



Shabbat and Holiday Candle Lighting Times	
Friday, December 7	5:02pm
Friday, December 14	5:04pm
Friday, December 21	5:06pm
Friday, December 28	5:11pm
Friday, January 4	5:15pm
Friday, January 11	5:21pm

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 2nd

JEA Open House
Cultural, Family & Fitness
Events all day long
Free & Open to the Public

December 6th—14th

**Savannah Jewish Federation
Barnes & Noble Book Fair**
Portion of sales benefit
Holocaust Education, see p14

Tuesday, December 25th

Trading Places
Join friends and family in a
community-wide mitzvah project
see p7

January 24th-February 2nd

Savannah Jewish Film Festival
Films of a variety of genres to
showcase the Jewish experience.
Watch for the brochure.

Campaign Reminds Us Together We Do Extraordinary Things

The Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Appeal for 2013 is well underway with awe-inspiring progress.



SJF Past-President Michael Zoller helps work the phones on Super Sunday.

With many in our community having already made their pledges, and the hugely successful Super Sunday Telethon on November 18th, we are enthusiastically encouraged in reaching our goal of raising over one million dollars to serve our local and worldwide Jewish people and communities.

Led by dedicated Telethon Co-Chairs Sherry Dolgoff and Sally Krissman, Super Sunday volunteer solicitors gave not only their own pledges, but also of their time in reaching out to hundreds of members of our community, asking

for support in doing the exceedingly important work of the Federation. We thank them for their commitment, and thank all who made pledges, helping us to help others.

Even with the campaign's preliminary success, we still need you! Many of you support many worthy charitable organizations already. In considering giving to a Jewish organization, many questions often arise. Why is a pledge to your Jewish Federation so

See page 4

8th Jewish Film Festival Announced

What do you love about going to the movies? Being immersed in a world different than your own? Laughing at the silly situations the characters get themselves into? Learning something new? Then you will love the 8th Annual



Savannah Jewish Film Festival, scheduled for January 24th-February 2nd, 2013.

The incredible line-up of Jewish films has been carefully selected by this year's Film Festival committee that includes Nancy Cunningham, Sherry Dolgoff, Adam Fins, Steve Gordon, Renate Jacobs, Gail Levitus, Robin Rein-

eri, Gail Robinson, Mike Strear and Carol Unger. The films were chosen to showcase the diversity and depth of Jewish cinema and to open your minds and hearts to the world of the Jewish experience from Brooklyn, New York, to Czechoslovakia and the Ukraine to

See page 4



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2013 SJF Community Campaign Update



Just Say Yes



Community Campaign 2013
The strength of a people, the power of community.

The Jewish Community exists for
you and because of you!

As of November 19th from 387 donors

\$663,297

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Wishing you a Chanukah
bright with joy and rich with memories





Life is a DJ.

He's watching and learning. How you walk to temple together, rain or shine. The way you speak gently to Aunt Ruth. And your gift for making the holidays feel miraculous. Best wishes for a happy Chanukah.

Life is a Miracle.

pass it on.

Publix

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Perception to Reality: My JFS Journey

Immediately before sitting down to write my monthly column, I finished a meeting with Adam and one of the social workers contracted by Federation's Jewish Family Services (JFS) to provide professional assistance to members of our community in crisis. One of my responsibilities as Federation President is to provide lay leadership support to our JFS professionals in difficult cases. Even though the specific names of those individuals in need are kept confidential, this meeting was particularly difficult for me because I had the real sense that the two people being discussed were my age and grew up in Savannah.

This meeting caused me to reflect on my own personal journey as it relates to my attitude and understanding of the significance of JFS. I clearly remember sitting at my first Federation meeting as I was beginning my volunteer efforts with Federation. We were discussing the Federation's finances and Linda Zoller, a woman I did not know well at the time, was passionately discussing the need to significantly increase the amount of money Federation was budgeting for JFS. Having just completed my term as JEA President, I remember thinking to myself how terrible it would be to take vital funding away from our local and overseas agencies for a Federation program I knew very little about and whose level of funding at the time was almost \$20,000. If JFS was providing services at this funding level why in the world did the program need more money? What I did not know then was that Linda, who holds a Masters in Social Work, really understood the tremendous needs of our community. Some of my fellow board members acknowledged the need, and felt the budget increase for JFS was minimal. I wasn't so sure. After all, how could Federation reduce the funding of our recipient agencies to benefit one of our "internal" programs? Besides, there were a few very generous members of our community who quietly provided financial assistance to many of these individuals.

Each year I would listen to Linda make her passionate arguments as to why the Federation had a moral obligation to significantly increase our financial support because there was a real-life need in our community. I must admit that for a number of years as a board member, and then as a member of the Allocations Committee, nothing Linda said caused me to change my attitude about the balance between our existing allocations and the money in

Federation's budget designated for JFS.

My belief in the importance of JFS took a dramatic turnaround when I became a member of the Federation's Executive Committee. I found myself still listening to Linda making her passionate arguments about JFS, but something changed—ME. Maintaining confidentiality has always been a cornerstone of JFS, but now, as a member of the Executive committee, I was hearing more specifics about the number of people in need of services and some of the details of their personal stories. I listened to the terrible dilemma our JFS faces in trying to decide whether to turn on a family's electricity or to provide the funds to buy one of our seniors their monthly medication. I was surprised to learn the depth of some of the problems. There were members of our community with physical and mental disabilities, no family support network, even some lifelong members of our Jewish community on the verge of being homeless, and the Federation did not have enough money allocated in the budget to provide the necessary help. Boy was Linda right all of these years, and how foolish I was for not appreciating the depth and seriousness of the problem.

Once my eyes were opened, I decided to step up and do something about it. When Linda took over as President of Federation she needed a chairperson for JFS. After giving it some thought, I called Linda and volunteered for the chairmanship. I do not have any social work background, but I did understand need and the profound effect JFS has on people's lives.

As a result of Linda's persistence and passion, I am very proud of the fact that Federation now annually provides over \$100,000 in JFS assistance. What is upsetting is that the financial needs of our fellow Jews in crisis in Savannah seem to be ever-increasing. Thankfully, we still have those private angels that help bridge the financial gap between what is needed and what our community currently provides. We need to develop the capacity to provide more assistance to meet our moral obligation to these community members. The only way to do this is to increase the amount of money we raise in the Annual Campaign and to create permanent endowments, like the recently created Tikvah Fund.



Jeffrey Lasky,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Room with a View

- Small house with one bathroom
- Separate unit, perfect for a couple
- House will accommodate 1-2 students
- House on hill w/ amazing city views

These all sound like advertisements from Craig's List or from the *Savannah Morning News*. In truth, they come from a website that popped up on the internet at the beginning of Operation Pillar of Defense. The residences were in Hadera, Netanya, central Tel Aviv and Raanana. These four and hundreds of others (on this one board) were offers from Israelis in the North to people in the South who needed a respite from the missile attacks. If you clicked another tab, there were ads for those looking for a place to stay. (I assume that the two tabs were working together).

From what I'm told, this is not a unique occurrence. When there was fighting in the Second Lebanon War, families from the Central region opened their homes.

While the news often focuses on the damage from a bomb or missile, it is the psychological effects of terrorism that leave deep scars on the populace. The effects on children in Sderot and surrounding areas have been well documented as almost every child in the South has been subject to trauma over a ten-year period. There are reports that children as young as three show

signs of post traumatic stress disorder. The sounds of siren alerts and of explosions have become a part of the psychological makeup of the children. The world that they were born into is unsafe, scary and full of chaos and uncertainty.

It is clear that families need a respite from the constant barrage of missiles that (in many ways), has defined their day-to-day lives for many years. It was much of the impetus why the Israeli government mounted Operation Pillar of Defense. The citizens of Israel need to be able to go about their lives, free of terrorism.

