



Shabbat & Holiday Candle

Lighting Times

Friday, July 22	8:11pm
Friday, July 29	8:07pm
Friday, August 5	8:01pm
Friday, August 12	7:55pm
Friday, August 19	7:47pm
Friday, August 26	7:39pm

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Cocktails To Cupcakes, The Great Gala August 14

Savannah's Jewish Educational Alliance thinks it would be the icing on their cupcake to see you at the Annual Great Gala, Cocktails to Cupcakes on Sunday, August 14th at six o'clock pm. Over the years, the Great Gala has served as one of the cornerstones of the Jewish Educational Alliance's fundraising efforts. This year's event, much like cupcakes and cocktails in general, is not to be missed!

This year's Great Gala will be unlike any event the JEA has ever hosted. When you arrive at this year's unique event you will be greeted at the door with a signature cocktail and proceed into a room filled with heavy hors d'oeuvres and lavish desserts to indulge in catered by none other than Trace Weitz. The room will come alive with the musical stylings of Bucky and Barry, a local band of Savannah natives that plays a variety of music, who are guaranteed to provide great entertainment for your dancing delight. The evening will include a live and silent auction where, amongst other wonderful items, you'll have the opportunity to win a prime JEA parking spot for a year during the auction.

The Great Gala this year would not be possible without the brave event chairs, Allan and Arlene Ratner. "What

better way to not only support the JEA, but to have an evening of food, fun, and entertainment, with your closest friends," said Allan Ratner. Also, thanks to their wonderful steering committee members; Matthew & Michelle Allan, Dick & Lynn Berkowitz, Steve & Anna Berwitz, Harold & Charlotte Black, Richard & Merry Bodziner, Rusty & Renee Bridges, Norman & Sherry Dolgoff, Tony & Donna Eichholz, Arnie & Doris Goldstein, Skippy & Sandy Goodman, Steve & Sally Greenberg, Joel & Carol Greenberg, Stanley & Peggy Harris, David & Gale Hirsh, Toby Hollenberg, Mark & Allison Konter, Ronnie Kronowitz, Paul & Harriet Kulbersh, Jeff & Stacy Lasky, Aaron & Dayle Levy, Alan & Candy Lowe, Eric & Harriet Meyerhoff, Allan & Arlene Ratner, Josh & Amanda Reeves, Matt & Tricia Rosenthal, Steven & Beth Roth, Jesse & Degani Ruben, Scott & Ashley Samuels, Bill & Sharon Sand, Kayton & Lucille Smith,



Larry & Sheree Zaslavsky, Sol & Steffi Zerden, and Michael & Linda Zoller.

Tickets are \$90 per person and can be purchased at the JEA, or send in your payment today via the tear-off card on page 2. Since it's inception, the Great Gala has raised thousands of dollars to support the mission of the Jewish Educational Alliance. Funds raised at the Great Gala make it possible for us to serve our community by providing free services, offering senior and youth programming, and year-round activities for the entire Savannah community. We hope you will join us for this worthy, and fun, event!

Let's Welcome Tal to Savannah

The Savannah Jewish community is pleased to welcome Tal Bratman to our community as our new Shlichah. She is excited to be our new Israeli emissary and represent Israel by volunteering to share her country, culture, life and lessons with all of us.

Tal is from Haifa, but currently lives in Tel Aviv. She has completed her IDF where she was a NCO of Education and Culture with the Israeli Navy and as a guide at Israel's Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem. In addition to national service before coming to Savannah, she has worked several jobs. She worked one summer as a youth counselor at

Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Camp in Oconomowoc, WI. She has also held positions in a number of retail stores.

Tal has special interests in sharing her knowledge in Israeli film, literature, culture, folklore and the arts. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, drawing, swimming, horseback riding, hiking and watching movies. Tal is scheduled to arrive in Savannah in late August.



Tal Bratman



A Publication of Savannah Jewish Federation
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JEA Great Gelt Gala - August 14th

How to Say Goodbye

Like a lot of people I know, I'm not a big fan of goodbyes. I always feel awkward trying to figure out what are the appropriate things to say, when saying goodbye.

I remember, exactly one year ago, still wearing the IDF's uniform, excited about my "liberation" after five years of serving my country and my people; sitting on the bus on my way home, and being absolutely terrified and confused.

Like many good things in life, the idea of the Shlichut came very spontaneously and out of the blue but, my concerns and worries were just too much. With all the uncertainties, I decided that this adventure is just too unique and intense to give up. I truly

believed it was my "Call to Action." I had no doubts in the necessity and the importance of the Shlichut, but I really didn't have a clue what to expect.

This year was truly a fascinating, exciting, funny, challenging journey. Sure, I had my share of failures, disappointments and downfalls, but these are also an important part of my journey.

It would be very difficult to forget the amazing kids from Rambam Day School and Shalom School and the great time we had together during this year. Often when I tried to teach them, I was the one who actually learned a



Gershon Peru
Israeli Shaliach

lot more.

Thank you to all of the families that opened their doors and their hearts to me and to put some food in my belly and never let me eat alone for a Shabbat dinner.

From great community events such as; Chanukah, Purim and Yom Ha'atzma'ut, when everybody came together to celebrate our special days to the warm and welcoming Shabbat services in this community's congregations. From walking around the JEA and to truly understand the American Jewish community concept and its importance to the summer camp, still under way, that is just pure fun! The beautiful Savannah squares and Spanish moss, the white sandy beach of Tybee Island.

I don't know what the future holds, but I know that the friendships,

memories and experiences will stay with me for a lifetime. I'm happy and proud to be a part of Savannah's Jewish Community.

Please welcome and hug the next Shlichu as you welcomed and hugged me. Embrace her and let her be a part of the community. Invite her, talk with her, help her, and let her feel home just as you had with me.

I don't know how to say goodbye, but I know how to be thankful and grateful. Thank you. The JEA's staff, board members, committees' members, families, Rabbis, teachers, and volunteers. Thanks for being there and always helping.

Please, keep in touch, call me, email me, Facebook me. Come visit me in Israel – I promise I'll give you a special tour in the Negev.

Bashana Haba'a BeYerushalaim !

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In your latest issue I was thrilled to see that two special students received the Henry Walter Center Scholarship. Many years ago, following my son's death, Isadore Karpf suggested that we name this scholarship.

The Jewish community is very connected and I found it more than a coincidence that Philip Sadler, whose father roomed with one of my sons at college, will be a recipient. I also found it quite coincidental that Natalie Eichelbaum will go into pediatric oncology, which is kin to the disease that took Henry's life.

I am heart warmed to see these two outstanding students benefit from this scholarship.

Good luck to them both,
Miriam K. Center

Dear Editor:

On August 24, at 6:30pm, Citizens United for Israel (CUFI) are holding an open meeting in support of Israel. They have invited Victor Styrsky as their key note speaker. Styrsky is a senior official of CUFI - which stands for "Christians United For Israel" an organization of over one half million members and the equal of AIPAC if not more influential. (I belong to both.)

Israel seems always to be under siege. Regardless of your political affiliation or philosophical leanings I would hope, if you are Jewish, you agree that when it comes to Israel we should be

of one mind in regard to believing it's survival is vital to our people, is one of our nation's most loyal allies and is the sole democracy in that troubled region of the world - notwithstanding, apartheid allegations to the contrary by misguided youth or prominent anti-Semites.

I am writing this urging our Jewish Community to attend this August 24th event, and by your presence show your support for Israel along with those in the Coastal Christian Community who are of the same mind.

Details as to where will be forthcoming.

Hope to see you there,
Dick Berkowitz

ה - Hay

The letter Hay begins — **Ha'akhalat Re'evim**—Feeding the Hungry

The Savannah Jewish Federation is committed to ensuring that those who need food to eat are provided for in their time of need.

Identification Statement

Savannah Jewish News

Published ten times each year by
The Savannah Jewish Federation
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Cocktails to Cupcakes—The JEA Great Gala Sunday, August 14th—6pm

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How Do You Eat an Elephant

Since my term as President ends in September, this is a good time to take stock of the Board's accomplishments as measured by our strategic plan. Last year, we began evaluating programs to determine their value to the community. A council of Jewish presidents was formed to foster better communication across organizations and congregations. We initiated a young leadership program and launched a welcome wagon for those who moved here. The PJ Library project, underwritten by Jane Slotin and Leon and Nancy Slotin, continued to successfully engage young Jewish families as did the Young Jewish Savannah program for the entire age group.

This year, all of the above-mentioned activities continued. In addition, the campaign raised over \$976,000, a major accomplishment in a very tough year. The Human Resource Development Program was evaluated, found to be very effective, and given a strong recommendation to continue. We studied the feasibility of launching an endowment campaign, but decided to delay that until the economy improves. It was recommended that Trading Places be discontinued. So many community groups now volunteer on Christmas that we no longer are needed as we were in the past. Similarly, instead of marching in the MLK parade, we joined the Economic Opportunity Authority for a community clean-up. Over 1,100 tickets were sold to the Jewish Film Festival. The Yom HaShoah program was poignant and well-attended. Four teens received grants to attend Jewish summer programs. Two Community Relations Committee programs were presented to prepare high school students for anti-Jewish propaganda they might encounter on college campuses. One brought acclaimed speaker Neil Lazarus to train on defending Israel in the media. Reaching adults as well as teens, it was probably one of the finest and best attended programs we have had in years.

