



Shabbat and Holiday Candle Lighting Times	
Friday, June 1st	8:08pm
Friday, June 8th	8:12pm
Friday, June 15th	8:15pm
Friday, June 22nd	8:16pm
Friday, June 29th	8:17pm

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Funding for a Jewish Future

"When the campaign has an increase, it is a very good feeling to be able to give more to our agencies," said Merry Bodziner, co-chair of the Savannah Jewish Federation's 2012 Annual Campaign and Allocations Committee. Bodziner was speaking just after the Allocations Committee completed its process of recommending to the Federation's Board of Governors how to distribute the funds raised in the 2012 Campaign, a campaign that saw an increase in pledges for the first time in a number of years and once again took the campaign to more than \$1,000,000. As a result, every beneficiary agency of the Savannah Jewish Federation received an increased grant for fiscal year 2012-2013 over the previous fiscal year. "Thank you to everyone who supported the 2012 SJF campaign. We could not have done it without you," said Bodziner.



2012 SJF Annual Campaign Co-Chairs Toby Hollenberg and Merry Bodziner

While it was important to the Allocations Committee that everyone be able to reap the benefits of the rising campaign, a clear theme and sense of commitment to "Funding a Jewish Future" came out of the three meetings the group held. Agencies and programs focused on building Jewish identity, especially those that had taken significant cuts in funding from the Savannah Jewish Federation during the economic downturn of the last several years, received renewed attention and some of the largest increases on a percentage basis. Of particular importance to the committee were the area Hillel programs, including the Federation's first grant to the new Hillel group at Armstrong Atlantic State University, and BBYO. Overall, grants in the education sector were up 7.65% over the previous year.

The Committee also was pleased to restore Birthright Israel funding to an important level. Every year, a number of young adults from the Savannah area travel to Israel on one of these "free" trips. These trips are proven to reinforce, or in some cases establish, Jewish identity in young adults 18-26 years old, but while free to the participants, they are anything but to the providers. The Allocations Committee was proud to be able to increase the Savannah Federation's contribution to the program for next year.

"I greatly appreciate the entire community who gave from their hearts to support Jewish life here and around the world," said Toby Hollenberg, Bodziner's co-chair for the 2012 Campaign and Allocations process. In addition to the increased funding for Birthright, the Committee fully funded Savannah's Shaliach program (which previously had taken some budget cuts) and increased our allocation for overseas funding to the Jewish Federations of North America, who will distribute those funds to the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Amer-



ican Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). JAFI and JDC oversee social services for our Jewish brethren in Israel and around the world. Overall, grants in the overseas sector were up 15.4% over the previous year.

Recognizing the continued importance of the Jewish Educational Alliance to the Savannah Jewish community as a central address for all to gather for community observances, cultural events and more, the Committee recommended a 4.2% increase in the JEA's grant over the previous year.

Three national organizations (Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Jewish Education Service of North America, Jewish Telegraphic Agency) received grants that did not total much in dollars, but because all were increases and one was a grant that had been cut entirely the year before and now could be restored, the total increase for that sector (as a percentage) over the previous year is almost 221%!

Actually, one agency did not take an increase over the previous year and that was the Federation itself. Despite all of the current economic challenges, the Savannah Jewish Federation budget for 2012-2013 is flat with that of the previous year. The Federation's annual budget includes funding for Jewish Family Services, the Savannah

See page 2



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Mazel tov to all of this year's graduates!

See pages 8 & 9

The first time I got back home wearing an IDF uniform my dad smiled and took at least a thousand pictures,



Tal Bratman,
Savannah Jewish
Community Shlichah

my mom made my favorite food, my sister gave me her old beret because “it’s good to have a spare one”, and my grandma gave me an encouraging hug and went to fix her makeup because she “got something in her eye”. When my little sister joined the army, I felt proud; but don’t tell her that.

I am a Zionist.

I believe in our right for the land of Israel. The people who were persecuted for no reason throughout history have a right to a state of their own. I hurt with every display of anti-Semitism from students demonstrating, calling for the destruction of the Jewish state, to the Jewish school murders in France; but I think that the State of Israel was not established so that the anti-Semites will disappear, but rather, so we can tell them to get lost; and I know that Israel will ever be there for all Jews if needed.

I am a Zionist.

I was in a shelter during the first

Gulf War. A terrorist blew himself up in a bus I used to take to school. Missiles bombed close to my home in second Lebanon war and I heard the alarms last year in Be'er Sheva; yet nonetheless, I always feel fortunate to be living in Israel, and I don't really feel good anywhere else.

I am a Zionist.

I've traveled in the world admiring its breathtaking views and beautiful historic sites yet I still believe that Tel Aviv is more entertaining, the Dead Sea is more amazing, and the Western Wall Tunnels provide for a much more powerful spiritual experience than anything I'd seen. It is true that I'm not objective, but no one is objective in respect to what's his.

I am a Zionist.