Israelis are a very special people in a very special country. When the phone rings at 3am calling you to duty, the answer is, "Yes, Sir, when and where?" When people in the South came under missile fire, Israelis throughout the country didn't think twice—they opened their hearts and their homes to strangers who needed a respite, who need a little Jewish TLC.

I hope that by the time this edition is published that there will be an end to the fighting and that peace will reign over all of Israel.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

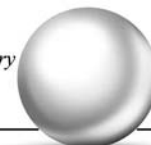
Savannah's Jewish community has a rich tradition of answering the call to action. Now, as much as ever, we need you to answer the call. You don't have to wait for Linda Zoller to open your eyes, as she opened mine. The needs are right in front of us - in synagogue, around the neighborhood, at the Alliance. They are people you know, and people you don't. They are young and old, longtime Savannahians and newcomers.

Answer the call to meet the needs, and if you can, increase your gift this year to the Campaign. While I don't know the names of the two Jewish individuals the social worker is helping, I know enough of their stories to know they are in crisis. You can make a huge difference in their lives and in the lives of dozens of others. Thank you for your support and PLEASE give until it feels good.

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Eight Bright Lights

We are nearing the start of Chanukah and coincidentally, it's been eight weeks since I arrived in Savannah. Just as we reflect on ourselves and the beauty of the eight burning candles on the menorah next week, I have been reflecting on the past eight weeks since I arrived in Savannah.

Since September, I've made memories that I know will last a lifetime. I would like to share the eight most influential ones with y'all:

1) My first introduction to the Savannah Jewish community was at the JEA's 100th year Gala. It was my second day in Savannah and I met what seemed like two or three hundred people that night. That's also the night that I realized what southern hospitality is.

2) One thing that struck me when I arrived was the differences between my synagogue in Israel and the synagogues in Savannah—the appearance of the synagogues, the traditions in them, and the tunes

of the prayers. I was certainly aware of these differences when the High Holiday's arrived.

3) The High Holiday's was certainly a reflective time for me, but I also appreciated that as Jews we reflect and pray for the same things no matter where



Dorin Elhadad,
Savannah Jewish
Community Shlichah

we are in the world. That is one of the things that bring us closer together.

4) I have really gotten to know Savannah's next generation of Jews by teaching at the Shalom School. The children are delightful and it has been an honor teaching them. My favorite thing about teaching is to see the kids' willingness to learn Hebrew and the joy I get from being able to influence that.

5) The Shalom Y'all Food Festival was my first introduction to the Savannah community as a whole. It was amazing to see people from all walks of life enjoying each other's company and learning about the Jewish culture.

6) On a more personal note, I was able to celebrate my first Halloween. I got to hand out candy to the adorable trick or treaters, as well as dress up my-

self and go to a Halloween party (the costumes were like Purim, but after that, there are no other similarities).

7) I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate with local Hillel's and Young Jewish Savannah. Each time I've learned more about being Jewish in the Diaspora and I have the opportunity to share Israel.

8) I've already had the chance to speak in front of civic groups, who voluntarily get together and donate their money, time, and skills for the betterment of society. They have been welcoming and eager to learn more about the life, challenges, opportunities, and history of Israel. I hope and pray that I will get many more opportunities to share my country with yours.

These are my eight "candles," what are yours? Happy Chanukah Y'all!

Campaign.....from pg 1

important? Can Jewish giving be done secularly, such as to the homeless or to organizations that fight disease and poverty? Is that the same or as good as giving to specifically Jewish organizations? What about the example being modeled for your children and grandchildren? Does it really matter where you commit your support, as long as you are giving to the betterment of people and the world? And when giving to the Jewish Federation, can your donation go to a specific cause that is of personal importance to you?

Jewish philanthropy can be confusing. Sarah Indyk, the Jewish Life Initiatives Manager at the Rose Community Foundation in Denver, Colorado, recently wrote: *"There is a tension today between philanthropic support for the universal, the world of issues and needs beyond the Jewish community, and for the particular, the smaller world of issues and*

needs within Jewish communities. Both are essential."

I share with you words by Marc Blattner, President of the Jewish Federation in Portland, Oregon, in his response to a community member's concern that not enough Jews contribute to Jewish-specific causes: *"Judaism gives us so many directions about where, how and to whom we give, that we can see our Jewish responsibility to repair the world everywhere we see need. Philanthropy is a learned behavior – it requires education, role modeling and passion. A priority should be to fund Jewish education and programs to connect people to Judaism and Jewish life. This will help ensure there are always people who feel a responsibility to care for those who have the greatest needs. Let us all do our part to make this world and our Jewish community a better place – that is Jewish philanthropy."*

The Jewish Federation provides an avenue for you to provide support to

the overall Jewish community, as well as in an area of personal meaning to you as an individual. Your one pledge will benefit people in need of Jewish Family Services, Jewish education, worldwide relief services, and many, many other resources. Visit our website at www.savj.org to explore how your gift to the Federation will support your Jewish brothers and sisters.

As our own Executive Director, Adam Solender, beautifully expressed his belief in one's duty to give Jewishly in a recent email, *"When you donate to the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign 2013, you are not just giving money, you are raising Jews. You are giving Jewish people access to an empowered, dynamic community, a community with rich ancient traditions and an extraordinary, inspirational history. You are fulfilling your part in mitzvot - good deeds that help repair the world."*

The Savannah Jewish Federation is here for you, your family, and your community. Help us to help one another. If you have not yet done so,

please make a pledge to the Annual Campaign. For indeed, together we do extraordinary things.

Robin Reineri
Campaign Coordinator

Festival.....from pg 1

Ethiopia and Israel.

With award-winning feature films like *David* and *Live and Become*, enlightening documentaries like *Nicky's Family*,

Hava Nagila and *Violins in Wartime* and entertaining comedies like *My First Wedding* and *Salsa Tel Aviv*, you'll surely be engaged, inspired, and entertained!

In addition to the great films, make it a "night out" by joining us for dinner or a dessert reception prior to each film.

The Savannah Jewish Film Festival is a joint project of the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish Educational Alliance and all films will take place at the JEA. Become a sponsor of the 8th Annual Savannah Jewish Film Festival by calling Jennifer Rich at (912) 355-8111 or go to www.savj.org for more information.

Mark your calendars and save the following dates to enjoy time with friends, film and food (and watch your mail for the Festival flier): January 24th, 27th, 30th and 31st: 6:00pm optional dinner; 7:00 film screening. January 26th and February 2nd: 7:30pm film screening; followed by a dessert reception.

Savannah Jewish News

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

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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The Higher Ground Illuminating Our Community Minyan

by Carol M. Towbin Greenberg

In the wake of the national elections and the devastation of Superstorm Sandy, I have come to think that liberty is both the result of shared experiences and the way in which we accept responsibilities—for ourselves, for our community and for our neighbors—which that freedom implies. So much about Judaism prepares us for democracy; so much about the Savannah Jewish community exemplifies righteous actions—the best of that social contract.

Our Jewish year is rich with holidays and daily observance of all aspects of our lives. In just one weekend I witnessed a baby naming, a wedding and a friend being laid to rest. With all this swirl of life cycle events it is easy to be caught up in our own moments and not be aware of opportunities that exist in our community to help others. Yet the Savannah Jewish community response to Sandy was inspirational: informative Federation eNews blasts, Hadassah and the synagogues provided information about how to help relief efforts through Jewish agencies, the Girl Scouts transported donations collected at the synagogues, our Rambam students held fundraisers and community member Inbal Singer ran a call for materials and volunteers through Facebook that resulted in a synagogue social hall full of people and things she shipped up north.

In difficult times, we are a community of amazing individuals who often pull together to achieve what we cannot accomplish by ourselves. These alliances provide for others, while enriching our own lives. The visionaries who created the Jewish Educational Alliance 100 years ago understood this. Part of the social contract of *this* alliance is that you join, support, and take part in the many initiatives of our community. Jennifer Rich, the JEA's Programming Director is working to establish new Jewish social and educational opportunities long associated with the JEA. Make programming suggestions and she will work to provide them.

