Harvey Rubin Award: Emily Kahn, who will be attending the University of Texas at Austin and Ross Kooden, who will be attending the University of Georgia. The teens were recognized for their leadership and many accomplishments both on and off the field.

In addition, special recognition awards were given to three unique and important people that help make this community shine. Larry Dane Kellogg was honored for his many years of service at the JEA working as Director of Jewish Family Services and forging friendships and bonds that always make people feel at home at the JEA. Shlichy (Israel emissary) Maia Koiller also was honored for her outstanding work. It was an opportunity for the



Cousins and former JEA presidents Kenneth and Jodi Sadler and Jeffrey Lasky after they installed the new JEA President, Scott Samuels

community to congratulate her on a job "very well done" throughout her year in Savannah. We will miss Maia but wish her the best of luck on attending university in the fall back in Israel! Additionally, Lynn Levine was honored for her dedicated and relentless commitment to the Jewish community and as Director of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

Though people spoke of the several challenges and obstacles the JEA currently faces, the atmosphere was confident, optimistic and generally positive. Everyone spoke with a great sense of humor and the mood was light and fun-filled. Perhaps it was the chocolate candy strewn all over each table or the news of the growing memberships at the JEA, but something was making for a happy crowd that evening.

Congratulations to the new board and to Scott!

2010 Campaign Management Team Announced

David Byck has been tapped as General Chair of the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign for 2010, announced Federation President-Elect Linda Zoller. In making the announcement Zoller said, "I am very excited about the energy and leadership David will bring to the campaign this year. Not only was he a key member of our campaign team last year as a vice chair in the Men's Division, but he also has taken on a significant role in the ongoing community strategic planning process and I am optimistic about our prospects under his guidance." Byck, a local gynecologist and lifelong Savannahian, currently serves on the Federation's Board of Governors and is a past President of Congregation Mickve Israel.

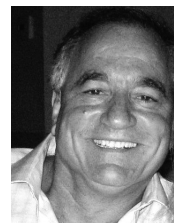
Byck has asked Amos Timna to Chair the Men's Division and



David Byck

Sherry Dolgoff to Chair the Women's Division for 2010. Both are seasoned campaigners and tireless Federation volunteers. Timna, a retired obstetrician originally from Israel, also served last year as a vice chair in the Men's Division and in 2008 chaired the community's celebration of Israel@60. He also currently serves on the Federation's Board of Governors.

Dolgoff has served in various capacities on numerous campaigns, most recently as chair for the 2009 Women's Division Telethon. She chaired the community's observance of Yom Ha'Shoah in 2009 and currently serves on the Strategic Planning Committee. Originally from Houston, Dolgoff, a retired school teacher, has called Savannah home for forty years.



Amos Timna



Sherry Dolgoff

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS

Samson (Shimshon) Yehuda Stein, on May 23. Samson is the son of Dana and Michael Stein of Baltimore, Maryland. Grandparents are Melinda and Steve Stein of Savannah and Paulayne and Art Epstein of Columbus, Ohio. Aunt and uncle are Deganit and Jesse Ruben of Savannah, and great-grandmothers are Esther Stein of Savannah and Doris Mandelbaum of Boca Raton, FL.

Yisroel Dovid Singer, on June 7. He is the son of Rabbi Adam and Rebbetzin Inbal Singer. Grandparents are Daniel Chasman, of Tucson, AZ, Judy Saharon, of Jerusalem, Israel, Andrew Singer, of Petaluma, CA, and Linda Singer, of Potomac, MD.

BAT MITZVAH

Rose Caroline Fishman, who became a Bas Mitzvah on June 14, 2009 at Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob. She is the daughter of Amy and Victor Fishman. Grandparents are Joyce and Sheldon Paley, of Sarasota, FL, and Jack and Harriet Karesh (of blessed memory), of Savannah.



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Rosh Hashanah:
September 18-20

Yom Kippur:
September 27-28

Sukkot:
October 2-9

**Shmini Atzeret/
Simchat Torah:**
October 9-11



**Contact Ben Kweskin by August 28th
and we'll make a match!**
ben@savj.org or 355.8111





JEA T-ball and 8&U teams and coaches pose for a picture with Gnate the Gnat at Grayson Stadium

JEA Baseball Enjoys End of Season at Grayson Stadium

JEA Baseball teams wrapped up their season in the beginning of June by participating in the Savannah Sand Gnats Field of Dreams program at Grayson Stadium. The players enjoyed the pre-game down on the field talking to players and coaches, snapping pictures and getting autographs. During the singing of the National Anthem, JEA players took the field with the Sand Gnats in their respective positions and saw their own faces on the large screen in the outfield. Everyone had a great time, and players came away from the game with a souvenir ball cap, while the Gnats came away with a win – 4 to 4 verses the Rome Braves.

The JEA T-ball team, although they got rained out several times, finished on a high note, winning against Hunter Army Air Field. Coached by David Eichelbaum, Dan Skidmore-Hess, and Robyn Lebowitz, the team consisted of the following players: Nathan Skidmore-Hess, Mark Kellogg, Ryan Kellogg, Jordan Horesh, Erin Horesh, Baruch Mordecai Garfunkel, Marc Saul, Max Eichelbaum, Lizzy Eichelbaum, Yitzy Russ, Norah Hamilton, Elliot Jaffie, Jordan Jaffie, Tal Damelin, Ethan Wheelock, Josiah Sherman, Ben Friede, and Nathan Pritzker.