I think always of the future but I also live my past. My dynasty includes Moses, Miriam, Queen Ester, Maimonides, Sigmund Freud, Karl Marx, Albert Einstein, Bob Dylan, Herzl and Ben-Gurion. I am part of a tiny minority that influenced the world more than any other nation. While others invested their energies in war, we had the sense to invest in our minds.

I am a Zionist.

My Zionism is natural, just like it is natural for me to love my family. Many people claim that they, and only they, represent the "real Zionism" but Zionism is not measured by the size of a kippa, by where you live, or by the party you will vote for. There are many ways to support and love Israel; people in this community have many ways to show it and I thank them for that.

I am a Zionist.

I think that the State of Israel is not only a place, it is also an idea. The people who established Israel lived and worked under much worse conditions than I have faced, yet nonetheless they did not make do with mere survival. They also attempted to establish a better, wiser, more humane, and more moral state. They were willing to die for this cause, and I try to live for its sake.

**Yair Lapid is an Israeli politician, journalist, author, and former TV presenter and news anchor. His column "I am a Zionist" was first published in the newspaper Yediot Acharonot in 2009.*

Funding.....from pg 1

Jewish News, Yom HaShoah, PJ Library programs, Young Jewish Savannah, et al. The Federation felt strongly that the benefits of the first rising campaign in several years should go first to the other agencies. While continuing to see to the growing needs of the less fortunate in our community and providing programming that advances the welfare of the entire Jewish community, the Federation also will continue to hold the line on its other expenses so that it may fulfill its mission of raising, collecting and *distributing* funds.

The Allocations Committee completed their work at their final meeting on May 7, 2012. Their recommendations were presented to the Federation's Board of Governors at their regular meeting on May 9, where they were accepted without changes.

In summing up the 2012 Campaign, Toby Hollenberg added: “I would like to say a special thank you to all of those who helped with the campaign as well as our excellent Allocations Committee. I am greatly indebted to my co-chair Merry for teaching me so much about Federation and how to lead this campaign. I also want to thank Adam Solender for his support and always providing information at a moment’s notice.”

Hollenberg and Merry Bodziner will co-chair the 2013 Annual Campaign as the conclusion of a two-year commit-

ment. The Savannah Jewish Federation congratulates them and wishes them

Kol HaKavod on the completion of their very successful first year.

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Savannah Jewish News

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 SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**

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

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

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

Please send all SJN materials to:
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Please send eNews submissions to:
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Excellence for All

If you are a regular reader of my monthly column you know that over the past few months I have written about the wonderful diversity of our Jewish community (remember the “Ice Cream” article) and about the mission of Federation to provide for ALL of the Jewish people, both at home and abroad.

These two principles have been at the center of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) journey that the community has been on for the past three years. Today I want to share with you the outcome of that journey and the Federation’s vision of where that journey will lead us in the future. The lead article in the *Savannah Jewish News* last month announced to the community that the Federation and JEA had approved a motion which set out a detailed plan for a collaborative ECE program with Rambam Day School. At the time the article was printed the Rambam Board had not voted on the proposal. Throughout the process, your Federation has stated to all of the parties involved that we would support any decision either Rambam or the JEA made. The Federation recognized that both the JEA and Rambam are critically important threads in the fabric of our community but have different missions and different constituencies that they serve. Both organizations are committed to the common goal of ensuring the future of the Jewish people but have different approaches on how to achieve that goal.

Rambam dedicated two Board meetings for the consideration of the joint motion. After a spirited and thoughtful debate, the Rambam Board in the end decided that even though they desired a collaborative effort, the proposal contained several provisions that pre-

vented the Board from agreeing to the motion. As a result, Rambam will continue to provide a high quality 2 year-old through 8th grade Jewish day school education and the JEA will proceed with its plans to start a new, high quality, state-of-the-art Jewish ECE program.

As the community moves forward, the Federation will continue to be true to its mission to ALL of the Jewish people and more specifically to the JEA and to Rambam. The Federation will not favor one organization over the other because both are important to our community. There will certainly be other issues that will arise over the next few months as a result of the ECE decisions. The JEA and Rambam will have to decide on space utilization for the two ECE programs and the lease between the two organizations must be renegotiated. The Federation will continue to, as it has in the past, provide leadership on any issue that may arise. Most importantly, the Federation will continue to put the principle of Shalom Bayit at the forefront of all of the discussions. The Federation remains committed to ensuring that both the JEA and Rambam not only succeed but achieve excellence in their individual missions. There is absolutely no reason why everyone and every organization in our community cannot co-exist in a cooperative and mutually respectful manner. Remember what I have written in the past about vanilla, chocolate and swirl...it is still all ice cream.



Jeffrey Lasky.
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Meeting Community Needs in a Pluralistic Way

During my “many years” in Savannah I have often defined my Judaism (amongst many other ways) as being inherently pluralistic. Sometimes I get a smile of acknowledgment, occasionally a frown, and most often, a quizzical look. Through a “religious lens,” pluralism is an “attitude or policy regarding the diversity of religious belief systems co-existing in society.”