Make a new start by celebrating 100 years of this unique JEA community on Sunday, December 2 with a day filled with free activities for every taste (including our own JEA Garden Club from 9am to 10am). Each time you



The re-mulched area around the plaque honoring Jewish war veterans at the base of the JEA flag pole

and your family participate, you help grow our community. Stop by Barnes and Noble on Thursday, December 6 and say hello to Dayle Levy, Toby Hollenberg, Arlene Ratner, Sherry Dolgoff, Lynn Berkowitz and AM Goldkrand as they entice the public to use our SJF code (#10879369) while making holiday purchases. Can't come by? Then participate at home by telling your friends online: the code can be used by anyone, anywhere in the country—online or in any Barnes and Noble store—throughout Chanukah (until December 14th).

Is this the same as supporting our Savannah Jewish Federation with a pledge that supports all of our interests in this community? No, but last year the funds from our first ever Virtual Book Fair generated enough revenue to create the Children's Holocaust Daffodil Garden featuring a memorial marker designed by Rochelle Frank, with the help of Jason Rich. With the excitement that the Daffodil project created, the JEA Garden Club was born and continues to bloom. This year we have added our twelfth project to our list of accomplishments: our volunteers prepped and planted our flag area to honor our servicemen and women for Veteran's Day.

On Sunday December 9th, in the afternoon before we light the second night's candles or attend family and synagogue festivities for our Festival of Lights, we have an opportunity to publicly show solidarity for Israel as we join together in our own Savannah ritual of lighting our community menorah at the JEA. Each member, like a candle on that huge hanukkah, adds to the illumination of this community. For ourselves, for our community and for our neighbors, become part of our community minyan. May your holiday nights be more than the brilliance of their candles.

Teen Awards Expand Nationally

The Helen Diller Family Foundation is expanding the Diller Teen *Tikkun Olam* Awards, issuing a national call-for-nominations to identify Jewish teens whose volunteer service projects demonstrate a determined commitment to make the world a better place. Up to ten selected teens, five from California and five from other communities across the country, will each be acknowledged for their visionary actions with an award of \$36,000, to be used to further their philanthropic work or their education. Deadline for nominations is January 6, 2013.

Since 2007 the Helen Diller Family Foundation has given more than one million dollars to 30 teens to further their vision of *tikkun olam*—a central precept of Judaism meaning *repair of the world*.

"It has been a joy to celebrate so many incredible Jewish teens over the past six years, and to support them in their efforts to repair the world," said Helen Diller, president of the sponsoring foundation. "This opportunity to empower and nurture teens throughout the entire United States is a dream come true, and a simple way to foster the spirit of *tikkun olam* among our future leaders."

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) will collaborate with the Helen Diller Family Foundation to inspire and encourage Jewish teen volunteer service nationwide.

"We applaud those who demonstrate such dedication to Jewish values and service at a young age," said Jerry Silverman, president and CEO of JFNA. "The Helen Diller Family Foundation is known for its commitment to providing enrichment opportunities that truly do change lives."

Past recipients of the Diller Teen *Tik-*



kun Olam Awards have gone on to create a non-profit that helps terminally ill high-schoolers attend their prom, a soccer-focused social media fundraising campaign that supplies water to third-world communities, and a wide range of projects that support causes such as education, tolerance, autism awareness, anti-poverty efforts, environmental responsibility, wildfire safety and others.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR NOMINATION:

- Teens may be nominated by teachers, community leaders, rabbis, or anyone who knows the value of their volunteer service and commitment—EXCEPT family members. Teens may also nominate themselves.
- Each candidate must be a U.S. resident aged 13-19 years old at the time of nomination, and must self-identify as Jewish.
- Community service projects may benefit the general or Jewish community.
- Teens compensated for their services are not eligible.

TO ENTER: Complete the simple online nomination form (by Jan. 6, 2013) at www.jewishfed.org/teenawards/process. For more information: www.jewishfed.org/diller/teenawards; (415) 512-6437; or email dillerteenaward@sfjcf.org.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the family of:

David A. Byck III

Who died November 14, 2012

He is survived by his wife, Ellen Rothschild Byck; two sons, David (Peggy) Byck and Edwin (Melinda) Byck of Savannah; a daughter, Nancy Byck (Eric Burton) of Fort Myers, FL; eight grandchildren; a sister, Joan Byck Loeb of Montgomery AL, and several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel, P.O. Box 816, Savannah 31402; Senior Citizens, Inc., 3025 Bull St., Savannah 31405; Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah 31416-0190; or a charity of one's choice.

Harry "Rufus" Shelkoff

Who died November 20, 2012

He is survived by two daughters, Lynda (Gerald) Freedman and Bernice (Bruce) Mellman of Atlanta; a son, Leon (Morrie) Shelkoff of Statesboro; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Remembrances: B'nai Brith Jacob Synagogue, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; Savannah Lion's Club, P.O. Box 16916, Savannah 31406-3616; Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah 31416-0190.



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

Fee: \$20 per month / \$7.50 per class **Members**
\$40 per month / \$15 per class **Non Members**

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

www.SavannahJEA.org
Facebook.com/SavannahJEA

To make your paid reservations call 912-355-8111




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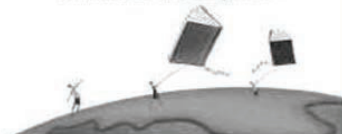
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3. Enter the code at check out under Book fair for an online purchase or ...
4. Have your friends and family use the code for any item they purchase in any Barnes & Noble in the country during Savannah Jewish Federation's Book Fair Week.

Thank you for your support!

Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Lisa Kaminsky

As the excitement builds for the next Savannah Jewish Film Festival, we thought it would be fun to chat with one of Savannah's biggest film fans, Lisa Kaminsky. Whenever there's a hot new release fresh from Hollywood, Lisa is sure to be on the scene. And she is such a steadfast regular at SCAD's Savannah Film Festival that in 2011 they asked her to be one of their official bloggers on their website and an official 'tweeter' about their festival on Twitter. (SCAD abandoned the format for 2012, but Lisa continued to tweet.) We talked about her interest in films and her digital experiences.

When did you become such a film buff?

It was probably right after college. I majored in English and had to read about three books a week so I didn't really have much time for the movies then, but I got more interested after college when I didn't have to read as many books each week. Then in 1987 my father had a massive heart attack and I spent a lot of time taking care of him – the movies became a good escape for me for a few hours when I could get away.

People who "knew you when" know that you

were not what would be called an early adopter of technology. Yet here you are blogging and tweeting like a pro. What changed for you?

Honestly, I still have a problem with e-mail. I've learned Twitter and I can do that pretty good but I still don't Direct Message. I'm embarrassed to say I even had to hire someone last year to help me download to the SCAD website my blogs that I had written. I wrote them, but I just couldn't get them over to the SCAD website. I do know how to play Words with Friends, but I still have a lot to learn.

What has been the nicest or most exciting thing to happen to you as a result of your foray into the digital world?

Last year while using Twitter for the Film Festival I found out some of the people that were coming to Savannah for the event and started following them on Twitter. I tweeted [actress] Ellen Barkin to tell her how nice I thought it was that she was coming and she wrote me back and said if I saw her somewhere to be sure to introduce myself. I was at the Marshall House having drinks with my sister and couple of friends and she walked in



Ellen Barkin and Lisa Kaminsky

with [producer and her boyfriend] Sam Levinson. After some debate, I finally walked over to her and before I could finish introducing myself she was saying my name and calling me her Twitter friend. We took pictures and later she told the story about us meeting on

both Jay Leno's and Rosie O'Donnell's shows. She said my name twice on Jay Leno. I've had people tell me they saw it on TV — it was very exciting.

Real quick, off the top of your head – what's your favorite movie of all time? Pulp Fiction.

Favorite movie with a Jewish theme? Boy in the Striped Pajamas.

Least favorite movie? There are so many bad ones; I don't think I can pick one. I really don't like cartoons or science fiction.