The 8 & Under JEA team, spearheaded by coaches A.D. Garfunkel, Jeff Kole, Seth Kovensky, and Andy Kramer, played in the Savannah City League this year and finished with a



Yitzy Russ, Shlomo Garfunkel, and Yaakov Schochet wait to get an autograph from a Sand Gnats player

3-7 record, including a strong win for their last game. They had to get used to the pitching machine for their games, but everyone improved a great deal. Members of the team included: Richard Epstein, Mihal Gold, Shlomo Yosef Garfunkel, Zachary Kole, Isaac Lichtman, Alex Kovensky, Writer Leto, Gabriel Damelin, Yaakov Schochet, Baruch Mordecai Garfunkel, Nathan Batchelor, and Philip Boblasky.

Special thanks to all those who supported the baseball program – parents, families and especially coaches, who volunteered their time and worked with the players to improve their skills and knowledge of the game. We look forward to another great season next year!

JEA Donations

(As of 7/8/09)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In honor of Marilyn Seeman's birthday
Sally & Steve Greenberg
In honor of Sylvan Byck
Marilyn Seeman

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Charles Becker
Richard & Susan Blumberg & Family
In honor of Scott Samuels' JEA Presidency
In honor of Marcy Konter's JEA Presidency
Merry & Richard Bodziner
In honor of Renee & Ramon Silverman's 50th wedding anniversary
Norman & Sherry Dolgoff
In honor of Scott Samuels
Sharon & Moises Paz

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In honor of Suzanne Konter
Susan & Amos Timna

ETHEL COHEN MEDDIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Charlie Becker
Chuck Palefsky, Sherry & Johnny Macchio, Louis & Michelle Meddin
In memory of Louis Diamond
In memory of Larry Wolfe
Chuck Palefsky

JACK & MIRIAM LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Aaron & Dayle Levy's retirement
Sharon & Moises Paz

RAYMOND & MORRIS ROSEN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Anita Karnibad's birthday
Michael & Marcia Schwarz

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Charlie Becker
Barbara & Abram Rubin
In honor of Barbara Rubin's speedy & complete recovery
Victor, Elise, Jason & Heather Shernoff

In honor of Elise Shernoff's retirement
Chuck & Marsha Bernstein & Family
Bernice Elman & Family
In honor of Charles Sussman's speedy recovery
Patrick & Brenda Elman Salter

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Charlie Becker
In memory of Beverly Cooperman-Gellins
In honor of Thelma Rosen's special birthday
Harriet Konter
In memory of Ida Gold
Suzanne & Michael Konter
Sally & Steve Greenberg

JEA TREE OF LIFE

In honor of Marcy Konter in her role as JEA President
Jerry, Mark, Allison & Tess Konter

SAVE THE POOL FUND

In honor of the following people for their dedication to the 2009 SJF Annual Campaign and the Savannah Jewish Community:
Lynn Berkowitz, Dr. David Byck, Carole Cohen, Jerald Cohen, Sherry Dolgoff, AM Goldkrand, Sandra Goodman, Peggy Harris, Jerry Konter, Barbara Kooden, Sally Krissman, Lowell Kronowitz, Harriet Kulbersh, Fred Rabhan, Nancy Rosenthal, Laurie Rubnitz, Herb Sanders, Vivian Slotin, Amos Timna and Peggy Yellin

Sharon Galin
In honor of Harriet Karesh
In honor of Leon Aronson's speedy recovery
In honor of Sylvan Byck's speedy recovery
In honor of Margie Gordon's birthday
Sharon & Murray Galin
In honor of Carole & Jerald Cohen's 50th Anniversary
Sarabel & Ross Stemer
In honor of Robert & Sari Batchelor
Dan & Cathy Skidmore-Hess

On the Personal Side

MISCELLANY: Robin Buckner, daughter of the late Donna and Ronald Buckner and granddaughter of Harvey and Joan Pam, graduated from Windsor Forest High School in June. Robin was a member of Future Business Leaders of America and is an intern at St. Joseph Candler Hospital.



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2009 Speaker's Series

**Sunday, August 9, 2009
7:30 PM at the JEA**

"Dirty Politics of Ancient Israel" Featuring Rabbi Eric Grossman



An investigation of the biblical Kingdom of Israel reveals a regime rife with deception and treachery. In this lecture we will explore not only the nasty politics of the Kingdom of God, but also how the Bible has carefully hidden the intrigues of our ancient leaders behind a wall of propaganda. Drawing parallels to current affairs, we will also discuss how these tales can serve to guide us towards a better understanding of our world today.

\$6 JEA members, \$10 Non-Members, \$5 for Students
FREE for Military

The 2009 Speakers Series is made possible with generous support from the JEA Phillip Hoffman Memorial Fund of the Savannah Jewish Community Foundation, The Savannah Jewish Federation and members of the community.

Great Gala with a Goal

(the NEW Great Gelt Gala!)
Live & Silent Auction to benefit the JEA
Sunday, August 30th, 2009—5-9 pm
Cocktails & Appetizers Auction

This year, the JEA has come up with a new event to take advantage of the popularity of, and good will created by "Home Hospitality" parties.

