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Annual Meeting May 27th

## Konter to Hand Over JEA Reins to Scott Samuels

On Wednesday, May 27, Scott Samuels will be named the new president of the JEA at the Annual Meeting.

Scott succeeds Marcy Konter, who has served as the JEA's president for the past two years. The 2009-2010 JEA board will be installed at the meeting and this year's Harvey Rubin winner will be announced, too. Other special recognition awards also will be presented.

Marcy Konter had the following to say about her two year tenure as president:

"Serving as JEA President over the last two years has been quite an experience. Though often challeng-



Marcy Konter

ing, and occasionally trying, there is tremendous satisfaction in being so intimately involved in such an important and far reaching communal organization like the JEA.

The sheer number of people served each month at the facility is remarkable. While the officers and board members grapple with many important decisions about the JEA finances and policies, it is far and away the work of the director and his staff that makes everything happens every day at our center. Hats off to Adam Solender and each member of his team who make sure that the programs we enjoy, the activities in which we participate, and the total



Scott Samuels

facility are always prepared and ready for each member.

Very often we remind ourselves of our shortcomings; too few donation dollars to fund so many communal needs. I choose, instead to think of our many successes. Community Shabbaton events, hosting community wide events for entertainment, education, Israeli culture, health awareness, and so much more make the JEA a true center for community Jewish life in Savannah.

I am proud to have played a small roll in JEA history for this past two years."

All members of the JEA are invited and asked to attend the Annual Meeting which will be held in the JEA auditorium on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. The meeting will include a dessert reception.

Motorcyclists will raise thousands for local Holocaust library

## Are You Born to be Wild?

Even just a little bit? Join the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance (JMA) when they come to Savannah this month for their annual Ride to Remember. Even if you don't ride, come show some of our famous Southern hospitality and your support for the more than 250 Jewish motorcyclists

from around the country, and places as far away as Australia, Israel and the frozen tundra of Canada, who will be visiting Savannah May 14-16 as the home base for their ride on May 15<sup>th</sup> from here to Charleston and back.

This will be JMA's fifth Ride to Remember, all of which are fundraising projects for Holocaust remembrance causes and other Jewish philanthropies. This year, they are donating the proceeds of their ride to projects in Savannah and Charleston and the ride is expected to raise *thousands* of dollars for our planned Holocaust educator's lending library. Their previous rides have benefited the Paper Clips project in Whitwell, Tennessee, Magen David Adom and the National Holocaust Endowment Fund.



2007 Ride to Remember in New York City

The riders will be arriving on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and the DeSoto Hilton Hotel downtown will be their main base of operations. They're planning a cook-out in Madison Square next to the hotel on Thursday at 6:00 pm and everyone's invited – \$5 per person donation requested to cover costs.

The main event takes place Friday morning, May 15<sup>th</sup> at the JEA.

Continued on Page 4



A Publication of Savannah Jewish Federation  
5111 Abercorn Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31405  
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## JEA Pool Grand Opening May 24th, see CenterPiece for details



# The First Fruits of the Year

By Maia Koiller

My parents and brother recently visited me for a few days here in Savannah during Passover so they could briefly see my experiences living here. Besides the wonderful weather we had, they were amazed by the beautiful city, the rich and extensive history, and most importantly by the thriving and growing Jewish community. Everyone they met was so warm and welcoming, and as always I felt so lucky to be able to be here now with you all.

It suddenly struck me that this was the first time ever I am celebrating all of the Jewish and Israeli holidays outside of Israel! Sometimes I get confused with the second day celebration, or the first meal, or sometimes I hear a tune or a song that I

unfamiliar with, or sometimes I taste a new dish, but, in the end, I never feel alone in Savannah.

Lag B'Omer is coming up soon: in Israel children are already starting to look for firewood because large bonfires will be lit all across the country! Soon afterwards we will be celebrating Shavuot. All around the country children will go to school with their *tenc-* a basket with fruit as well as a dairy item, like blintzes or cheesecake. On kibbutzim there is still a tradition to march carrying all the local babies who were born that year and newborn animals. Of course, this is also the time of the year that the hay is cut and most



Maia Koiller

importantly, when people visit Jerusalem. In the Old City there are food and drink stands for people who come to visit. It is very nice because only a week before a lot of people also commemorate Jerusalem Day. Schools mark this day by holding ceremonies and throughout the city there are lots of celebrations and cheerful people.

*Bikurim* are symbolic offerings of the first fruits which the Jews would bring to the Temple in Jerusalem. Lately, I have been thinking to myself, what are my *bikurim* for this year? What are the new projects for this year here? I feel that a lot of new ideas and dreams were opened up for me this year. I have new friends that are like family. It was a brand new start for me in many ways with many new beginnings: The JEA, schools, universities, and synagogues. Suddenly I feel that Shavuot will be a perfect opportunity to reflect and think on fruits

that were born from hard work, and to see that some things were given to all of us together as a community that are even bigger than just Israel or Savannah. We must also remember that we are all connected.

In Israel we have a new government and everyone is waiting in anticipation to see what tomorrow will bring. Although we had a rough year, new poets, artists, families, and achievements have also been made and created; these are a few things that always bring hope for the future.

On Shavuot we sing a song in Hebrew that is basically translated: "Our baskets are on our soldiers, and our heads are lifted, from all the fields of the country we came, in order to bring *bikurim*. In other words, what will tomorrow bring for us? A lot of hard work together can bring a lot!

Thank you for sharing with me this time of the year!

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Savannah Jewish News,

In Savannah, some things happen quickly, some take a little longer (note the nickname "Slowvannah"). The lesson to be learned is to embrace change when it does occur, and accept that other changes may not be realized as soon as we may desire.

I have found that lesson especially valuable in my Jewish communal volunteer life. Wonderful techno-changes have taken place here at the JEA with the introduction of weekly E-News, electronic donation capabilities, and the beautifully enhanced and informative *Savannah Jewish News*. We've changed dramatically how we reach out to our community thanks to Adam Solender, and the number of people on the receiving end has grown by leaps and bounds. We are better connected to our Center and our total Jewish community.

I have also learned the importance of being patient when change happens slowly. We have an active and vibrant Center that is showing signs of its age – renovations, repairs, repaints, and remodeling are difficult to fund in today's difficult economic times. We ask a lot of our community, and somehow, slowly but surely we manage to find a way to accomplish much of what is needed, though not necessarily all that is wanted.

Participating in volunteer work is always satisfying, particularly when it is for a group or organization that holds special meaning. My time as JEA President has been challenging but always rewarding, time consuming but always worthwhile, and most of all fulfilling. I may not have been able to execute all the changes I would have liked, but I saw the agency serve the needs of children and adults, both young and seasoned. I have watched our members enjoy Shabbos together, celebrate Purim as a community, and live and learn Jewishly in a beautiful and friendly Jewish communal home.

Best,  
Marcy Konter

Dear Savannah Jewish News,

Sometimes perfect moments are created by amazing people who come together to help others that they do not know. On Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, the Cancer Answer Free Health Fair and luncheon produced such heroes.

MorningStar Cultural Arts Group and the Savannah Jewish Federation's Jewish Family Services hosted a free luncheon to young women under 25 with their parents to learn how to prevent cervical cancer and a health fair to anyone who wanted free screenings and information about preventing and dealing with genetic (BRCA gene) cancers (prostate, ovarian, male & female breast, and colorectal) at the Jewish Educational Alliance. Chaired by Toby Hollenberg, the fair was the culmination of a series of free events that started in January to inform people in Savannah about early diagnosis and better yet, prevention, of certain cancers.

We wish to thank the JEA, SJF and all the MorningStar volunteers, health care professionals and the institutions that gave so freely of their time and expertise to produce the Cancer Answer Health series. In particular, we wish to thank the administrators and staff of the Nancy N. and J. C. Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion, the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society and Hadassah who worked together to provide an incredible array of free services and information for those in attendance.