Lisa is a former chair of the Savannah Jewish Federation's Yom HaShoah Committee. She has been married to Danny Kaminsky for 13 years. They got their dog, Louie, 14 years ago to celebrate their engagement. To track Lisa's pronouncements on Twitter about all things cinematic, follow her @lisakaminsky.

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

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****Serving all of Southeast Georgia****

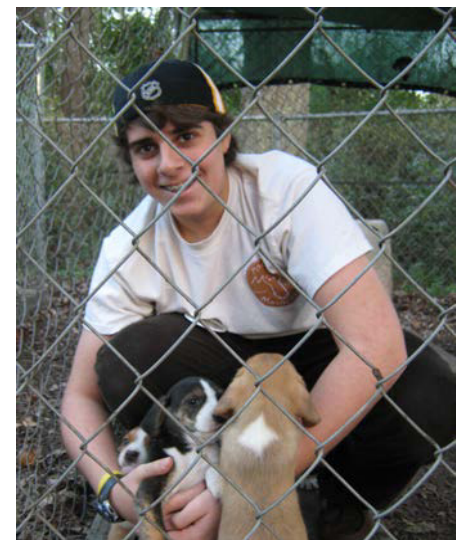


Trading Places is back! Do a mitzvah this holiday season!

Trading places is a Savannah Jewish Federation program that provides volunteers from our Jewish Community to non-profit organizations on Christmas Day, giving our non-Jewish friends and neighbors the day off to celebrate with their families.

Trading places is open to volunteers of all ages and is a great way to teach Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) to the entire family. With a variety of volunteer opportunities available, lend a hand and a little of your time on Christmas to help our Greater Savannah community!

Sign up Today by contacting Jennifer Rich at 355-8111 or programming@savj.org.



From Me to You with Love

by Debbie Rotkow

Joel and I often returned to Savannah in the 60s while he was stationed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. Each time we came for a visit Joel's mother (Nana/Dorothy Rotkow), her sisters, Aunt Bea (Goodman) and Aunt Lillian (Lowe), and Joel's sister Sally (Sanders) took every opportunity to wine and dine us with their culinary specialties.

When we finally moved back to Savannah in the early 70s, we wanted to reciprocate everyone's hospitality in our Spanish Villa apartment. My culinary skills did not qualify me to invite everyone for dinner. After all, I could hardly boil water or fry an egg. That left dessert.

Not being an Elliot Gottlieb or a Harriet Ulman, Joel and I decided to serve Pepperidge Farm Apple Turnovers and coffee. It seemed to us a fail-safe menu. By the time the entire family crowded into our small apartment, we were confident our afternoon dessert party would be successful. Thank goodness Aunt Lillian brought a dozen of her home-made chocolate brownies. Little did I know how important those 12 brownies would be!

When everyone arrived, I put the turnovers into the oven and got the coffee going. Being so focused on all the conversation in our living room, I forgot about my goodies in the kitchen. At some point I smelled an odor permeating the apartment. I flew into the kitchen in time to witness the coffee boiling all over the stove and smoke escaping from the oven. The gritty coffee grains were the only remnants left in the coffee pot and my fossilized



Debbie and Joel Rotkow - before Debbie learned to cook

turnovers were inedible. So much for my *homemade* goodies!

Bless Aunt Lillian. We enjoyed the remainder of the afternoon munching her brownies (cut into very tiny, delicious bites.) and sipped ice water. Our dessert party was a turning point for me. I decided if Joel and I were going to live in Savannah, I must learn to cook.

Debbie's Brisket

I serve my brisket every Pesach. It is embarrassingly simple. When I first made it, Dr. Skippy would slice it for me on his lunch hour. He still may make house calls but you'll have to ask him. Enjoy!

1 large brisket (Why not? It freezes well.)

3 or 4 peeled carrots cut into large chunks

2 large onions cut into wedges (skins removed)

4 to 6 peeled potatoes cut into large chunks (easier to nosh)

2 pkgs or 5 to 6 tablespoons of dried

onion soup
2 or 3 cans of tomato sauce
garlic powder to taste
a drizzle or two of red drinking wine
(not sweet Shabbos wine!)

Put the brisket in a large disposable pan. (Why should you scrub one of your nice pans?) Place the veggies around the brisket. Sprinkle dry onion soup and garlic powder on top of the brisket. Pour tomato sauce and wine over the entire brisket. Cover securely with heavy duty foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 hours until tender when jabbed with a fork. (No peeking!) If

you skimp on the time, you'll wind up with a tough piece of meat. Cool completely

Slice the brisket and return it to the pan. Pop it into the freezer until needed. This recipe makes delicious gravy.

Do you have an interesting and/or entertaining story about your family and a recipe to share? We would love to consider your submissions for publication in an upcoming Savannah Jewish News as part of this new, regular feature. Please send your story (not more than 400 words!) and recipe to sjnews@savj.org. Recipes should be kosher or adaptable for kosher preparation.



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

Fee: \$20 per month / \$7.50 per class **Members**
\$40 per month / \$15 per class **Non Members**

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

www.SavannahJEA.org
[Facebook.com/SavannahJEA](https://www.facebook.com/SavannahJEA)

To make your paid reservations call
912-355-8111



OPEN HOUSE & CHANUKAH PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9th • 1:00 - 3:00PM

NOW ENROLLING FOR 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

Prospective families and currently enrolled students are invited to RDS for a fun and interactive Open House and Chanukah Party for kids. Child care will be available with refreshments and activities for the children. **Please RSVP to 912.352.7994.**



Rambam Day School
A Full Time Jewish Day School

912.352.7994
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
www.rambamdayschool.org

This December experience the many

Places of Hadassah

Sunday, Dec. 2 All day Celebrate 100 years of community at the JEA with Hadassah

All are welcome at all events regardless of synagogue affiliation. **RSVP** to the JEA 912-355-8111

Dec. 6 to Dec 14— December Community Service Project: Support the SJF Bookfair to benefit the Children's Holocaust Memorial Education Projects Buy anything at any B & N throughout the country **using our code (#10879369)** and our community project benefits.

Wed. Dec 12 "Chat Hadassah" (4:15 at the **JEA** one hour of networking and planning)

All members (& Hadassah "wannabees") welcome. Life membership only \$212 until 12/31.

Last week in December ...Look for it... the best and most fun business meeting of the year is the Hadassah Presents Workers Launch Party— the organizational meeting for our January fundraising!

Upcoming January 9 at noon: Women and Health Lunchtime Wellness Event Spend an hour in the middle of your busy day and rejuvenate yourself to tackle life's challenges!

For info: Yelena Chernyak ,Savannah Hadassah President,welcome12hadassah@gmail.com
or Joanna Rich, joanna@chirphealth.com, 912-480-4686. **Hadassah.org/southeastern**



HA
DAS
SAH.



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

December 2012



Children's Programming

Saturday Night Out

December 1st, 2012 6:30 10:00 pm
"The Great Cookie Caper"

Professor Keebler had just invented the recipe for the world's greatest cookies. Before he could introduce them to the world, however, everything was stolen! Help us solve the mystery of the "The Great Cookie Caper" and locate the ingredients so that we can help Professor Keebler unveil the world's greatest cookie!

January 12th, 2013 6:30 10:00 pm
"Wild and Crazy Angry Birds"

A battle is brewing at the JEA as the popular children's game "Angry Birds" comes to life. A combination of battle station building and crazy chants will lead to the final showdown in crowning "The Last Bird Standing!"

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

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

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

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

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

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



DAYS AT THE JEA

What are Days at the JEA?

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

What to bring:

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

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

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

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



discover *your* community

Save the Date

December 1

Saturday Night Out, 6:30 pm at the JEA.
 "The Great Cookie Caper"

December 2

JEA Open House-Join us for our final 100 Year Anniversary event for a day of FREE food, events and classes!

January 3

Art Gallery Reception for artist Ching Ma.