Other objectives were also met. Jewish Family Services granted over \$140,000 in aid (over the past 18 months). The Savannah Jewish News became more committee-driven with members critiquing issues and recruiting writers and advertisers. A search for the vacant Federation Director

position led to a decision to reconfigure staff positions before hiring. In the future, fundraising staff will raise monies for both J.E.A. and Federation and programming staff will administer events for both organizations. Having determined that, another search is in progress. Federation helped prepare the community for the Westboro Baptist Church demonstrations. I credit everything we accomplished to the unrelenting hard work and direction of our committee chairs and their workers, and that of our wonderful staff; and, I thank them sincerely.

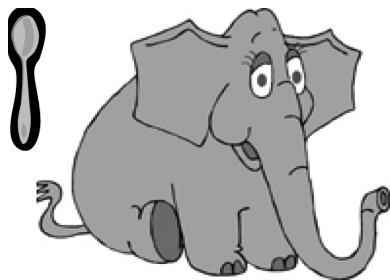
There is a Yiddish proverb that says, "Man plans and G-d laughs." I smile when I think of it. Two years ago, I was intent on implementing the strategic plan. At the Annual Meeting I talked about how I liked to make lists and check things off as they were accomplished. G-d must have laughed. Issues relating to the JEA financial challenges and the early childhood education initiative presented themselves and we addressed them as well.

The elephant: I have enjoyed that theme more than I ever imagined. What was intended to define a roadmap for implementing the strategic plan became so much more. How many times in debate did someone refer to "the elephant in the room" which in turn helped us discuss difficult issues? In reviewing our accomplishments, it is clear we devoured a substantial portion of that elephant, but the plan has not been entirely completed. There is still a great deal of that pachyderm for the next Federation board to eat in the upcoming years.

And with that I say ...
...Bon Appetit!



Linda Zoller.
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation



Multiple Points of Engagement

Changing ourselves and the world around us is at the very core of Jewish life. In the beginning of the Torah, G-d says to Abraham, "Lech Lecha-" Go Forth. Some people interpret this as "leaving" - leaving what Abraham knew, leaving his home, his place of birth. Others interpret this as "arriving"- Arriving at a new place.

The Savannah Jewish community has gone forth and change is happening. Change unto itself is not a goal, but is a process. Change is inevitable.

Over the past few years we have been fortunate to have a dramatic influx of new Jewish families to Savannah, a new generation:

It is a generation that did not witness the Holocaust.

It is a generation that has always had the State of Israel.

It is a generation that did not grow up at the JEA.

It is a generation where "someone else" built the synagogue(s).

It is a generation who look to each other to build family (theirs live somewhere else) with each other.

This "new generation" comes from a different place and experience, and is looking for something different.

This "new" generation came to Savannah because of the beauty of our city, economic prospects, social opportunities and a historic Jewish community that is deeply intertwined with the very history of our country. This "new" generation is looking the build their own version of "what it means

to be Jewish" in Savannah.

Historically, the Jewish community's message to newcomers was built on a mix of guilt, fear, and obligation. This message has limited appeal to this generation.

Our challenge is to develop Jewish substance built upon culture, learning, and shared experience. The "younger generation" thirsts for Jewish identity, they just want it in a different way. Evidence the popularity of Jewish Film Festivals throughout the country, Young Jewish Savannah's events, the growth of the PJ Library here in Savannah, and tens of thousands of Internet sites on Jewish learning,

Over the past year, leadership of the Federation and JEA have seen what happens when you ask this "new" generation to help make decisions: We have received new energy and a fresh point of view.

We must continue to provide quality over quantity, content rather than marketing, meaning instead of guilt, and multiple "points of engagement." We must listen to their needs and wants and build the programs and services they are looking for. We must empower the next generation to build the future.

It's what our parents and grandparents did for us. L'dor v'dor.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF



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Andrea Guttin serves SE Georgia's Immigrant Population

By Nancie Meddin Clark

"Most Jewish families in this country were immigrants at some point," says Legal Aid lawyer, Andrea Guttin. "American Jews should be a light unto other nations. We need to be compassionate to modern day immigrants."

Licensed in both Texas and Georgia, Guttin works as a lawyer with low income, Spanish speaking immigrants in an eleven-county area in southeastern Georgia. She is part of the Georgia Legal Services program that focuses on health care, domestic violence, public benefits, education, consumer and employment issues.

Most of Guttin's clients are farm helpers, construction workers or domestic employees. "People who come across our borders," she says, "may be fleeing economic hardship, domestic violence, natural disasters, crime, gang violence, war or other hardships."

She came from a bilingual household. Her father, cardiologist Dr. Jorge Guttin, and her mother, dentist Dr. Selma Guttin, have always encouraged her to do work that helped the community in Houston, TX, Andrea's parents emigrated there from Mexico City.

One of her favorite memories is of her grandmother's gefilte fish. It was served with a spicy red sauce, Mexican style. Purim was always fun for her

too. She loved the carnival atmosphere and cake walks in particular. Because she was educated in Jewish schools, Guttin says she was a school age child before she realized that everybody wasn't Jewish. "That was when my parents tried to explain Christmas lights to me," she reflects.

She's been in Savannah a little over a year and loves Savannah's natural and manmade beauty. Having attended both the Agudath Achim and Mickve Israel, she's made friends with other young Jewish professionals in the city and appreciates the welcome and the history Savannah offers.

Her position with Georgia Legal Services and Legal Aid was one of four legal positions and two paralegal positions created by a grant from the Goizueta Foundation. Cuban born, Roberto C. Goizueta was Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola Co. until his death in 1997. The foundation, begun in 1992, is a private general purpose foundation providing financial assistance to educational and charitable institutions.



Andrea Guttin

Yelena Chernyak: A 20-year Journey of Risk and Reward

By Ezra Salkin

Yelena Chernyak came to Savannah with her parents and young son from St. Petersburg, Russia, almost 20 years ago. The adjustment wasn't easy.

It was December 21st, 1991. "Imagine entering a new world where you don't know the language, you don't have a job anymore, and you have no things," she says, sitting at her dining room table, hands folded.

Nevertheless, the alternative was far worse. "It didn't matter that the parties or administration changed names," she said, referring to the transition from Communism, when Leningrad became St. Petersburg. "The same people were in charge and the policy of hating the Jews and blaming them for everything remained the same, too."

She recalls an incident when her son Mikhail, while still a small boy, was riding the elevator in their apartment complex. A new neighbor got on and told the child that someday he would kill him. It's one of the few things he remembers from his time in Russia—that, and Jew-hating delinquents smearing Stars of David across the hallway walls.

When asked if the situation for Jews in Russia has changed, Chernyak admits she can't be sure. "Anything I know, I learn from friends over the telephone. Only, none of them will talk about the government. They still have that fear that someone may be listening. I still have that fear." She's grateful that her son got out at a young enough age that he escaped the same paranoia.

In Russia, Chernyak had earned a Master's Degree in Biomedical Cybernetics. However, these skills were obsolete in the states. "I don't know if we would've survived without the Jewish Federation." The Federation secured the Chernyaks a host family, provided transportation to doctor appointments and helped her to obtain her first job in the states where she worked in a warehouse for five dollars an hour. Today, Chernyak is a purchasing agent at Memorial Hospital. "It's somewhat related to what I studied. Luckily, I'm the type



Yelena Chernyak (right), new life and Savannah board member attends her first Hadassah regional convention and confers with National Past President Marlene Post

of person who finds everything interesting. But, when everything is new, it is like seeing the world again as a child. I'm grateful to be an optimist."

Although Chernyak has grown fond of Savannah, getting involved with the local Jewish community was a long process. She admits to being very shy at Mickve Israel services at first, ducking out before anyone else had a chance to gather outside. But that has changed, and she has been a member of the choir for five years (She also sings for the Savannah Philharmonic.)

Finally, a friend told her about Hadassah. "In Russia, in the school books, they taught boys and girls that the Zionist movement is a very bad thing. I never thought I'd be part of that movement. I still remember, when in New York for the first time, we saw Hasidic Jews walking freely in the streets, and we all said, 'How do they go around like that and not get beat up?' Now, here, we all are in the open, serving the community through Hadassah."

Recently, Chernyak went to Atlanta for her first Hadassah regional conference, where plans were unveiled for celebrating their 100-year anniversary in Israel in 2012. She was amazed by the enthusiasm of all the women involved, she remembers, her hands now animated. "It gave me the motivation and energy boost to fly to whatever is the next target! On the way back from Atlanta, all I could think was, where have I been all these years?"

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Harriet K. Konter Recognized

By Jeri Gale

In 1971, a group of 20 women with Georgia Real Estate licenses gathered at the Pirates' House restaurant to charter a chapter of Women's Council of Realtors (WCR). Harriet K. Konter, now president of Konter Realty Co., lead the meeting.

At that time there was only one other WCR chapter established in Georgia; in Atlanta. Forty years later, in May of 2011, a vibrant gathering of more than 100 realtors gathered at the Pirates' House to celebrate the 40th anniversary of that first meeting. It was only fitting that the honoree would be Harriet Konter. Many changes have taken place in the real estate industry in 40 years and one of the most noticeable is that now women are in the majority of local agents. Many, such as Konter, also are brokers and agency owners. She served as president of the Savannah chapter in 1971 and 1972, President of WCR for the state of Georgia and as a national governor for the National Women's Council of Realtors.

This honor was only one of the many recently bestowed on Harriet Konter in her 50th year in the real estate industry. In 2011 alone, she has been honored in Georgia, Florida and Washington, DC for her contributions to the business.

Over the last 50 years, Konter has served her profession and her community well. She continues to be an active member of organizations that provide scholarship opportunities for continuing education for realtors. She has served as board member, board chairman and at the highest levels of elected office in her profession, in her Jewish community and has encouraged her children to be active as well. She is passionate about being pro-active in shaping government policies that positively affect the ability of realtors to be successful and continues to support the activities of RPAC, the Realtors Political Action Committee.