Free oral and skin cancer screenings were provided by Dr. Harold A. Black and Dr. Adam S. Pritzker. The lectures by Dr. Steven T. Brower, Dr. Venus Jolly Nabors, Dr. Barry Luskey, Dr. Ray Rudolph, and Dr. James J. Burke, II, as well as segments of presentations by genetic consultant C. Shai Huffard-King, nutritionist Peter Brodhead, cancer advocate Barbara Hoffman, J.D., editor of *A Cancer Survivor's Almanac*, Nancy

H. Johnson, cancer care administrator and Katy Keyes cancer fitness specialist were filmed and will be available on the April community access channel along with a special message from actress Kathy Bates, an ovarian cancer survivor. Check local Comcast listings or the MorningStar website for the air dates and times.

Sincerely,  
Carol Towbin Greenberg

Dear Jewish Educational Alliance,

On behalf of the people served by America's Second Harvest Food Bank of Coastal Georgia, we would like to convey our sincere gratitude for your donation of 983 pounds of food collected during Kids Day. Your gift ensures that lives continue to be nourished by Second Harvest.

For each dollar contributed to America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, we are able to bring five pounds of food into our distribution center and distribute it throughout our twenty-one county service area with the assistance of our partner agencies. Our partners include local faith-based organizations with food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters from domestic violence and homelessness as well as local chapters of large organizations like the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Last year through our member agencies and our direct programs — Brown Bag for the Elderly, Community Kitchen, Kids Café, Mobile Food Pantry, and Rural Delivery — we distributed more than 5.4 million pounds of food throughout southeast Georgia. By providing nonperishable food and necessary items to local non-profits, we saved them more than seven million dollars wholesale. This money, which would have been spent on food, was used instead on shelter, medical supplies, counseling and other support necessities for at-risk children, mothers and families.

Your gift sustains the food bank's mission to nourish our community through

food, education, and empowerment. Thank you for your support.

With sincere appreciation,  
Mary Jane Crouch  
Executive Director  
America's Second Harvest Food Bank of  
Coastal Georgia

## Identification Statement

Savannah Jewish News  
April 2009 Issue

Published ten times each year by  
The Savannah Jewish Federation

5111 Abercorn St.  
Savannah, GA 31405  
912-355-8111/www.savj.org

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## Persistence of Memory

First, some background information: I evaluate people with memory problems for a living. Just about every day for the last quarter century I have seen patients with memory difficulty. So tonight, as Carol reminded me just in the nick of time that I have once again nearly forgotten to count the Omer, I am reflecting on the power of memory. (Understand that the counting is currently in single digits and we are very nearly at my record for counting without mistakes.)

As we move through April and May, we are challenged to remember a lot. At the Seder we recall the story of Israel's bondage and the Exodus. Yom HaShoah bids us remember the Holocaust. Yom HaZikaron calls to mind those who have fallen defending the State of Israel while Yom HaAtzmaut brings back the memory of Israel's independence and the wars fought since then to maintain her security. Finally on Shavuot we relive the experience of G-d's gift of the Torah and the Commandments to the Jewish people. It's a lot to remember!

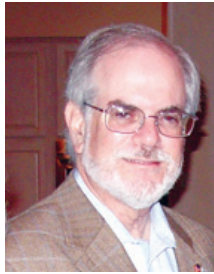
As a people Jews have pretty much made remembering our past into an art form. There is undeniably some benefit in this: there are many lessons to be learned from our past. We have the moral lessons taught by our Torah and the Midrashim taught by our scholars as well as the practical lessons learned from our ancient and recent history.

Yet the real strength of Judaism is that we are part of an ongoing evolving story. We are told at the Seder that we ourselves were freed from Egypt, not just our ancestors and our descendants. The very existence of Israel is a testimony to the fact that

a Jewish homeland is not just a historic entity but a political reality. While we draw strength from our collective memory, the purpose of these lessons is to help us live in the present. We are taught to live in the moment.

As we each approach the holidays and memorials of the next few weeks, it is important to jog our memories and recall the lessons of history. It is even more important to use the opportunity to act in the present in order to remember that Pesach's promise of freedom is a reality for us but not for others. The words of the commandments are as relevant today as they were in millennia past. We must never permit another Holocaust to befall our people or any other people – be they Jews or Armenians, Bosnian Muslims or African tribesman. We must remember that the dream of freedom and peace which led to Israel's establishment lives not just in Israel but in the hearts of other peoples in other lands. As Jews, we must help our fellow Jews, it's true. But we also need to look beyond ourselves and see how remembering our history can help us find ways to live in our present and fulfill our obligations to improve our world now and in the future.

Who knows? I might make it all the way through the Omer. Miracles do happen, but that's a different column.



Dr. Joel Greenberg  
President,  
Savannah Jewish  
Federation

## A Job Well Done

Marcy Konter is retiring this month. No, Konter Homes will not be without their "Customer Service Director." Marcy is retiring after two years as President of the Jewish Educational Alliance.

Marcy's presidency began with the challenge of hiring a new Executive Director (I think she made a great choice), and transitioning the entire organization with new personnel. She has overseen the building of new locker rooms and the outdoor pool, guided wonderful Shabbatonim, Kid's Days and hundreds of other activities. Over the past one and a half years I have watched Marcy guide the organization with great insight, dogged determination, grace and class. She has adeptly balanced the needs of the organization with the needs of the membership and community—no easy task.

At a recent JEA Board of Directors meeting (her last as President), Marcy spoke with great passion about the JEA and what it stands for in the community:

- The JEA is central to the community we serve.
- We are the place where people interact, gather to discuss issues, support each other, stay healthy, learn and relax. Whether it is the Community Shabbaton, Purim Carnival, Jewish Film Festival, or Yom HaShoah observance, the JEA is the facility and home for everyone in the community.
- We add value to people's lives by offering free and low-cost classes,

enrichment activities, gathering places, and the opportunity to be part of a larger community.

- We focus on wellness – of mind, body and spirit – especially important during stressful times. We promote emotional and physical health.

- We foster camaraderie in a safe place, where all are welcome and accepted. We cherish our members and value their presence, participation and support. We are committed to be here for them when they need us; we do not turn people away who are faced with economic hardship.

- We enable our members to participate in programs that support those most in need in our community through donation drives for food and clothing, sponsorship of Kids Day for the entire Savannah community, and the provision of low cost/free meeting space to dozens of nonprofits in Savannah.

A friend of mine once said that a Jewish organizational leader's primary job is to maintain the institution and to pass the organization on from one generation to the next. Always with a smile on her face and with boundless energy, Marcy has accomplished that and so much more. On behalf of the entire community, "Thank you Marcy for all the work you did."



Adam Solender



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## Golfing for Green

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

Sometimes people simply want to concentrate on having a good time for a good cause. Fundraising golf outings have become a popular way to network and show support for non-profit organizations. The JEA has found that its' JEA & Friends Annual Golf Outing has become an important part of their annual fundraising efforts.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the Jewish Educational Alliance will host its' third JEA & Friends Golf Outing at the Crosswinds Golf Club with Joe Goldstein as the Chairperson for the event. Lunch and registration begins at 11:00am and Tee time begins at 12:30.

The previous two years have had more than 100 people participate. Kim Thebo, Director of Special Events for the JEA, said the outings have netted about \$25-27,000 each of the past two years. "The people that participate in the JEA & Friends Outing really enjoy coming each year." Kim explains, "They tell themselves they are getting a day off and most importantly, they are giving funds to a good organization. They are out there to have a good time and meet people they haven't had a chance to meet or spend time with before."



(From L to R) Danny Kaminsky, Lew Kooden, Michael Kooden and Aaron Kooden at the 2008 JEA Golf Tournament

Medea Nowell, general manager of Crosswinds Golf Club, said organizations make money through general corporate sponsorships, but also through donations for raffles, silent and live auctions and "hole sponsorships."

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

For more information on the JEA & Friends Golf Outing, please contact Kim Thebo at the JEA at 355.8111.

## MorningStar happenings

By Carol Towbin Greenberg

A current polarizing political discussion in America is exactly what makes an American – who shall have rights and access to our social services and who cannot. As Jews our history is filled with examples of being the object of laws that treated us as less than full citizens. But this debate is not new to our Jewish or even American history as it seems each generation produces some American citizens whose basic rights and liberties have been denied.