January 9

Hadassah Women & Health Series, Large Auditorium at 12:00 pm.

January 12

Saturday Night Out, 6:30 pm at the JEA.
 "Wild and Crazy Angry Birds"

January 15

MLK Annual Concert, 7:00 pm.

January 24

The Savannah Jewish Film Festival begins!

JEA Aftercare Program

Open most days out of school

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

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





Adult Programming



Bridge Wednesdays 1:00 pm 5:00 pm
Scrabble Wednesdays 6:30 8:30 pm
Mah Jongg Thursdays 10:30 am 12:30 pm



JEA Mid WeekGarden Group Wednesdays 9:00 am 10:30 am
We meet twice monthly on alternate Wednesdays for no more than 90 minutes to tend our JEA gardens. Feel free to bring your own garden gloves, tools, hat and water. Some tools are available. *Next date, weather permitting is December 2nd, *Special time 9:15 am 10:00am.*



New! The Stories of Our Lives: One Page at a Time
Tuesday January 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th 10:00 am 12:00 pm
Wanted; People who love a good story, people who are open to remembering their own stories and people who want to capture their memories on paper for themselves and their loved ones. Facilitators: Sherry Dolgoff and Debbie Rotkow
Price: \$60 for 4 two-hour workshops (*Class Limited to 8 participants)
Register today at the JEA Front Desk or by phone 912-355-8111.
*Payment required at time of registration



Computers Made Easy
Thursday January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & February 7, 14, 21 11:30 am 12:30 pm
Instructor Bill Fox makes learning fun and easy! You'll gain the knowledge to use the computer for communication with family and friends, day-to-day organization, learning, games and even entertainment. Learn at your own pace and in a small group setting! (*Class size is limited to 10 participants)
Register today at the JEA Front Desk or by phone 912-355-8111.
*Payment required at time of registration
Price: \$60 JEA Member Value Price=\$50



Thursday Lunch Bunch Thursday 12:30 pm 2:30 pm
Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

15th Annual Musical Salute to MLK



Featuring The Savannah Jazz Orchestra & Savannah Arts Academy Skyclite Band
Tuesday, January 15th, 7:00 PM
Open to the Public
Admission is Free

This year's event is being co-presented by the Jewish Educational Alliance, the Savannah Jewish Federation Community Relations Council, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Association, the Coastal Jazz Association, through a grant from the City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs, Portman's Music Superstore and MStarArts.

There will be a dessert reception at intermission.

This very powerful event, which will feature the Savannah Jazz Orchestra, co-led by Teddy Adams and Randall Reese, and The Savannah Arts Academy Skyclite Jazz Band, under the baton of Vann

Thornton, is part of the official Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Celebration which pays tribute to the birth and life of one of America's great men of freedom, justice and equality. The Savannah Jazz Orchestra is comprised of the area's best musicians and has backed some of the biggest names in jazz, including Benny Golson, Jimmy Heath, Diane Schuur, Clark Terry and Bobby Watson. They have performed at most of the Savannah Jazz Festivals and their annual Tribute to Duke Ellington Concert is a favorite among local jazz fans. The Skyclite Jazz Band has traveled the globe representing Savannah and has won many awards and accolades.

The concert is free and open to the community thanks to the support of the Savannah Jewish Federation and a generous grant from the City of Savannah.

Come hear some wonderful music as the JEA plays host to a concert honoring one of the great men of the twentieth century.

JEA Donations

(October 12 Novemlber 12)

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Phil Scharf
Doris & Arnie Goldstein
In honor of Geri Greenberg's special birthday
Betty & Larry Lasky
In honor of Don Kole
Doris Klugman

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Phil Scharf
Sylvia & Burton Udinsky
In honor of Lynn Pories' birthday
Jodie & Ralph Lorberbaum & Family
Sylvia Slotin

ETHEL COHEN MEDDIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Leo Center
Chuck Palefsky

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Stanley Rosenberg's uncle
Marsha Bernstein
In memory of Anita Schlossberg's daughter
Bernice Elman & Family

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Leo Center
In memory of Phil Scharf
Sally Krissman

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Leo Center
Seacrest Partners, Inc.
Miriam Center
Gail Wexler
Scheer & Montgomery
Barbara & Edward Rosenzweig
Sara & Greg Portman
Jerry Switz
Eileen Goldberg Kalikow
Jodie & Ralph Lorberbaum & Family
Frances Womble
Vicki & Harry Center
Sandra (Goldberg) Kaufman & Family
Gail Rosenzweig
Jonathan Joselove
Roz & Buddy Portman
In memory of Phil Scharf
Jodie & Ralph Lorberbaum
Vicki & Harry Center





Health & Wellness

Reasons for Strength Training the Core



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Core strength training may be a relatively new buzz term in the fitness industry, but coaches and athletes have understood its value for many years.

The core region consists of far more than just the abdominal muscles. In fact core strength training aims to target all the muscle groups that stabilize the spine and pelvis.

inferior; obturator internus and externus; quadratus femoris; piriformis

The muscles of the trunk and torso act to stabilize the spine, pelvis and shoulder girdle. From this solid, balanced base the limbs can be moved powerfully and under control. In fact, before rapid movements of the extremities can take place, the central nervous system stabilizes the spine in anticipation. The rate at which the core muscles stabilize the spine may have a direct effect on the power of the limb movement.

It's these muscle groups that are critical for the transfer of energy from large to small body parts during many sporting activities.

Muscles of the Core Region

Abdominals: rectus abdominis; transverse abdominis; internal and external abdominal obliques

Spinal Musculature: erector spinae; quadratus lumborum; paraspinals; trapezius; psoas major; multifidus; iliocostalis lumborum and thoracis; rotatores; latissimus dorsi; and serratus anterior

Hip Musculature: iliopsoas; rectus femoris; sartorius; tensor fasciae latae; pectineus; gluteus maximus, medius and minimus; semitendinosus; semimembranosus; biceps femoris; adductor brevis, longus, and magnus; gemellus superior and

Core strength training differs from many traditional weight training routines by working both the lower back and the abdominals in unison. The same is true for the upper and lower body. All athletic movements incorporate the core in some way. Very few muscle groups are isolated. Instead, the whole body works as a unit and core strength training endeavours to replicate this.

What are the Benefits to Core Strength Training?

1. Greater efficiency of movement
2. Improved body control and balance
3. Increased power output from both the core musculature and peripheral muscles such as the shoulders, arms and legs
4. Reduced risk of injury
5. Improved balance and stability
6. Improved performance

The JEA Welcomes Back Personal Trainer & Pilates Instructor, Kathy Ackerman



Kathy Ackerman has been in the fitness industry for over 25 years. She started her career as a physical education teacher and soon realized her true passion was training and recreational programming. Over the years she has created and taught a wide range of programs, all reflective of

her own commitment to good physical health and spiritual well-being. These programs have included aquatics, sports, and fitness training for all age groups from children to senior citizens; sports safety, Yoga and Pilates. Kathy has choreographed and produced a successful Yoga Pilates exercise DVD. She is a Master Trainer in both Pilates and Yoga, and has conducted several training seminars around the country.

Kathy holds certifications with: AFAA, IFTA, American Red Cross, American Arthritic Assoc., AEA, Ellis and Assoc., YogaFit, Shanti Yoga, Physical Mind Institute, IM=X Pilates and is registered with Yoga Alliance.

Kathy uses positive motivation and encouragement to inspire others. She is delighted as her students make progress and is their biggest cheerleader. She is eager to share, totally involved and completely supportive. Kathy's vision is to combine her experience and knowledge with her programming to help heal and strengthen others.

Please welcome Kathy back to the JEA. She was the Health and PE Director 15 years ago. Kathy will be bringing with her a Pilates Reformer and will add another dimension to our Personal Training Staff.

December Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

SS*=Silver Sneakers program





JEA Art Gallery



Nancy Hudson



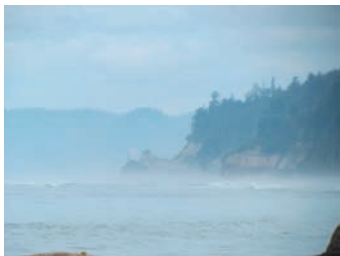
Rebecca Hudson



Comer Meadows

December Artists:

Nancy Hudson, Rebecca Hudson, Comer Meadows
& Jennifer Meadows



Jennifer Meadows

Sometimes family members don't have a lot in common, but in our family this is not the case. Our shared interests do not stop at just photography, but extend to our subjects. Our shared love of nature is reflected in our photographs. While all novices to the art of photography, Comer Varnedoe Meadows of Savannah, GA, and Nancy Hudson of Austinville, VA, have been taking photographs for years. Becky Hudson of Houston, TX, and Jennifer Meadows of Savannah, GA, have just begun to indulge in the hobby.

Artwork available for viewing Dec. 2 - 31, 2012
Art Gallery Reception December 2, 2012 4:00 - 6:00pm

January Artist: Ching Ma



Ching Ma was known as Ching Levy in her early art career. Being a Chinese American, her cultural background is the foundation of her thinking and shows in her work. In 2012, she switched to her maiden name to better present who she is and the essence of her work. Searching for new ideas and new approaches to her artwork is ongoing, although 'minimalist aesthetics' has always been her philosophy. Simplicity shows through her work, but at the same time there is a sense of play.

Ching has shown her capability to catch nature in realistic style and in free form. In recent years, she has moved toward more impressionism and the abstract, not to show what people can already see, but instead to show what people cannot see. It is more a spiritual and sensual journey. Her new work is the fruit of her recent trip to London and cross-country trek to the Western United States.

Artwork available for viewing Jan. 2 - 31, 2013
Art Gallery Reception January 3, 2013 6:00 - 8:00 pm



JEA Preschool Savannah

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

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

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

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

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

New JEA Members

The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset!
(New Members as of 10/15/12-11/9/12)

John Garceau & Francesca Macchiaverna

Zachary Holden

David Kindred

Jeffrey Makant

Tad Meyer

Alan Peterson

Lance Taylor

Aaron & Katherine VanTosh

Christopher & Meredith Weathersby

Diana Wiersema

Betsy Wilson

Join the JEA!

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

Types of Membership include:

Family Plans

Couple Plans

Individual Plans

Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

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

Register Now for Basketball and Jr. Swim

Basketball registration is in full swing. You may find registering your child online to be a bit more efficient. Registration will end Dec. 9th with practices to begin the following week. Games are to be determined, but will start in January, usually on Monday nights. Registration is available for those children ages 4 to 12.

Jr. Swim will start the 2nd session January 7 and will end mid-April. Practice days and times are Tuesday and Thursday from 6-7pm. Please go to www.SavannahJEA.org to register your child for either of these activities.

On the Personal Side



Mazel tov to... Harris Konter, 31, who was named to the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* most recent "40 under 40" list. Konter was recognized on the prestigious list not only for his abilities as a wealth management specialist at Raymond James & Associates, where he received a Rising Star Award, but also for giving back to the community. He serves on the board of the MEGA Family Project, a group offering support, education and advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender families; in 2009 was chosen by UN Watch to attend the UN Conference on Anti-Discrimination and Racism in Geneva; and also is co-chair of

ACCESS, the young professionals' arm of the American Jewish Committee. Harris is the son of Rose and Stanley Konter and the grandson of Harriet Konter.



"Capture the Moment"

pbc Photos
Paul H. Camp

Telephone: 912-352-7965

Email: pphhcc@bellsouth.net

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Pooler
471 Pooler Parkway at Publix • 912.748.6808

Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

Ask any Jewish child what their favorite holiday is and chances are good they will unhesitatingly respond, "Hanukah". After all, even though Hanukah is a minor holiday in the Jewish calendar, it is pretty much a perfect holiday from a child's viewpoint. Not only are there presents, but the enticing smell of frying latkes. There is the singing of "Rock of Ages" and dancing to "I Had a Little Dreidel" and there is, of course, chocolate gelt. Then we have the compelling story about how a small group of people throws off the yoke of oppressors (no child likes to be bullied), and the miracle of the oil (kids love supernatural events), and the rededication of Temple (the satisfying restoration of order and safety).

Like every family, when our children were little, we developed our own special ways of celebrating Hanukah. We had a recipe for latkes that used every pot in the kitchen but never any plates. The light and crispy latkes rarely made it to the table but were wolfed down by everyone hovering over the stove. We had a small treasure hunt nightly as the kids searched for their presents and the whole family danced to the glow of the Hanukah lights including our brown poodle, Max, who loved to run in crazy circles as the family spun around in a circle.

It was the lighting of those candles that was always my favorite part of the holiday. As soon as the children could safely light a candle, each had their own menorah. I lit the cherished brass menorah that I remember my grandmother lighting when I was a

This Little Light of Mine by Annette Carnow

child. We also had a menorah that my parents had brought back from their trip to Israel shortly after the '67 war, as well as menorahs that my in-laws had given us. We proudly placed the glowing menorahs in our large bay window and felt ourselves to be imbued with the spirit of the Maccabees. These dancing lights shown upon the home of a neighbor whose husband had been a known anti-Semite and judge in the Chicagoland area. Ah ha, once again we had survived and triumphed over an oppressor.

Our children are grown now and no longer come home for Hanukah, so the holiday has a diminished glimmer for us. But my menorahs which I have displayed all year round in my Savannah home have an increased importance to me. This is because every week at the temple museum at Mickve Israel, I stop in front of the small display case sheltering a 15th century oil burning menorah and explain to visitors from all over the U.S and the world, both Jew and Gentile, the bravery of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews that drew their curtains so that they could celebrate this holiday. As I think about these Jewish families from centuries past, who had to dismantle their menorahs and hide them away under floor boards or in secret alcoves lest they be discovered, a shiver of fear runs across me. I think about the torture they faced at the hands of the Inquisition, and I have a renewed respect for the resilience of the Jewish people in all ages who withstood terrible oppression in order to keep the light of our faith alive.



So when you light your Hanukah menorah this year, think of the wonderful opportunity you have to create traditions with your family, the brave and unwavering faith of our ancestors, and the freedom of worship that the United States promises all its citizens. The light from our menorahs is a remarkable symbol of our strength and faith.

Happy Holidays to all. If you have Hanukah stories, pictures or artifacts you would like to share or save, contact the Savannah Jewish Archives, c/o Georgia Historical Society, attn: Katharine Rapkin, 912-651-2125.

All in a Day's Work

Jenel Few from the Savannah Morning News visited with Rambam. It was an amazing visit. We invited Ms. Few to come in hopes that she would write an article about our SPROUTS program, which is a character building program created by our staff. Ms. Few was so enthralled with the school; she just wanted to soak it all up. For Ms. Few, the SPROUTS program was just icing on the cake!

Ms. Few told us that when Susan (Boblasky) contacted her she thought, "Oh great, just another school, just another school article..." Jenel Few did not stop thanking us for inviting her to come! Ms. Few wanted to understand everything she saw. She was very impressed with a second grade bulletin board that had Hebrew writing with a turkey on it. The Hebrew words were *Mode Ani* – a brief prayer that expresses our gratitude for waking up to another day. The turkey obviously was just in time for Thanksgiving!

Ms. Few saw the bulletin board that was puzzle pieces put together by the students to demonstrate the trait of cooperation. In the 7th/8th grade Jewish Laws and Customs class, the children were put in two groups and they had to create a new animal never before heard about. Each group had to create a name for their animal, talk about where it lives, what it eats and actually show what it looks like. My oh my, the imagination of children.... They created two fascinating animals never seen be-

fore and hopefully, never seen again, except on the walls of Rambam as displays.