Konter has seen many changes in both the real estate industry, the Savannah area and in the ways technology has altered the way business is done. In 1961, when Konter and her late husband Larry started their



Harriet Konter Receiving Women Council of Realtors Recognition

fledgling company, there were not many agents in Savannah and few of those were women. Early newspaper ads show headlines such as "New home for \$11,000 has air-conditioning!" Among the first to use a logo locally, the Konter brand expanded to include property management, development, home building and even insurance. She has seen interest rates climb as high as 25% and drop as low as 4%. Konter remembers the early years in real estate fondly, but knows that the competition from national franchises and the current economy means constantly monitoring the business environment and making changes where necessary. Harriet Konter is just as enthusiastic about helping the customer to buy or sell a home as she was 50 years ago. She is often recognized as the person who gets up on the roof for the Konter Realty Co. in "Let Konter Get on Top of It!" television ads.

Perhaps the accomplishment she is most proud of is having a third generation of her family join the business. Her grandson, Mark Konter, works with his father Jerry as a builder and developer at Konter Quality Homes.

She will celebrate her Jubilee year with her characteristic generosity when it comes to sharing her knowledge of the real estate business with agents, brokers and clients.

Savannah BBYO Holds Annual Installation and Awards Ceremony

On Wednesday April 27th, Savannah BBYO held its annual installation of officers and awards ceremony at the home of Matthew and Isaac Freedman. Dixie Council Director, Rona Goldstein came to town for the event, which had David Finn past Godol, Aaron Kooden perform the installation. Leading the Wexler/Clark BBG girls for 2011-2012 will be:

N'siah - Hannah Slotin

S'ganit - Sarah Segall

Mit Moms - Lena Hirsch and Sophie Lichtman

Shaliach - Sophie Longwater

Gizborit - Marissa Levine

Mazkirah - Mandy Salmon

David Finn AZA boys for 2011-2012 will be lead by:

Godol - Jared Samuels

S'gan - Aaron Solender

Moreh - Isaac Freedman

Shaliach - Elliot Kooden

Mazkir - Matthew Freedman

There are three very special awards given each year by local Savannah families, and voted on by the members of each chapter. Fred Clark presented the Janet M. Clark Member of the Year award to Sarah Segall, Elaine Radetsky presented the Sima Radetsky Goldfarb Mit of the Year award to Sophie Lichtman, and Karen Cranman presented the Matthew J. Cranman Member of the Year award to Matthew Freed-



Matthew Friedman receives award from Karen Cranman

man.

Savannah BBYO is proud to have two of its members on the Dixie Council Board. Elliot Kooden is Council Godol, and Aaron Solender is Council S'gan.

BBYO is a youth led organization for teens in the 9th-12th grades and is the leading pluralistic teen movement involving Jewish teens in meaningful Jewish experiences. For more than 80 years, BBYO has provided exceptional identity enrichment and leadership development experiences for hundreds of thousands of Jewish teens. BBYO's local chapters are supported by the Savannah Jewish Federation. For more information, contact Savannah advisor, Rachael Cohen at rachaelblair317@yahoo.com.



Sarah Segall receives award from Fred Clark



Sophie Lichtman receives award from Elaine Radetsky

Yiddish Phrase of the Edition:

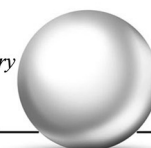
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What does it mean to be Jewish?

A monthly query to members of our community



Jessica Lebos

"Judaism converges in me through heritage, holidays, tzedakeh, prayer, family and food, and ultimately, faith. Lighting Shabbat candles, remembering the yarzheits of my grandparents, tucking my children in with the Sh'ma every night, volunteering time to the community and impressing my neighbors with my shmaltzy matzah ball soup are all ways that I "act" Jewish in the world. But even if I didn't do these things, deep down my *neshama* (soul) would be one of those who stood at Sinai. I believe being Jewish makes us special, but not any more special than anyone else, and that we have an obligation to live respectfully in regards to our planet, each other and the rest of humanity."



Eugene "Bucky" Bloom

"My roots are in a small Mississippi community of five Jewish families and my identity of "being Jewish" is strongly influenced by this experience. Being Jewish" (secular or religious) is an identification of who you are and from whence you came. It is an identification of belonging and a pride. A belonging to 5,000 plus years of human history and achievement and a pride in a history that has given humanity rules to live by, fostered two of the worlds great religions and as a group have disproportionately contributed to the betterment of all mankind. Best stated by Albert Einstein (who rejected the personal G-D concept of Judaism, but identified as a Jew) "The pursuit of knowledge for it's own sake, an almost fanatical love of justice, and the desire for personal independence - these are the features of Jewish tradition which makes me thank my stars that I belong to it".



Paul Feldman

"Be aware of what you might wish for. My Grandparents wished for assimilation and they accomplished their goal. This was at a cost. My first cousins all married non-Jewish spouses and established non-Jewish homes. Success is measured in sundry ways. Happiness is a good measure of success, but so is having four Jewish Grandparents."

A Refusal to Remain Silent

By Matthew Holt

The following article was written by Matthew Holt, a graduating senior at Cook County High School in Lenox, Georgia. It placed third in the Holocaust Remembrance Project, a national essay contest for high school students designed to encourage and promote the study of the Holocaust. Lenox is a tiny town situated along I-75 between Adel, Leon Aronson's hometown, and Tifton, Paul Kulbersh's hometown. Leon's older brother, came across the essay in a recent issue of The Adel News Tribune, to which he still subscribes. He sent it to Leon, who submitted it to the Savannah Jewish News. We are proud, with Matthew's permission, to publish it here, to demonstrate that even in rural Georgia, young people are learning the lessons of intolerance.

The Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation recognizes the moral imperative of teaching young people about this watershed event, and through the Holocaust Remembrance Project has provided Holocaust teaching materials and winners receive scholarships and prizes.

"It is not possible to sink lower than this; no human condition is more miserable than this, nor could it conceivably be so" (Levi, 1996). The Holocaust, the great abominable stain on the tapestry of humanity woven millennia after millennia, chronicling the ideas, attitudes, and actions of mankind since its existence. This travesty, though confined to the continent of Europe, produced repercussions that were felt world-wide, repercussions that traveled at the same pace as time itself to be felt anew, here in the present. However, almost three-quarters of a century has elapsed since this horrific event, and time tends to diminish the significance of such happenings that some would suggest new generations would do better to forget.

This attitude is an unacceptable neglect of the Holocaust and refutation of the underlying Nazi rationale that there exists a "sub-human" race, that utilitarianism is a viable method of determining who deserves to live and who should die, and that human life has no intrinsic value. Therefore, the memory of the Holocaust cannot be permitted to die along with the final remaining concentration camp survivor who exhales his or her last breath of air. Moreover, it must be reiterated for the sake of those combating present acts of discrimination, as well as for the sake and protection of future generations who may experience prejudice and injustice as a result of the above-said rationale that continues to plague the Earth to this day.

The Holocaust should be remembered for more reasons than the sheer number of corpses burned, disabled persons shot, or identical twins dissected, though the amount should make anyone tremble. In reality, the Nazis took far more from the victims than their physical bodies; their bodies were, in fact, the last possessions they had before death. In recounting his experience upon arriving at Auschwitz, V. Frankl states, "We really had nothing now except our bare bodies—even minus hair; all we possessed, literally, was our naked existence" (Frankl, 1984).

The Nazis managed to sever all ties their victims had with their former lives, affectively dehumanizing them to the point where several would succumb to a "grim sense of humor" and convince themselves that they "had nothing to lose except [their] so ridiculously naked lives" (Frankl, 1984). In a way, such actions perpetrated by the Nazis murdered the victims before they ever stepped into the pseudo-shower rooms by robbing them of their souls —souls with ties to even the most menial objects confiscated by the guards. Therefore, when a certain sect of society or even a government deems it appropriate to take items away from another sect of society, action needs to be taken before the malefactors stealth the sect's humanness as well.

Although the Holocaust had a definite end, the discrimination and prejudice that sparked it has once again ignited a conflagration in certain parts of the world today. Specifically, in Europe, the fire of anti-Semitism, fueled by the accelerants of prejudice, hate, and ignorance, is re-emerging as the preeminent racism in society. A report written during the last decade portrays a glimpse of Europe's madness: "Jewish homes, schools, and synagogues are firebombed. Windows are smashed. Scores of Jewish cemeteries are desecrated with anti-Jewish slogans and threats and Nazi symbols on walls and monuments" (Zuckerman, 2002). It is nothing short of unfathomable that a continent once cursed with the most evil of all national governments, Nazi Germany, continues to have societies than still cling to the basic tenet of Nazi ideology, that Jewish people do not deserve to live as equal members of society or have the right to live alongside non-Jewish Europeans, for that matter. What can be done to quell the current persecution of the Jews? Years ago, Edmund Burk effectively stated, "All it takes for evil to flourish is for goodman [and women] to remain

silent" (Zuckerman, 2002). The corollary to this is that evil cannot withstand theories of good, conscientious people who refuse to be indifferent to the malevolence surrounding them. I today vow to be one of those people.

Having grown up in the Deep South during the late 20th and early 21st centuries, I am no stranger to racism and prejudice. Lines separating the races are still drawn here in ways that many Americans assume to have disappeared. Yes, the physical lines vanished along with the history of our nation predating the Civil Rights Movement; however, the more sinister invisible line remains, sustained by a pernicious yet mutually condoned avoidance of those with any significant discernable difference. As an adolescent in this environment, I feel that it is very important for my generation to be educated about our differences and the fact that our collective differences only serve to make us stronger as a nation by giving us a myriad of perspectives on every issue that arises.