So what does pluralism mean to me?

Being pluralistic means being egalitarian. It means being a community where women are valued the same as men, where there is no judgment as to whether you are hetero or homosexual, where inspired, active Jewish life thrives across all Jewish practice and ideology. Where the community is inclusive and warm, meaningful and engaging, strong and growing. Where every person, regardless of how they

“It is a community structured after Abraham and Sarah who warmly welcomed everyone into their tent.”

practice their Judaism sees themselves as an equal partner. It is a community structured after Abraham and Sarah who warmly welcomed everyone into their tent. But pluralism means more than that. The Jewish people have a unique covenantal relationship with God as described in the Torah. Our obligations to each other are further illuminated in the “oral tradition.” Our tradition does not preclude a belief that God has relationship with other people. In fact, we read in Numbers 27:16 when Moses speaks to God, “Let the Lord, source of breath of all flesh...” which refers to God of all peoples. We read in the Talmud that “Righteous people of all nations have a share in the world to come.” (Sanhedrin 105a).

When reading the Mission Statement of the Savannah Jewish Federation I am reminded of how important the pluralistic concept is in our community. Federation’s Mission statement:

A. To coordinate, facilitate and make more effective the functioning of all Savannah Jewish Communal life; to encourage and support social, recreational, religious,

benevolent, philanthropic, educational and cultural activities among organizations, the individual members thereof; and

to be constituted and governed in a manner that will exemplify, foster and preserve the principles of the Jewish heritage and American democracy.

B. To raise, collect and distribute funds to local, national and overseas causes, for the purpose of advancing the welfare of the total Jewish community, either directly or through presently existing or subsequently established agencies.

C. To preserve the civil, political, economic and religious rights of all Jews wherever they may be, whenever and wherever such rights may be in jeopardy, either directly or through presently existing or subsequently established agencies.

D. To further the development of an articulate, intelligent and constructive Jewish community.

E. To promote mutual understanding with the community at large and, to that end, use means that are democratic and representative of the wishes of the Jewish community.

F. To encourage the amicable adjustment of differences between individuals and organizations by providing the appropriate machinery for conciliation and arbitration.

The Savannah Jewish Federation strives to fulfill this Mission Statement in all its programs and services. Our greatest satisfaction comes when the JEA auditorium is full of Jews of all practices — and members of other faiths, too — gathered to learn how to fight anti-Semitism; when children from all the local synagogues, and even some whose parents don’t belong yet, share a Jewish holiday observance at a PJ Library event; when we can increase grants to both Rambam Day School and Shalom School, thanks to a rising campaign; all meeting the community needs in a most pluralistic way.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

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Hadassah Wrap Up

By Carol Greenberg & Joanna Rich

Though Savannah Hadassah's official programming year came to a close on May 20th with their installation festivities held on Yom Yerushalayim at the JEA, the 2012 board left a legacy for incoming president Yelena Chernyak of a revived, highly visible and viable organization that can boast increased and varied membership, programming, service and projects in this, Hadassah's 100th year.

With the special Centennial Life Membership offer, the Savannah Chapter surpassed their membership goal adding dozens of new adult and child Life members, and male Associates. The annual fundraiser, *Hadassah Presents*, this year delighted participants with a "10 Decades of Fashion" show and luncheon organized by Sue Ruby and featuring the many past Chapter Presidents and committee members as models. This event provided the funds to support the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel and their humanitarian and research projects.

Outgoing President Joanna Rich, with a varied palette of monthly free creative programming, weekly social opportunities and creative collaborations that included the JEA, the sisterhoods, all three synagogues and both

Rambam and Shalom School, began a new era of interest in Hadassah as not only the largest women's Zionist organization, but also as a networking tool for the modern busy woman. Programs were offered once a month on different days of the week or weekends and during different times of the day in order to capture women in all stages of life and all patterns of work and volunteerism.

With various meetings scheduled every month, Hadassah members participated in activities ranging from holiday celebrations, gourmet cooking, financial seminars to service projects including their new "Green Grocer" free lunch program for PJ Library participants and community gardening. The year included outstanding speakers like Hadassah-trained Savannah physician Dr. Yaron Perry and author Maggie Anton, as well as attending regional meetings filled with training and networking opportunities for Hadassah members.