Jenel Few's article quoted the essence of the school; "The goal is to prepare students to leave the school ready to excel in area public, private and parochial high schools, while maintaining a strong sense of their Jewish identity and cultural values". Ms. Few observed the following (and had to take a picture because she was so fascinated): "While Rambam's younger students were downstairs working on science, social studies, math and language arts, a group of older, slightly off-key, students were upstairs singing morning prayers."

Ms. Jenel was so mesmerized by everything she saw, that her interest, appreciation and enthusiasm invigorated the staff.

According to a complete outsider – Rambam parents have a lot to be proud of!!!!

During this Chanukah season, may the light of the menorah penetrate our hearts so we can find the ability to reach our goals, the wisdom to choose our goals wisely, and the strength of character to respect and embrace all members of our people.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

One Light at a Time, One Hero at a Time...

As I am writing this article, we have just wrapped up our Scholarship Fundraiser and so many of you have to be thanked for extending your hearts and helping us in this Mitzvah project.

A famous Hebrew Chanukah song describes the lights of the menorah as "each one is a small light but all of them together are a huge one". We definitely came together as one bright light through that project!

At a time that universal problems are fast and complex, that we are each 1 of 7 billion human beings, it is difficult to see the potential power of our good deeds.

One of the core parts of Shalom School curriculum is the notion of *Tikkun Olam*, "Repairing the World". We practice one little Mitzvah at a time but we often feel that we cannot fix the world, at least not in one shot. We learn to do it one deed at a time, one day at a time, one person at a time.

Our students might learn one prayer line at the time but they'll do it with *Kavannah* (meaning). They might only have a quarter but they will always bring in *Tzedakah*.

The Jewish concept of "Divine Providence" (*Hashgacha Pchaitit*) is based on the idea that God gave us a certain capacity, certain gifts, and put us in the time and place where, if we maximize those gifts and that capacity, we can make a world of difference.

The story of baby Moses is a perfect

example of that idea: Pharaoh's daughter happened to be there when Moses' basket passed by. She heard his cry and even though she suspected him to be a Jewish baby, she decided to "extend her arm" and help that child.

Very often in life the reasons we don't do what is good and positive is not because we don't care, but because we think that whatever we could do wouldn't make a difference so why bother, why extend our arm? This is a very rational approach.

Pharaoh's daughter knew that God had put her there at the exact time baby Moses was floating by so that she could do something about the cry of that child; and because she extended her arm that day, a miracle occurred and God extended its reach. She raised a child that not only changed Jewish history but the moral landscape of all mankind.

God does not ask us to be what we are not, just be who we can be, to extend our arm.

Despite our frailties and seeming insignificance, it is important never to forget that we can change the world, one mitzvah at a time, one small hero at a time.

Wishing you a Chanukah full of shining lights!

Eva Locker



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

Creating a Program of Excellence

Just like the very young child, I learn through hands-on experiences and exploring the world around me. Therefore, on a recent visit to Atlanta, I went to visit two Jewish preschool programs so I could continue to experience firsthand the world of early childhood education. I went to the Marcus JCCA Weinstein School and The Temple Early Learning Center. The time and resources I received from the directors were very valuable and most appreciated.

Both programs are very successful in educating every aspect of the very young child; cognitively, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. I gained much insight into the daily routines, curriculum, staffing, and marketing of their schools. My hand was cramped from taking so many notes in my binder and on my smart phone. My notations included many aspects of teaching the preschoolers—from how teachers organized their center time and supervised the playground to how

they set up their learning environments. I observed different curricula being taught and gross motor skill activities in an inside playroom with mini hula hoops, climbing structures, and big building blocks. It is an exciting process creating a program from its very inception and bringing these creative ideas and activities to JEA Preschool Savannah will assist in the planning of our program of excellence.

Recently, we had two opportunities for parents to come learn about JEA Preschool Savannah at meet and greet evenings. There was great enthusiasm and interest in our new and dynamic program. Parents learned about the vision for the school, the curriculum,



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

and plans for the classrooms and outdoor learning space. They also asked questions about staffing and student-teacher ratios. The concept of a new, fresh, exciting program for the very young child excited the parents as I expressed my enthusiasm about being able to build a school from its very inception with input from our staff and parents. For continuing information about future meet and greets and updates about the progress of JEA Preschool Savannah, please look on our website savannahjea.org or on our Facebook page.

Our Mazel Tots program is in full

swing with a great core group of tots and parents. We even get grandparents to play and sing with us. If you have a baby through age 2 years old, please join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 for singing, instrument playing, and movement.

Chanukah will be here in just a few days. When I think about my visits to the preschools and my Mazel Tots' babies, I picture the children's eyes shining brightly, just as the Menorah candles will shine during this joyous time of year! Wishing everyone a happy and joyful Chanukah!

Jodi Sadler

Do you have a product or service to promote?

Want to share a simcha with the community?

Sponsor the weekly ENews for only \$36.

Contact Adam Solender at 355-8111 for details.

New Classes Offered with JFS

Jewish Family Services is partnering with the La Leche League of Savannah to offer a series of classes at the Jewish Educational Alliance for new and expectant mothers. All women who are interested in breastfeeding are invited to attend, as are their babies. Two different series of classes are being offered, one that meets in the morning and one that meets in the evening. There is no charge for the classes.

The morning series, offered monthly on Thursdays, begins January 3, 2013, at 10am. It will meet in the second floor board room. Topics to be explored include: The Advantages of Breastfeeding; Labor, Birth and Beyond; Common Pitfalls and more.

The evening series also will meet monthly on Thursdays and begins January 17, 2013, at 6:30pm. It will meet in the Senior Lounge on the first floor. Topics to be explored include: Why Should I Breastfeed?; How do I Breastfeed?; What Should I Do If...? and more.

Mothers who are not able to attend are welcome to call the La Leche League's Help Line and speak with a volunteer, (912) 897-9544.



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Savannah Jewish News is seeking **VOLUNTEER WRITERS** to cover stories of interest to the Savannah Jewish community. If interested, send an e-mail to sjnews@savj.org.

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Please contact Jennifer Rich at 912-355-8111 or programming@savj.org for more information about Savannah Jewish Film Festival sponsorships.

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

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The Sisterhood of Agudath Achim has been collecting recipes and stories for two years to compile a unique cookbook featuring the favorites of our native Savannahians with the addition of the wonderful array of stories and recipes from our transplants (the Other'n). Enjoy the best of all worlds in our special cookbook. Watch for our release.

Agudath Achim Sisterhood

Join Us At Mickve Israel for these great Decemember Events

The Music Series Presents the Magnolia String Quartet on Sunday, December 2 at 3 pm

This concert including works of Shostakovich and Mendelssohn and will feature the Honors String Quartet of Georgia Southern University. The Quartet includes Shannon Coffman (violinist), Joshua Crowe (violinist), Alicia Perez (violist) and Samuel Cho (cellist), under the direction of Dr. Larisa Elisha. Tickets for the concert are \$15. Mail your payment for your "will call" ticket to Mickve Israel at PO Box 816, Savannah GA 31402.



Rabbinical Installation on Saturday, December 8 at 11 am

The community is invited to join us for the installation of Rabbi Robert Haas, which will be held during Shabbat Service on Saturday, December 8. Reservations are required for the Kiddush lunch following service. To register by 12/5, contact Khrysten at extension 301 or kgarrett@mickveisrael.org.

Hanukkah Family Shabbat Service & Dinner on Friday, December 14 at 6 pm

Watch our website and emails for more details on this fun-filled holiday event, for which reservations will be required.



For more information, contact Mickve Israel at 912.233.1547 or visit www.mickveisrael.org.
Join our email list by contacting Khrysten.

It's A Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

This column is dedicated to the proposition that Jewish people enjoy a good laugh. It's also common knowledge that we relish a good meal. Put together a love of jokes and a love of food and you've got a match made in heaven – and this month's column.

First, an oldie but still a funny (for those who haven't heard this yet):

Most Jewish holidays can be summed up in three simple sentences:

They tried to kill us.

We won.

Let's eat!

