



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, November 1	6:17pm
Friday, November 8	5:12pm
Friday, November 15	5:07pm
Friday, November 22	5:04pm
Wed, Nov. 27	1st Candle
Friday, November 29	5:02pm

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Vets & Torah Linked at CMI

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Campaign 'Main Event' on November 14th

The Savannah Jewish community will rally together in support of local and worldwide Jewish agencies at the Federation's *Main Event* on Thursday, November 14th, at 7pm at the JEA. The *Main Event*, this year with keynote speaker Susan Jackson, is the Savannah Jewish Federation's yearly gathering to spark the Annual Campaign that raises essential funds for the benefit of Jewish Family Services, JEA, Rambam Day School, Shalom School, BBYO, The PJ Library, Birthright Israel, Jewish Agency for Israel, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Holocaust remembrance, Jewish Youth Summer Experiences and more.

Allan Ratner, chair of the 2014 SJF Campaign, remarked, "Susan Jackson is a truly inspirational person who has moved audiences everywhere she has been. We are thrilled she will be

here to help remind us all of the great work we can accomplish together."

Susan Jackson is one of Canada's most experienced outreach and community development professionals. She currently is the Executive Philanthropic Officer at the Toronto UJA Federation. In this capacity, Susan works with the Federation's capital campaign, Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, its annual campaign, endowments, donor education and stewardship.

Prior to this, Ms. Jackson was the Executive Director of the Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage. The Centre encompassed the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, The Jewish Public Library, The Ontario Jewish Archives, The Centre for Yiddish, Jewish Information Services of Toronto, and the United Restitution Service, as well as many other educational and outreach

programs. She is much in demand as a speaker throughout the U.S. and Canada for her knowledge of Israel, volunteerism, the Holocaust, and Jewish continuity, engagement and identity.

Once again, the *Main Event* will feature a delicious kosher dinner, catered by Bryan Graves, with beer and wine included. The suggested donation is \$18 per person.

RSVPs are required for the *Main Event* by November 7, 2013. Reserve your place online at www.savj.org or by calling (912) 355-8111.



Federation Hosts Non-Nuclear Iran Event Nov. 19

The Savannah Jewish Federation Community Relations Committee will host a free, community event featuring Bob Feferman from United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) on Tuesday, November 19th at 7pm at the Jewish Educational Alliance.

Mr. Feferman's presentation, "Preventing a Nuclear-Armed Iran", will focus on these questions: How close is Iran to getting the bomb? Why should Americans be concerned

about Iran's race to nuclear weapons? What can people do to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran?

With the appearance on the world stage of Hassan Rouhani, Iran's new president, concerns about Iran's nuclear intentions are heightened. Rouhani professes that Iran is interested only in nuclear energy, but Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, called him "a wolf in sheep's clothing." Mark your calendars to attend this talk on one of the most important issues facing the Middle East and the rest of the world.

Mr. Feferman is outreach coordinator for the advocacy group United Against Nuclear Iran. In 2009 he helped to initiate and support divestment legislation in the Indiana General Assembly that required Indiana's state pension funds to divest from holdings in companies working in Iran's energy sector. In 2011 he helped lead advocacy efforts in Indianapolis that led to a law forbidding the state from contracting with Iran for goods

or services. Mr. Feferman lived in Israel for 11 years and served in the military.

UANI is a not-for-profit, non-partisan advocacy group that seeks to prevent Iran from fulfilling its ambition to obtain nuclear weapons. UANI was founded in 2008 by former U.N. Ambassadors Mark D. Wallace and the late Richard Holbrooke, former CIA Director Jim Woolsey, and Middle East expert Dennis Ross.

The Savannah Jewish Federation

continued on page 5



UNITED AGAINST NUCLEAR IRAN
WWW.UANI.COM



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Best Wishes from the Savannah Jewish Federation for a
Chanukah filled with Light and a Joyous Thanksgiving





LIGHT

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Learning

As I mentioned in last month's column, in high school I worked for a radio station. The call letters were WAYX (Waycross) and it was at 1230 AM on your radio dial. It was one of two stations in Waycross. Very small with low wattage (which means the signal did not go far...unlike the best known large station at the time, WAPE in Jacksonville, whose "clear channel" signal could be heard throughout the southeast). The station transmitted from 5:00 in the morning to 12:30 the next morning. I worked all the various shifts, especially during the summer.

Being a small town station, it had to appeal to everyone. The music ranged from country to gospel, easy listening to rock to classical. The format changed about every three hours depending on the time of day and the day of the week. Whatever shift one had, the records, the voice, even the commercials, were adjusted for who might be listening to a particular type of music.

My main focus was to learn all the different types of music...the singers, the bands, the instruments, the backgrounds...everything to be able to add to the announcing narrative that DJs in those days were supposed to know. So, I studied the records and albums, looked at information in Billboard Magazine and did my best to not only appeal to the audiences but to learn areas of music and musicians that were not my normal choices when turning a radio dial. If you looked today at the presets on the radio in my car, you will see the legacy of those days.

When I think about the Savannah Jewish community, I am reminded of the necessity of the same search to learn...about each other and our community history and institutions. It is easy to stay in our own personal zones. Sometimes that is simply by choice. Sometimes it is just the pressure of day-to-day life that crowds out the time for looking at the broader community. Life is life, but sometimes we have to stop and, so to speak, hear the music. It is all around us:

- The soaring sanctuary of Agudath Achim, which elevates the eyes and mind and encourages so many thoughts of how we can be more committed to Judaism and to ourselves.
- The hand painted mural at Bnai Brith Jacob which details symbols of the Jewish calendar, holidays and history and remains inspiring no matter how many times one has viewed it.
- The historic sanctuary and museum at Mickve Israel which

chronicle the long history of our community and reinforce our charge to recognize the work of our ancestors and preserve it for future generations.



Steve Greenberg,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

- The long ago forgotten deed from the JEA in 1957 for a five by five by five by five parcel of land on Abercorn Street to 1,152 people (that is exact, I counted) symbolizing an investment in a greater community (for my attorney colleagues, it is recorded in Deed Book 66-S, page 222 in the Clerk's office). Yes, 1,152 people. I doubt there is any type of deed on record in Chatham County with that number of people...evidencing not only its uniqueness but the perspective that those people had on a Jewish community.
- Books and articles, photographs and words, by excellent authors within our community and the collections housed in the Savannah Jewish Archives at the Georgia Historical Society.

This community is fortunate to have these and many other symbols of our past and present Jewish community with very knowledgeable and accommodating people ready, willing and able to educate us. In fact, the Federation Board of Governors will be venturing out into the community to see, learn and experience. That is important to our role as leaders. Federation is in the process of visiting the Boards of the congregations and schools to offer Federation's thoughts on leadership, relationships and support for our common goals. Written messages are good but personal contact is even better. It is important to you as a member of our community to reach out, seek, learn and recognize that we all share a past, a present and a future. We are all there on the radio dial together. It is up to us to know more about each other. It is up to us to sometimes stop the dial (or the seek/scan button) and listen to a different style of "music". One never knows what doors of understanding might open up.

And for real music, listen to the sounds of children's voices at the JEA, at the Rambam campus on Atlas Street, and at Shalom School at the AA and CMI. That is truly music to anyone's ears.

It's About the Insights

By the time this column is published, 29 members of the community will be on their way to Israel on the Savannah Jewish Federation Geshet Mission. Going on a Federation mission is a more than just a trip...it is the journey of a lifetime.

Yes, we will see many of the tourist sites. We will go to the Kotel, Yad Vashem, Machane Yehuda, Caesaria, the Bahá'í Gardens, Masada, Palmach Museum, Dead Sea and many other historical sites. But it is not "just" about the sites, it is about the insights. We will have the opportunity to pray with Israelis on Kabbalat Shabbat, receive insider views on politics and security, lunch with "lone soldiers" (Israel Defense Forces volunteers who have no support or family in Israel), and learn about cutting-edge technology that is the envy of the entire world.

More than "just a trip," for many, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the impact the Jewish people have had on the world, to see how Jewish communities interact, and to personally witness and be inspired by the role every Jew can play in supporting the continuation of the Jewish people.

As one prior mission participant said to me, *"Part of the Federation's role is to have people fall in love with Israel. My mission trip accomplished just that. While I have always felt it is every Jew's obligation to support Israel and Jews throughout the world, I had no appreciation about what an amazing country Israel really is...from the ancient ruins to the most advanced technology, Israel is a culture of commitment, creativity, caring and determination. You have to see it with your own eyes to truly understand."*

This mission is extra special in that the majority of the participants have never been to Israel (even though almost all of their children have). They are "classic parents," having provided their children every opportunity possible, even those they had not afforded themselves. Seeing their excitement in anticipation of the journey has excited me even more. It is one of the joys of "leading" a mission. Like a parent with a child, you get to

experience the wonderment of seeing something for the first time, you get to see the reactions through new eyes; you get to see Israel all over again, as if you had never seen it before.