The Holocaust enveloped Europe in shadow. Most victims did not survive to see the destruction of the concentration camps, and those who did survive found themselves imprisoned in an eternal darkness. As Elie Wiesel recalls, "Never shall I forget that night, the first night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night...Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live" (Wiesel, 1960). The wounds of the Holocaust have left the survivors and the whole human race scarred, and no effort of history revisionists can take that away. Those who deny the Holocaust can neither erase the ruins of Auschwitz-Birkenau from the landscape of Europe nor rid the world of the video footage of Dr. Mengele's infamous human experiments. No, as time continues to fade the memories of such tragedies, it is imperative that the Holocaust be remembered, for a history forgotten is doomed to be repeated. All the seeds of prejudice needs is the soaking rain of human apathy with regard to searing hatred. Therefore, I lift my voice against prejudice-- all prejudice that I see in my tiny sphere of influence and the world abroad, exhorting my peers to do the same.



Matthew Holt

Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob at 150

By Nancie Meddin Clark

Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob (BBJ), Savannah's Orthodox synagogue, turns 150 years old this year. With more than 400 families, it is Savannah's largest synagogue.

Rabbi Avigdor Slatos has led the congregation since 1981. In addition to three daily services when minyans are always present and special holiday services, BBJ offers an active Kollel with classes for men and women, Chevra Kadisha and **Bnos Chesed Shel Emes (burial societies)**, Sisterhood and Brotherhood, NCSY and youth activities, and an afternoon Hebrew Community School. It also provides strong support for Rambam Day School and is supportive of Buckingham South, the assisted living facility next to the synagogue.

Rochel Slatos, Rebbetzin of the congregation and founder of Buckingham South, offers weekly classes for teens and is a resident lecturer for the Binna program, a woman's study group sponsored by Torah Umesorah, national society of Torah day schools.

A number of rabbis provide services to the synagogue and the community, Kollel, Hebrew Community School and youth activities: Savannah native, Ephriam Rabhan, Rabbi Yerucham Schochet, Rabbi Eli Lob, Rabbi Adam Singer, Rabbi Reuben Bauman, Rabbi Jonathan Maccabee and Rabbi Avi Nitekman,

When Rabbi Jacob Rosenfeld organized BBJ in 1861 there was no Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, or Reconstructionist split in Judaism. Synagogues in the US were just simply Jewish. There were, however, some differences between Sephardic and Ashkenazic practices. The congregants who began the BBJ were accustomed to the Ashkenazic ways of the shetels and cities of Central and Eastern Europe. Savannah's only other synagogue at that time had been founded by a predominantly Sephardic congregation. So the BBJ began its own services in the Armory Hall building around the time of the beginning of the Civil war,

Just 5 years later in 1866, when the congregation increased in size, they erected a frame building on the NE

corner of State and Montgomery Streets with Phillip Freedman serving as its first Shamus. The tide of immigrants continued to increase in Savannah, as elsewhere in the US, reaching even larger numbers at the beginning of the 20th century. So in 1909 an architecturally significant onion domed building was erected on the same site to accommodate the increased size of the congregation. It's still there today but now serves as the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) Student Center.

The current building was dedicated in 1962. In addition to the main sanctuary, the BBJ has a separate chapel, a spacious social hall and offices, an educational building, a library and a mikvah.

The main sanctuary at the BBJ boasts a magnificent mural designed by Rabbi Abraham I. Rosenberg. Painted over wood panels that look like the gigantic granite blocks of the Western Wall,



each block is covered with symbolism. The Jewish calendar year is depicted on the inner murals and Jewish history on the outer ones. The "granite" blocks in the mural were meant to represent continuous and living faith with the hope for redemption and salvation. Rabbi Abraham I. Rosenberg, OBM, led the congregation for 46 years. His name also graces the synagogue's educational building.

Congregation BBJ is a member synagogue of the Orthodox Union and serves with dedication and commitment. Per its motto, it seeks to provide a place to "Let Every Jew in Name be a Jew in Practice."

It's A Funny Thing

By Melinda Stein

This month, some random humor to provide comic relief in the midst of the heat.

True story:

A friend of mine was lunching with her mom who resides in an assisted living facility on the Southside. The elderly lady complained about the unfriendliness of the place.

"Look over there – do you see that woman sitting alone? She's new here and nobody goes over to welcome or talk to her. Shameful!"

The daughter replied, "Mom, why don't you go over and introduce yourself?"

Mom looked appalled. "Me? I should talk go talk to a stranger??"

Seen in the University of Georgia student newspaper:

Sweet, older Jewish lady wishes to correspond with GA undergraduate.

Prefers six-foot male with nice brown eyes. Should answer to initials: J.D.B.

Signed, His Mother.

Did you hear about the thieves that broke into a synagogue office? They got away with over seven thousand dollars in pledges.

A minister, a priest and a rabbi were discussing the problem of rodent control.

"In the cathedral, we've set out traps but we still have a problem with mice," said the priest.

"Our church put poison in various places but it hasn't helped either," said the minister.

"Well, we have solved the problem in the synagogue," aid the rabbi.

"How?" demanded the other two.

"I had the custodian gather all of the rodents into our sanctuary. Then I performed a little ceremony by waving my hands and pronouncing that each was now officially a Bar Mitzvah. We haven't seen a single one in the synagogue since!"

A Rabbi said to a precocious six year old, "So, you told me that your mother says prayers for you each night. What does she actually say?"

The child replied, "Thank G-d he's in bed!"



Melinda Stein



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Congregation Mickve Israel Welcomes Interim Rabbi

By Jane Kahn

Rabbi Darryl P. Crystal stifles a grin as he calls himself the U-Haul rabbi. But that is exactly what he is and what he did as he packed up his books and belongings and moved to Savannah.

Rabbi Crystal, most recently of Cherry Hill, NJ, has been named Interim Rabbi at Congregation Mickve Israel, for a term, by definition, of one year. He will serve while the congregation, the third oldest synagogue in the United States, searches for a permanent spiritual leader and celebrates the 278th anniversary of the arrival of Jewish settlers in Georgia on July 11, 1733.

Rabbi Crystal assumed the post July 1. He succeeds Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer.

"Interim rabbi" is a new field in Reform Judaism. Eight pulpits in as many years have earned Rabbi Crystal the unofficial title of "dean". He is trained to find the best fit for the needs of a particular congregation.

By working with the leadership of Mickve Israel and the overall membership, Rabbi Crystal hopes to identify the qualities Mickve Israel is looking for in its next permanent rabbi. He will review current programs, plan new ones, help prepare materials for a successful transition and guide the staff. Rabbi Crystal will serve as liaison between the

Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Savannah congregation.

But, Rabbi Crystal says, his number one priority in Savannah is pastoral—tending to the needs of the congregants (visiting the sick, the homebound, performing life cycle events—"the way a congregation cares for the family").

His second priority is worship services. In discussing Contemporary and Classical Reform Judaism, he believes "there is value in our classical heritage. We are part of an era that embraces the connection with the entire Jewish world."

Rabbi Crystal hopes to revive the Temple Youth Group—he has extensive involvement with Reform camps and youth programs. He envisions regular events involving children of the congregation. (To this mission, he brings his talent of balloon sculpture and his training at the world renowned Disney Institute.)

In his brief time in Savannah, Rabbi Crystal plans to participate in the Shalom School, to visit with the children and help determine how the Temple can partner with parents. He hopes to re-establish monthly family services.

A perennial student, Rabbi Crystal thrives on an insatiable quest for learning, continuing studies in a variety of fields. He was ordained at the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of

Religion and studied at the PARDES Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. He spends two weeks each year in Israel furthering his knowledge of many facets of Judaism. He has studied with the Orthodox community, Conservative groups, the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (through study of classic texts of Jewish meditation), Chabad and Bratslav.

He has attended Hebrew College in Boston and Gratz College in Philadelphia. Additionally he has worked with Jewish Federations, Jewish Family Service agencies and has taught at Jewish community centers. As an Interim rabbi, he has been involved in interfaith studies.

Along the way, Rabbi Crystal has developed expertise in the preservation and restoration of Torah scrolls—many found hidden in the Czech Republic, rescued from the Holocaust. In a community he will determine that the Torahs are properly cared for—"anything I can do, I consider a great honor."

Born in New Haven, CT, he grew up in the suburbs of Washington. For 18 years as rabbi in Syosset, NY—six years as senior rabbi—he developed full and long-term relationships with the congregation. He learned the concept of Interim Rabbinate in Reform Judaism by training with the Protestant clergy's Interim Ministry Network.



Rabbi Darryl Crystal (pictured center) with Brian Markowitz and Toby Hollenberg

Rabbi Crystal places tremendous value on *Klal Yisrael*, in the totality of the Jewish people and he has adopted Judaism's great teachers as his own mentors. "I love great thinkers and ideas, great traditions and what they stand for," he says.

Eight moves in eight years? "I view the community as an international community," he explains. "It's fascinating work (in) fascinating places". And he ends up staying in touch.

"I look forward to working with everybody in the Savannah Jewish community."

Errors and Omissions

Benjamin Adler was regretfully left off of the list of graduating high school seniors in our June issue.