Each Party with a Purpose will host a minimum of six to a maximum of 20 people; will have a specific party theme, menu and purpose. Kosher parties will be available for auction. The proceeds of each party will benefit specific needs of the JEA (carpet replacement, Health & Wellness, or child care room updates, for example). The benefit will be picked by the host of the party to reflect what is important to them.

This will be an exciting new event for the JEA that we hope will both provide a nice social opportunity for the entire community and boost our fund-raising efforts for the year. Join us on August 30th and bid on your own Party with a Purpose!

A MOVIE & BEER!

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

Aug. 6th—The Band's Visit—The Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra arrives from Egypt for a cultural event, only to find there is no delegation to meet them, nor any arrangements to get to their destination. When they find their own ride, they arrive instead at the remote town of Beit Hatikva. Stuck there until the next morning's bus, the band, lead by the repressed Tawfiq Zacharaya, gets help from the worldly lunch owner, Dina, who offers to put them up for the night. As the band settles in, each of the members attempts to get along with the natives in their own way. What follows is a special night of quiet happenings and confessions as the band makes its own impact on the town and the town on them.

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

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

Life Line Stroke, Aneurysm & Vascular Disease Screening

Tuesday, Aug. 25th at the JEA—9:15-6:30 pm
Pre-registration is required: 1-800-324-1851

On Tuesday, August 25th, Life Line Screening will be at the JEA and taking appointments for several screening tests.

1. **Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening**
2. **Atrial Fibrillation Screening**
3. **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening**
4. **Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening**
5. **Osteoporosis Screening**

**Stroke, Vascular Disease & Heart Rhythm Package:
Includes an Osteoporosis Screening—All 5 tests for only \$149**

Individual screening tests: \$45/test

You will receive your results in 21 days. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke/heart disease & do not replace contact & follow up with your physician.

Coming to the JEA in August:

Aikido comes to the JEA in August!

Aikido is a Japanese martial art with the goal of being able to defend oneself while also protecting their attacker from injury. Aikido is performed by blending with the motion of the attacker and redirecting the force of the attack rather than opposing it head-on. This requires very little physical energy, as the *aikidōka* (aikido practitioner) "leads" the attacker's momentum using entering and turning movements. The techniques are completed with various throws or joint locks.

Instructor: Carlos Rivera

When: Monday & Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30pm

Where: JEA large gym

Cost: \$25 / month for JEA Members
\$40 / month Non-members

Upcoming Pool events:

- **August 9th—Water Polo**
Tread water with your team and score! Come out and enjoy this exciting water sport



- **August 6th - Shalom Maia**
Say good-bye to our beloved Shlichah, Maia, as she returns to Israel

- **August 23rd - Zip & Dip**
Showcase your athletic skills in a biathlon of running and swimming



- **September 6th - Labor Day Pool**
Closing/baseball & swim team awards

Ongoing Activities at the pool:

Each Sunday, the grill will be fired up for your weekend enjoyment. There will also be games available to check out at the pool and these include:

**Bocce ball, croquet,
horseshoes, yard golf,
paddle ball and more!**



**Enjoy your summer with
your friends at the JEA!**



**There's still time to sign
up your child for camp!**

Week # 7—July 27-31

**Maxine Patterson Dance/Floor Hockey
Sleepover on Thurs. Night Chaverim only**

**Week # 8—Aug. 3-7
Maccabiah Games (Color War)**

**All themes are designed for campers
of all ages and abilities.**

Daily Activities:

ART - Children will enhance their creative minds in an environment rich with resources and full of encouragement and support.

SPORTS - Children develop their motor skills while learning fundamentals and advanced techniques in a teamwork building atmosphere.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT - Giving children an opportunity to learn about other cultures and religions and what makes each special.

FREE SWIM - Encouraging kids to be kids.

SWIMMING LESSONS - Promoting water safety and teaching a lifelong skill.

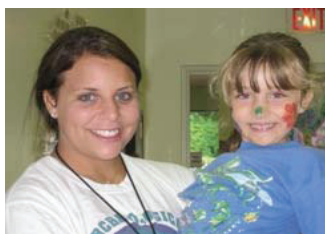
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Carol Zung
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JEA Membership list as of
July 1, 2009. Our apologies
for any misspellings or
omissions.



FITNESS SCHEDULE—SUMMER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	5:00-6:00 am Master Swim	8:30-9:15 am Spin Class	5:00-6:00 am Master Swim	8:30-9:15 am Spin Class	5:00-6:00 am Master Swim	
9-10 am Pilates	8:30-9:30 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:30 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:30 am Firm It Up	
10-11 am Total Body Blast	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize		10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	
	10:30-11:30 am Gentle Yoga		10:30-11:30 am Gentle Yoga			
	10:30-11:30 am Senior Fitness		10:30-11:30 am Senior Fitness	10:30-11:30 am Senior Fitness		
	Noon-2:00 pm Noontime Basketball		Noon-2:00 pm Noontime Basketball		Noon-2:00 pm Noontime Basketball	
	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	4:00-5:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	
	5:30-7:30 pm Karate		5:30-7:30 pm Karate			
	6:00-7:00 pm Spin Class					
	6:30-7:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics	6:30-7:30 pm Step & Weight Aerobics	6:30-7:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics	6:30-7:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics		
	7:00-8:30 pm Aikido	6:30-7:30 pm Badminton	7:00-8:30 pm Aikido	7:00-8:00 pm Total Body Blast		
	7:00-8:00 pm Yoga Power Hour	7:00-9:00 pm Savannah Fencing Club	7:15-8:15 pm Yoga Flow	7:00-9:00 pm Savannah Fencing Club		