On Thursday May 21, 2009 at 7:15pm at the JEA, MorningStar Cultural Arts group will be proud to present nationally recognized freelance television journalist and independent documentary filmmaker Mimi Gan to lead a discussion after the showing of her mini-documentary *With Honors Denied*, the story of a Japanese-American woman's journey of redemption and reconciliation after World War II. The film, narrated by George Takai, screened at a dozen film festivals, including Tribeca and Palm Springs International, receiving two audience awards and a jury award for best documentary.

Ms. Gan's appearance, the Savannah premier, and the teen workshop which will precede it, completes MorningStar's twentieth programming year and will be the sixth and final event in their *Finding*



Mimi Gan

*Oneself* series that started last February with Ethiopian-Israeli filmmaker Avishai Mekonen. Whereas Avishai spoke of preserving racial, religious, and cultural identification through connecting with one's past, Ms. Gan will deal with racial profiling and the pain of inequality in America from a different perspective – that of the Japanese-American's placed in internment camps during World War II.

This event is preceded by a youth workshop, designed for people ages 12 to 20 and their adult guests, at which participants may meet, talk, and dine with Ms. Gan (4 p.m. until 5:30p.m.) at the Frank Callen's Boys and Girls Club. Both programs are free and open to the public through the generous support of the Georgia Council of the Arts and the City of Savannah Department of Cultural Affairs with added support from the JEA, Savannah Entrepreneurial Center, Savannah Movie Tours, and MorningStar board member Lisa Horn. Transportation leaving from the JEA for the youth workshop can be arranged in advance by calling Larry Dane Kellogg at the JEA (355.8111).

The youth workshop is free of charge but requires pre-registration by clicking the Finding Oneself icon at [www.morningstararts.com](http://www.morningstararts.com) or by calling 912.652.3582 (Savannah Entrepreneurial Center). Ms. Gan is developing a new teaching guide for West Coast schools and will use her research for the film to help teenagers discuss issues of racial profiling, bigotry, and triumph over adversity.

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## Ride.....cont. from page 1

The riders will begin assembling between 8 and 8:30 am. Please join the Savannah Jewish Federation as we host them for breakfast and a proper send-off before they "head out on the highway" at 9:30 am for Charleston. We need volunteers to help put out the traditional spread — bagels, shmears, coffee and more. Please contact Ben Kweskin if you'd like to help out (355-8111 or [ben@savj.org](mailto:ben@savj.org)) or please just come join the excitement that morning and help send them on a safe journey before you head off to work or out on the rest

of your day.

All local motorcycle enthusiasts are invited to join the JMA on this Ride to Remember. If you ride and would like to join this fun-loving group but have not already registered, please go to their website, [www.ride2remember.com](http://www.ride2remember.com) for registration information.

And even if you don't ride, let's give them a proper Southern welcome and thank you for choosing Savannah as a place to visit and our future Holocaust library as the beneficiary of this year's ride!



# Embracing the Light from the Shadows:

*an Interview with Local Author Jonathan Rabb*

Novelist and academic Dr. Jonathan Rabb, a Savannah resident and JEA member, will be speaking at the JEA Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. He will give a reading followed by a discussion and Q&A on his new murder-mystery, *Shadow and Light* (Orion, April 2009) the second novel in a planned trilogy set in Germany between the World Wars. Jonathan will have his historical fiction novels available for sale and for signing at the event. In mid-April, SJF Programming Associate Benjamin Kweskin interviewed him in anticipation of this upcoming program.

**Q: What brought you to Savannah from New York City?**

**A:** My wife's brother Richard Reeve and his family live here. It was beautiful, easygoing, and friendly, so we decided to stay. We've been here since July. My wife, Andra Reeve and I have 4 1/2 year old twins, and we're members of the JEA and looking forward to having the pool open this summer!

mer!

**Q: Shadow and Light is your second novel in your trilogy about Germany in between both World Wars. Why not create a longer series?**

**A:** It had been discussed, but in the end since I chart the decline and despair of Berlin through the main character and his family, it didn't seem very necessary to me. My characters don't know that the Nazis will come to power, but my readers do.

**Q: What will the third novel in the trilogy be about?**

**A:** It starts in Germany in 1936 before the Summer Olympics, later turning to Spain directly before the Spanish Civil War. It was a great time as far as politics and political upheaval, mass culture, and anarchy.

**Q: Your previous book (the first one of the trilogy) is entitled Rosa, about the famous Jewish-Socialist leader, who was very influential in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. What is her**

**legacy with regards to Jewish intellectuals in this century?**

**A:** For many Jewish socialists during this time, it was the intellectual approach to politics. To a large extent, it still is. A question to ask is: why were so many Jews Socialists? Both Jews and Socialists desire to create "heaven on earth." It's about making this world perfect. Rosa grew up in a traditional home, but even though she didn't practice Judaism, one may still see Judaism and Jewish values through her literature.

**Q: What are the differing aspects that draw you to this particular time period?**

**A:** For me, Berlin itself is a character; the city was in an identity crisis of sorts. Also, the great Jewish German-Polish Socialist leader Rosa Luxemburg is a fascinating person. She was the dominant figure of Socialism and tried to rally Germany to revolution.

**Q: What other time periods or locations do you find intriguing to**

**write about?**

**A:** Ancient Christianity, Venice, Italy in general, and Ireland. I still find Germany fascinating.

**Q: Would you classify your literature as Jewish?**

**A:** My works clearly have Jewish content through many differing aspects, but I would not consider my literature to be Jewish, per se. Cultural aspects are inevitable, especially when talking about 20<sup>th</sup> century Germany. German Jews brought Reform Judaism as well as assimilation. Of course, German Jews also fought on the side of Germany in World War One [editor's note, about 12,000 German Jews died fighting for Germany in the First World War].

**Q: Your perspective on writing differs significantly from High School English teachers' approaches, doesn't it?**

**A:** I have a general sense for what I see the book looking like; the structure is already in my head. I don't generally have a blue print written out because I need that active discovery. I put a lot of faith in the subconscious mind, meaning the brain will lead me to the right place. The main questions I ask are "how can I capture the feelings of my characters?" "How do I remain consistent in this?" Also, I trust my audience and their intelligence.



Jonathan Rabb



**Coming to Savannah  
Anne Frank—  
A History for Today Exhibit**  
*A program conducted by the  
Georgia Commission on the Holocaust*

**State and local elected officials,  
including Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson,  
invite you to a special reception at the  
Jewish Educational Alliance  
Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Admission \$18 at the door.**

*Tax-deductible sponsorship opportunities available (includes signage and recognition at the reception and during the exhibit's tenure in Savannah). Call 404-370-3013 for more info.*

**Pat Conroy, best-selling author of  
*The Great Santini, Prince of Tides*  
and *Beach Music*,  
will be the special guest speaker.**

This exhibit, featuring Anne's story, reminds us that racism and discrimination did not end with World War II. It challenges us to think about the significance of human rights and mutual respect. Savannah will also host the exhibit, "Witness to the Holocaust: William A. Scott at Buchenwald." Mr. Scott, a Georgia native, was a member of a segregated unit of the US Army during World War II and a photojournalist when he witnessed the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp.

## Graduating High School and College Seniors



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

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

**You may mail it to us at  
Savannah Jewish News  
5111 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31405  
or email it to Benjamin Kweskin at ben@savj.org**

**or call 912.355.8111**



## Your Campaign Dollars at Work

## Reeves Attends National Young Leadership Conference

By Amanda Reeves

I was fortunate to represent Savannah at the United Jewish Communities Young Leadership conference in New Orleans March 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme: "tikkuNOLAm" focused on the rebirth and rebuilding on New Orleans – three and a half years after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city. This year's theme of service and giving back drew a crowd of 600 people from all over the country.

UJC partnered with St. Bernard Parish to help renovate the remnants of Archbishop Hannan High School into a state-of-the-art youth complex. Located fifteen minutes outside of the heart of New Orleans, St. Bernard's Parish was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The eye of the storm passed over the area, destroying its levees and flooding nearly every home and building in the parish, and leaving eight feet of standing water.

Archbishop Hannan High School decided to relocate and what remains are damaged buildings and overrun athletic fields. We spent an entire day working on transforming the former school into the new Hannan Youth Complex. This included painting, landscaping, laying pipes, repairing fences, and much more. Although this was just the beginning of a long term project, to see our efforts at the end of the day was inspiring.