It makes me think back to a group I went with about ten years ago. Like our group, the participants were varied in age, background, and locale. What they had in common was a desire to travel to Israel with the Federation. One of the women on the trip was 84 years old. She was always worried about walking too slow for the group...she didn't want to be holding us up (in truth, I was glad to have someone who walked at a "measured pace"). Our group flew into Tel Aviv and began our mission by travelling to Jerusalem for the first four days. Our bus drove us to the Haas Promenade (which provides a wonderful vista of Greater Jerusalem) for an initial orientation about the challenges to Jerusalem and to recite the Shehecheyanu, the prayer said to celebrate special occasions. As our group recited the prayer, I looked over at Esther who was visibly crying over the experience. While it's not all that unusual for people to have an emotional experience, this seemed a little different. I waited until we began to go back to the bus and put my arm around Esther saying, *"I understand, this is emotional for all of us."* She looked up at me and said, *"No, this is different, the last time I saw the Old City it was controlled by Jordanian soldiers. Now it is our united city, open to all. I never thought I'd live to see the day and I know that I'll never see it again."*

I suspect that I (and everyone else on the trip) will have moments like this when we experience the marvels of Israel, together, as one community. We will travel together and return together having had a life-changing experience and having created a new bond with the State of Israel.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

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Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Atlit Camp

As part of the 2013 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation approved a new Mini-Grant program whereby community members could recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 mini-grants, with up to 20 being approved. Sixteen submissions were made this year and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

The Mini-Grant program is a small way for Savannah to put a personal stamp on how we provide assistance to our Jewish brethren around the world. Atlit Camp was nominated for a grant by Amos Timna, ז"ל, the son of Holocaust survivors, who grew up in Ma'ayan Tzvi, a nearby kibbutz. The Savannah Jewish Federation's Geshar Mission will visit Atlit and Ma'ayan Tzvi on its visit to Israel in early November.

The Atlit Camp historical site keeps alive the story of Aliya Bet (clandestine immigration), the struggle of Jews fleeing Europe from Nazi persecution and death, trying to reach British-controlled Palestine, only to be incarcerated in camps similar in appearance to the Nazi camps of Europe. Several of the old buildings and barracks have been restored to make the camp appear as it had been when in use. There also is a research

library on illegal immigration, including a computerized database with the names of *ma'apilim* (Aliya Bet immigrants) and general information about Aliya Bet from its start in 1934. Recently, a small vessel representing a typical Aliya Bet vessel was put in the site. Atlit Camp continues to educate visitors about this important time in the birth of the State of Israel.

In May 1939, the British government published the "White Paper" limiting the number of Jewish immigrants allowed to enter Palestine to a total of 75,000 for the next five years: 25,000 immediately and 10,000 each year following. The Mandatory Government built the Atlit Camp, near the coastal town of Atlit south of Haifa, for detaining illegal immigrants who were captured trying to enter Palestine. The number of detainees who were released from the camp was deducted from the general yearly quota. This camp was run by the British until the State of Israel was created in 1948.

During World War II, from September 1939 until December 1944, 34 Aliya Bet voyages from the Black Sea were organized, carrying a total of 18,500 *ma'apilim*. About 10% of them did not reach the shore of Palestine, mostly because the ships sank. Of the 17,000 *ma'apilim* that stayed in the camp during this period, most



Detainees at Atlit Camp

were freed in accordance with the monthly quota, but some — about 1,750 — were deported for a lengthy and distant detention on the island of Mauritius.

The pace of clandestine immigration to Palestine of Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors from Europe increased tremendously at the conclusion of WWII. From January to July 1946, 10,200 *ma'apilim* were interned in Atlit. They arrived on eleven Aliya Bet vessels that were not successful in running the British



The Atlit Camp today

blockade. In August 1946 the British changed their policy and began deporting the *ma'apilim* to detention camps in Cyprus. By April 1948, 52,500 *ma'apilim* had been deported to Cyprus. 30,000 were freed by the British and brought to Palestine as their quota allotment came due (the quota had been increased to 1,500 per month after WWII ended) and the process of liberating the refugees at Atlit was concluded. The remaining Cyprus detainees, were liberated only after the State of Israel came into being.

The history of the Palmach is permanently linked with that of Atlit Camp by two notable days:

1. In a daring raid on October 10, 1945, conducted by its 1st Company, all the inmates of the camp at the time were set free, signaling the beginning of the armed struggle of the Palmach against the British, a struggle that lasted until the summer of 1947. Yitzhak Rabin commanded one of the two platoons that took part in this operation.
2. On June 29, 1946, a day that became known as "Black Saturday," the British raided the nearby kibbutzim of Yagur and Sdot Yam, searching for members of the Palmach and their weapons. All who were captured were taken to the Atlit camp, where they were held and interrogated before being transferred to another detention camp.

After the founding of the State of Israel, the Atlit Camp became a temporary shelter for the absorption of new immigrants and served as such until 1970. In 1986, the governmental Council for the Preservation of Old Buildings and Settlements took upon itself to reconstruct the neglected site and the next year it was declared a "reserved national site."

Savannah Jewish News

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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 3rd 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 8th or June 8th, respectively.

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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

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Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Major Kenneth A. Chanin

Ken Chanin retired as a Major from the United States Air Force last month after 28 years of active duty, plus four years in the Air Force ROTC at the University of Georgia. Once a young, promising photographer, Ken saw a "Fly Navy" poster, got the bug to fly and joined the AFROTC. His mother, who had insisted that he go to college and get a degree in something other than photography, suddenly was willing to reconsider art school for him, but it was too late. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from UGA, Ken went to flight school at Mather AFB in Sacramento, CA, where he was assigned to Navigator training.

After additional training, his first six years of operational assignments all were spent overseas in Asia and England; since then he has been stationed in the U.S. with multiple overseas deployments to some of the hottest spots in the world: Saudi Arabia and Turkey to enforce no-fly zones over Iraq; Qatar to fly combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Baghdad & Mosul, Iraq; and Afghanistan. His final assignment was to Fort Stewart as an Air Liaison Officer to the Army's 15 Air Support Operations Squadron in support of the 3rd ID, from which he deployed three times to Iraq and Afghanistan.

A native Georgian (almost, actually he was born in New Jersey), Ken hopes to stay in Savannah, where he currently lives with his partner, Myndi Carter, and his step-son, Sam Carter. They are members of Congregation Mickve Israel and Sam (9) is a student at Shalom School and the new Tybee Island Maritime Acade-

my. Ken is looking for an appropriate next career, perhaps, he says, in suk-kah construction and deconstruction.

Tell us what it means to be an Air Liaison Officer with the Army.

An Air Liaison Officer – ALO – advises the Army on the capabilities and limitations of air operations. When an army ground commander tells me what he needs, I advise him how air power can support what he needs to do. Then I tell the Air Force this is what the Army is doing and here is what we need to do to help them. The second job I have as an ALO is to provide the primary terminal attack control of Close Air Support, or CAS. CAS is air action by fixed-wing aircraft against hostile targets that are in close proximity to friendly forces, and which requires detailed integration of each air mission with the fire and movement of these forces. To do this, I work with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) and the men out in the field with the ground forces who radio in where they need a bomb dropped. The ALO plans and executes CAS in accordance with the ground commander's guidance and intent.

What has been the most interesting or meaningful part of your military experience?

The most meaningful part for me is having these Army troops out on the ground fighting a fight, and I'm able to use my expertise to support them so they can make it back. Being able to plan, to have the right aircraft, while they're performing an operation and

then being able to control the Close Air Support to kill the bad guys and make sure the good guys make it back – that's really been the most interesting part, especially since 9/11 when so much of the fighting we've been doing in Iraq and Afghanistan has involved CAS. Being part of that, the fight we're doing now, going after the terrorists and the people who support them, being able to support the guys (the boots) on the ground has been extremely meaningful.

Was there something about your ROTC experience that made you want to commit to a career in the Air Force?

I wanted to fly jets. I wanted to fly fast jets. I don't know how much it had to do with patriotism back then. I don't know if I planned in 1985 of making the Air Force a 20 or 28 year career or not. I guess I can't remember. I guess in some ways it just happened. I am pretty sure my reasons for staying in the military have evolved over the years. At UGA, I took a class in Southern Politics where I learned that the south has always been very involved in the military, potentially because the south was the only part of the country to lose a war, and southerners wanted to ensure the US never lost again. As a young Lt, it was a job – flying was a job – a very cool job. Strapping into a jet fighter and flying, and training, and being part of something. Part of a brotherhood. Then after 9/11 – throw in a little patriotism to the "brotherhood" and "coolness" and the need to do the mission. Then I guess add a new need for an adrenaline rush and I'm still here at 28 years.