Benjamin Adler
Savannah Country
Day School

The son of Susan and John Adler, Benjamin lettered in Tennis for four years and Football for three years; participated in Students Against Substance Abuse and Student Support for Darfur; played in the Jazz Ensemble his Freshman and Sophomore years; was on Mock Trial his Junior and Senior years as an attorney and both years went to state; was a Junior and Senior Mentor and sat on the Discipline Committee. He was inducted into the National Honor Society his Sophomore year; Benjamin was the founder of the *Skidaway Getaway*, which organized a military appreciation day coordinated through the club at the Landings where approximately 20 families came to use the facilities and were given a catered launch, raising over \$2,000 in funds through solicitations to members. He

volunteered with the March of Dimes, The Susan G. Komen Savannah Race for the Cure, Razors for Raul as the lead coordinator and fundraiser, and Teens Hope where over 50 people shaved their heads or donated hair to Locks for Love. Ben introduced Georgia State Supreme Court Justice Robert Benham at the annual EOA luncheon as a member of the Savannah Youth Commission; and worked with underprivileged children by helping them with reading, writing, and development.

He was a member of BBYO David Finn #206 chapter of the Dixie Council; his sophomore year was Shaliach, junior year Membership Vice President and Regional Board Treasurer; and senior year was chapter and council Treasurer and Head of Fundraising. Ben attended the AIPAC High School Summit in Washington, DC where he lobbied members of Congress about support for Israel.

In the fall, Benjamin will attend the University of Michigan where he was accepted into their Honors program. He attended Shalom School, became a Bar Mitzvah and a Confirmand at Congregation Mickve Israel.



This year's Woman of Valor Lifetime Achievement was awarded to Eileen Lobel (pictured on left) seen here with the plaque and her children Meri and Walter Campbell at the Congregation Mickve Israel Sisterhood event.



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Helen Pearson
David & Kathi Pelliccione
Torey Pendleton
LeRoy Pennington &
Dovie Freeman
Wesley Peper
Douglas Percival
Silver Perillo
Florence Perling
Gershon Peru
F.C. & Carmela Pettigrew
Dianna Phillips
Boris Pichkhadze
Martha Pike
Jonah & Amy Pine
John & Kathy Pinkerton
Chris Player
Barry Plotkin
Riette Pollack
Buddy Poole
Lynn H. Pories
Barnard & Joanne Portman
Bernard & Rosalind Portman
Jerry & Myra Portman
Eric Posman
Gary Prado
Adam & Caroline Pritzker
Martin & Joan Pritzker
Jonathan & Andra Rabb
Fred & Ester Rabhan
Martin Rabhan
Elaine Radetsky
Manjeri & Krishna Raman
Marvin & Norma Rappaport
Alex & Michele Raskin
Allan & Arlene Ratner
Deborah Ray
Tony & Karen Reardon
Harold & Esther Reed
Lois Reed
Martin Reed
Ronald Reed
David & Lynn Reeves
Joshua & Amanda Reeves
Mariaki Resto
Bonnie Retsas
Dean & Kimberly Reuther
Jason & Jennifer Rich
Robert & Joanna Rich
Kenneth Richards & Beth Vantosh
Robert Richardson
Jim & Joshua Richey
Ceceile Richman
Eric Richman
Steven Richman
Patra Rickman
Stephen & Jeanine Roach
Ron & Samra Robbins
George & Lori Roberts
Brian & Anne Robin
Gail Robinson
Paul & Lori Robinson
Thelma Rosen
Brenda & Stanley Rosenberg
Jane Rosenblum
Norton & Linda Rosensweig
Matt & Tricia Rosenthal
Sanford & Nancy Rosenthal
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Bobby & Amy Rotker
Joel & Debra Rotkow
Deganit Ruben
David & Rene' Rubnitz
Jeffrey & Laurie Rubnitz

Ira & Sue Ruby
Frances Rudikoff
Stuart Rudikoff
Malzone Russell
Stephen & Linda Sacks
Kenneth & Jodi Sadler
Ruth Sadler
Richard & Nadine Salmon
Patrick & Brenda Salter
Anchel & Sandra Samuels
Scott & Ashley Samuels
Bill & Sharon Sand
Herb & Sally Sanders
Daniel & Helese Sandler
Morgan Santander
Mary Santiago
Richard & Paula Saunders
Alex Scarborough &
Christen Denicholas
Denise Scardino
Philip Scharf
Anne Scheer
Barry & Stacey Schlafstein
Leslie Schlaud
Anita Scholssberg
Yeruchan & Yedidah Schochet
Joseph Schwartzburt
Daniel Searles-O'Connell &
Malcolm O'Connell
Marilyn Seeman
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Nathan & Miriam Siegel
David & Andrea Silverman
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Frank & Susan Slotin
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Vivian Slotin
Dan & Joan Smith
Kayton & Lucile Smith, Jr.
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Thomas Stanley
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Ruth Stein
Marilyn Steinberg
Janice Steirn
Katie Stocks
Bradley & Jill Strauss
Michael Strear
Margaret Stringer
Elton & Ruth Stuenckel

Anthony & Melanie Sussman
Brad Swope
Heather Szatmary
Ron & Tracy Talley
Ange Tambon
Alan & Barbara Tanenbaum
Jim & Debby Taylor
Stephen & Kimberly Templeton
Arnold & Lorlee Tenenbaum
Sheldon & Zelda Tenenbaum
Stephany Tenney
Dimitri Teresh & Iana Sonts
Jeffrey Thomas
Chris & Dana Thompson
Richard Thompson
Tim Thompson
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Amos & Susan Timna
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Matthew Toler
Dale & Birdie Tomhave
Matthew & Debra Tratt
Stephen & Elizabeth Traub
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Tom Turcotte
Gilbert Turgeon & Kristen Munn
Harriet Ullman
Pamela Usher
Kevin & Amy Vasquez
Matt & Julie Vaughn
Henrietta Victor
Herbert & Teresa Victor
Jules Victor & James McIntire
Laura Walker
Jeremy Webb & Emily Runge
James & Cynthia Weeks
Rhoda Weiland
Allen & Sharon Weiss
Eric & Laura Weiss
Stanley & Sheila Weiss
Julian & Jean Weitz
Wayne & Linda Welch
Nancy Welcher
Leslie Westmoreland
Bart & Lisa Wetherington
Chris Whelan
Leonard & Daryl Sue White
Tony White
Ida Wilensky
Franklin Williams
Ryan Williams
Brandy Williamson
Robert Willingham
Les & Amina Winberg
Jane Winter
Jack E. & Phyllis M. Wolf
Al-lyn Woolford
Aline Worn
Joshua & Whitney Yates
James Yeckley
Arlene Yellin
Harold & Peggy Yellin
Sylvia Yellin
William & Jeanne Yost
Arnold & Ruth Young
Tithia Young
Larry & Sheree Zaslavsky
Solomon & Stephanie Zerden
Michael & Linda Zoller
Carol Zung



12 Steps to Help Decrease Stress



Stephanie Johnson,
HPER Director

Can stress hurt your heart? The evidence is piling up that the answer is -- yes, stress is bad for your ticker.

"There are studies to show that stress is comparable to other risk factors that we traditionally think of as major, like hypertension, poor diet, and lack of exercise," says

Kathi Heffner, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry at the Rochester Center for Mind-Body Research at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.

Here are the first 5 of the 12 steps you can take to fight stress and protect your heart.

Focus on Relaxation

Stress-reduction techniques and exercises such as yoga, meditation, and tai chi have been shown to lower stress hormones and bolster immune function, says Heffner.

In one study, people who practiced yoga regularly experienced a decrease in some of their body's inflammatory responses. Inflammation is emerging as a key culprit in heart disease, among many other chronic conditions.

Spend Time with Family

Spending too much time on your own can affect not only your mental health but your heart health as well. This holds true whether or not you've been actually diagnosed with heart disease.

According to one study, women in particular were more prone to angina, a heart-disease-related chest pain, and other problems if they had little social support when they were recovering from a heart attack.

Forget Perfect

We all know that the type A personality -- the one constantly striving for perfection--seems more prone to heart disease. But what it really boils down to, says Heffner, is hostility. "Hostility has been shown to be the key ingredient in what used to be termed the type A personality," she says. "Hostility is behavior that's fueled by anger toward other people." Research suggests that hostility may be a better predictor of heart disease than things like high blood pressure and being overweight. So play nice and think nice thoughts about the future, as optimism has also been shown to protect the heart.

Don't Hold Grudges

Nursing a grudge isn't going to help in the heart-health department. Research suggests that people experience more psychological stress and higher heart rates when they hold grudges than when they grant forgiveness. So be quick to forgive. This is also likely to lead to better social relationships, another boost for the heart.

Lighten Up

Laughter can burn up to 20 percent more calories than keeping that poker face, according to a 2005 study, which monitored adults while they watched funny and not-so-funny film clips.

Fewer calories, as we all know, mean a better chance of staying slim, which is one of the best ways to protect your heart for the long-term. Mirth also increased heart rate and, in a 2010 study in the *American Journal of Cardiology*, was shown to improve vascular function. So laugh a little or, better yet, a lot. The first study found that the more you laugh, the more calories you use up and the harder your heart works.

Next month, we'll highlight the remaining 7 steps.

JEA Donations cont.