At the conference we also heard speakers such as Scott Cowen, the president of Tulane University, and Rabbi Uri Topolosky of Congregation Beth Israel of New Orleans. In addition, we listened to testimonials from members of the Jewish community – all of these speakers were consistent in their theme: Jewish Federations' support of those in need came quickly and was distributed efficiently when they needed it most. I always read the Savannah Jewish News section "Your Federation Dollars at Work" and hearing the stories about rebuilding and assisting the community in New Orleans really put these words in a new light. Even more, the Jewish community was the model for



Amanda Reeves and her new friends during their work break in New Orleans.

the greater New Orleans community. Yet, members of the Jewish community also spoke about how hard it was for them to accept *tzedakah* when they are used to giving. This is something I had not thought about and it made me think about giving in a new perspective.

Listening to stories about rebuilding and the spirit of the city reminded me of similarities between New Orleans and Savannah. Although larger in size, the New Orleans Jewish community resembles our own community. Our roots are both southern and Jewish and we both boast communities that are hundreds of years old. While we have been fortunate not to have experienced a tragedy like Hurricane Katrina – being located in a hurricane prone area is also unfortunately another similarity between our two beautiful cities. Listening to the hurricane victims throughout the conference hammered home the importance of being prepared. As we approach hurricane season this year, I urge all of us to think through what we would do in case of an emergency and to actually take part in the hurricane readiness measures that many have become desensitized to over the years.

*Editor's Note: Amanda Reeves, a local realtor with Melaver Mouchet, has been one of the key members of the Young Jewish Savannah steering committee for the past year, has advised the Federation's Long Range Jewish Education Committee and is a BBYO advisor. She attended the National Young Leadership Conference with a grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation. She and her husband, Josh, moved "back" to Savannah in 2006.*

## It's Your "Birthright." No, really, it is.

By Jonathan Tenenbaum

Combine a pre-dawn hike up Masada, a gastronomic tour of Jerusalem's food market, a camel ride, a war, a left-wing Israeli tour guide, along with 40 complete strangers, and you get an amazing 10-day trip across a country steeped in history. Traveling with strangers is like moving in with them, only in this case it was like having a little more than three dozen new roommates, all with varying backgrounds and hailing from every corner of the country.

Having lived in Costa Rica, studied abroad in Australia, and traversed countries as far away as Sri Lanka, I have to admit, Israel is in a league of its own. I am not the type of traveler who typically enjoys organized tours, especially those that include buses. Though after nothing but positive feedback from past participants, I had to see what all of the hype was about.

I'll never forget while on our first night at a Kibbutz in the Golan Heights, the group was playing an icebreaker game designed to have participants find things they have in common with other group members. At some point during the game, long after the jet lag had set in, one of the guys got up in front of everyone and said, "Who got the lecture from their mother about finding a nice young JEWISH girl or boy on the trip?" Based on the duration and volume of the laughter, it was evident that we all had something in common and that all Jewish mothers ultimately want the same thing.

Now with the stress of finding a

suitable husband or wife behind us, our journey continued. From the mystical alleys of Tzfat, to experiencing Shabbat at the Dead

Sea, there was never a dull moment. Being the foodie that I am, my favorite part of the trip was our visit to one of Jerusalem's open-air markets, Shuk Machaneh Yehuda. I am a firm believer that markets, such as this one, are a great way to connect with the locals and experience a new culture. We could have spent an entire day going to all of the different hawkers. In the end, most of us were able to pick up a few delectable treats for the bus ride to the Dead Sea. Halavah, olives, challah, passion fruit, lox and of course, tongue, which several people thought was brisket, were just a few of the things being sampled on the bus.

I could easily go on, but I will keep it brief and say that I had an amazing experience and at the same time, forged new friendships. I would highly recommend that anyone who is eligible go on a Taglit-Birthright trip. Who knows, you may even meet your future spouse, and for your mother, that would be the greatest mitzvah possible.

Jonathan Tenenbaum, 23, is majoring in International Business and minoring in Spanish and Australian Studies at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. He is the son of Nancy and Bert Tenenbaum.



Jonathan Tenenbaum



casual eclectic dining

•Daniel Berman  
•David Reeves

Lunch  
M-F 11am-2:30pm  
Dinner  
Daily 5pm-10pm



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## 2009 Speaker's Series

Sunday, May 17, 2009  
7:30 PM at the JEA

### "The Four Ways to Know God"

featuring  
**Rabbi Yaakov Rosenstein**



Rabbi Rosenstein visits the offices of some of the most powerful CEOs in the country to discuss Torah, ethics and life with his program, "Have Torah, Will Travel."

\$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.*

## University of West Georgia Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, May 14th at 1:30 p.m.  
FREE and Open to the Public

The Jazz Ensemble will present a concert, free to the public immediately following the Senior Adult Lunch Program.

The University of West Georgia Jazz Ensemble is a big band of nineteen 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 and Duke Ellington, and more contemporary works from artists such as Tom Kubis and Lew Anderson.

The ensemble performs extensively throughout the Southeast, toured Europe 2001, and is currently looking toward a second European tour. The jazz ensemble hosts the annual Sunbelt Jazz Festival during April.

Listen to works such as an arrangement of Dancing in the Dark for the Stan Kenton Band by Gerry Milligan, Stella by Starlight, Free Beer, Uno Mas, Sister Sadie, Blues Down to the Shues and others.



The Jewish Educational Alliance & Savannah Arts Academy

Present

## Music for Mom

With the Savannah Arts Academy Silver Winds Ensemble

Sunday, May 10th—3 pm  
FREE & Open to the Public

The Silver Winds Ensemble (SWE) has earned consecutive Superior Ratings at the Georgia Music Educators Association Performance Evaluation Festival and Shamrock Music Festival in Dublin, Georgia since the opening of Savannah Arts in 1998. SWE most recently traveled to Troy University after being invited to perform for the Southeastern United States Honor Band Clinic. Many SWE Alumni are now attending universities and conservatories.



*You're Invited*

**JEA**

## 97th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

7:00-9:00 PM

**Dairy Dessert**

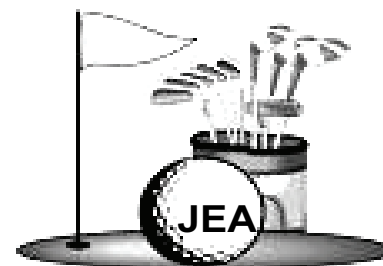
Say "thank you" to our retiring Board Members, welcome our in-coming Board Members and enjoy being a part of the JEA - The Home of Our Community!

### SAVE THE DATE!

### JEA & Friends Golf Outing

June 1, 2009

### Crosswinds Golf Club



For more info, contact Kim, 355-8111

### JEA Donations (as of 4/8/09)

#### ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In memory of Marvin Arkin  
Frances & Larry Waggar

#### ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Marvin Arkin  
Deemer, Dana & Froehle LLP  
In honor of Dr. Murray Arkin  
Bernice Elman & Brenda Salter

#### JEA BUILDING FUND

For Shaliach Programming In honor of Maia Koiller  
Jewish Women of the Landings

#### JACK & MIRIAM LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Aaron Levy's retirement  
Esther & Aaron Buchsbaum

#### HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Jestine Adkins  
Victor & Elise Shernoff  
In memory of Madeline Rubin  
Elise Shernoff & Abram Rubin  
In memory of Sam Plotkin  
Bernice Elman & Brenda Salter

#### NCJW CAMP/YOUTH FUND

In honor of Zena Kaplan's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Harriet, Barry & Sherri

#### BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Dorothy Zimmerman  
For the recovery of Terry Tenenbaum  
Sally & Steve Greenberg

#### JEA TREE OF LIFE

In honor of Lucy Gottlieb's birthday  
Allen Shensky

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

CENTER PIECE



# MAKE A SPLASH IN 2009!

## JEA TORNADOES 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 8th: \$100/ MEMBERS  
\$125/ NON-MEMBERS  
After April 8th: \$125/ MEMBERS  
\$150/ NON-MEMBERS

**First Practice: Tuesday, May 19th**  
**8 & under—5:45-6:30pm**  
**9 & up—6:30-7:30pm**

#### SWIMMING BUILDS:

- DISCIPLINE
- STRONG BONES & LEAN MUSCLES
- CONFIDENCE
- SELF-ESTEEM

A VIRTUALLY INJURY-FREE, LIFE-LONG SPORT!