Major Ken Chanin with his family, Myndi and Sam Carter, at the SJF Annual Meeting

Has being Jewish played any role in your military career?

It has sometimes been tough. There aren't a lot of Jews in the military, and Japan, Korea and eastern North Carolina aren't exactly in the middle of convenient Jewish communities. Except for a posting once in Las Vegas, this is the first time I could drive to a synagogue in less than an hour. There were a few anti-Semitic remarks and/or anti-Israel remarks along the way – but nothing directed to me personally. But despite all the trials and tribulations, I was always a Jew, and am still a Jew. When it came to things like being part of making Afghanistan a better place for the Afghans, I believe in making the world a better place and I think that comes from being Jewish. I'm just happy that I finally got an assignment where I could be part of a Jewish community.

Thank you for your service, Major Chanin, from a grateful community!

Federation.....from pg 1

and its programs are open to everyone regardless of religious affiliation. The Savannah Jewish Federation builds and fosters a strong unified Jewish community and strives to ensure its well-being and continuity locally, in Israel, and throughout the world.



Thursday Lunch and Learn

(Lunch Bunch @ the JEA)

Join us every Thursday from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm, visit with old friends and meet new ones. Enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.



Please Note:

The Savannah Jewish News has a new deadline!

All submissions are due on the 3rd of the month before publication.

Items received after the 3rd of the month will appear in subsequent issue.





ט"ו

Annually on Chanukah
a torch is lit at the graves of the Maccabees in Israel
in the presence of Maccabi leaders and Israeli dignitaries
symbolizing the spiritual reunion of the Jewish People.

The Torch Relay that follows expresses
the continuity of the Jewish People,
and our love
for Israel, freedom and independence.

This year, help your Jewish community
Rededicate our participation in this most noble tradition.

Save the Date:

Wednesday afternoon November 27, 2013

For Torch Relay 5774, the community candle lighting
& in the spirit of the American holiday tradition:
A Thanksgiving Mitzvah Project

Look for details in your
synagogue & community
bulletins & e-news.



Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Teen Feels at Home at Camp

by Jazmine Morgan

"Welcome home." I stepped off a bus in an unfamiliar place and was immediately bombarded by those two words. I looked around searching for a reason to call this new place home, but I couldn't stop thinking... *this isn't home*. Home is 12 hours and almost 1,000 miles away, or at least that's what I thought.

But just a few days later I realized I was mistaken because Kutz Camp surely had become my home. Kutz, in Warwick, New York, is the North American Federation of Temple Youth's (NFTY) campus for leadership training.

This summer I was blessed enough to find the scholarship money to spend four weeks at Kutz studying Torah and finding myself along with finding my Judaism.

Each camper chooses a major, a month long minor and weekly minors. For me, my major was easy, Torah Corps. I spent my time at camp debating Torah, God, and Jewish customs with 14 other opinionated teens and our amazing teacher from Prague.

Before embarking on my journey



Jazmine's Torah Corps -- she is in the front row, standing, the first person on the right

to camp I thought I wanted to be a Rabbi, and now, I am certain.

I cannot thank the Savannah Jewish Federation enough for their generous aid to my summer adventure. It is experiences like going to camp that will keep our religion going strong for years to come.

Jazmine Morgan enjoyed Kutz Camp this past summer with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation. She is the daughter of Cheryl and Jeff Morgan of Hilton Head, SC. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org.

HERE COME THE BRIDES

by Jane Rosenblum

The year was 1956. I was one of the Ginsberg twins about to be married. In the meantime, my fiancé heard that a large affair, which he was not happy about, was being planned by my family. Since we were a family of three girls, this was an opportunity for my parents to pay back all of those bar mitzvah invitations. (There were no bat mitzvahs in those days.)

My twin sister had been dating her boyfriend since she was fifteen. They were planning to get married the following year after graduating from college. This was until my fast-talking fiancé convinced them to join us. This wasn't too difficult when they thought about the cost of another wedding.

Religiously, this didn't turn out to be as easy as it sounded. Since both of us were away at college at the time, our mother and younger sister were left to do all of the planning. When our excited mother approached the rabbi with this situation, she was informed that in the Orthodox Jewish tradition, this was not possible. One bride cannot share her day of glory with another bride. However, this did not deter our mother. She always said, "Where there is a will, there is a way." I don't know who came up with the idea, but the way was as follows: Since the Jewish day ends at sundown, a new day begins. One bride would be married on one day and the other bride would be married on the next day. This stipulation posed no problem since the sun set early in December, the month chosen because of the long college winter break.

Another problem was to find a day suitable for all concerned (three families). This was finally agreed upon. Another problem was about wedding dresses. My twin sister was so tiny that manufacturers hadn't yet seen that market. This was solved by having a dressmaker copy my dress for her. These were just some of the problems that come to mind today after all these years. (I'm sure my younger sister could tell you a lot more.)

Next, my mind skips to the ceremony, which was really the piece de resistance. Each of us chose a wedding party, bridesmaids and ushers. This is how the ceremony took place: Since my twin sister was the older, she was the first to be married.

The ushers seated the families in the first rows of the synagogue and then

returned to the hallway. Next, the wedding march began; the first set of bridesmaids and ushers came down the aisle, singly standing on either side of the bema. Then the bridegroom marched down the aisle and onto the bema under the chuppa. Bride number one came down the aisle on the arm of our father. The rabbi performed the entire marriage ceremony. At this point, the first couple was married and remained under the chuppa. The bride would serve as my matron of honor and the groom would serve as best man. Day one.

Day two. My father left the bema and walked down the aisle and out into the hallway for ceremony number two. The wedding march began playing and my attendants and ushers walked down the aisle to join those already at the bema. Next, my bridegroom walked up the aisle and onto the bema under the chuppa.

Then my proud father accompanied me on my journey to the chuppa to join him. These are my memories of the following events. The rabbi gave an abbreviated speech since he had already gone through the ceremony once. I didn't hear much of what he said. I do remember him asking my brother-in-law (the best man) to place the glass under the groom's foot to be crushed, signifying the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. I don't know whether or not he realized what he was doing, but he placed it under the groom's left foot. The groom stomped and stomped without success until he reached down and moved the glass under his right foot. After smashing the glass, the groom turned to leave the bema. The rabbi does not say that you may now kiss the bride. Evidently I must have been waiting for this signal. Catching his arm, I yelled out, "You forgot to kiss me!" The congregation roared. Oh, well, this did add some levity to the occasion.

After the ceremonies, the wedding parties formed two processions from both sides of the bema. After leaving the synagogue, the wedding parties were driven to the newly built Jewish Educational Alliance for a reception, dinner, and dancing. To my knowledge, the Savannah Jewish community has not experienced another double wedding of twins.



For more information contact the archivist, Katharine Rapkin
at 651-2125 or rapkin@georgiahistory.com.

CMI to Honor Vets, Rededicate Torah

by Jane Kahn

Congregation Mickve Israel will pay tribute to Jews who have served in the military at special patriotic Shabbat services honoring Veterans Day. Services will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, November 9 at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum Chapel on Bourne Avenue in Pooler.

Mickve Israel also has chosen Veterans Day weekend to rededicate its Czech Holocaust Torah, newly repaired and kashered.

A remarkable set of circumstances recently has linked both Congregation Mickve Israel and Savannah's Mighty Eighth Air Force to the town of Slany, now in the Czech Republic.

New information has come to light about the Torah's origins in Slany and a World War II accident in Slany involving a B-17 bomber from the Mighty Eighth Air Force, headquartered in Savannah.

"Because of our connection to the Torah, it feels like the right place to do it," said Rabbi Robert Haas of the decision to hold services in the Museum Chapel. Jewish people have served in every branch of the military, in every war, throughout history, Rabbi Haas said. "We honor them for their service." Both retired and current military have been invited to participate.

Mickve Israel has been custodian of the Czech Torah since 1968, when the congregation joined hundreds of Jewish groups accepting the responsibility of acquiring a "Holocaust" Torah on permanent loan.

Members of Mickve Israel's Museum Committee, headed by Phoebe Kerness and Herbert Victor, were attempting to learn more about the origins of the Czech Torah, when they stumbled over several coincidences. The more they searched, the more they uncovered.

The events began to unfold when

member Kerry Rosen questioned the Torah's history. At the time, Mickve Israel's Interim Rabbi Darryl Crystal, a Torah expert, found on the base, "This Scroll came from Slany and was written in 1890."

Victor, an historian, shrugged and suggested that his wife, Teresa, in-house research expert, check it out. Not satisfied simply with "Slany", Teresa discovered that the village is a suburb of Prague and was heavily involved in World War II, with bombers crisscrossing its airspace.