(5/13/11-6/24/11)

JEA MEZUZAH WALL TILE

In memory of Lewis Kooden

Dr. Jack Eades/Southern Allergy & Asthma

Erwin A. Friedman

Aaron & Dayle Levy

Bernard & Rosalind Portman

Allan & Arlene Ratner

Stephen & Marilyn Schneider

Harvey Weitz

Harold & Peggy Yellin

In memory of Isadore Karpf

His family

In memory of Sylvan Byck

His friends



Upcoming Events

- **July 23rd**—2nd Annual YJS Pool Party—Jeff & Stacy Lasky's house— 6:30 pm
- **Aug. 6th**—Brotherhood UFC Fight Night—8 pm
- **Aug. 14th**—Great Gala Cupcakes to Cocktails—6 pm
- **Aug. 28th**—End of Summer Family Pool Party @ the JEA—2 pm

JEA SUMMER CAMP 2011

Some Great Weeks Remain!

K'toni / Yeladim Campers

Week #6 - July 18th-22nd
Knights and Princesses

Week #7 - July 25th-29th
Glee Week

Week #8 - Aug. 1st-5th
Soccer/Gymnastics

Week #9 - Aug. 8th-12th
Color War

Chaverim / L.I.T. Campers

Week #6 - July 18th-22nd
Camp Invention (Spark)

Week #7 - July 25th-29th
Glee Week

Week #8 - Aug. 1st-5th
Lacrosse/Gymnastics

Week #9 - Aug. 8th-12th
Color War

REGISTER NOW!

Discounts for:

JEA Members

Multiple Children

Please see www.savj.org to download registration forms

Post Camp
August 15th-19th

Need that extra week of fun before school starts? Stay for an extra week of fun and games. Available for all age groups.

Rambam's Prayer for Physicians

In this new column, a local healthcare professional will share their connection between Judaism and their profession. If you would like to write a column for an upcoming issue, please contact Benjamin Bloom by email, programming@savj.org or by phone, 912-355-8111.

By Linda Sacks, M.D.

Moses ben Maimon, born in Cordova in 1135 was a respected Jewish scholar, theologian and philosopher and a physician. He took up the practice of medicine only out of financial necessity, and eventually became court physician to Sultan Saladin in Cairo.

His Prayer for the Physician recognizes God as the ultimate healer, but, also the part played by the physician in the *"harmonious preservation in all its beauty of the body, which is the envelope of the immortal soul."*

As a neonatologist, my job is to oversee the healing care of critically ill and premature babies. I practice "hands on" care on a daily basis. In my daily rounds, Maimonides' prayer resounds in my head. My contemplation of his wise and spiritual words enable me to be a better doctor.

Rambam's prayer begins with the words "Exalted G-d, before I begin the holy work of healing the creations of your hands..." To me, neonatology is not just a job, a career, a paycheck, or a road to respect. The orders that I write, the words I use to break bad news to hopeful families, and how I deal with stressed staff is part of Tikkun Olam for me as a Jew.

Viewing medicine as holy work makes it infinitely easier to deal with difficult and demanding patients. When I'm called to talk to an irate parent at midnight, I try to remember that my discussion with them is not an undue burden on my time, it is Tikkun Olam.

"I place my entreaty before the throne of your glory that you grant strength of spirit and fortitude to faithfully execute my work." As a physician, Rambam acknowledged an authority and a force outside of himself. Knowledge alone is not enough. I need a constant infusion of spiritual strength to deal with severe illness. Without this spiritual renewal, physicians head rapidly towards burn-out. It is not easy to see the things doctors in intensive care routinely see and in Maimonides' time, it was even

worse.

"Deem me worthy of seeing in the sufferer who seeks my advice – a person- rich or poor. Friend or foe, good man or bad, of a man in distress, show me only the man." Under certain circumstances viewing all patients as equally worthy of treatment is tough, and goes against human nature. For Israeli doctors, it means treating Arabs and Palestinians; even known terrorists injured during bombings gone bad, with the same respect and skill as the Israelis injured at their hands. For local internists, it means treating the smoker with cigarette induced emphysema, or the chronic alcoholic, with the same respectful attitude as the patient who didn't contribute to his own illness. For me it means treating mothers of preemies born early as the result of cocaine addiction the same way as mothers of preemies born early through no fault of their own. It means smiling and being cordial not only to families that visit daily, but also to those who live locally but only show



Dr. Linda Sacks, M.D.

up now and then.

"If doctors wiser than me seek to help me understand, grant me the desire to learn from them, for the knowledge of healing is boundless." Perhaps the most grievous faults in medicine are not to know what you don't know, not to accept advice from physicians who do know, and not to keep one's knowledge up to date. There is virtually no limit to what can be known. Rambam tells me that I have the obligation not only to keep my knowledge current, but also to master the skill of receiving professional criticism without feeling threatened or becoming defensive.

"Illuminate for me the way, for any lapse in knowledge can bring illness and death upon your creations": A physician must constantly pray for the ability and skill to recall knowledge in a time of crisis. On the way to an emergency, my prayer is not: *Please Almighty God don't let the baby be too sick.* That is a t'fillat shav: a prayer in vain. My prayer is: Please God let me assess the situation correctly; help me recall the requisite knowledge and give me the skill to initiate the proper therapy as rapidly as possible.

Dr. Linda Sacks practices Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine in Savannah and has been practicing medicine for almost forty years.

Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

In honor of the 278th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish community of Savannah, the Savannah Jewish Archives salutes Georgia's original Jewish Settlers.

The Savannah Jewish Archives acquires and preserves materials with permanent historical value to the Savannah area Jewish community.

1. Dr. Samuel Nunez
2. Rebecca, his wife
3. Daniel, his son
4. Moses, his son
5. Zipporah, his daughter
6. Shem Noah, his servant
7. Isaac Nunes Henriques
8. Abigail Sequeira, his wife
9. Shem, their son
10. [Their other child died aboard the ship]
11. Raphael Nunes Bernal
12. Rachel, his wife
13. David Lopez D'Oliveira
14. Jacob Lopez D'Oliveira
15. Judith, his wife
16. David, their son
17. Isaac, their son
18. Leah, their daughter
19. Aaron De Pivia [De Paiba]
20. Benjamin Gideon Abudiente
21. Jacob Lopez De Crasto
22. David Lopez De Pass
23. Zipporah, his wife
24. Isaac Da Costa Villareal
25. Abraham De Molina
26. Isaac Rodrigues de Miranda
27. Jacob Rodrigues de Miranda
28. David Cohen Delmonte
29. Rachel, his wife
30. Isaac, their son
31. Abigail, their daughter
32. Hannah, their daughter
33. Grace, their daughter
34. Abraham Minis
35. Abigail, his wife
36. Leah, their daughter
37. Esther, their daughter
38. Simon Minis, his brother
39. David Yowel [Joel?]
40. Benjamin Sheftall
41. Perla, his wife
42. Abraham De Lyon

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



בס"ד

Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob

Morning, Afternoon, and Evening Services Daily

365 Days A Year for Over 150 years

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CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah GA 31405 / 912-352-4737

AgudathA@aol.com / Agudath-Achim.com

Congregation Agudath Achim is the conservative congregation of Savannah GA. At Agudath Achim we come "to praise, to labor and to love". Every day is an opportunity for learning, *davening* and *hesed*.

At the AA, we believe that our best fundraising is family raising and that Judaism of the heart can also be Judaism of the mind. We try to intensify our Jewish involvement every day and we accept upon ourselves Jewish Law while living in the 21st century. AA is not only a shul its a *mishpacha*.

JOIN US FOR SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm, Tuesday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm

Saturday 9:30 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon

See you in Shul

Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Amanda Reeves

Associate Broker, Hostetter Schneider Realty Partners and
Matthew Allan

Associate Broker of Keller Williams Realty Savannah

1. I hear that ya'll have made a unique plan to contribute to the Savannah Jewish community; as much as you are comfortably able, can you please share what that is?

It's very simple. For clients that are members of the JEA, or for clients who have been referred to us by JEA members, we are donating 10% of our individual commission earned to the JEA. So if we help you and earn a commission, the JEA will get a cut of it.

2. Kol Ha'Kavod, Way to go that's a very cool and generous plan; how did this plan come about?

We've both established ourselves in the Savannah real estate scene, and we're active in the JEA and Jewish community. We thought this was a creative way to create a win-win scenario to work with members of the Jewish community and to then give to give back to the community via the JEA. Just about everyone would agree that the JEA is a pretty neutral way to

support the Jewish community, and while the JEA has come a long way since its struggles about a year ago - but it still needs our support!

3. You both are very active in your professional associations and the greater Savannah community; why have you made your Savannah Jewish community a priority with all the rest that is going on in your lives?

Amanda: My husband Joshua and I deeply believe in the mission of the Savannah Jewish Federation and the JEA and want to do what we can to help sustain these entities and help them thrive. It also comes down to numbers - being a part of a vibrant, but small, community means that my actions count - and are needed. If I want to see improvements in our community - I need to make the effort and not let someone else do the work for me.

Matthew: I think Amanda pretty much summed it up for my wife, Michelle, and I. Everyone has a role to play, and



we're trying to do our part.

4. It's very inspiring to our community to learn about people in the "next generation" of leadership contributing in this way. Is there anything you would like to share with other young Jewish community members that might help them choose to make their Jewish community a larger priority in their lives?

Amanda: There are many wonderful causes that demand our attention, time, and money. Think about the reasons you moved to Savannah -- many of you moved here because when visited the city you saw the "pink building on Abercorn" that stood proud and alerted you that there is a strong Jew-

ish presence in the city. Although for whatever reason, you may not feel the need to be a member of the JEA or donate to Federation, I encourage you to look a little deeper and think about what it is you are actually sustaining - which is the foundation of the Jewish community.