### To ALL the Volunteers who helped make Kids' Day 2009 a success!



Marcy Konter, Scott & Ashley Samuels, Tony Center, Lori Loncon, Sally Greenberg, Ellen Hagan, Jodi Sadler, Michael Kooden, Aaron Solender, Josh & Sara Goldstein, Merritt Skidmore-Hess, Rachel Brody, Jared & Allison Samuels, Savannah State University Students and the Kids' Day Advisory Committee.

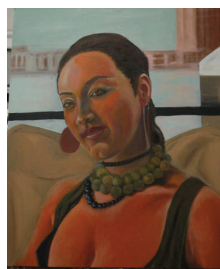
Thank you all for your time and support!



Gulfstream; Savannah Morning News;  
Publix Super Markets Charities;  
St. Joseph/Candler Hospital; Georgia Ports Authority;  
Food Lion; The Kroger Foundation;  
Savannah Coca-Cola; Savannah Bank;  
Kole Management; Break Time Vendors; Frito Lay;  
McDonalds @ Waters, DeRenne, Skidaway &  
Savannah Mall locations, and Cumulus Broadcasting

## Art at the JEA

### May Artist—Eun-Young You



Eun-Young You is a multi-talented young woman from Seoul, Korea. She received a scholarship to SCAD and holds a Masters in Game Design. Along the way, she has pursued painting, drawing, ceramics, theatre set design, photography and others arts. Her first picture book for children, *My Swim Lessons at the JEA* will be published soon. She both wrote and painted the illustrations in this storybook. Her May show at the JEA features portraits of people swimming and posing. These portraits use dramatic brush strokes and powerful color and light. Eun-Young thinks of art as an array of wide-reaching mediums, all of which are tied together by the foundations of painting, drawing and sculpture. She has awards from around the world and is a very determined and gifted artist who daily pursues and adds to her many talents.

Artwork available for viewing May 1-31, 2009  
Artist Reception May 7<sup>th</sup>—5-7 pm



## MorningStar Arts *Finding Oneself* Events:

Free Youth Workshops—Open to Ages 12 to 20 by pre-registration only by web <http://www.morningstararts.org/find3.htm> or paper application (call 912-652-3582 and ask to sign up for *Finding Oneself* Youth Workshops). All Thursdays 3:30 to 5:30 at different locations.

**May 21—Meet, Talk & Dine with Mimi Gan**—Frank Calan Boys & Girls Club. For children.

Finding Oneself Adult Events—Also FREE and open to the general public:

**May 21—Mimi Gan's *With Honors Denied***—JEA 7 pm. MorningStarArt's tribute to the Savannah Asian Festival. For Adults.

## A MOVIE & BEER!

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

**May 7<sup>th</sup> – Kazablan** - An adaptation of a popular Israeli stage musical. Kazablan is an army veteran turned gang leader in the Israeli port of Jaffa who masks his feelings of bitterness with a lot of bravado. He's sweet on Rachel, a young woman who lives with her father and stepmother. The budding relationship scandalizes the neighbors (not to mention Rachel's parents) and infuriates Yanush, a middle-aged shoe store owner who wants Rachel for himself. (Yanush feels he's entitled to marry Rachel since they're both Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern European origins, whereas Kazablan is a Sephardic Jew from Morocco.) The neighborhood has something else to worry about besides the antics of Kazablan and his gang: the city wants to tear down their crumbling homes. The residents pool their resources to save their houses, but the money that's collected is stolen. When he's jailed for the theft, Kazablan must find a way to clear himself.

**May 21<sup>st</sup> - Jellyfish**— Three very different women live in modern Tel Aviv, Israel. Batya, a catering waitress, takes in a child apparently abandoned at a local beach. Batya is one of the servers at the wedding reception of Keren, a bride who breaks her leg escaping a locked toilet stall, ruining her chance at a dream Caribbean honeymoon. And attending the event with an employer is Joy, a non-Hebrew speaking domestic worker who has guiltily left her son behind in her native Philippines. As this distaff trio separately wends their way through Israel's most cosmopolitan city, they struggle with issues of communication, affection and destiny—but at times find uneasy refuge in its tranquil seas.

**All movies shown at 7:00 pm**  
**FREE to Members with ID**  
**FREE Beer, wine, beverages and popcorn**

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

# JEA 2009 CAMP SAVANNAH

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**K'TONI** Ages 3 & 4 (must be potty trained). Our K'toni campers will enjoy special programming just for this special age. Campers will have water play, age-appropriate water instruction, art projects, Shabbat celebrations and more each week.

**YELADIM** For those going into Kindergarten. Too old for K'toni but too young for Chaverim, this division is for campers in kindergarten. Programming includes: age-appropriate swim instruction, Shabbat celebrations, sports, cultural enrichment, theme-related activities, cooking, art, singing, free swim and more. Campers will have a fun-filled summer that they won't want to miss.

**CHAVERIM:** Chaverim 1 (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grades) / Chaverim 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) / Chaverim 3 (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>). Ready for some fun??? Campers will have a fabulous summer with field trips, music, art, sports, cultural enrichment, free swim, swimming instruction, overnights and so much more. Each week, Chaverim campers will participate in fabulous skill builders just for them.

**Week # 1**  
**June 15-19**  
Follows Camp Invention schedule



**Week # 2—June 22-26**  
**Tennis/Pottery**  
Field Trip: 5 Star Family Fun - Chaverim only (Wed.)

**Week # 3—June 29-July 3**  
**A.A.S.U. Basketball OR Cooking**  
JEA camp in the morning, break at 1 for specialty camp

**Week # 4—July 6-10**  
**Water Week**  
Field Trip: Tybee Island - Chaverim only (Wed.)

**Week # 5—July 13-17**  
**Coach Wayne Gymnastics/Soccer**  
Sleepover on Thurs. Night Chaverim only

**Week # 6—July 20-24**  
**Eco-Friendly Week**  
Field Trip: Skidaway Island/Marine Center - Chaverim camp (Wed.)

**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.**

*K'toni & Yeladim camp hours: 9 am-3:30 pm/Chaverim camp hours: 9 am-5 pm. To best fit the schedules of working parents we also have a rise-n-shine program (8-9 am) and a stay-n-play program (end of camp-6 pm).*

### Daily Activities:

**ART** - Encouraging children to enhance their creative mind in an environment rich with resources and full of encouragement and support.

**SPORTS** - Helping 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.

**WEEKLY THEME** - A way for children to experience various activities and discover their own hidden talents.

## NEW FITNESS CLASSES STARTING IN MAY!

### TAI CHI

**Instructor:** Elaine Fox

Enjoy this ancient form of fitness that improves balance, concentration and well-being. Tai Chi is a slow continuous series of movements that is easy on the joints and helps with stress management. A relaxing and gentle form of exercise that works the entire body, can be done standing or seated and is truly good for everybody!

**Wed. – 12:00pm** **Classes held in dance studio**



### YOGA POWER HOUR

**Instructor:** Dawn Tanis

This yoga class emphasizes strength, flexibility and fluid movements synchronizing body and breath. Some yoga experience preferred, but classes are tailored to individual needs. Bring a yoga mat and towel and be prepared to sweat!

**Mon. – 7:00pm** **Classes held in senior lounge**



### ALL LEVELS YOGA FLOW

**Instructor:** Amanda Westerfield

Increase your strength, balance and flexibility with all levels flow yoga. "Flow" means connecting poses together in a fluid manner. Expect to work on standing and seated poses, forward folds, backbends and even inversions. This class is appropriate for any level of yogi, even newcomers, as modifications will be made for individual needs.