And then she learned that during a bloody battle over Prague, a B-17 bomber was shot down over the village and eight airmen were killed. Researching further, Teresa found that at the airport in Slany is a memorial plaque dedicated to American pilots of the Mighty Eighth that reads, "In memory of the crew of the American

B-17 bomber shot down at this spot on 2 March 1945."

(The Mighty Eighth was activated January 28, 1942 at Savannah Army Air Base—Hunter Field—and is credited with a major role in World War II in Europe.)

The Mickve Israel Museum Committee got in touch with former Savannahian Jeffrey Young, who was confirmed at Congregation Mickve Israel, and now lives in Prague. He is the son of Cathy Young Shriver, a member of the Congregation, and Savannah attorney Arnold Young (a member at Congregation Agudath Achim). Jeff had never visited Slany, though it is only about 15 miles from his home. With a keen eye, a deep interest in Savannah connections, a talent in research and in photography—and the ability to translate Czech into English—Jeff quickly and enthusias-

tically provided local links.

Kerness' and Victor's determination led to Dr. Vivian Rogers-Price, research center director of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, who directed them to original records about the mission. Nine people were on the fighter plane; eight were killed, one taken as prisoner of war. The bombers were headed for Bohlen, Germany, to destroy several fuel plants.

Rabbi Haas, on vacation this past summer in Prague, met Young, visited the former Slany Synagogue (now the town's Police Station), the memorial which includes a section of the bomber's tail with its Mighty Eighth markings, and the Jewish cemetery in Slany.

Congregation records showed Mickve Israel's Holocaust scroll is one of 1,564 Czech Memorial Torahs confiscated and saved in Prague during the Nazi occupation, 1943-1945. Later, they were distributed throughout the world as "permanent memorials to the martyrs from whose synagogues they came." Congregation Agudath Achim also is the guardian of one of these Torahs, which they restored ten years ago on the occasion of their centennial anniversary. A condition for custodianship is that the torah must be maintained in perfect condition, used regularly in religious observance and for education and must be returned if a synagogue is reestablished in the town from which it originally came.

During the 14th and 15th centuries there was a small Jewish community in Slany, which was expelled in 1458. In the first half of the 19th century the Jewish community was reestablished, and a synagogue built in 1865. In 1890 the Jewish population was 290; it dwindled to 85 by 1930; in 1942 the 81 remaining Jews were deported to Terezin. There is no Jewish presence there today.



The former Slany synagogue, now a police station



Rabbi Haas at the memorial to the Mighty Eighth bomber downed in Slany



The base of Mickve Israel's Czech Torah indicating its origins in Slany

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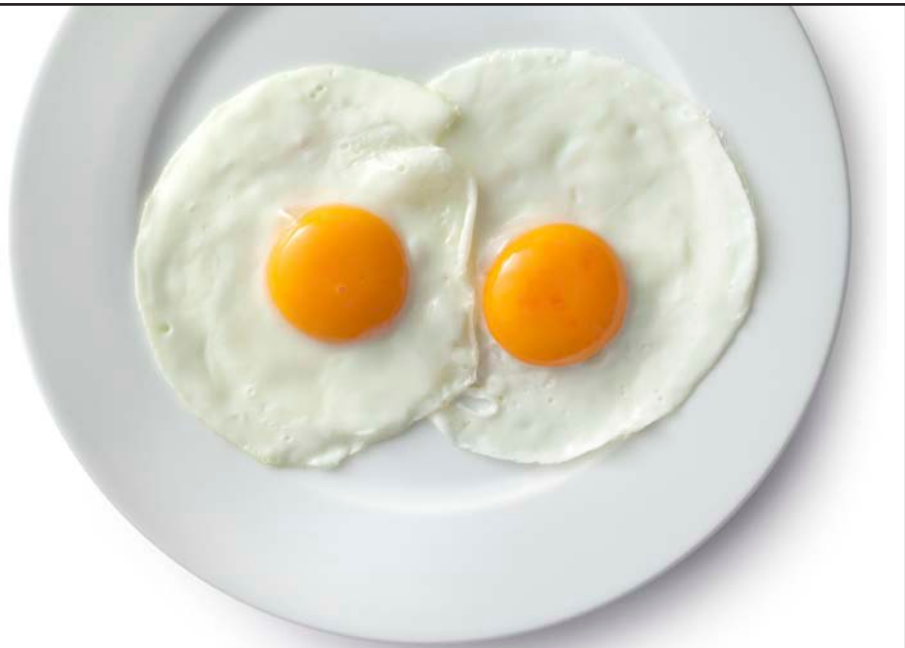
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The Main Event
Savannah Jewish Federation
2014 Annual Campaign

Thursday, November 14th
Jewish Educational Alliance
7:00 pm – Dinner

With keynote speaker
Susan Jackson
Executive Philanthropic Officer
Toronto UJA Federation



Susan Jackson is an experienced leader in community engagement and outreach for one of the largest Jewish communities in North America. As the Executive Director of the Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage, she oversaw the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, The Jewish Public Library, The Ontario Jewish Archives, The Centre for Yiddish, Jewish Information Services of Toronto, and the United Restitution Service, as well as many other educational and outreach programs. She is much in demand as a speaker throughout the U.S. and Canada for her knowledge of Israel, volunteerism, the Holocaust, and Jewish continuity, engagement and identity.

\$18.00 per person
RSVP online at www.savj.org
or by calling (912) 355-8111

Reservations required by Nov. 7th



5111 Abercorn Street | Savannah, GA 31405 | 912-355-8111



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

November 2013



Children's Programming

Jewish Educational Alliance's DAYS @ THE JEA



Do you find 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 – 8th grade. Your child will enjoy **Days at the JEA**, as they are packed with activities such as field trips, swimming, cooking, sports and crafts!

Upcoming Days!

November Days:

November 11th (Veteran's Day)

November 27th (Thanksgiving)

Days @ The JEA Prices: \$40.00 per day / \$180.00/week

Member Value Prices: \$30.00 per day / \$135 per week

Register in person, online at www.SavannahJEA.org, call us 355-8111, or e-mail DJ Horton at kids@savj.org

Jewish Educational Alliance's AFTER SCHOOL Enrichment Program

At the JEA, we believe that your child should have happy memories every day. We provide a foundation for their future, help shape their lives, and take part as your children grow and change.

At the JEA's After School program your Pre-K through 6th graders will participate in activities such as swimming, sports, homework help, daily snacks, cooking, fitness fun, art, and much more!

After School hours are Monday-Thursday 3:00-6:00 pm, Fridays 3:00-5:00 pm. We pick up from Garrison, Charles Ellis Elementary, and Jacob G. Smith Schools.



Aftercare Prices: \$18.00/day plus transportation
\$75.00/week plus transportation

Member Value Prices: \$12.00/day plus transportation
\$50.00/week plus transportation

Register in person at the JEA at 5111 Abercorn Street
Phone (912) 355-8111 E-mail DJ.Horton@camp@savj.org

Mark Your Calendar

November 3

JEA Art Gallery Reception
Josh Yu, 3:00 pm

November 10

Kristallnacht Commemoration, 2:00 pm

November 14

Campaign Main Event, 6:00 pm

November 19

United Against Nuclear Iran Event, 7:00 pm

November 27

Light 1st Chanukah candle

November 28

1st day of Chanukah
Thanksgiving. JEA Fitness open 9am-3 pm

JEA Journey: United Against a Nuclear Iran



Founded in 2008 by Ambassador Mark Wallace, the late Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, former CIA Director Jim Woolsey and Middle East

expert, Dennis Ross, United Against a Nuclear Iran (www.uani.com) is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, advocacy group that seeks to prevent Iran from fulfilling its ambition to obtain nuclear weapons. Join UANI's Outreach coordinator, Bob Feferman for a frank, insider briefing on how the international community is dealing with a potential nuclear-armed Iran and what you can do to have a meaningful impact on this very important foreign policy issue.

Tuesday, November 19th - 7pm
FREE and open to the public
Light refreshments will be served



Adult Programming



Bridge - Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Scrabble - Wednesdays 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Mah Jongg - Mondays 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 Thursdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.



Community Garden
Love to garden, but just don't have the space? Be part of the JEA Garden Club and help work one of the 18 garden boxes at the new Midtown Miracle Community Garden, just three blocks north of the JEA. Excess produce and herbs will be donated to Second Harvest to aid them in their mission to feed 3600 to 6000 children daily. For more details, "like" **Midtown Miracle Community Garden** on Facebook or email Carol Greenberg MStarArts@gmail.com.

It's a Holee Day



Justin Robertshaw
Facilities Director

Found a hole in your wall caused by either a door knob or something falling against the wall? Sometimes the area is just too big to fill in with joint compound. Some things to consider are, 'How big is the opening?' If it's larger than 12 inches, you may want to call your local contractor to fix it. If you feel confident, you can complete the project yourself and save money. For the DIY'ers, here are the items required to complete this project successfully.