Everything Joanna tried to put Ha-



dassah in a wonderful position to prosper as well as making Hadassah programming more accessible. For example "Chat Hadassah" was a weekly drop in social event for 75 minutes every Wednesday after work at the JEA. No RSVP, no fee, just a forum for Hadassah and community ideas, program logistics and relaxing with new friends. Hadassah's Centennial Year has an enthusiastic new President Yelena Chernyak and Board including, Treasurer Cyndi Kohn, Co-VP Frances Lowery-Wilson and Madeleine Blank, Education VP Ina Altman, Secretary Nina Finkelman, JNF Chair Vivian Slotin, Cards & Certificates Chair Dayle Levy, Hospi-



Incoming Savannah Hadassah President Yelena Chernyak (center) with new Hospitality co-chairs Mayya Isayeva (left) and Emma Ioffe

tality Co-Chairs Emma Ioffe & Mayya Isayeva, Publicity Chairs Carol Greenberg & Joanna Rich, all planning another exciting Savannah Chapter year to insure the future of Israel through the good works of Hadassah and to continue thriving as a vital part of our community.

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What Jewish boy today is a boxer? It is hard to imagine, but in the early years of the 1900s up until the World War II, there were thousands of Jewish fighters. Many boxing champions identified themselves as Jews, such as: Max Baer, Jake LaMotta, Bernie Ross, Maxie Rosenbloom, Benny Leonard, and Kingfish Levinsky. During the late 1920s and early 30s, about one third of all boxers were Jewish and comprised the dominant group in the ring with many of them choosing to wear blue and white fight trucks emblazoned with the Star of David.

Why was boxing so popular among young Jewish men then? For the majority who were new immigrants to this country escaping from persecution in their native lands, boxing represented not only a way of protecting themselves on the streets but also a possible way to earn a living and attain a degree of fame. Much as kids today spend hours honing their basketball skills hoping to make it to the NBA, many poor Jewish boys used to hang out at the local gym, hitting a punching bag dreaming that they might win

Jewish Boxers?

Putting it in context by Annette Carnow

the Golden Gloves Tournament and hit the big time.

Boxing was an egalitarian sport that required little outlay of money to participate. It also was a sport with weight classes, so a slight Jewish fellow could participate without being at a height or weight disadvantage. Many businesses, factories, and religious organizations sponsored their own boxing teams, as a way to provide wholesome diversions and build spirit. Here in Savannah, Union Bag had a team, and in the late 1930s the J.E.A. formed a boxing team that frequently fought the Holy Name Society (Catholic Young People's Association). This was an event that was held at the city auditorium and drew an audience of several thousand people. Bragging rights were an important element of the sport's popularity. And it is safe to say that side bets were too!

When the GIs came home from WWII and the country began to prosper, boxing continued to be a popular sport for poor immigrants, but Jews now had access to better



Left to right: unidentified coach, unidentified boxer, Leo Center, Leonard Greenfield (kneeling), unidentified boxer, unidentified boxer, and Meyer Sable, manager.

education (The GI Bill) and more opportunity to enter professions that formerly were closed to them due to anti-Semitism. The Jewish men who did remain in the boxing arena continued in more entrepreneurial white collar roles as managers, matchmakers, promoters, and bookies. But that is another story!

‘Crazy’ Opportunity for 5 Girls This Fall

By Joel Alpert

What possesses a single Mom to leave her home of 20 years in Savannah...buy a house in Atlanta, so her daughter could further her Jewish education...and then invite 5 girls to move in with them, so they, too, could go to a Jewish high school?

Whether you call this woman “The Crazy Woman of Atlanta” or “Savannah’s Jewish High School Visionary” depends on what you find out about Dr. Devorah Giffen and the house she’s built.

You probably know that there is no Jewish high school in coastal Savannah to further the Jewish education and identity of local teens. So a few years ago Devorah formed a Board, gained 501(c)3 status, and pushed to unite Savannah, Jacksonville, and Charleston in an educational effort, to start Savannah Jewish Academy. Easy, right? Well no, if you’ve ever tried starting a small private high school, you know it’s not easy — with high costs and a small group of potential students who might enroll, it’s an uphill march even in a stronger economy. And the group’s efforts got mired in the swamps of funding, enrollment and Jewish politics.

So they have gone to Plan B — if they can’t bring the support to a Jewish high school on the coast, they’ll bring the high school students to the education in Atlanta. And the Atlanta Jewish High School House is born. With applications now being accepted, five lucky girls will live in “the House” this fall and attend their choice of Yeshiva Atlanta, Temima High School or The Weber School. Each of these three Atlanta Jewish high schools has a different Jewish tradition...mirroring the diversity and multiple affiliations of many Jews in Savannah.

The ad hoc populating and living situation of the Atlanta Jewish High School House sounds like a premise for a reality TV show, however these real-life episodes will provide a life-changing education and Jewish socialization for the five girls who will apply and

move in.

Crazy or Visionary?

Leading the march — and the standard-bearer of the AJHSH banner — is Dr. Devorah Giffen, who seems to be an entirely sane clinical psychologist. In her work life, she specializes in educational testing for young children at the new practice she opened in the Atlanta area.

Dr. Giffen says she didn’t originate the idea of bringing this education to coastal kids. Rabbi Avigdor Slatos of Congregation B’nai B’rith Jacob (“BBJ”) started preaching this idea from the pulpit — an idea as remarkable as our history.