August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daily Calendar Events  On-Going Programs	<u>Aquasize</u> -10 am <u>Gentle Yoga</u> -10:30 am <u>Sr. Fitness</u> -10:30 am <u>Senior Lunch</u> -12:30 pm <u>Water Aerobics</u> -6:30 pm <u>Yoga Power Hour</u> - 7 pm	<u>Pilates</u> - 8:30 pm <u>Kibitzers Kafe</u> -10 am <u>Aquasize</u> -10 am <u>Step & Weight Aerobics</u> - 6:30 am	<u>Sr. Fitness</u> - 10:30 am <u>Gentle Yoga</u> -10:30 am <u>Senior Lunch</u> -12:30 pm <u>Bridge</u> -1pm <u>Water Aerobics</u> -6:30 pm <u>Scrabble</u> -6:30 pm <u>Yoga Flow</u> - 7:15 pm	<u>Aquasize</u> - 10 am <u>Mah Jongg</u> - 10:30 am <u>Senior Fitness</u> - 10:30 am <u>Senior Lunch</u> -12:30 pm <u>Senior Program</u> -1:30 pm <u>Evening Water Aerobics</u> - 6:30 pm	<u>Aquasize</u> -10 am	JEA Closed
July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program—Torah: Meaning and Musings—Rabbi Adam Singer	July 31	1
2	3	4	5	6 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program— Shalom Maia Party— 5:30 pm Movie & Beer Night— 7:30 pm	7	8
9 JEA Speakers Series— 9 pm Water Polo Pool Party	10	11	12	13 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program—	14	15
16	17	18 Rambam - First Day of School	19	20 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program—	21	22
23 Zip & Dip Pool Party	24	25 Life Line Cancer Screening— 9:15 am	26	27 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program—	28	29
30 Great Gelt— 5 PM	31	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 3 Art Gallery Reception— 5 pm	Sept. 4	Sept. 5



Back in the Day

Norman Dolgoff

When I was very young we lived two and a half blocks from the Jewish Educational Alliance on Barnard and Charlton. I spent many wonderful days playing with my Jewish friends from all around the city.

One day in 1948, while playing at the Alliance, a tragic thing happened. Jack Berliner, one of my counselors from Day Camp, and a few of his friends were tumbling in the exercise room in the basement. Jack dove over a side horse and landed incorrectly on his head. He broke his neck, causing him to be a paraplegic for the rest of his life. He was 18 years old.

Sam, his older brother, devoted his life to Jack. He had a candy/vending machine business and they also sold magazine subscriptions. Jack's many friends would visit him, hoping to lift his spirits. Instead, he was always the one to lift our spirits! Jack was a wonderful listener with a positive attitude, keeping confidences of his many friends. He continued to study and

learn. It was always meaningful visiting with him through the years.

Jack and Sam Berliner were two of the best human beings I have had the pleasure of knowing during my lifetime. Brother Sam put off having a normal life for many years. Jack passed away after an unsuccessful surgery. Sam married late in life, finding happiness with Rachelle, a lovely woman from Atlanta. Sam was truly wonderful, the essence of a mensch.

In 1969, when I returned to work at the Alliance, many of our contemporaries had married and were raising families. Though gymnastics was popular at this time, the Alliance didn't offer gymnastic or tumbling classes. Our generation simply could never forget what happened to Jack Berliner.

But times have changed. A new generation of families brings their children to the JEA on Wednesday afternoons for a safe, new style of gymnastic classes. And time helps to heal. It's good to see them enjoying it this way.

Agudath Achim Happenings

Submitted by Ed Wexler

President Ed Wexler, as his first official act (with Board consent), awarded Agudath Achim's first Lifetime Board Membership to Lawrence J. Lasky. In addition to being a Past President of AA, a long time active Board member, and until last month, chairman of the Endowment committee, he currently serves as an officer of the Chevra Kadisha. Larry has also been an active member of the JEA where he served as an Officer and Board member. He is most deserving of this singular high honor.

Over 150 members witnessed the installation of the new officers and Board on May 31, 2009. For a list of Board members please visit our website www.agudath-achim.com

On July 11th a capacity crowd witnessed the first of our monthly family participation services. Members of the Reeves, Cranman, Berman, and McGhie families led the entire service from A-Z: The Shacharit, Musaf, maftir and Torah services.

Another huge success for Agudath Achim was our "Blue Jean Shabbat." Over 100 attended a Friday night service and family dinner with a blue jeans dress code. Using our "experimental" Shabbat prayer book and Rabbi Leitner on guitar everyone sang and participated. More of these to come!

If your family is interested in leading one of our services, just call our office at 352-4737 or our Presi-



Betty and Larry Lasky

dent, Ed Wexler at 598-0093.

Coming up in August we will hold our annual Tybee Beach Shabbat:

Friday, August 21:

6 PM - Daven at the Beach on 6th Street

7 PM - Dinner with Home Hospitality. Please call the office (352-4737) if you plan on attending so we will know how many people need home hospitality.