- You'll need to purchase the following items:
- One 24" by 24" piece of drywall. It comes in 1/2" or 5/8" thickness.
- There are three different types of drywall to consider before buying: White drywall is your standard board used in most areas. Green drywall is used in humid areas like a bathroom or garage. Purple drywall is the newest and best; it is moisture and mold resistant.
- Door stop to mount on the baseboard
 - One box of coarse 1-5/8" drywall screws
 - Small container of joint compound
 - Small roll of drywall joint tape
- The paper type works well if you are doing a large area. Fiberglass mesh tape is great for small jobs.
- Fine sanding block
 - 1" x 4" x 4' plank of wood
 - Small can of latex primer paint
 - Paint to color-match the wall

- The following tools are needed:
- Power drill with a magnetic Phillips bit
 - Keyhole saw
 - Utility knife
 - 2' level or 3' level
 - Measuring tape

- Pencil
- 2" putty knife
- 6" taping knife
- 10" taping knife
- 2" angle cut paint brush
- Hand saw
- Drywall joint compound pan

Before you start measuring and line marking the wall, look inside the hole for a wall stud. If you don't see one, place a couple of fingers in the damaged area to feel if there are any wall studs near the opening. If yes, that is a good reference point to start working from.

I am going to walk you through the repair as if you have no wall studs nearby.

One: Take your tape measure, extend it to 12" and place it directly over the opening using the number 6 on the tape as a center point. Place marks on the wall at 0" on the tape measure and at 12". Rotate the tape measure 90 degrees so that the beginning of your tape is at the top of your opening. Again, the 6" is centered in the hole. Put a mark at 0" and at 12".

Two: Draw a square around the damaged wall using the points you marked and a level

Three: Take the keyhole saw and cut on the lines you drew.

Four: Measure and cut two pieces of board the same length, about 16" long (the hand saw works best for this).

Five: Get your drill with the Phillips bit and drywall screws. Place a board vertically inside the opening starting on the left side of the hole, flat side against the inside of the existing drywall. There should be more flat board in the opening than behind the drywall. This makes a firm area to place your piece of drywall. When putting in the screws, don't go through the drywall too far, you just want to make a small dimple. Apply the other board the same way on the right side of the hole.

continued on pg. 4

JEA Donations

(September 4, 2013-October 6, 2013)

JEA BUILDING FUND
In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy's anniversary
Amy Linden
In honor of Louise Harkavy's speedy recovery
In honor of Zach Arkin's speedy recovery
In memory of Daniel Locker
Stacy & Jeff Lasky

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS
A generous donation
Ed Wexler
In memory of Murray Bono
In memory of Amos Timna
Zelda & Sheldon Tenenbaum
In honor of Paul Kulbersh's speedy recovery
Susan Moray
Rena & Michael Antebi
Brian Rosenzweig
In memory of Belle Faust
Kelly, Marc, Mindy & Hadley Gordon
In memory of Isser Gottlieb
In memory of Belle Faust
In memory of Ida Wilensky
In memory of Amos Timna
Doris Klugman
In honor of Ilene Friedman's birthday
Arthur Horovitz

JACK & MIRIAM LEVY MEMORIAL CONCERT FUND
In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy's anniversary
In honor of Doris & Jack Levy's anniversary
Beth Childress

PEARL & JOSEPH GEFFEN ADULT EDUCATION SERIES FUND
In honor of Adelle Burnsed-Geffen's birthday
Rose & Stanley Konter
In honor of Jane Kahn's birthday
Jane Rosenblum

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of Daniel Locker
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Bernice Elman

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND
In memory of Murray Bono
Sally & Steve Greenberg





Health & Wellness

How Safe is Soy in Our Diets?



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Genetically modified (GM) soy may be present in as much as 70% of all food products found in the U.S. Americans may be putting a lot of GM soy into their systems without even realizing it.

Two decades ago, Americans spent \$300 million a year on soy food products; today we spend over \$4 billion. More adults are substituting soy for meat, while a quarter of all baby formula contains soy. Many school lunch programs have added soy-based veggie burgers to their menus, as have countless restaurants, including diners and fast food chains.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration promotes the inclusion of soy into other foods to cut down on heart attack risk. Clinical studies have shown that soy can also lower the risk of breast and prostate cancer.

Nevertheless, there may be a dark side to soy's popularity and abundance.

"Many of soy's health benefits have been linked to isoflavones - plant compounds that mimic estrogen," reports Lindsey Konkel in Environmental Health News. "But animal studies suggest that eating large amounts of those estrogenic compounds might reduce fertility in women, trigger premature puberty and disrupt development of fetuses and children."

Also at issue is that upwards of 90% of the U.S. soybean crop is grown using genetically modified seeds. These have been engineered to endure repeated dousing with the herbicide glyphosate. This allows soybean farmers to repeatedly spray their fields to kill all weeds except for the soybean plants they are growing.

The U.S. government permits the sale and consumption of GM foods, but many consumers are not so sure it's OK to eat them given not only the genetic tinkering, but also the exposure to so much glyphosate.

Americans are putting a lot of GM soy into their systems every day and not just directly via cereals, breads and pasta. 98% of the U.S. soybean crop is fed to livestock so consumers of meat, eggs and dairy are ingesting the products of scientific tinkering, too.

Since GM soy has been around for less than a decade, no one knows what the long term health effects will be. Natural food stores are your best bet for finding non-GM foods.

Is Soy a Health Food?

Most people assume soy is a healthy food

because that's what the mainstream media tells us. But is soy really a healthy food for us? Based on the holistic research that has been done the answer is "NO." This is an important question because soy is everywhere in processed foods, even pet foods. Soy is a hidden ingredient found in many processed foods. You will find even higher levels of it in the foods in health food stores where it is promoted as a heart-healthy, cancer-preventing, menopause-alleviating ingredient.

Why Soy is Promoted as a Health Food

How could something so bad for you be promoted as a health food? It's all about big business, marketing and profits. Even the holistic doctors promoting soy usually benefit from it financially in their associations with companies that make foods containing soy. One has to assume they are ignorant of the problems with soy or think they are insignificant. Growing and processing soy is a big business. No part of the soybean is thrown away. Every part of it is processed into some type of food product for humans or animals. There is a huge profit to be made in selling all of these. The soybean industry therefore puts a spin on the supposed health benefits and downplays the levels of toxins. For instance, soy is promoted as helping alleviate the symptoms of menopause but there are numerous studies showing that soy is no better than a placebo for this.

Soybeans have replaced indigenous crops in many countries around the world. According to The Whole Soy Story, soybean farming has caused more loss of Amazon rainforest than cattle ranching. So if you are eating your soy burgers to spare the rain forest, you are actually causing more destruction of it.



Fall Fitness Classes

Sunday

9:15 am - Pilates Basic
10:30 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
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Tuesday

8:30 am - Pilates
9:30 am - Pilates Barre
10:00 am - SilverSneakers Splash
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:45 pm - Zumba
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Wednesday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga Pilates Fusion
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Billy's Boot Camp
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Thursday

8:30 am - Pilates
9:30 am - Pilates Barre
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics
6:30 pm - Yoga Flow
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Friday

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

Join the JEA!

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

Types of Membership include:

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

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



JEA Art Gallery



November Artist: Josh Yu

Chinese Democracy

By Allison Hersh (*Savannah Morning News*. Reprinted with permission)

Josh Yu attended medical school in China, but he always yearned to be an artist.

“Before the Cultural Revolution in China, we had no choices,” he explains. “In America, I had many more choices, so I decided to move here and to become an artist and an educator.”

Yu moved to the U.S. 45 years ago and ended up becoming an artist at Epcot Center in Orlando, painting portraits of tourists and creating art at the China Pavilion for two years. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in painting — and exhibiting his work in dozens of international shows — he began teaching painting at SCAD in 1992.

Over the years, Yu has skillfully blended Eastern and Western aesthetic influences, experimenting with various media, formats and creative approaches. He combines traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy with western approaches to abstraction and expressionism, offering a variety of interpretations of the natural world.

“Creating art is my way of pursuing absolute freedom,” he says. “My whole process of making art is like meditation. It’s not just about me expressing my anger or my happiness.”

“Chinese painting focuses more on natural elements than the figure,” he says. “In Chinese painting, connecting a tiny human figure with a huge landscape connects back to the Tao. The human imprint shouldn’t fight against or damage the natural order.”

Color serves as a critical element in Yu’s work, whether he creates Chinese fan paintings, watercolors, still lifes, Asian landscapes, abstract experiments or expressionistic compositions. He alternates between the deep, natural greens of the forest and more intense lime, magenta and crimson hues.

Ultimately Yu’s training in the medical field has come in handy, although not in the ways he may have originally expected.

“My medical background helps me look at things in a scientific way, not in just in romantic way,” he says. “It makes me a better observer.”