“Jewish education has been first and foremost, since the time of Abraham,” says Rabbi Slatos, adding with a chuckle that he is “happy to find out that someone was paying attention” to his sermons. “Maybe I was the source of some inspiration, but it was Devorah who did all the work, assembled the Board and became a one-man wrecking crew to make it happen.”

Devorah admits she was having dreams about Rabbi Slatos’ talks, and these dreams were turning into an obsession. “It’s not easy trying to talk people into your obsession,” Dr. Giffen says with a smile. As a psychologist, she should know.

‘Will Your Grandchildren Be Jewish?’

When you ask Dr. Giffen what possessed her to start a new life in Atlanta, and invest in developing a home-style dormitory for the kids of other parents, her expression turns from a smile to serious, and she quotes a series of studies now posted on www.AtlantaJewishHighSchoolHouse.org, “Will Your Grandchildren Be Jewish?” These studies show how assimilation is affected by type of Jewish practice, culture, and education.

The Federation-funded study concludes, “Jewish continuity and survival cannot be sustained in an American lifestyle devoid of serious Jewish education and Jewish living. One might have believed in the 1950s or 1960s that it was sufficient to have minimal Jewish exposure. Examples of such exposure include simply to be a member of a Temple, have Jewish friends, play basketball at the Jewish Center and live in a generally Jewish

neighborhood to ensure that one’s children would be Jewish. We now have the data and studies to know that children who are left without an education leading to deep Jewish beliefs and practices have little chance of having Jewish descendants.”

The Big Picture

What gets built on this innovative cornerstone remains to be seen and is subject to the involvement of the community at large. As it stands now, there are three phases on the drawing board.

Phase One entails five girls from the coastal area (or other areas) attending any of the three Jewish high schools in Atlanta starting in the fall of 2012. Phase Two involves expanding in the fall of 2013 to open a boy’s house and more houses beyond that as demand builds. Phase Three will bring additional growth in terms of houses or the establishment of a Jewish high school using existing facilities, likely in Savannah or Jacksonville. This could be a traditional school or may incorporate long-distance learning technologies.

A study and a year of follow-up consulting done by Partnership in Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE) suggests the high school could work if it combines students from Charleston, Jacksonville and Savannah, and Devorah hopes to unite the coastal communities in this endeavor. Meanwhile, the Atlanta House is ready.

Five Girls in Fall 2012

The bunk beds are assembled. The walls are painted friendly colors. The game is on, and Devorah is inviting five high school girls to the House for this extraordinary improvised educational and Jewish journey.

The house will be kosher, with a



House residents relax in their room.

focus on Shabbat, holidays and traditional practice. There is no profit motive and no official payment schedule for staying at this unique homemade facility. They say no one will be turned away if they can only afford school tuition and not living expenses; community donors will be asked to help cover expenses.

Applicants and supporters can get more information via their website. An application and discussion follows to help ensure that the House and each of the girls are a good combination. A college associate will be hired to help supervise the girls and shuttle them to school and other activities.

At this time of year, parents and students look ahead to the fall semester of high school. Incoming freshmen and even students who’ve started elsewhere now have an option — a Jewish high school education. In Atlanta.

Joel Alpert is a former newspaper reporter and editor for Jewish and general community weekly newspapers in New York City. He now produces strategy, branding and creative marketing programs for large and small companies and organizations and can be reached at joel@MarketPowerOnline.com.

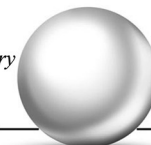


Devorah Giffen in the house dining room.

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Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Ellen Goldberg & Jana Feiler, Coastal Home Care

The Small Business Chamber of Savannah recently selected Coastal Home Care as its 2012 Small Business of the Year. We spoke with Ellen Goldberg, CHC's Chief Operating Officer, and Jana Feiler, Executive Director, about the award and their growing business.

You were selected Small Business of the Year for your support of local organizations. How does your support of other organizations enhance your own business?

Primarily, we like to work with other organizations that support independent living and as a result we are known in the community as an organization that can provide all levels of home support services. When we all work together, it helps others to know what we are all about.

Two of your managers in particular were mentioned for their attendance at networking events and their support of other small businesses. Is this something they choose to do on their own or do you encourage networking as part of your corporate culture and why?

Absolutely we encourage our as-

sociates to be part of the community. Their personal growth is important and they are helping to spread the word about Coastal Health Care.

The Small Business Chamber also recognized your company's own success and growth in granting you this award. Can you tell us about that?

The company was founded in 1978 by its original owners, a group of friends and family that included Martin and Laura Lynn Miller of Valdosta, Freda Smith and Ellen Goldberg. It eventually was sold to a larger company but five years ago came back to its roots and local owners. Since 2007, CHC has expanded into more counties and business has doubled. The company prides itself on being a diversified home care provider that serves people of all means with wide array of funding sources. We also try to provide specialized services, as necessary, such as familiarizing our staff with what they need to know for clients who observe Shabbat



Ellen Goldberg and Jana Feiler

or keep kosher.