Saturday, August 22:

9:30 AM - Shabbat Service in the School Cafeteria (Followed by Kiddush Luncheon)

3 PM - Meet at the Beach on 9th Street.

7:40 PM - Mincha/Maariv and Havdalah at the Home of Norton & Betty Melaver

The cost for this event is \$5 Per Person / \$10 Per Family.

RSVP to the Synagogue (352-4737).

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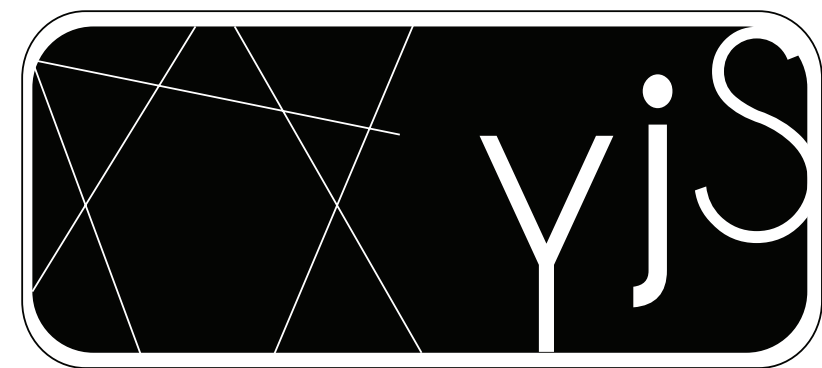
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young jewish savannah corner

Summer Programming

Despite the fact that many Savannahians head off for vacations over the summer, Young Jewish Savannah is still going strong and pushing ahead with programming! On May 31, YJS held a fun-filled Beach Day at Tybee Island and forty people came out with their bathing suits, sunscreen, beach chairs, snacks and beer! The day included beach sports, lounging, and socializing with new and old friends alike! There were no reports of jellyfish stings!

Also, on June 25, YJS members attended the Savannah Sand Gnats game against the (arch) rival Charleston River Dogs. Twenty-five YJS members were there to cheer on the home team as they won 5-4 in extra innings. Everyone had a great time, and the behind-home plate seats made it all the more exciting to see the action close up!

Even though the international Maccabiah games will be

finished by the time you read this, it doesn't mean we have to stop playing sports here! On August 2 from 1:00-4:00 YJS will be having a pool party at the JEA complete with Water Polo, Bacchi ball, ping pong, and other games. And don't forget the delicious burgers and dogs that will be available! To splish and splash around please RSVP to Ben Kweskin at 355.8111 or ben@savj.org.

YJS Unveils New Logo Designed by Debbie Sorkin

Young Jewish Savannah has a new, hip design made by one of their own, Debbie Sorkin. Originally from Santa Monica, California, Debbie has been engaged in design and the arts since high school. She explains, "I have been passionate about involving myself in the arts. I began studying photography in high school and continued that pursuit through my time at the University of Michigan, both in classes and extra-curricular activities. After graduation, I realized how much I enjoyed combining my photo skills with graphic arts, and decided to dive into the field of Graphic Design. Since then I have devoted my career to learning and growing as a Graphic Designer, through both professional avenues and educational classes at SCAD as well."

Debbie moved here in July 2008 with her husband, Moti, a soldier in the US Army, and since then they both have become actively involved in Young Jewish Savannah and have made many friends in their short time in Savannah. Debbie and Moti met ten years ago as counselors at Camp JCA Shalom in Malibu, CA.

Debbie has her own start up business, debbiesorkin.com, LLC, where she strives to give her clients the ultimate package by providing complete



Moti and Debbie Sorkin

skilled services, along with unparalleled customer service. Her Graphic Design and Photography services include:

- Custom Web Design
- Hosting accounts
- Flash Banners
- Flash Intros
- Custom Logo Design / Company Branding
- Photography services
- Newsletters
- E-Commerce

Please visit Debbie's website at www.debbiesorkin.com to view examples or email her at debbiesorkin@gmail.com for additional information.



Above, Moti Sorkin and Mark Konter playin' at the beach. Below, Morgan McGhie and Lindsey Fenton soaking in some rays!



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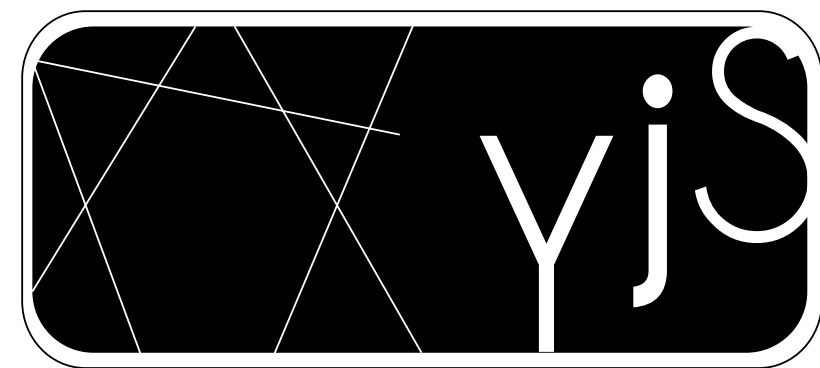
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In Honor of the Recovery of Carol Greenberg
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In Honor of Barbara & Lewis Kooden's Anniversary
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In Honor of Barbara Rubin's Recovery
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In Honor of Esther Buchsbaum's Recovery
In Honor of Marcy Konter
In Honor of Scott Samuels
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JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FUND

In Honor of Lorraine Lubar
In Honor of Suzanne Konter
Sara & Sam Jospin



Summer Days
at Tybee ...