**TIME CHANGE—Wed. – 7:15pm**

**Classes held in dance studio**

## Fitness Classes at the JEA

### Indoor Pool Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 7 am-9 pm

Friday 7 am-4 pm

Sunday 9 am-5 pm

### Master Swim

Mon., Wed. & Fri. 5-6 am

### Firm It Up

Mon., Wed. & Fri. 8:30-9:30 am

### Spin Class

Tues. & Thurs. 8:30-9:15 am

### Pilates

Tues. & Thurs. 8:30-9:30 am

### Zumba

Sun. 10-11am

Thursday 7-8 pm

### Aquasize

Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 10-11 am

### Gentle Yoga

Mon. & Wed. 10:30-11:30 am

### Senior Fitness

Mon. & Wed. & Thurs. 10:30-11:30 am

### Tai Chi

Wednesday 12-1 pm

### Open Basketball

Mon., Wed. & Fri. 12-2 pm

### Coach Wayne Gymnastics

Wednesday 2:30-5 pm

### Open Court Racquetball

Mon. Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 4-6 pm

Fri. 4-5 pm

### Maxine Patterson Dance

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 4-7 pm

### Karate

Mon. & Wed. 5:30-7:30 pm

### Fencing

Tues. & Thurs. 7-9 pm

### Evening Water Aerobics

Mon., Wed. & Thurs. 6:30-7:30 pm

### Yoga Power Hour

Monday 7-8 pm

### All Levels Yoga Flow

Wednesday 7:15-8:15 pm



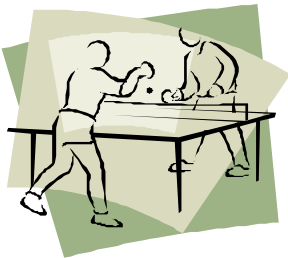
# JEA POOL GRAND REOPENING

## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

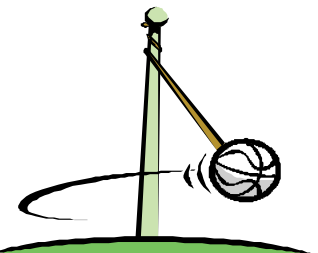
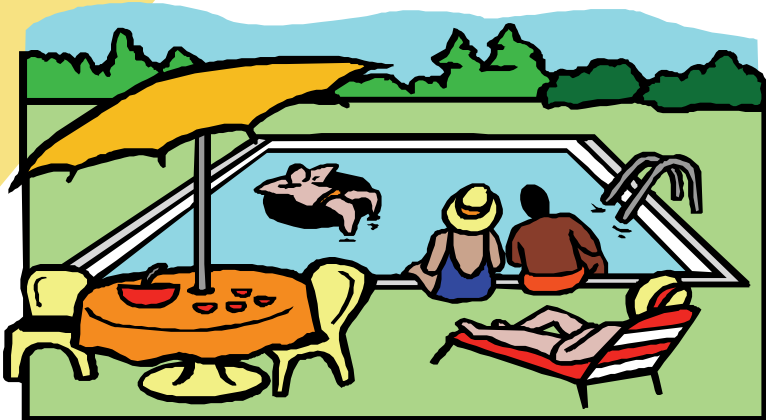
Sunday, May 24th

11 - 4 pm

Come and enjoy YOUR outdoor pool at the JEA on Memorial Day Weekend!



- \* Hot Dogs and Burgers Available *(to benefit Maccabi games)*
- \* Foosball
- \* Table Tennis
- \* Games and more
- \* Tetherball
- \* Pool Games



### May 2009

| Sunday                                                        | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Tuesday                                                                                                                                         | Wed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Friday                                         | Saturday          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Daily Calendar Events</b><br>➔<br><b>On-Going Programs</b> | <a href="#">Aqasize</a> -10 am<br><a href="#">Gentle Yoga</a> -10:30 am<br><a href="#">Sr. Fitness</a> -10:30 am<br><a href="#">Senior Lunch</a> -12:30 pm<br><a href="#">Water Aerobics</a> -6:30 pm<br><a href="#">Yoga Power Hour</a> - 7 pm | <a href="#">Pilates</a> - 8:30 pm<br><a href="#">Kibitzers Kafe</a> -10 am<br><a href="#">Aqasize</a> -10 am<br><a href="#">Hebrew</a> -6:30 pm | <a href="#">Sr. Fitness</a> - 10:30 am<br><a href="#">Gentle Yoga</a> -10:35 am<br><a href="#">Senior Lunch</a> -12:30 pm<br><a href="#">Bridge</a> -1pm<br><a href="#">Water Aerobics</a> -6:30 pm<br><a href="#">Scrabble</a> -6:30 pm<br><a href="#">All Levels Yoga</a> - 7 pm | <a href="#">Aqasize</a> - 10 am<br><a href="#">Mah Jongg</a> - 10:30 am<br><a href="#">Senior Fitness</a> - 10:30 am<br><a href="#">Senior Lunch</a> -12:30 pm<br><a href="#">Senior Program</a> -1:30 pm<br><a href="#">Evening Water Aerobics</a> - 6:30 pm | <a href="#">Aqasize</a> -10 am                 | <b>JEA Closed</b> |
| April 26<br>Yom Ha'atzma'ut<br>Celebration- 10 am             | 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 28 Yom Hazikaron<br>Community Yom<br>Hazikaron Program- 7 pm                                                                                    | 29 Yom Ha'atzma'ut                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 30 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program-Yom Ha'atzma'ut—Maia Koiller<br>Grief Support Group- 1 pm                                                                                                                                                               | May 1                                          | 2                 |
| 3                                                             | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 5 GA Holocaust<br>Comm. Lecture- 5 pm<br>JFS Parenting Class- 7 pm                                                                              | 6 Rambam Middle School<br>Play- 7 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 7 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program- <del>Israel Update</del> - Maia Koiller<br>Grief Support Group- 1 pm<br>Art Gallery Reception- 5 pm<br>Movie & Beer Night- 7 pm                                                                                         | 8                                              | 9                 |
| 10 Savannah Arts<br>Academy Concert- 3 pm                     | 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 12 Lag B'omer                                                                                                                                   | 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 14 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program- <del>Big Band Concert</del> -W. GA Jazz Ensemble                                                                                                                                                                       | 15                                             | 16                |
| 17 JEA Speakers Series- 7:30 pm                               | 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 19                                                                                                                                              | 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 21 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program- <del>Becoming an American Citizen</del> -Motti Locker<br>Finding Oneself Workshop for Kids- 3:30 pm<br>Movie & Beer Night- 7 pm<br>Mimi Gan's With Honors Denied- 7 pm                                                 | 22 Yom Yerushalayim                            | 23                |
| 24<br><a href="#">Pool Grand Opening</a> - 11 am              | 25 <b>Memorial Day</b><br><a href="#">Fitness Center Open 9-5</a><br><a href="#">Offices Closed</a>                                                                                                                                             | 26                                                                                                                                              | 27 JEA Annual Meeting- 7 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 28 Erev Shavuot<br>JEA closes 5 pm<br>-12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program- <del>Jewish Music</del> - Dr. Martin Greenberg                                                                                                                                      | 29 Shavuot Day 1<br><a href="#">JEA Closed</a> | 30 Shavuot Day 2  |



## Mickve Israel Honors two Women of Valor

By Jane Kahn

Mickve Israel Sisterhood this year will honor two of its long standing members as Women of Valor. Matiel Roos Leffler and Clara Gershon Levy, close friends whose career tracks in Mickve Israel have paralleled, will be recognized at a catered dinner at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4, in the Mordecai Sheftall Hall. Their service to Mickve Israel Sisterhood each has spanned some 60 years.

The pair can trace their first association to 1945 at a party in Atlanta for Clara when she made her debut, "so to speak" at the Ansley Hotel, and Matiel was a guest ... they think! Their weddings were at Mickve Israel (they married friends, who were fishing buddies); their children, (three Lefflers, four Levys) were confirmed at Mickve Israel. Martin Leffler and Henry Levy each was Parnas (President) of Congregation Mickve Israel (and therefore, Matiel and Clara had tremendous responsibilities for annual meetings and receptions through their tenures.)

Both ladies were presidents of Mickve Israel Sisterhood (but are hard-pressed to remember who was first.). In those days, in highly organized structure, the Sisterhood president was required to spend years rising in the ranks through several vice presidencies and board positions. They figured sixteen years, at a minimum. Matiel and Clara were owners of the retail Name Place, predecessor to Let's Party.

Together, they expanded a newly launched Sisterhood Judaica Shop, into what has evolved into a fund raiser for the Congregation, not to mention the attraction for tourists. And since its inception 20 years ago they have sold tickets, counted money, cooked, baked and served at the Jewish Food Festival. In recent years, Matiel has continued Martin's project of Challah baking and Clara has inaugurated the Bauble Booth of gently recycled and redesigned

jewels.