Two pigs were talking and one said to the other, "Wouldn't this be a wonderful world if everyone was kosher?"

A guest at a lavish smorgasbord reception ate huge amounts of all the wonderful food – the chopped liver, the stuffed cabbage, the chicken and beef and so on. Then he indulged in multiple desserts from the Viennese table, accompanied by two glasses of hot tea. When the man got home, he was struck with intense abdominal pains, called 911, and was soon in an

ambulance on the way to the hospital.

The EMT in the ambulance asked him what he thought might have caused the gastrointestinal attack.

The fellow replied, "It had to have been those two glasses of tea!"

"A bagel is a doughnut with rigor mortis."

Clever Jewish deli menu items:

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Schmaltz

Beauty and the Beef

Much Ado about Noshing

Nova on Sunday

Brisky Business

My Fair Latke

Cloak and Dagwood

Salmon Chanted Evening

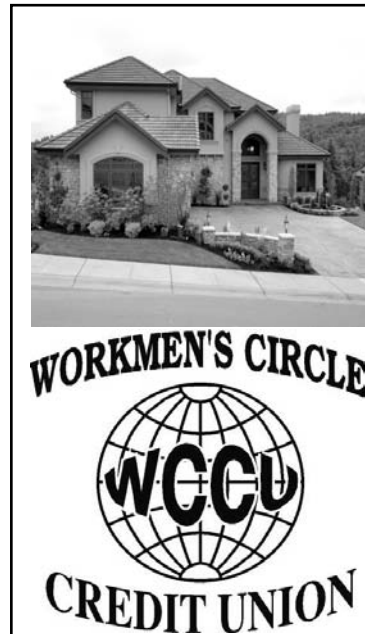
The Egg and Oy

Fifty Ways to Love Your Liver

The Borscht That Made the Belt Famous



Melinda Stein



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The Social Event of the Year

**Shalom New York
Dinner and Auction
Sunday, December 16 - 7:00pm**

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Now is your chance to combine all your favorite pastimes – shopping, reading and doing a mitzvah! Just in time for the big shopping season, we invite you to stop into the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at Oglethorpe Mall anytime between December 6th and December 14th and a portion of your purchase will be donated to the Savannah Jewish Federation's Holocaust Education efforts. This will be the perfect time to slip in some last minute Chanukah shopping! Come in and browse, for Barnes & Noble has wonderful gift ideas for every age and interest. In addition to the large selection of items you'll find, you will be helping to fund a very special Federation project, the important task of teaching the community and the world about the enormity of the Holocaust. If we don't, who will?

Visit the store on Thursday, December 6th, between 9am and 6pm, and say hello to the Federation's volunteer greeters and pick up a slip of paper with the special bar code you need to use at the register so your purchase will benefit the Holocaust Education

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS

Program.

Can't make it to the store that day, but still want to support this important program? You can shop anytime that week of December 6th through the 14th, in any Barnes & Noble store or online! Just use the barcode provided for you in our ad in this edition of the *Savannah Jewish News*. And be sure to pass on the good news to friends and family members throughout the country. They also may use the bar code when making Barnes & Noble purchases online or at a store near them! Tell them they will be helping us to educate others. If we don't, who will?

This exciting week-long event is a wonderful way to provide a donation to our Federation's Holocaust Education Program. Spread the word to everyone you know, and stop in or shop online at www.barnesandnoble.com.

CMI Scout Exhibit Honored

by Phoebe Kerness

"In the Beginning We Were There," and on Monday, October 29th, 2012, Rabbi Robert Haas and I were there once again. The two of us were honored to be among those invited by the First Lady of Georgia, Sandra Deal, the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia and the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta to a reception in the Governor's Mansion in recognition of our "In the Beginning" exhibit that recognized the Centennial celebration of the Girl Scouts this year.

When Mickve Israel's Museum Committee decided to mount an exhibit in honor of the Centennial celebration of the founding of the Girl Scouts here in Savannah, we had no idea that we would unearth the volume of material that resulted in the wonderful exhibit that encircles half of the Mordecai Sheftall Social Hall.

The outpouring of support from the Girl Scout community of Historic



Phoebe Kerness & Rabbi Robert Haas at the Governor's Mansion

Georgia and the National CEO of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, Anna Maria Chavez, overwhelmed us with joy as well as the national publicity that we received in a myriad of newspapers, magazines and TV coverage.

What a thrill it was for us to meet Mrs. Deal, to tour the ground floor of the magnificent mansion and to mingle with the other invited guests in the culmination of this celebration.



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CREATE a Jewish Legacy



Providing for the Next Generation

In one way or another, you've no doubt enjoyed the warmth, closeness, tradition, and support of our vibrant Jewish community during your lifetime. Wouldn't you like to know that once you are gone, those traditions will continue to thrive for future generations? Jewish tradition teaches that one of our key responsibilities is to make the world a better place for our children and grandchildren.

One method for providing for the continuity of our community and beloved institutions is to make a charitable legacy gift. We hope you will consider including such a gift to the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, this type of gift offers these main benefits:

- **Simplicity.** Just a few, simple sentences in your will or trust are

all that is needed. Here is some sample, official legal bequest language: "I give and bequeath: the sum of ___dollars (\$___00); ___percent (___%) of my estate; ___ shares of my ___stock; my real property located at _____ to the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah, Georgia for the: Savannah Jewish Federation (or a specific fund to benefit a certain cause or institution)."

- **Flexibility.** Because you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time.
- **Versatility.** You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make the gift contingent on certain events, or leave a percentage of your estate

to us.

- **Tax Relief.** If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift is entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift's full value.

How It Works

To make a charitable bequest, you need only a current will or revocable living trust.

Your gift can be made as a percentage of your estate. Or you can make a specific bequest by giving a certain amount of cash, securities or property. After your lifetime, Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah receives your gift.

Putting Your Family First

When planning a future gift, it's sometimes difficult to determine what size donation will make sense. Emergencies happen, and you need to make sure your family is financially taken

care of first. Including a bequest of a percentage of your estate ensures that your gift will remain proportionate no matter how your estate's value fluctuates over the years.

We Can Help

Contact Adam Solender at (912) 355-811 or adam@savj.org with any questions about naming the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah in your will or living trust.

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



In 5773 Make a difference with Hadassah as we highlight community service opportunities

Catch someone in the act of kindness, community leadership and vision
or let us know about new community service opportunities in which you would lead.
December Project: December 6-14 Virtual Book Fair benefitting
SJF Children's Holocaust Memorial Education Projects.
Buy holiday gifts and benefit your SJF. Info? MStarArts@gmail.com

Hadassah Women...

Hard Acts to Follow!

Ida Slotin Wilensky set a bar for Savannah Jewish women that is hard to match. Having recently celebrated her 100th birthday, Hadassah, also in its centennial year, celebrates Ida's spirit of community involvement, example of leadership and we continue to be inspired by her efforts to create continuity within our community. Ida served as a Savannah Chapter President 1942-44, but was involved since its start. The Savannah Chapter began in 1926 and is still a vital part of Savannah to this day. October's Hadassah Member Appreciation Tea honored Ida and several other Centennial Award nominees. We have built our success on the wonderful leaders who made it possible. Ida is a big part of that. Thank you Ida and those who follow her example. Photo courtesy of Savannah Jewish Archives





IF WE DON'T TEACH OUR CHILDREN WHO THEY ARE, OTHERS WILL.

As they grow up, young Jews will face challenges to their beliefs and identity. We believe the best way to protect our children against ignorance and hate is to educate them. From the pride of a preschooler learning his first Hebrew words to the confidence of a college student prepared to grapple with anti-Israel sentiment on campus, we're strengthening Jewish identity and inspiring a life-long connection to Jewish values. But we need your help.

Your gift to the Annual Campaign allows us to maintain funding for Rambam Day School, Shalom School, the JEA, BBYO, Hillel at four universities and much more Jewish identity programming.

We can do it together.



Savannah Jewish Federation

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