Artwork available for viewing November 3-29, 2013
Art Gallery Reception November 3, 3:00-5:00 pm



Parents enjoy a night out and children age 4 years through 6th grade have a night of fun! RSVP's and advanced payment are a MUST by the Thursday prior to the event! Dinner is included! Space is limited to the first 30 children.

Our first event is Saturday, November 16th - “Krazy Kolors”

Join us as we kick off Saturday Night Out in a COLORTASTIC way! Enjoy a night filled with making tie-dye cupcakes, playing glow-in-the-dark dodgeball, glow stick gaga and, of course, dinner!

Price: \$25/child, \$50/family

Member Value Price: \$20/child, \$40/family

Call DJ, 912-355-8111 or camp@savj.org for additional dates and times.

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 9/01/13-10/4/13)

Nick & Sarah Arredondo
Steven & Deborah Carpenter
Tyler Carver
Maureen Green
Timothy Jackson & Capri Rosenberg
Nathan & Caitlin Kanis
Tessa Lonergan
Han Low & Chia Chong
Brian Mills-MacGregor & Jennifer Marks
James Nichols
Frank & Martha Somoskey

***It's a Holey Day** continued from pg. 2*

Six: Measure and cut a piece of drywall to have it fit just inside the opening you made. It is good to leave at least 1/8” gap around the opening. When cutting your drywall it should measure 11-3/4” x 11-3/4” for a 12” square hole. The utility knife is the best tool for cutting drywall.

Seven: Using the utility knife, score the paper of the existing drywall 2” around the opening outside of the hole. This makes a valley to receive the drywall tape. After scoring the paper carefully peel the paper off to your score mark.

Eight: Cut four even strips of fiberglass mesh tape. Place each around the opening, covering the seams between the existing drywall and the new drywall. Cut it to fit inside the area where you removed the paper backing. Make sure the sticky side of the tape goes on the wall. This holds it in place until you get joint compound on it.

Nine: With your 2” putty knife, start putting light amounts of joint compound on the fiber tape. For a smooth technique, pretend you are icing a cake. The drywall mud pan helps to collect any extra compound you have when smoothing. Let dry for 24 hours before sanding. Sand the area using a circular motion to blend in the compound.

For the next layer of compound, use your 6” taping knife to blend and smooth more compound over the first amount. Remember, you need to let it dry 24 hours before sanding. The 10” taping knife is for the final finish. Blending is very important to hide your lines of joint compound.

Ten: After your wall is completely dry, you are ready to paint with primer. The primer helps seal the fresh area of drywall and gives the paint something to attach to so it doesn’t peel off. The 2” paint brush is good for this. I like to put on two coats of primer then two or three coats of paint as needed. Drying time between each coat could be anywhere from four hours to 24 hours; it depends on the humidity and temperature of the air.

Final step: Add a door stop to the baseboard.

Now just step back and look at your handy work. What do you think?



discover *your* community



JEA Preschool Savannah News

November 2013

Check it Out!

*Do consequences help children
learn better behavior?*

Children often adjust to consequences, and what seemed to sting last week may not seem so bad this week. Parents have to keep adjusting just to keep up. Hand-in-Hand Parenting tells us that taking the time to make connections with children and nurture good judgment will pay off in the end!

<http://www.handinhandparenting.org/article/consequences-help-children-learn-better-behavior/>



(Right) The Savannah Fire Department visited JEA Preschool Savannah and taught the kids about fire safety. Everyone got a chance to get inside the fire truck! Afterward everyone got to enjoy the outdoor playspaces and collected fall accorns.

Engaging children in a nurturing,
safe and inclusive environment,
based in Jewish values.

Enrollment is Open!

To schedule your introductory appointment, contact Jodi Sadler at (912) 355-8111, or email preschool@savj.org. Tuition information and registration forms are available for download online at www.savannahjea.org.

JEA Preschool Savannah offers convenient Core Program and Extended Hours:

Core Program: 8:30am – 12:30pm
Extended Hours: 7:00am – 8:30am
12:30pm – 6:00pm

Serving children ages 16 months to 4 years old.

Contact us about our 2 & 3 day-a-week Programs!

A Teacher's Bird's Eye

by Maggie McManus

The start of the new JEA Preschool Savannah has been a fun and exciting ride so far! I am the lead teacher in the G'daim class (2-year olds). This year we have been learning our colors in English, Hebrew, and Spanish, our letters of the alphabet, and our numbers zero through ten. We have learned about Succot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and we enjoy our weekly Shabbat celebration.

Outside, we love playing on the climbing structure and exploring our environment for bugs and other living things. We bring the things we find into our classroom! One of the children brought in a bird's nest for us to keep in our classroom. We look at and talk about the bird's nest almost every day. We talk about who might have lived in the nest and how the bird may have made the nest. The G'daim class is so much fun and I can't wait to come to work every day. I love the children in my class!

The staff has worked very well together this year. The teachers all try to keep in mind what the others are doing so that we might be able to help each other with a specific lesson or subject. We also share materials and ideas with one another to create the best learning opportunities for the children.

Each class has its own personality and some classes have special activities that they go to every week. The three and four year old class has CrossFit exercise every Tuesday and they really enjoy it.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of such an amazing team and community at JEA Preschool Savannah. We help and encourage one another on a daily basis and especially on those days that are trying and energy draining. I love the time I get to spend with my children. It brings me great joy when a child has that "light bulb" moment when things just click and make sense to them. They realize that they can perform that specific task on their own now and they are proud and excited and want to show you that they have succeeded in achieving a goal. I feel complete as a teacher when those moments happen.

My experience at JEA Preschool Savannah has been fun, exciting, and loving. I love the people I work with and the support I receive from them. I love the children I get to teach on a daily basis. They bring me such joy and happiness and I am so grateful for these amazing little ones. I love that the children's parents trust me to teach, care for, and love their children while they are busy working to make everyday life better for their families. Please come by and see for yourself why I love where I work and who I work with. JEA Preschool Savannah is awesome!



All in a Day's Work

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed last week. Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey", died peacefully at age 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in. And then the trouble started.

If we don't look at life with a bit of humor, important things will pass us by because we'll be so caught up in the deeds of others or ourselves that in the big picture really don't make a difference. Sure they're annoying or even hurtful or provoking at the time, but if we could train ourselves to *stop, assess, measure* and then *react* – life would be far less stressful.

In my Chumash class we were learning about Pinchas showing the greatest devotion to the Almighty and how his actions were for the sake of righteousness and never imbued with a trace of ulterior motive. Due to one act in particular, Pinchas was rewarded with shalom, peace. I asked my students what does it mean to be blessed with peace? They all answered as we would think they might: no wars, no sickness, and no arguments. After some discussion I helped my students

to understand that even if the Jews were experiencing difficulties; war, sickness, etc. then he would not be at peace because he lived for them as

well as to serve the Almighty. Once they understood the problem with their answers we were still left with understanding what it means to have a bracha (blessing) of peace.

So we talked about accepting things that happen with a positive attitude and believing that things happen for a reason and its part of life and life goes on. You could actually see in their expressions when they began to understand. "So if we got stuck on the side of the road we would stand their smiling?" They figured out with some prodding that no, most of us would not stand stuck on the side of the road with a smile on our face. However, some of us might stand there with a positive attitude.

We learned a lot that day. It's just too bad we were too busy to stop and play the Hokey Pokey!



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Our Time to Engage

It was during the month of September when everyone was busy finishing the celebration of one Jewish holiday and getting ready to celebrate the next. One director was involved in her preschool opening at a new location and other directors were busy with the day-to-day routines of running a JCC preschool. Our JCCA Sheva Learning community was supposed to meet at our regularly scheduled time.

I checked into our Google Hangout along with two of my colleagues from around the southeast and then nothing. There was no other "ding" to announce the arrival of the other directors. The three of us played catch up and waited for another five minutes. At last, one more director connected so we were four out of eleven present for the meeting.

What to do? Should we call it a day and get back to our hectic schedules? Should we forge ahead and conduct our learning session as planned? We all decided that this was important work. This was our time to learn from each other and grow personally and professionally; we were wanted to take advantage of it. We began to "hang out" and move through our agenda as planned.

This was our third discussion about the book we were all reading, "En-

gaging Children's Minds" by Lilian Katz and Sylvia Chard. We are learning about the Project Approach and how to implement this strategy in our programs, especially for the

youngest of our children. What topics would be appropriate to begin implementing this approach with the children? How do we teach our teachers about the Project Approach?

One of the directors began telling us about her experience and what she had done for her teachers this year. She gave us the name of another resource book and we learned so much from talking to her during this session. Not only were we learning how to engage our children's minds but we were engaging our own minds and thoughts. We wrapped up our time together by each expressing one word to sum up our meeting. Words like "enlightening", "informative" and "reflection" were shared.