But, these Women of Valor have also traveled different routes at times.

Matiel, a graduate of Savannah High School, attended the University of Georgia, where she was responsible for the reorganization of her sorority, Sigma Delta Tau. She returned to Savannah in 1946 to marry Martin, home from service in the U.S. Army Infantry. She has seven grandchildren, three great grandchildren, with a fourth due this summer.

In addition to Sisterhood activities, Matiel has been chair-man of the Women's Division of the Federation campaign, a board member of both the SJF and the JEA. She was president of the Savannah chapter, National Council of Jewish Women, representing that group in 1967 at a solidarity meeting in Washington during the Six Day War. She also served on the organizational board of Goodwill Industries, Chatham-Savannah Mental Health, Hospice, Senior Citizens and the MI Archives committee.

As a child, Clara moved to the New York area and graduated from New Rochelle High School. She attended Miami University in Oxford, OH, where she was a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority. She has five grandchildren.

Clara has served on the board of the Congregation, on the Southeast board of Temple Sisterhoods, and once again is a member of the MI Sisterhood Board. She was a two-term president of the Savannah Jaycettes, board member of Parent and Child Development, a member of the NCJW and the Savannah Symphony Women's Guild. A flower arranger of note, for years she helped decorate Mickve Israel's elaborate Sukkah, as well as countless table decorations for countless functions.

Tickets for the banquet are \$30. For reservations, phone Mai Friedman.598-1663.



Matiel Leffler



Clara Levy

## Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure



Joanne Kooden and Sue Adler co-chaired Savannah's first Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on April 18



JEA past President Jodi Sadler surrounded by her "Jewels" at the Komen Race

## JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE SPEAKER SERIES

May 17, 2009  
7:30 pm

**Rabbi Yaakov Rosenstein**

*"The four ways to know God"*

Rabbi Rosenstein visits the offices of some of the most powerful CEO's in the country to discuss Torah, ethics, and life with his program "Have Torah, will Travel."

Founder of "Torah One on One," the Conservative-born Rabbi has been able to reach professionals from the Pittsburgh-area and beyond attain a working relationship with God, stating, "I'm a personal friend, a personal educator, somebody who can really try to relate to them and be there for them. I can develop their own personal exploration curriculum to help them achieve their personal and spiritual interests. The bottom line is that we want people to be successful and to lead purposeful and meaningful and ethical lives. They have these perceptions that I will try to convert them or missionize them or try to push them to become more religious. And that is not the case."



# Savannah Native Attends Opening of Sderot Playground

By Lauren Gordon Mescon  
Co-President, JNF Southeast

I am Rosalyn (z'l) and Bobby Gordon's (z'l) daughter. I may be a 53-year-old wife, mother and professional, but I will forever be their child.

For those who did not know my dad, he was the quintessential volunteer and one who successfully bridged the gap between institutions, serving as president of both the JEA and the BB Jacob Synagogue.

What I learned from growing up with parents who lived the concept of "tikun olam" is that the true measure of one's worth comes from what she or he does for others.

It took me a long time to find my philanthropic calling in this world, but I guess seeing blue boxes at my Grandma Flo's house for as long as I remember from my earliest childhood finally took. My grandmother started collecting the pennies that resulted in JNF (first formed in 1901) having ownership today of 13 percent of the land in Israel.

I recently returned from a 10-day trip to Israel, a JNF mission where I had the privilege of attending the grand opening of the JNF Indoor Playground in Sderot. It is the largest indoor playground in Israel, made of reinforced concrete and steel, ensuring that the children of Sderot finally have a safe place to play. Before, they had only 15 seconds to get to safety when sirens went off warning of an incoming missile. Wow, to be proud of a playground that doubles as a bomb shelter is sobering. But I am proud that this building was completed in record time...eight months, a feat in any country, especially Israel. Eighty-three percent of all monies raised for JNF go directly to Israel. I saw first-hand the incredible impact of those dollars.

The gift of the playground that we gave the children and families of Sderot was quite impressive: The former factory now houses play areas for toddlers and teens, therapy rooms, a movie room, an indoor soccer field, a computer room, and lots more. The gift that I got in re-

turn however, far surpassed theirs.

At the playground opening, the speeches of the dignitaries were all but drowned out by the laughter and shouts of the children playing inside. For the first time in eight years, mothers could relax, knowing their children were safe. The words of a 12-year-old-girl who grew up in Sderot brought the crowd to tears. She told us what a great place Sderot was to live, thanked us for the playground and then told us "Nothing can break us...we're here to stay".

There is a film and television school in Sderot. Sapir College exists because of the vision of school headmaster Avner Faingulernt, who wanted to bring life to Sderot. The school opened in 2000 with 40 students. Today it serves 400 students from all over Israel. Against all odds, Faingulernt wanted to open a school of visual arts in the most neglected, forgotten area in Israel. Not only does Sapir offer degrees in cinema, television, animation and scoring, school officials began an international film festival last year. The hope is that one day festival organizers can show the films in both Sderot and Gaza City.

What struck me was the belief in a better future shared by so many in Sderot.

I went to Israel with a group from JNF to see our projects and open the playground. I went feeling bewildered and frustrated that world opinion and even our own people continue to blame Israel for all of the ills that the extremist Hamas



Also while in Israel, Lauren dedicated a plaque in memory of her father, Robert Gordon, on The Wall of Honor at Ammunition Hill. Ammunition Hill is Israel's National Memorial for the Reunification of Jerusalem and The Wall of Honor is a tribute to the heroism and courage of Jewish soldiers who, throughout history, have fought in defense of their countries far beyond their proportions to the general population.

leadership has brought upon the Palestinians. I went not understanding why it seems to be okay in 2009 to be anti-Semitic. I am still unclear as to why world opinion is the way it is and why anti-Semitism is on the rise. I am very clear however on one thing after this trip: Israel is here to stay. It is our home, it is here for all of us, and it is being nurtured and cared for by heroes. We owe an immeasurable debt to the brave citizens of Sderot who stand firm everyday despite the risk of rockets, despite the code reds that give them only 15 seconds to reach a safe place.

I am also thankful that Roz and Bobby instilled in me a love for Israel. I am thankful that Flo pushed those blue boxes and I am thankful that I am a part of JNF and that through this organization; even I can make a difference in Israel.

## On the Personal Side

MISCELLANY: The Clinical Social Work Association of Savannah recently honored Dr. Julius "Boo" Hornstein at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Professional Conference held this past March by renaming it the "Julius Hornstein Professional Conference." The conference brings outstanding leaders to train social workers and others in enhanced techniques

of service delivery to clients and patients in the area of mental health. Dr. Hornstein is a pioneer in the fields of community based services to the mentally challenged and reeducation of emotionally disturbed children. A noted community activist, he has served on many boards throughout his career and also is considered an expert in Savannah Jazz history. Dr. Hornstein recently retired as Professor Emeritus in Social Sciences at Saint Leo University and continues to

teach at the Undergraduate and Graduate levels at Savannah State University as well as maintaining a private clinical counseling practice... Tufts



Deb Jospin

University Trustee Deb Jospin (daughter of Sam and Sara) will receive this year's Light on the Hill Award in April, in recognition of her continued impact on the Tufts community. Deb is on the Tufts Board of Trustees and was part of President Obama's transition team. This annual award is the highest honor the student body bestows on Tufts alumni. She was director of AmeriCorps between 1997 and 2001 and currently heads a consulting firm called sagawa/jospin, which advises nonprofits, corporations, and foundations.

SPORTS: Faye Kirschner and Christine Addy won their age groups in the Crimestoppers 5K (3.1 miles) Run in Savannah.



Julius Hornstein

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## Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

### JEA Day Camp

Contributed by Jane Kahn

The earliest photographs in the possession of the Savannah Jewish



Archives of the JEA Day Camp are from 1947. It was started in the old JEA Charlton Street building on Pulaski Square. Can anyone document earlier JEA Camps? Are there earlier photographs?