Finally, could you talk a little about what in your background or upbringing led you to a career providing personal home care for the elderly and disabled?

We come from social service backgrounds. We have a strong desire to help people get the care they need by remaining as independent as possible in their home or in the community where they live. We [Ellen, Jana and the Millers] also come from a religious upbringing [Jewish] that encourages us to be part of the solution.



DISCOVER YOUR LINK TO ISRAEL

The JEA's Israel Emisary program enhances our community's connection to Israel. Teaching our Shalom School and Rambam Day School, leading community celebrations, and speaking to different community groups are just a few of the connections made. Am Yisrael Chai!

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(Right) Matthew Freedman accepts the 2012 Harvey Rubin Award.

(Below) David Collison, Sarah Richbourg, and Cheryl Lansing with their 2012 President's Awards for outstanding service to the JEA.



(Left, Top to Bottom) (L-R) Sally Greenberg, Sally Sanders, and Harriet Ullman catch up before the meeting begins. Marcy and Jerry Konter swear in new JEA President Bill Sand. Past President Paul Kulbresh installs his wife Harriet Kulbresh as the new JEA Secretary/Treasurer.

(Top) New JEA President Bill Sand presents Past President Paul Kulbresh with a gift for his three presidential terms, a framed photograph of University of Georgia mascot UGA VIII.



Jewish Educational Alliance 100th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

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MEMORIAL AND CREMATION SERVICES

Mazel Tov to the 2012 High School and College Graduates

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Laila Cohen
Savannah Arts Academy

The daughter of Ruth and George Cohen, Laila was a member of the Arts Academy swim team for four years; the Thespian Society; Future Business Leaders of America; Future Educators Associations, Seniors Offering Friendly Advice; the Science Club; Students in Action (helping third world countries); and the National Honor Society. Laila also took first and second place for pottery and sculpture in visual art shows. She was a Girl Scout, a member of a fencing club, and worked at the JEA as a life guard, camp counselor and in the after care program. Laila will attend Kennesaw State University where she plans to major in theater/stage management and hopes to travel and study abroad. She attended Rambam Day School from two years old through first grade and Shalom School from second grade through ninth grade.



Matthew Freedman
Benedictine Military School

The son of Elissa and Louis Freedman, Matthew participated in Junior ROTC for four years where he achieved the rank of Captain, Second Battalion. He was a member of the tennis team for four years and the football team for two years and lettered in each sport once. He was a member of the National Honor Society and received the Honors Award for Jewish Studies his junior year. Matthew was a member of BBYO and received the Matthew Cranman Outstanding Member of the Year award and also served on the Board of the local NCSY chapter. Matthew plans to spend a gap year on the Aardvark Israel Immersion Program. He attended Rambam Day School from pre-school through fourth grade and afternoon Hebrew school in fifth and sixth grades.



Benjamin Morton Garfunkel
Saint Andrews School

The son of Amy and Charles Garfunkel, Benjamin was a member of the varsity soccer team

at Saint Andrews. He also was President of the Savannah chapter of NCSY and Vice President of Israel Affairs for NCSY's Southern Region. Benjamin also served on the Teen Board at Memorial Children's Hospital (formerly Backus Children's Hospital). He will be attending Bar-Ilan University's Israel Experience program for one year. He attended Rambam Day School from pre-school through eighth grade.



Sara Fay Goldstein
Savannah Arts Academy

The daughter of Toby and Joseph Goldstein, Sara Fay was a member of the Arts Academy Dance Company; the Beta Club; the Spanish Honor Society; Seniors Offering Freshman Aid; Nu Delta Alpha dance honors society; and the National Honor Society. She received Chatham County Academic Excellence awards in math, science, literature and social studies in 2009 and 2010. Sara Fay was vice president for two years of the Savannah chapter of NCSY and taught a weekly dance class to 3-6 year-old Jewish girls. She plans to attend the University of Maryland (Scholars Program) and major in American Studies after spending a year in Israel on the *Machon Maayan* program. Sara Fay attended Rambam Day School from two years old through eighth grade.



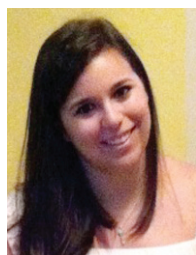
Elliot Paul Kooden
Benedictine Military School

The son of Joanne and Michael Kooden, Elliot participated in Junior ROTC and Student Council as freshman class treasurer, sophomore secretary and junior class president. He also was on the Honor Roll and soccer team. Elliot was a member of BBYO and served as Dixie Council Godol (president) and twice received the Matthew Cranman Outstanding Member of the Year award. He also was a member of NCSY, was a JEA soccer coach and was school team captain for the Susan G. Komen Savannah Race for the Cure in 2011 and 2012. Elliot will attend the University of Alabama in the fall. He attended Rambam Day School from two years old through eighth grade.