Contributed by Jane Kahn

What would we do without our Tybee? From JEA Day Camp excursions, to Scout overnights, to day, weeks, months and entire seasons at the beach!



Tybee Island, 1939 (JVM 003, no. 2009)

Left to right: Alice (Zerman) Oppenheim and Barbara (Traub) Harris.

Tybee Island, circa 1933 (JVM 003, no. 1428A)

Left to right: Paul Kuhr, Kathryn "Kitty" Kuhr, and Raymond "Bus" Kuhr.



Tybee Island, circa 1947 (JVM 003, no. 87)

Front row (left to right): William Levine, Sonia (Ratner) Diamond, Charles Becker, unknown, Betty (Weinberg) Bono, and unknown. Center row (left to right): Bernie Ratner, Dorothy (Boblasky) Hume, unknown, Jo Ann (Landy) Fogler, and Leon Smithberg? Back row (left to right): Mickey Greenfield, William Lasky, and Willard Myers.

Lifeline Medical Screening at JEA on August 25th

The Jewish Educational Alliance will be hosting a Life Line Screening on Tuesday, August 25, 2009.

Five different health screenings will be available for people 40 years old and older. These screenings are performed using state-of-the-art Doppler color flow ultrasound systems. The screenings offered include:

1) A Carotid Artery Screening – visualizes the buildup of plaque in the carotid arteries, which leads to stroke. (Up to 75% of all strokes are linked to carotid artery blockage);

2) An Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) test – visualizes the existence of an aneurysm (enlargement) in the abdominal aorta that could lead to a ruptured aortic artery. The vast major-



ity of people who have an aneurysm have no symptoms;

3) An Ankle Brachial Index (ABI) – screens for peripheral arterial disease in the lower extremities, which is closely linked to coronary

artery disease.

4) A bone density screening, that tests for the early detection of osteoporosis.

5) Atrial Fibrillation- checks for irregular heart rhythms that cause 1 out of every 6 strokes. **You must pre-register by calling 1-800-324-1851** These screenings are completely painless, non-invasive, and each requires ten minutes or less to complete. The cost is \$45 each or all five for \$149.

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Recap of Rambam's Graduation

On June 2, the auditorium was filled with family, friends and the Rambam graduates of 2009. I would like to share with you some thoughts from the graduates.

Sophie Longwater spoke about the trials and tribulations that the Jewish people faced prior to receiving the Torah. As well, they experienced an intense presence of the Almighty. Sophie expressed that the experiences the Jewish people went through in the desert made them closer and stronger as a nation. Sophie expressed how the students in Rambam also are faced with challenges and at the same time they are engulfed with teachers exposing them to their heritage and secular teachers pushing them to reach their greatest academic potentials. As a result, they have grown as a class and as individuals to be stronger, smarter and more compassionate to others.

Bassie Gold shared that every student in every school shares a secret bond of agreeing to never admitting to loving school. Bassie expressed that most students really do love their school. Bassie spoke of the common thread between all Rambam graduates - they have each had the opportunity to have their lives touched by a Jewish education.

Sam Silverman, Lee Schwartz and Jared Samuels spoke about all the teachers who have taught them in middle school and influenced their academic successes and made a difference in their learning experiences. They thanked Morah Chavi Rabhan for squeezing in one more Rashi (a commentator used in the study of Chumash (the Torah)). They thanked their science teacher, Mrs. Robinson for always telling them to keep all "4" feet on the floor. They thanked Mrs. Niager for always telling them in 4th grade, to prepare for middle school.

Sue Hellen Giffen and Charlotte Jung expressed to their classmates the following "Leaving each other may not be easy, but we will always share something special. We'll always be close, no matter how far away we might be."

"We'll learn to lend a helping hand or a caring heart to new people, all the while, all of us will be silently cheering each other on." Hannah Slotin's thoughts to her friends.

Emily Wallace said, "We may be leaving Rambam, but Rambam will never leave us."

"By the laws of nature, we the Jewish people should not be in existence. The Hagaddah tells us that in every generation there will be those who wish to destroy us - we are here, as living proof of G-d's promise that the Jewish people will never cease to exist. However, G-d's promise was of our survival, **not** our education. **The Almighty did not promise that every Jew would be educated.**

Our sense of right and wrong, our sense of proper morality, our understanding of what should be significant - will not just pass on to our children, even with devout effort on our part and respect for their heritage will also **not** just happen.

This time in their lives (the lives of the graduates) is crucial and will determine many a path they will choose to follow. This is not the time to "choose your battles," this is the time to exercise your responsibilities as a parent - to keep your child safe and secure. It is a time to spare your child from contributing to a spiritual emptiness among our people."



Ester Y. Rabhan,
Rambam Principal

Rambam to Benefit from Georgia Private School Tax Credit

A Georgia state law passed in July, 2008 called House Bill 1133 (Qualified Education Expense Credit), gives Georgia state income tax payers the opportunity to divert a portion of their state tax liability to Rambam Day School (as well as other registered private schools) for tuition scholarships. With a donation to an SSO (Student Scholarship Organization), a Georgia state income tax credit is available for the tax year in which the donor makes the gift. In addition to a state tax credit, the taxpayer can also claim the donation as a charitable contribution deduction on his or her federal tax return.