Matthew: I don't think it's a question of sharing with younger members of the community, or older members. We all stand to benefit from a strong community and a strong JEA. You don't necessarily need to tithe to the JEA or leave a life estate to help the community. After serving on the allocations committee for the Jewish Federation, it became immediately obvious that we don't need major donors bailing out the community at each crisis point. We simply need a greater percentage of the community to make relatively small contributions. That's all it takes to make the community thrive.

**THINK GREEN
WHEN YOU CLEAN**
savannah's green dry cleaners
**david's
DRY CLEANERS**

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4519 Habersham St
912.352.1155

SOUTHSIDE
609 East Montgomery Xrd
912.925.7301

PICKUP & DELIVERY
912.631.8808



Image by Attic Fire Photography

Join Us At Mickve Israel

Mickve Israel extends to you an open invitation!

To Worship: In addition to special children services and holiday events, we have Shabbat services on Friday evenings at 6:00 pm. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, our Friday evening services will be held at 6:30 pm. Instead of being held in our historic sanctuary, these Exotic Resort Location services will be hosted at member homes around the community. Our Saturday morning services are at 11:00 am and are followed by a Kiddush lunch.

To Tour Our Historic Sanctuary and Museum: We offer docent-led tours Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and again from 2:00 to 4:00 pm with the last tour starting approximately 30 minutes before the end of the session. The suggested donation for a tour is \$5 per person.

To Shop: Our Judaica Shop is stocked with a variety of items for children and adults. If we don't have what you are looking for, we can order it for you! The shop is open during tour times and other times upon request.

To Eat: The Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival will be held in Forsyth Park on Sunday, October 30, 2011, from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm.

For more information on the third oldest Jewish congregation in America founded in 1733, which is right in your community, contact Mickve Israel at 912.233.1547 or visit www.mickveisrael.org.

Out-Going President Reflects on Shalom School

By Leslie Westmoreland

As if the rising temperature was not enough, the sudden burst of children playing everywhere definitely signals the start of summer. Vacation has arrived for all students in Savannah, including those at Shalom School. It has been a wonderful year and, as outgoing board president, it is my pleasure to highlight a few of Shalom School's accomplishments.

With nearly 80 students attending the school, ranging from pre-kindergarten to ninth grade, classes had to be geared to their individual ability levels and interests. To assure this level of attention, Shalom School had fourteen teachers working with our students, most of them professional educators. All of them worked hard to share their love of Judaism with our children and to create an exciting classroom experience.

The program for seventh through ninth grades expanded to meet twice monthly and we are very proud of the 16 students who stayed actively involved in Shalom School after their B'nai Mitzvot. Eighth and ninth grade students had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. where they celebrated Shabbat at George Washington University's Hillel and toured the Holocaust Memorial Museum. These activities were very meaningful to the students after they had spent much class time focusing on that period of history.

Students of all ages became very involved in Shabbat services this year. During special Shalom School Shabbats, they helped to lead services both

at Congregation Agudath Achim and Congregation Mickve Israel. Everyone enjoyed the excitement our students brought to the services and the children loved taking part with their friends. Students also volunteered to participate in mini services at the beginning of each session of Shalom School.

Jewish learning and experiences came in many forms for our children this year. Students took part in music, art and dance in addition to their grade-level classes. Making Shabbat tables out of clay, dancing for the seniors at Buckingham Place and putting on a concert of Debbie Friedman songs were just a few of the ways students learned to express their Jewish culture. They also took part in a school-wide quiz bowl, put on a Passover play, and packed bags for Backpack Buddies.

As you can see, it has been a very busy year. This is in part because of our new principal, Eva Locker, who hit the ground running. She was able to build on the wonderful programs started by Jules Kerness, our past principal, as well as creating some of her own. It has been a pleasure to work with her, our dedicated Board, wonderful staff and great students and families. With a bit of sadness, I say goodbye to my time as Shalom School president, but I know the school will continue prospering and providing a spectacular Jewish education to our children.



Leslie Westmoreland

Vital Statistics



Brian Scott Friedenberg and Heather Jan Feldman

Mazel Tov— Barbara and Ricky Friedenberg are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Brian Scott Friedenberg, to Heather Jan Feldman, daughter of Ruth and Gary Feldman of Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The bride-elect is the granddaughter of the late Dr. Herbert Cahan and the late Mrs. Barbara Cahan of Margate, New Jersey and Mr. Leonard Feldman and the late Mrs. Thelma Feldman of Trevoise, Pennsylvania. Heather graduated from Towson University in Towson, Maryland in January 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. The bride-elect is currently employed as a math teacher with Franklin Middle School in Baltimore, Maryland. The groom-elect is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Friedenberg of Savannah, Georgia and Mrs. Elaine Dreizin of Macon, Georgia

and the late Mr. Ike Dreizin of Macon, Georgia. Brian graduated from the University of Georgia in May 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Consumer Economics. He received his Masters in Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina in May 2008. Brian is currently employed as a Client Services Manager with Bayada Nurses in Charlotte, North Carolina. A summer 2012 wedding is planned. **Mazel Tov**— Maxine & Don Patterson on the birth of their grandson, Micah Leo Steinberg, on June 17, 2011. He weighed 7 lbs, and was 20 inches long. Micah is the son of Laura Patterson and Joel Steinberg of Chicago, Il., and the grandson of Judi and Neil Steinberg of Northbrook, Il.



One Gift to Jewish Family Services, A Lifetime of Support for the Savannah Jewish Community

A community supporter who chooses to remain anonymous has established

The Tikvah Fund

in support of the Savannah Jewish Federation's Jewish Family Services efforts.

Tikvah, meaning Hope, will provide funding in perpetuity for the social service needs of the community including rent/mortgage assistance, Kosher meals, case management, prescription medicines, clothing and other daily necessities for those who are unable to attend to themselves in times of need.

The Challenge

The fund's creators have generously issued a challenge to the community to participate in the creation of the Tikvah Fund. For every dollar donated to the fund by members of the community (up to a total of \$20,000), the fund's creators will match the donations dollar for dollar!

Good-Bye Friend Thursday, July 28th— 5pm



- Worked with hundreds of children and adults
- Spent innumerable hours helping & doing for the Savannah Jewish community
- Educated all who were willing and interested in learning
- Represented his home, Israel

And always with a smile!

We'll be saying Shalom, Gershon

Dinner at the JEA

\$5 per person, \$25 per family

Gifts of Life Insurance

Endowments through gifts of life insurance are among the most innovative planned giving vehicles and suit the needs of many different donors. With life insurance, the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah is designated as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

Life insurance can be used to fund an unrestricted gift to our Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, assuring the growth and continuity of our Jewish community. Life insurance proceeds can be used to create a philanthropic fund upon a donor's death, allowing a donor's spouse and/or children to continue their charitable interests. Life insurance is one of the easiest and most popular ways to perpetuate one's gift to the Federation/UJA Annual Campaign. A policy taken out during one's lifetime will ensure the continuity and perpetual support of our beneficiary agencies beyond the lifetimes of our valued donors.

There are several ways to give insurance as a charitable gift and also receive tax benefits: The Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah can be designated as beneficiary and owner of a new policy. When the Foundation is the sole owner, all premium payments are deductible.



An existing policy can be transferred and the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah can be named as the owner. At the time of transfer, a current deduction equal to the net cash value of the policy can be taken. All future premium payments, when paid, would be a current tax deduction. Because life insurance premiums are based on mortality rates, gifts of life insurance are extremely affordable for younger donors, thereby giving them the opportunity to make sizable deferred gifts with very modest out-of-pocket expenses. Life insurance trusts can also be useful as asset replacement vehicles when creating Charitable Remainder Trusts.

For more information, or to establish a gift of life insurance, through the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah at the Savannah Jewish Federation, please contact the Executive Director, Adam Solender at Adam@savj.org, or call (912) 355-8111.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Harry Slotin

Who died on May 21, 2011

He is survived by his wife, Bernita Hirsch Slotin; two daughters, Liz (Joel) Brauser of Hollywood, FL and Shelley Berlin of Atlanta, GA; one son, Jonathan (Barabara Hauptman) Falk of New York; six grandchildren, Chana, Bracha and Shalom Brauser, Daniel, Adam and Eva Berlin; one brother, Leon (Nancy) Slotin; one sister, Ida Slotin Wilensky; and a large number of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob or a charity of the donor's choice.

Doris Lukin

Who died on May 25, 2011

She is survived by her children, Teri (Steven) Zahn and Mitchell (Karen) Lukin; and by her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many cousins and friends.

Remembrances: Savannah Jewish Federation, Savannah Jewish Archives or a charity of the donor's choice.

Florence Perling

Who died on June 11, 2011

She is survived by her two daughters, Vicki Perling Parker of Eatonton, GA, Robin Perling; two grandchildren, Rebecca (Travis) Brantley of Sandersville, GA, Zachary Parker of Gainesville, GA; one great grandson; one sister, Polly (George) Nager of New York; her brother-in-law, David (Peggy) Perling of Atlanta, GA and several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Odyssey Healthcare Hospice, American Heart Association or Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob.

Hymie Epstein

Who died on June 13, 2011

He is survived by one sister, Rosalyn (Bert) Campbell of Pawleys Island, SC; three brothers, Norman (Jan) Epstein, David (Kathy) Epstein, and Jay (Donna) Epstein; two uncles, Nathan (Dell) Kaplan of Plano, TX, and Albert (Sandy) Epstein; four nephews, one niece, one great-niece, and many close friends.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob or Rambam Day School

Doris Lukin, 1924 - 2011

By Linda Zoller

For the third time in four months, I am writing about the loss of a major and beloved figure in our Jewish Community. One was more than enough, two was too many, and a third is almost unspeakable.