Bari Elizabeth Sadler
Yeshiva Atlanta High School

The daughter of Tara and Gary Sadler, Bari was a starter for Yeshiva Atlanta's Lady Lions volleyball and basketball teams, participated in the school's production of "Ema Mia," a play written, directed and produced by the students, and also served on the Yearbook committee. She was a member of NCSY. Bari will spend a year continuing her Judaic studies at Sharfman's Seminary/B'not Torah Institute in Jerusalem and will complete her undergraduate studies at Touro College for Women. She attended Rambam Day School from two years old through eighth grade.



Jessica Schlafstein
Savannah Country Day School

The daughter of Stacey and Barry Schlafstein, Jessica has been involved with the school yearbook for four years and the Editor for her junior and senior years. She also was a member of BBYO and did a summer program with BBYO on a Native American reservation. Jessica will attend Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall where she plans to major in chemical engineering. She attended Shalom School through the eighth grade.



Sarah Elisabeth Segall
Savannah Arts Academy

The daughter of Mona and Robert Segall, Sarah was a member of Nu Delta Alpha dance honors society; the Jewish Club; and was on the school swim team for two years. She also was President of the Savannah BBG chapter, AZA Sweetheart, and was named BBG Member of the Year. Sarah will attend the University of Alabama in the fall. She previously attended Rambam Day School.



Aaron Joseph Solender
Saint Andrews School

The son of Sarah Denmark and Adam Solender, Aaron

was the team captain for varsity football, and was all South Carolina Independent School Association-AA wide receiver; is the school record holder in the 400-meter hurdles; a state champion in speed and strength competition; was Student Council treasurer and vice president; and a member of the National Honor Society. Aaron was named a Furman Scholar, presented a University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award and is a candidate for a full International Baccalaureate diploma. He also was a member of BBYO and served as Dixie Council S'gan (vice president). Aaron will attend Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall, where he plans to major in business. He attended religious school at Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester, NH, from kindergarten to eighth grade.



Adam Weiss
Herschel V. Jenkins High School

The son of Laura and Eric Weiss, Adam was a member of the Jenkins swim team for four years. He also participated in the Explorer Post program his junior and senior years and was a member of the National Youth Leadership Forum. Adam is a past third place winner in the Savannah Jewish Federation's Yom HaShoah Writing Contest. He will attend Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville in the fall where he plans to major in criminal justice and psychology. Adam attended the Hebrew Community School.

COLLEGE GRADUATES



Seth Evan Brody
San Diego State University

The son of Jan Epstein and Jerry Brody, Seth graduated from San Diego State with a B.S. in Kinesiology, with an emphasis in Fitness, Health and Nutrition. Seth established the SDSU Racquetball Club and was sponsored by Gearbox Racquetball. He also interned with the International Racquetball Tour. He participated in Hillel and JAM (Jewish Awareness Movement). Seth is an American Council on Exercise Certified Personal Trainer and will be



SAVE THE DATE

for the Final 100-Year Celebration Event

“Bites and Bubbly” Celebrating 100 Years in Black and White

Sunday, September 9, 2012

On September 9th, the 100 Year Celebration will reach its pinnacle with our Great Gala. This year, our event will reflect on the 100 years of JEA service while celebrating the future of 100 more to come. At this black-and-white event, guests will sample an array of exquisite appetizers provided by the JEA's premier chefs and caterers who will be stationed at individual tasting tables. A gourmet buffet dinner precedes the much-anticipated live and silent auctions, tricky tray raffle, live music, photo ops with flair at our very own photo booth, and mingling among a striking display of black and white photographs exhibiting Savannah's JEA throughout the years. We will finish off the night with blissful sweet bites from our communities finest establishments and bakeries. We will also be unveiling our 100 Year Celebration Tribute journal which will feature a written history of the JEA, pictures from throughout our 100 years of operation, and well wishes from community members and supporters.

Cost: \$100 per person

Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.SavannahJEA.org or by calling 912-355-8111.



Meet-N-Greet

Who: 2012 Jea Camp Savannah families

When: Sunday June 3, 2012

Time: 12:00pm-3:00pm

Where: JEA Outdoor Pool

Great opportunity

Meet the counselors

Ask questions

Pick up camp t-shirt

Enjoy ice cream

Take a dip in the pool

Fall Soccer

Just starting to think spring? If you've got a young soccer player in the house, it's time to start thinking fall.

The JEA Youth Sports program is urging parents of all young athletes who want to play fall soccer to register starting July 2nd.

We had a great time last year with all of our athletes. I would love to see all the kids return and then some.

A limited number of coaches prevent us from being able to continue to register children right up until game time.

To register online, or to get more information, go to www.SavannahJEA.org and click on Sports and Recreation. Under Youth Sports Registration Forms you will find all the information that is needed to register your child.