Married couples filing jointly can donate up to \$2,500 per year and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. Individuals may contribute up to \$1,000. C-Corporations can receive a credit for 75% of their state income tax liability, or for the amount donated, whichever is less. There are \$50 million in credits available each year, distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Rambam is collaborating with Apogee Georgia School Choice Scholarship Fund; one of fifteen SSO's registered with the state of Georgia. This affiliation allows donors the opportunity to obtain the Qualified Education Expense Credit and through Apogee, to direct their scholarships to Rambam. To apply, donors must complete an application and submit it to the Georgia Department of Revenue regarding the total amount intended to donate to Apogee and request pre-approval for the tax credit. Within 30 days of the pre-approval notice, donors must make their contributions to Apogee.

Step-by-step instructions for making a contribution to Apogee for Rambam's direct benefit are available on Rambam's website (www.rambamdayschool.org) by selecting the "fund-raisers" tab and then selecting "Georgia Education Tax Credit." Complete instructions as well as all necessary forms are printable by then selecting "Donation Package."

To date, Rambam has received commitments for more than \$80,000 in donations. These funds will be available for distribution for the 2009-2010 school year to qualified scholarship applicants. Rambam's Georgia Tax Credit Chairpersons, Freddie Rabhan and Judy Hirsch, are eager to answer questions about this incredible opportunity for Rambam. Feel free to contact Freddie (355-9905) or Judy (354-7730) with any questions. John Panessa, Rambam's representative at Apogee is also available to answer questions (404-419-7123) or via e-mail at jpanessa@apogee360.com.

Myths and Facts about Rambam and the Georgia Private School Tax Credit

Myth: July 1st was the deadline to participate in the Georgia Tax Credit program.

Fact: All funds pre-approved and received by Apogee before August 18th, 2009 will be available for distribution for the 2009-2010 school year. All funds received after this date will be available for distribution during the 2010-2011 (and subsequent) years.

Myth: This is a "one time only" opportunity.

Fact: Unless the law is repealed, this opportunity is available to taxpayers annually! If you are approved for and make a donation in 2009, you will again be eligible to contribute in tax year 2010.

Myth: I can wait and make my donation later.

Fact: There are hundreds of private schools registered to participate in this program throughout the state of Georgia. As soon as the \$50 million dollar cap is reached, the opportunity is over for that tax year. We are in a race to obtain pre-approvals and contributions before that cap is reached. Rambam urgently needs your prompt response.

Myth: If I don't owe taxes for the current year, I should not participate.

Fact: The tax credit earned by participation in this program can roll over for up to five years. Ask your tax advisor about your personal tax liability situation.

Myth: This is too good to be true. There must be "a catch."

Fact: Although it seems that there would be a "down side" to this program, we have yet to uncover one! Community-wide support in Atlanta yielded scholarship funds in excess of \$1.2 million dollars for Jewish schools. Certainly, with broad based community support, we have the potential to fund scholarships for many eligible children in Savannah. Funds we raise now (and in subsequent tax years as allowed by the law) will be available for distribution for years to come whether or not the law is repealed.

Myth: If I don't contribute the maximum allowable donation, I shouldn't bother contributing at all.

Fact: Every dollar counts and will benefit Rambam students. If your anticipated tax liability is less than the maximum allowable donation, you are encouraged to participate at any contribution level. There is no minimum as long as the amount is approved by the Department of Revenue during the application process.

Rambam Day School 2008-09 Fourth Quarter Honor Roll

4th Grade

Ora Damelin, HR Secular
Hillel Garfunkel, HR Judaic
Yehudis Gold, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Tomer Locker, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Allison Samuels, HR Secular, HR Judaic
Chaya Schochet, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Jordyn Stoltzman, HR Secular

5th Grade

Haylee Snaid, HR Secular

6th Grade

Moishe Gold, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Rose Fishman, HR Secular
Sam Raskin, HR Secular, HHR Judaic
Moshe Schochet, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Max Strauss, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic

7th Grade

Brianna Alkofer, HR Judaic
Alexander Fleming, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Sarala Gold, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Josh Goldstein, HR Judaic
Lena Hirsch, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Marissa Levine, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Sophie Lichtman, HR Secular, HR Judaic
Tzvi Rosen, HHR Secular, HR Judaic
Mandy Salmon, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Yehuda Schochet, HR Secular, HR Judaic
Hannah Warshaw, HR Secular, HR Judaic

8th Grade

Bassie Gold, HHR Secular, HHR Judaic
Charlotte Jung, HR Secular
Sophie Longwater, HR Judaic
Jared Samuels, HR Secular, HR Judaic
Lee Schwartz, HR Judaic
Sam Silverman, HR Secular, HR Judaic
Hannah Slotin, HR Secular



Green-ish

By Miriam Hodesh

When asked if I would write a on how my husband and I live and work in an eco-friendly way, I asked myself if what we are doing is good enough. And I thought to myself, how can we do more?

Perhaps after reading this, you might ponder these same questions. For starters, Jacob and I are seekers, explorers and questioners. After seeing *No Impact Man*, at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival in January we left feeling empowered, not overwhelmed, and decided that we could make simple changes in our own lives. The documentary film chronicles a New York family living 'off-the-grid' for one year.