We all agreed that this had been one of the best parts of our day. This was *our* time to reconnect, learn and reflect together. We await yet another Sheva Learning experience next month!



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

Shalom School Teachers Attend Conference on Jewish Education

By Deganit (Degi) Ruben, Shalom School Teacher

NewCAJE (formerly known as CAJE - Coalition for Advancement in Jewish Education) is the primary organization for everything related to Jewish education around the country. As it states in its online description, "it is an organization in transition ... to formulate a vision for an organization that will move into the future with this and every new generation of educators."

The recognition that Jewish education must always change and adapt is what makes it such an important resource for all professionals in this field. As our regular schools are adapting to meet the increasing demands on our time and attention and the increasing reliance on digital and social media, Jewish education must also adapt if it is to remain relevant and vibrant. It is in this vein that NewCAJE has also emerged as the primary advocate for Jewish educators and Jewish education, for all denominations and job descriptions in the field.

Each year, NewCAJE puts on a conference aimed at bringing together all those involved in Jewish education. Through sharing and exchanging ideas, techniques, problems and solutions, the educator and administrator's grasp of both Jewish and educational learning is enhanced and deepened.

After a few years hiatus, the Board of Shalom School – Savannah's supplementary religious school of Agudath Achim and Congregation Mickve Israel – decided to again send two of its teachers to the annual conference, which took place over 4 days this past July, in a small college town right outside of Boston. Penny Breslow and myself, both of us teachers in the Sunday morning and Wednesday

afternoon programs, were selected to attend.

Once at the conference, we read through descriptions of dozens of expert-led workshops that were offered each day, along with discussion forums, text study, networking, and social opportunities. Penny and I took full advantage of the program, attending workshops on technology in the classroom, Israel advocacy, innovative Hebrew curricula, music programs, storytelling, teacher training sessions, and many other classes aimed at enriching and enhancing our abilities as Jewish educators. In addition to these, there were also workshops on Torah, prayer, Jewish history, holidays, Yiddish, and on and on. Each evening there were opportunities to enjoy Jewish entertainment, including comedy, theater, and music by some of the most talented Jewish entertainers and musicians in the country.

During our very limited free time, we explored the Exhibition Hall, which was filled with information on everything from Jewish graduate programs and publishing houses to vendors selling Judaica, crafts, and books.

Needless to say, Penny and I returned energized and excited to bring all that we learned back to Shalom School. And even though we have an active, thriving school, we are still in a small city with limited Jewish educational resources. For this and many other reasons, we are especially grateful to the Shalom School Board for sending us, and we hope that teachers can continue to attend each year. For it is in this way, as NewCaje describes in its vision for the future, "that we can somehow affect those most important to us—our students, their parents and the communities that we serve."

Time to Order Mah Jongg Cards!

Attention Mah Jongg Players! It's time to order your 2014 Mah Jongg cards. The standard card is \$8.00; the large card is \$9.00. The deadline for placing orders is January 24, 2014. Make checks payable to the Agudath Achim Sisterhood and send to:

Betty Lasky
402 Wheeler St
Savannah, GA 31405

No extra cards will be ordered after January 24th; be sure to place your order on time! For additional information, contact Betty at (912) 355-2017.



Higher Ground

Pounding the Pavement and Passing the Torch

"The secret of besting your time," a buff friend told me as I was preparing to walk a 5K for charity, "is to keep music in your head and run ever forward to that beat." So, for the first time, in a long time, I thought of Sesame Street. No ear buds, no walkman, just the repetitive beats of things like turning spokes of a bicycle, then a child running a stick against an iron fence, then steel drums popped into my head from a Sesame Street segment I used to watch with my children. I hadn't thought of that show for years, but it was working! I was running -- one foot in front of another -- for a good cause -- to the consistent beat.

But my mind wandered to thoughts of my wonderful grown children as toddlers. Except for shows like Sesame Street, television watching wasn't allowed unless it was videotaped and previewed first—it needed to be safe in content, wholesome in values and educational. The spokes kept turning in my head like a metaphor for our life in Savannah (and yes, I really do think this way): as parents, at the center, with consistency and purpose, we

exercised a modicum of control over our children's environment; as Jews, Torah provides this center of core Jewish values. From there the spokes of the Savannah Jewish Federation, our religious institutions, the Jewish Educational Alliance and our Jewish schools keep us moving forward with a purpose.

My feet were keeping the steady beat on the pavement and I tried to remember (and later Googled) Psalm 104: "When You send forth Your spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the ground." Now as a member of the JEA building and grounds committee I tend to view our community and its changes from the ground up. Where others might see challenges and dissention, I see, maybe naively, reorganization that is all for the good. In the last year, for various reasons, there have been incredibly big shifts, but ultimately with really good benefits: each synagogue has made improvements to their grounds and their educational facilities which have inspired their congregants. Our children who attend Rambam Day School, JEA Pre-School Savannah, and



Carol Greenberg

Shalom School are enjoying repurposed grounds and refurbished school rooms. Enhanced surroundings can only aid their educational experiences. Now that we have each taken care of our own, we again need to find areas of common ground, so we can pass on the torch of commitment of our Jewish community to the next generation.

Next, I thought ahead to the unique opportunity we have to rededicate ourselves to each other and a greater purpose during this year's running, after a long absence, of the Chanukah Torch relay on Wednesday, November 27. Because of the unique positioning of Thanksgiving to Chanukah this year, it may be easier to celebrate our Jewish holiday together since many people might be off work and school on this weekday afternoon. The next such coincidence will be in 79,043 C.E. (or 79,811 depending on how you count the days), so don't wait until then to sign up! You will not need to be running with the torch in order to participate. Cheer, celebrate or volunteer for the mitzvah project from stations set up at the synagogues and the JEA.

My husband and I chose Savan-

nah as our home: the more we gave and participated, the more services and programs were available for us to enjoy as a Jewish family. The Savannah Jewish Federation just celebrated their 70th anniversary. In his acceptance speech as new president, Steve Greenberg said, "We have to spend our time on where we agree and promote that and work equally hard on areas where we disagree—with mutual respect, humor and friendship."

The Savannah Federation Campaign is beginning. All of our Jewish organizations, our campuses, and our people—both local and abroad—are touched by your support of this most important community fundraising. For the sustainability of our Jewish community, be part of this campaign effort. Steve Greenberg said, "I want this community to look forward. I want all of us to seize the future and make it better...We have to always look at the larger landscape." Wow! He too is celebrating our communal joy from the ground up!

 Follow the JEA on Twitter

 Like the JEA on Facebook

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.



Renate Jacobs, Douglas Kaufman,
David and Lily Nash at The Salvation Army



The Warmkessel Family, Lisa & Jessica Elkin, The
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While vacationing in Savannah the Cooper family
joined us by volunteering at Salvation Army

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

A Gala Tribute to
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Learning to Read Hebrew
Classes

It's A Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

Because of the unusual calendar juxtaposition this year of Chanukah and Thanksgiving, I want to share with you a little-known connection between early American Jewry and a special Thanksgiving meal.

The First (Jewish) Thanksgiving

New research by the Academy of Obscure Jewish History reveals that the actual first American Thanksgiving took place in a part of the North American continent that would later come to be known as the Catskills. 613 Jewish settlers landed on the north bank of the Farblondjet River. Before long, they encountered the Ongepatchget Native Americans, who came to view the Jewish settlers with suspicion after the latter attempted to rent the Ongepatchgets' land back to them at inflated rates.

The settlers managed to find a Jewish Indian, Speaks with Shpilkes, to serve as their translator. He taught the newcomers how to catch salmon and turn it into lox, how to kosher a turkey, and to create a pumpkin tzimmes so luscious it makes you do a happy dance. In exchange, the Jews showed Speaks with Shpilkes

and his tribe how to tailor their breechcloths and the difference between a Roth and a traditional IRA account.

Following a successful harvest and business season, a decision was made to host a celebratory meal to give thanks to God for His bounty. The Ongepatchgets were invited by the Jews, who considered having the affair catered before deciding to do it all themselves.

The Jewish settlers proceeded to create the first Thanksgiving feast of the new world. Highlights included: Cranberry-studded Gefilte Fish, Matzoh Teepees, Kneidlach shaped like Peace Pipes, and Challah Tomahawks. For their part, the Native tribe brought Torah-shaped salmon soufflé, Yarmulke Bowls filled with buffalo soup, and Chopped Antelope Liver shaped like a Jewish Star. There was even a giant ice sculpture of one of the Jewish settlers giving an Indian a chiropractic treatment.

Later, the Jewish settlers introduced the Native Americans to something they'd never experienced – a wholesale clothing store. The Indians were given a free garment and a 50%



Melinda Stein

discount on any needed alterations. In exchange, the Ongepatchgets treated their Jewish guests to the world's first casino. After a spirited evening of fire-water drinking and wampum gambling, the party watched a performance by famed Native American stand-up comedian, George Burns Leaves. Favorite lines: "Take my scalp, please!" and "I don't get no respect. I looked up my family totem pole and found three dogs using it."