If you have information on earlier JEA camps, please contact the Archives at 651-2125, ext. 34 or [lstoudt@georgiahistory.com](mailto:lstoudt@georgiahistory.com). Thank you for your assistance!

#### JEA Summer Camp, August 1947 (JVM 003, no. 134)

Front row (left to right): Larry Garvis, Arnold Tillinger, Bernard "Buddy" Katzman, and Robert Roth. Center row (left to right): Melvyn Galin, Arnold Cohen, Norman Dolgoff, Julian Friedman, and Jerry Rosenthal. Back row (left to right): Harold Goldberg, Sammy Feinberg, Heyward Fluke, Lawrence Lasky, and Mickey Greenfield.



#### JEA Summer Camp, August 1947 (JVM 003, no. 140)

Left to right: Kaye (Robinson) Kole, Esther (April) Blumenthal, Ruth (Karp) Katz, Sandra (Safer) Weiss, Sandra (Warshaw) Elkins, and Sonia (Robbins) Greenfield.

## Jewish Family Services Happenings

### The Senior Adult Birthday Club: Celebrate your birthday with us!!!

In 1959, Eileen Barton sang a little ditty called: "If I Knew You Were Comin' I'd've Baked a Cake." Well... If you attend the Senior Adult Birthday Luncheon at the Jewish Educational Alliance on the last Thursday of your birthday month, THAT IS JUST WHAT WE WILL DO!

On the last Thursday of each

month – after the Senior Adult Lunch group finishes eating – there is a birthday party for everyone who is celebrating a birthday during that month. We invite you to be part of this celebration. Just call us and let us know you are coming.

Remember: You are never too old to be young!

## Jewish Family Services: The Kibbitzers' Kafé

### Wanted:

Dynamic retired and semi-retired men who seek intellectual growth and crave an adventure in sociability. The Perfect candidate will contribute his expertise, talent and experience in the areas of education, literature, culture, politics and useless information. Reimbursement includes coffee, bagels and the occasional Danish.

Apply at the JEA each and every Tuesday morning at 10 am. Applicants must be able to:

1) Sit; 2) have a bagel & a cup of coffee and; 3) participate in some good 'ole fashion' conversation in which topics may or may not include: local and national news, how the community and the world should be run, religion, history, and what the future might bring. Or as we like to say: anything -or maybe nothing!

Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am.  
Free for JEA members

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# An Invitation to Come See the Real Rambam Day School!

As the allocations process comes to a close for the Savannah Jewish Federation, I find myself reflecting on the whole idea that Rambam is a recipient of community funding. On behalf of the entire Rambam family; the board of directors, the students, the parents and the staff, thank you for your efforts on our behalf. I often wonder how many people really know the school. I hear the various ideas that float around about the school. Every institution must expect criticisms and in Rambam's situation, also be privy to others' ideas of what would make Rambam more "community" or just better in general. However, I still can't help but wonder about the opinions of individuals who have never come and visited the school.

Very often, those who have accepted to serve on the education committee have come to the school for a visit. Interestingly, they learn a lot about an institution they came to realize they didn't really know much about. In fact, what they learned instilled within them a whole new perspective and respect for the school. I urge and encourage the community to come and see what really goes on in Rambam. I urge the community to come and see an excellent

secular program. I encourage the community to come and see how the children embrace their Judaic studies. I encourage the community to come and see the enthusiasm the students have for their school. I encourage the community to come and see the dedication of the staff. I encourage the community to become educated about the efforts of the board of directors and the parent body to insure the vitality of the school. I encourage the community to come and learn how decisions are made to balance the sensitivity needed by every student because of their various Jewish backgrounds. I am confident that half of what is heard outside of Rambam is not true, and half of what is never heard would be significant information.

Rambam is an integral link in the chain of our people's survival. Every Jewish child deserves to know about their Jewish history and their Jewish heritage. It is our responsibility as parents and grandparents to see that this privilege is a reality.



Ester Y. Rabhan,  
Rambam Principal

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In Honor of Lloyd Goodman's Special Birthday  
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## What's New with Young Jewish Savannah?

Started in the summer of 2008, *Young Jewish Savannah* has been busy this past year building community for young Jewish professionals, 21-40, in the greater Savannah area. Reaching out to over 200 young adults from Bluffton to Brunswick, YJS has held a number of programs, including a Sand Gnats baseball outing, a "Pizza in the Hut" sukkah party, various happy hours, bowling and more.

YJS seeks to provide ways for young Jewish professionals and families to get to know each other through a variety of programs including social events, community service (*tikkun olam*), and leadership opportunities.

There is already a Facebook Group (Young Jewish Savannah) and very soon there will be a website dedicated to upcoming events and local happenings related to the Jewish community. They have an active steering committee half of whom are native Savannahians, while the others have recently moved to Savannah. They are:

Matthew Allen, a Real Estate Agent with Keller Williams; David Eichholz, a personal injury and workers compensation attorney with the Eichholz law firm; Miriam & Jake Hodesh, who co-founded New Moon of Savannah, a social venture that promotes social and environmental awareness through art; Ross Kaminsky, a General Manager for Southern Motors; Allison & Mark Konter, a Social Studies teacher at Jenkins High school and Director of Special Projects at Konter Quality Homes; Amanda & Josh Reeves, a commercial Real Estate Agent with Melaver/Mouchet, and a transactional attorney



*Young Jewish Savannah Steering Committee (l-r) Amanda & Josh Reeves, Jake & Miriam Hodesh, Allison Konter, Ross Kaminsky, Mark Konter, Matthew Allen; front row Michelle Russo, Lauri Waldman*

at Weinstock and Scavo PC, respectively; Joey Rosen, who is a partner and manager at Mattress Depot, Michelle Russo, a first grade teacher at Juliette Gordon Low Elementary School, and Lauri Waldman, an attorney.

YJS will be hosting these upcoming events in the near future. For more information, call Benjamin Kweskin at 355.8116 (ben@savj.org) or Amanda Reeves at 308.9800 (areeves@melaver.com).

### **Lag B'Omer Barbeque - May 11 - JEA - 7 PM**

Whether you've never heard of Lag B'Omer in your life, or you've celebrated it since you were little, come enjoy this wonderful excuse to get together and enjoy some great barbeque. Dietary laws will be observed.

### **May 31 - Beach Day - Tybee Island**

Kick off summer with YJS! Relax and enjoy the surf and sand. More details to come.

### **June 25 - Sand Gnats Game**

Cheer on Savannah's own Sand Gnat's baseball team and enjoy Thirsty Thursday drink specials. The game starts at 7 PM. More details coming soon.

## Condolences

*We express our sympathy to the families of:*

### **Manny Karr**

*Who died March 23, 2009.*

Preceded in death by his brother, Owen Katz and his parents. Surviving are his wife, Maxine Karr, and two daughters, Bethanne Spector, of Gaithersburg, MD, and Jennifer Karr, of Los Angeles. Also surviving are two granddaughters.

Remembrances: Agudath Achim, Temple Oseh Shalom, Sun City, SC.

### **Samuel "Sam" Plotkin**

*Who died March 24, 2009.*

Preceded in death by his wife, Shirley Plotkin and parents, Isadore and Rebecca Mallin Plotkin, and brother, Jacob Plotkin. Surviving are one daughter, Judy (Ron) Altman; one son, Barry Plotkin of Savannah; three sisters, Celia Plotkin Weiner, Miriam Plotkin Stein, and Bertha Plotkin Freedman, all of Savannah; three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob.

### **Edward Javetz**

*Who died April 3, 2009.*

Preceded in death by his parents, Philip and Mamie Hellar Javetz. Surviving are Phillip and Ruby Perlman, Sandra Levin, Judy Javetz, Harold and Rochelle Javetz.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah and Congregation Mickve Israel.

### **Charles "Charlie" Becker**

*Who died April 22, 2009.*

Preceded in death by his parents, Sigmund and Vera Becker. Surviving are his wife, Elaine Blau Becker, daughters Heidi (Andy) Friede of Savannah, Robyn (Scott) Weiner of Albuquerque, NM, and Sandi (Barry) Greenberg of Dallas TX, and six grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother, David (Kay) Becker of Atlanta, brother-in-law Gerald Blau of Costa Rica and Miami, and several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: The Jewish Educational Alliance and Hospice Savannah.



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