Doris Lukin passed away on May 25th. She was a Federation president, the first female Federation president, and the fourth recipient of the Jack Malitz Levy Award, the highest honor bestowed on a member of the Savannah Jewish community. She and her husband Basil had moved to Seneca, South Carolina, to be near their children. Though I hadn't seen them in quite some time, the notice of her death so soon after Basil's saddened me and evoked some fond memories.

Doris had already served as Federation president by the time I moved to town. Still, she attended monthly board meetings and always had an astute question, particularly about the financial statements. It was only in the last five years or so that she no longer joined us.

Soon after I became a member of the Federation Board, I chaired the Social Service Committee (now Jewish Family Services). I asked Doris to serve on the committee because her vision was so clear and her dedication to helping those in need so intense. I thought she could keep me from making mistakes because she knew the community well. As a young committee chair, she kept me on my toes. Her questions were ju-

icious and her judgment was superb.

Years later, I learned that when Doris was President, the executive director left his position. No interim director was hired. She ran the Federation on a day-to-day basis until the new director was selected, never receiving any compensation. As far as she was concerned, that was part of the job. Serving in the same capacity, I realize how selfless that was; but knowing Doris, she would expect no less from anyone else in that position. I marvel at her accomplishments as a lawyer. There weren't many female attorneys in her day. How bright she must have been to have gained admission to law school. Imagine the barriers she must have confronted. My hunch is she met all challenges with what I would call her indomitable spirit.

The Levy dinner four years ago was a marvelous event. Well-wishers from every generation came to celebrate the person she was and all she gave to our community. I will always remember her the way she was that evening: beaming, attractive, appreciative, and proud, with Basil at her side. Once again, the Federation joins me in saying goodbye to a very dearly-loved community leader, Doris Lukin.



Doris Lukin

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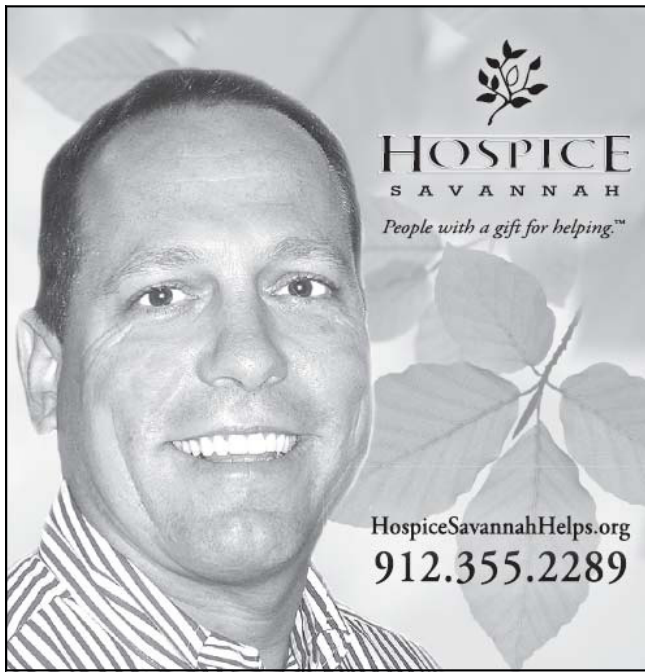
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2011 Savannah Jewish News High Holiday Greetings Form

The *Savannah Jewish News* is pleased to once again offer you the opportunity to extend High Holiday Greetings through the purchase of a personal holiday greeting.

When You Receive the Mailed Form, Reserve Your Space

Three sizes to choose from to share your holiday wishes to family, friends and the community.

Please Fill Out Mailed 2011 Savannah Jewish News High Holiday Greetings Form and return to the Savannah Jewish Federation, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31405. If you would like an additional form or have questions, please call Benjamin Bloom, 912-355-8111 or email him, programming@savj.org.

All Greetings Must Be Received by September 10, 2011

Your Campaign Dollars At Work!

Hillel at UGA— My Home Away From Home

By Jules Shelkoff

My name is Jules Shelkoff and I am from Statesboro, Georgia. I am a third year student and a Family and Consumer Sciences Education Major at the University of Georgia. Being from Statesboro, GA; growing up there I realized that the Jewish community was small. I was the only Jewish person in all of my schooling. I went to Sunday school in Savannah and had my Bat Mitzvah in Savannah as my parents wanted to help shape my Jewish identity. My parents also sent me every summer from the time I was nine until fifteen to Camp Ramah Darom. My summer camp experiences and my Sunday schooling gave me many great Jewish experiences.

Once it came time for me to choose a college, UGA was the only place for me. Not only is UGA a great school and football a religion, but also it has a huge Jewish population. Well... bigger than I was used to. Jewish campus life was a

must for me and because I never went to school with anyone Jewish and did not have any Jewish friends, except for my camp friends, I had to go to a place with people I could relate to Jewishly.

I was so surprised when I came to UGA and met so many Jewish people through Hillel. Now almost all of my friends are Jewish. Hillel really introduced me to many of my friends. I have been a part of Hillel since my first year at UGA. I have always felt very welcome at Hillel and the staff and students that attend are all great.

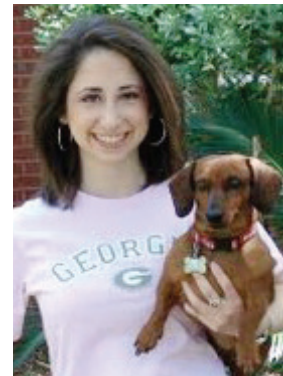
This year I decided it was time that I got more involved with Hillel. I decided to run for Director of Jewish Life in December and I got the position. With this position I plan all Shabbat meals and services and I plan the meals for other holidays as well as events on Jewish holidays. We have Shabbat dinner and services every Friday during the school year. I come up with all different themes for Shabbat dinners. Some theme nights that we have done this

year are a Southern Shabbat, Breakfast for Dinner, Traditional Shabbat, and just recently a Wing Night. All of these dinners have been very successful. At Shabbat we usually have anywhere between thirty and fifty students. Not only do I plan all of these meals I also help cook them. On a typical Friday I am cooking at Hillel from about 2:00 until 7:00, when dinner is served. These are usually very long days but I enjoy seeing all the happy faces of the Jewish students at Hillel.

Becoming a part of Hillel has been one of the best decisions of my life. I have loved meeting new people and making new friends. Hillel is a great Jewish student organization to belong to. Hillel really lets the students run it and decide what the organization should do next. We plan all of the events ourselves, with help from the staff members too. I am so glad that we have a Jewish organization like Hillel at the University of Georgia for students to be a part of and none of it would be possible with-

out the help of parents, alumni and organizations such as the Savannah Jewish Federation. Thank you all for everything you do for Hillel at UGA.

Jules is the daughter of Morrie and Leon Shelkoff and is a past recipient of a grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation for travel to Israel. Hillel at the University of Georgia is part of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, whose mission is to enrich the lives of Jewish undergraduate and graduate students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. Hillel student leaders, professionals and lay leaders are dedicated to creating a pluralistic, welcoming and inclusive environment for Jewish college students, where they are encouraged to grow intellectually, spiritually and socially. UGA Hillel is an annual recipient of a grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation.



Jules Shelkoff

Below are notes from Coastal Middle School students written to Sherry Dolgoff after her presentation on the Holocaust.

"I can't tell you how appreciative I am to have the life I've been given. To actually understand what the Jews went through just so they could see another day hurts my heart. I know there is no way to change the past; I would if I could. I was shocked to learn that, as of that day, there were only 3 survivors left in Savannah. Thank you for visiting our school and giving eye witness stories."

-Chloe

"I learned a lot, thanks to you. One of the best parts was when you read what one of the survivors wrote. It gave an insight into what so many people went through. You can only learn so much from a textbook; it does not give you a first person view. Thank you for coming."

-Isaac

"Thank You for Teaching So We Never Forget"

"Thank you for coming to our school and talking to the eighth grade. We studied the Holocaust in our history class. We watched movies and took notes. But nothing prepared me for the actual account from the man who survived. It's hard to comprehend that anyone (Hitler) could be filled with that much hate. I promise to never forget the 6 million who died."

-Devin

"I knew the Holocaust was a terrible thing that happened, but you really filled me in on a lot of new information. We never want that kind of thing to happen again, therefore we must continue to spread the word of what happened. Thank you so much; you changed me inside."

-Darby

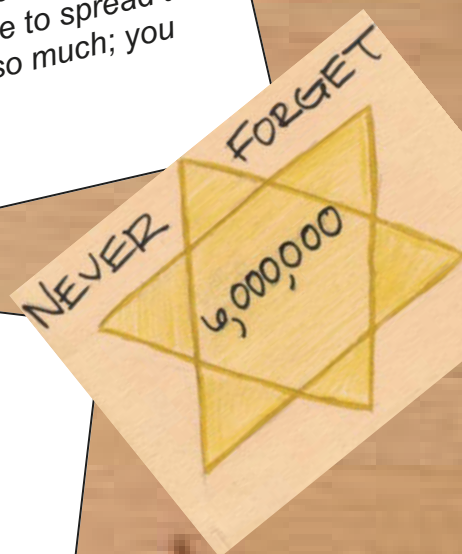
"When you read the letter by the man who died recently, it made me cry. I like that. Thank you so much for coming and telling us the truth."

-Shelby

"What you told us made a huge impact on me. I never realized how critical this event was. Being fed so few calories a day and working so hard is something I can't even imagine. I will always remember the speech you gave because it was the first time I really understood the conditions that people went through. It was also the first time someone spoke to us like adults. Thank you."

-Kelly

Thank you!





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