The first Jewish Thanksgiving celebration was a huge success, though long since forgotten. Two other neglected Jewish contributions to American culture: introducing Elvis Presley to the prayer motions known as "shuckling," which he used in his unforgettable song, "I'm All Shuck Up." And it was a Jewish agent who shortened James Brown's originally-titled song, "I Feel Fairly Decent Consid-

ering the State of the World and My Own Emotional and Psychological Issues" – to "I Feel Good." Now that's something for which we can all be thankful.

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Join us at Mickve Israel in November for Worship, Education, & More



Having Visitors During the Holidays?

Treat them and yourself to our local Jewish heritage with a tour of our historic sanctuary and museum. We have docent-lead tour, which are available from 10 am to 12:30 or 2 to 3:30 pm during the week. (Closing early on November 27 & closed all day November 28 & 29.)

Got Hanukah?

Visit our Judaica Shop for your holiday supplies and gifts! Glenda has packed the shop with lots of holiday goodies!

Services

Special Musical Shabbat Extravaganza & Oneg, November 1 at 6 pm

Shalom School Service at Augdath Achim, November 8 at 6 pm. *No Service at Mickve Israel!*

Kabbalat Shabbat with Julie Hirsch & Mickve Israel Choir, November 15 at 6 pm

Pre-Hanukah Shabbat Dinner followed by Service, November 22 at 6 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6 pm: November 29

Shabbat Morning Services, 11 am: November 2, 16, 23, & 30
All Saturday services are followed by a Kiddush Lunch.

Veterans Day Shabbat Service at Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum Chapel, November 9 at 11 am. *No Service at Mickve Israel & no Kiddush Lunch.*

Educational Events

◆ In Depth Judaism at 9:15 am & Torah Study following Kiddush Lunch on: November 2, 16, 23 & 30

◆ Talmud Study Session in South Carolina at 10:30 am on: November 6

◆ Text, Schmooze & Jews at 12 pm on: November 19

Everyone is welcome to join us for our services & events! Sign up for our email to have weekly schedules sent to your inbox by contacting the office, or by texting **CMI** to **42828**. For more information or to RSVP for an event, contact 912.233.1547 or visit www.mickveisrael.org.

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Contributions to the Savannah Jewish Federation may be made on our secure website at www.savj.org or by calling (912) 355-8111.

CREATE a Jewish Legacy



Plan Now for a Tax-Free IRA Withdrawal

Hard to believe, but the end of the year is almost here. Time flies. If you are 70½ and older and have not already done so this year, it is time to consider your mandatory annual distribution from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

Don't forget, if you are 70½ and older you are required to make a withdrawal or be subject to a penalty of 50 percent of the required distribution that was not paid to the IRA owner as well as the appropriate income tax. If you will be making your withdrawal from a traditional IRA, the withdrawals will be subject to income tax now because, remember, the original contributions to the IRA were made with pre-tax income and any growth in the investment was tax-free, too.

But you can reduce your IRA withdrawal tax liability if you plan ahead. Using the *IRA charitable rollover*, an owner of a traditional IRA can direct up to \$100,000 annually from his/her IRA to qualified charities such as the Savannah Jewish Federation — without having to recognize the distributions as taxable income. You can then designate the funds as you choose, such as to make a commitment to the community through the Annual Campaign or to create a Jewish legacy and establish a fund that will live on for-

ever, serving a purpose close to your heart.

You need to be at least 70½ to use the *IRA charitable rollover* and you have to plan ahead because the distribution *must* go directly from the IRA to the Federation without passing first to the donor. But by doing so, you will save taxes and perform a mitzvah, *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

This information is intended only as an educational tool. The information presented is to provide general information 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.



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Holocaust Center Marks Kristallnacht 75th Anniversary

by Melinda Stein

On November 9th, 1938, the Nazi government of Germany permitted a massive, coordinated attack against Jews throughout Germany and parts of Austria. Military and civilian hordes joined forces to attack Jewish civilians, homes, hospitals, schools, and especially synagogues. The day became known as *Kristallnacht*, meaning “Night of Shattered Glass,” referring to the overwhelming sound of thousands of windows smashed by sledgehammers.

By dawn the next morning, a total of 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps, 7,000+ Jewish-owned businesses were destroyed and more than 900 synagogues had been demolished into rubble or burned to the ground. Rather than a hidden event, foreign journalists in Germany reported the full extent of the ferocious violence.

The *Times* of London wrote, “No foreign propagandist bent upon blackening Germany before the world could outdo the tale of burnings and beatings, of physical destruction of property, of blackguardly assaults on defenseless and innocent people, which disgraced that country yesterday.” The *Daily Telegraph* reported, “Mob law ruled throughout the afternoon and evening and hordes indulged in an orgy of destruction. I have seen several anti-Jewish outbreaks in Germany during the last five years, but never anything as nauseating as this. Racial hatred and hysteria seemed to have taken complete hold of otherwise decent people. I saw fashionably dressed women clapping their hands and screaming with glee, while respectable middle-class mothers held up their babies to see the ‘fun.’”

The real purpose of the *Kristallnacht* assault was a trial balloon of sorts. The Nazis wished to see if an outright

unleashing of force against the Jewish communities of Germany and Austria would be met with anything more than token remonstrance and condemnation. And in fact, the official response by the world’s leading nations was muted. There were many verbal condemnations, but no economic sanctions against Nazi Germany, no severing of diplomatic relations, no easing of immigration quotas for German Jews seeking refuge outside the Nazi realm. The conclusion of Hitler and his government? Anything done to Jewish people (and to other “enemies”) would be tacitly permitted. *Kristallnacht* foreshadowed the silence that would follow the carrying out of the Final Solution.

The Holocaust Center Committee, which works as a resource for programming and education, has developed several formats for commemorating this event. On November 10th, students of Rambam Day School and The Shalom School will participate in a program at the JEA. There will be a video viewing, brief discussion and an art project entitled, “Putting the Pieces Back Together,” during which the youngsters will choose a paper window template from the Manheim, Remnitz, Cologne, or Roonstrasse Synagogues. Using colored transparencies and tissue paper, they can recreate a stained glass window destroyed during *Kristallnacht*.

Savannah’s three congregational Rabbis, who are Holocaust Committee members, will speak about the “Night of Shattered Glass” on Shabbat morning, November 9th. Additionally, the other religious leaders of Savannah have been contacted and asked to incorporate this subject in messages in their houses of worship during this weekend. The lessons of *Kristallnacht* are universal; one need only look at current events in parts of the world where different faiths are persecuted



and their sanctuaries desecrated or destroyed to recognize that we must continue to remember that night and teach about it and what followed.

The Holocaust Center Committee prepared points of information about *Kristallnacht* for the Rabbis and other religious leaders. By having our spiritual leaders teaching the same message simultaneously, all denominations of our city will unite for this occasion into a community of faith, remembering a war on God’s houses,

considering the dangers in the present, and pledging renewed vigilance and hope for the future.

Editor’s Note: Melinda Stein is co-chair, with Sherry Dolgoff, of the recently formed Holocaust Center Committee. The Center, being formed with the support of the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish Educational Alliance, will serve as a central resource for the Jewish community, students and the greater surrounding community to become more educated about the events of the Nazi era and the Holocaust.

On the Personal Side

MISCELLANY: Mazel tov to Faye Kirschner, who in September was inducted into the Georgia Southern University Legacy Society and received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Vital Statistics

BIRTH: Mazel Tov to Barbara and Ricky Friedenberg on the birth of their grandson, Jake Riley Friedenberg, and to the great-grandparents, Pearl and Louis Friedenberg. Jake is the son of Heather and Brian Friedenberg of Elkridge, Maryland. He also is the grandson of Ruth and Gary Feldman of Cherry Hill, NJ; and the great-grandson of Elaine Dreizin and the late Ike Dreizin of Macon, Leonard Feldman and the late Thelma Feldman of Trevoise, PA, and the late Dr. Herbert and Barbara Cahan of Margate, NJ. Jake is the nephew of Erin and Jordan Rubinstein of Atlanta.



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November 6 & 20

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Go to **Savannah** Chapter for calendar updates, programming,
Travel opportunities, training events and more!



This Chanukah, serve an extra **helping** of Thanks

This year, for the first time ever, Chanukah starts on Thanksgiving. Both holidays are about gratitude and giving. So as you plan your holiday meal, please plan your gift to the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Whether it's Jewish Family Services, Jewish education at Rambam Day School and Shalom School, our community home, the JEA, our overseas partners, BBYO, or any of our other partner agencies, they all rely on you! **Donate at www.savj.org now, while you're thinking about it.**



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