Upon returning home from Utah, our first mission was to create a list of challenges. First, we decided to stop buying new clothing in 2009. It was a personal challenge. We have received some 'gifted' underwear and running shoes from my mom, but aside from that, we have stuck to our word.

It may seem hard, unnecessary and possibly silly, but after cleaning out our closets, and giving whatever we didn't need to Goodwill, we actually felt a sense of liberation. Think of this

donation as our form of tikkun-olam, this was a step toward bettering our environment.

We do simple things, like bring our own bags to the grocery store. We grow some of our own food. We compost our organic food waste. We keep an extra set of Tupperware, utensils and coffee mugs in our car so that we can take food to go without using Styrofoam. We reuse a lot. We recycle.

We sold one of our two cars and have committed ourselves to ride our bikes, commute, and walk more.

On the work side of our lives, we work with business partner, Brad Baugh, to recycle waste vegetable oil from local restaurants and sell biodiesel to local diesel fleets. Refuel Savannah is a small business that is riding the green wave and empowering citizens to understand the benefits of alternative fuels, including lower emissions and how these benefits correlate to healthier living.



Miriam and Jake Hodesh

At the end of the day, if we can lead a life that is comfortable yet imposes less of an impact on this earth – we are all for it.

If you want to make a change you can. If you want to challenge the status quo, do it.

What if respecting the earth was not considered alternative? What if it was just part of living a good life?

Reuben Formey releases *Until When*

Reviewed by Harry Portman

The recent release of "Until When" infused the Jewish music scene with a brand new sound. In a market where many albums have begun to merge together in a stagnant mix of bouncy pop and blasting brass, Prodezra, AKA Reuben Formey, materialized as a welcome change. Formey, who grew up in Savannah, began dabbling in music production during high school using only an old Casio keyboard and his home computer. After beginning to pursue a religiously observant lifestyle in college and then attending a Chabad yeshiva in Israel, Formey decided to use his talents to contribute to the progressive world of modern Jewish music.

While hip-hop traditionally has not been considered part of the spectrum of Jewish music, recent breakthrough artists such as Matisyahu and Y-Love (the latter makes an appearance on "Until When") have drawn attention to this rapidly developing musical movement. Formey remarked that he draws strength from an inner desire to "make music that people do more than just listen to, but will actually feel within their soul." Instead of personally taking credit for the popularity of his rhythm and rhymes, Formey attributes his talents and success as a bless-

ing from G-d – a gift to be shared with everyone around him. Prodezra joins the rank of rising young Jewish stars that appeal to a more mainstream audience. Unlike most albums that are marketed toward the niche Orthodox market; these artists cater their musical style toward anyone seeking spiritual fulfillment; Jew and Gentile alike.

The album features a wide array of thumping beats and meaningful vocals. "Until When" is evenly split between lyrical and instrumental tracks. All the songs are characterized by an infectious beat that often borders on hypnotic, such as those found in "Koach (interlude)" and "Ein Od Milvado." Listeners searching for something that will inspire should look no further than "Change," a synthesis of lyrics about the technologically advanced modern world and remembering the Jewish past with citations from Psalms recalling Biblical Jerusalem. "Liora," a tribute to Jewish women (and specifically named after Formey's wife) can only be



described as sensitive and downright beautiful. Prodezra's first release is an exciting new venture, something different from the run-of-the-mill Jewish music production, and a welcome addition to any music collection.

"Until When" is available for purchase at www.cdbaby.com/cd/prodezra, and can be additionally downloaded at iTunes: Search "Prodezra Beats" or www.tinyurl.com/prodezraitunes and Digstation: www.digstation.com/prodezra. Prodezra can also be found on Facebook and at www.prodezrabats.com.

Judaism and environmentalism often compliment one another on many levels. Environmentalism is addressed throughout halacha. Biblical and rabbinic texts in all streams incorporate prayers about the environment, with some emphasis in the Reform and Jewish Renewal movements. There is contemporary Talmudic discussion on agricultural pollution and eco-kashrut has been a cornerstone of the Conservative movement since the 1970s.

Highlighted here are a few of the major organizations involved in Jewish environmental causes:

In the U.S., The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) undertakes educational and policy advocacy on issues like biodiversity and global warming. Israelis have formed numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations to protect nature and reduce pollution. In addition, Jewish environmental studies programs have become more popular over the last several years.

COEJL is the leading Jewish environmental umbrella organization in the U.S., placing the environment on the agenda of the organized Jewish community and in Washington. They represent 29 Jewish organizations spanning the spectrum of religious and communal life. COEJL seeks to expand the contemporary understanding of such Jewish values as tikkun olam (repairing the world) and tzedek (justice) to include the protection of both people and other species from environmental degradation. COEJL seeks to extend traditions as social action and g'milut hasadim (performing deeds of loving kindness) to environmental action and advocacy and shalom (peace or wholeness), in its fullest sense.

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies is an accredited academic program for undergraduate and graduate studies that seeks to train students in environmental issues so that they will be able to cooperate in solving environmental problems in the Middle East.

Hazon (Vison) is a nonprofit based in New York that creates community through outdoor and environmental education. They also promote programs on issues related to food and hunger.

For more information on Jewish environmentalism, refer to these websites: Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life: www.coejl.org/ HAZON: <http://www.hazon.org/> Jewish Center for Public Affairs: <http://www.jcpa.org/art/jep1.htm> JTA section on Eco-Jews: <http://jta.org/eco-jews>



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