JEA Camp Savannah Pre-Camp June 4-8, 2012

June 4th, 2012 – 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Picnic at Daffin Park – Let's kick off the summer right by venturing out to Daffin Park for a picnic celebration. Don't worry campers, we will return in time for you to enjoy a swim in the outdoor pool!

June 5th, 2012 – 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Desert Oasis – Join us for an adventure as we come up with unique and creative ways to beat the summer heat. Everything from ice cream making to challenging water games will assure that each camper has an enjoyable, yet refreshing experience!

June 6th, 2012 – 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Bowling Extravaganza – Lace up your bowling shoes and watch out for those gutters as we take a fun-filled trip to the AMF Bowling Lanes. Yes, bumpers will be provided for those who need a little assistance!



June 7th, 2012 – 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Cooking Capers – Roll up your sleeves, feel the dough between your fingers as we get ready to slice and dice. Campers will transform into iron chefs for the day, preparing lunch, as well as a light snack for the afternoon!



June 8th, 2012 – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Camp Adventure – Take advantage of this exciting opportunity to brush up on your miniature golfing skills and bumper cars. Campers will be treated to a thrilling game of miniature golf at Islands Miniature Golf & Games. Don't forget to pack your sunscreen today!

Cost: Members: \$30 per day

Non-Members: \$40 per day

Who: 3y-6th grade

Where: Jewish Educational Alliance

For more info contact DJ Horton at 355-8111 or email camp@savj.org

New JEA Members

The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset! (New Members as of 4/10/12-5/11/12)

Maury & Kristin Alpert

Alexander & Rebecca Brown

Daniel & Winter Fass

Preston & Jana Feiler

Ryan Hartig & Amanda Morris

Taylor Hayduk

John Henry

John Lowe

Benjamin & Katherine Neufeld

Michael Schroder & Katy Barron

Austin & Danielle Shaw

Ken & Heidi Zoll

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
CENTER



JEA CAMP SAVANNAH 2012

Creating memories to last a lifetime!



JEA CAMP SAVANNAH 2012

JEA CAMP SAVANNAH PHILOSOPHY

We strive to provide a nurturing environment that fosters self-confidence, Jewish identity, community consciousness, integrity and respect for others. Our camp teaches universal values helping your child to embrace new concepts, develop independence, and create meaningful friendships. We welcome campers from all religious and cultural backgrounds.

Camp starts June 11th, Register online at www.SavannahJEA.org or at the JEA at 5111 Abercorn Street!



Top 10 Benefits of Hiring a Personal Trainer



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

There's a reason movie stars and financial moguls use personal trainers: The benefit of working with a personal trainer is that its one of the fastest, easiest, most successful ways to improve your health and fitness. In fact, the benefit of personal training has proved so effective that it has spread well beyond the realm of the rich and famous.

Today, personal trainers are used by people of all fitness, age and economic levels--and from all over the world--to help make lifestyle changes those people couldn't achieve by themselves. How do you know if hiring a personal trainer is the right choice for you? Consider the following things a personal trainer can do:

- 1. Improve Your Overall Fitness.** Surveys show the primary reason people hire personal trainers is to get professional assistance to improve cardiovascular health, strength, flexibility, endurance, posture, balance and coordination. A personal trainer will monitor your progress and fine-tune your program as you go, helping you work your way off plateaus.
- 2. Reach or Maintain a Healthy Weight.** Body fat reduction, weight reduction or management, body shaping and toning can all be achieved with the aid of a qualified personal trainer, who can help you set realistic goals and determine safe strategies, all while providing the encouragement you need.

- 3. Learn to Stick to It.** Sticking with well-intentioned plans is one of the biggest challenges exercisers face. Qualified personal trainers can provide motivation for developing a lifestyle that places a high priority on health and activity. A personal trainer can help you brainstorm ways to overcome your biggest obstacles to exercise.
- 4. Focus on Your Unique Health Concerns.** Surveys show that 50 percent of personal trainer's clients have special medical needs, such as arthritis, diabetes or obesity. A personal trainer can help you with these or other issues, including low-back pain, rehabilitation from injury and pre/postnatal training. Your personal trainer can work with your physician, physical therapist or other health care provider to plan a safe, efficient program that will speed your recovery or enable you to reach your health goals.
- 5. Find the Right Way to Work Out.** You will learn the correct way to use equipment, and appropriate form and technique for cardiovascular work and free-weight training.
- 6. Stop Wasting Time.** Get maximum results in minimum time with a program designed specifically for you. Workouts that use your strengths and improve on your weaknesses are efficient and effective.
- 7. Learn New Skills.** Want to improve your tennis game, learn to ski, become an in-line skater, golf like a pro, better your weekend basketball game or get ready for a wilderness adventure vacation? An individualized program can improve your overall conditioning and develop the specific skills you need.

- 8. Enhance Your Mind, Body and Spirit.** A personal trainer can act as a doorway to new personal growth experiences. Many personal trainers provide mind-body activities, such as yoga or tai chi sessions. Your personal trainer may help you uncover new insights about yourself or find potential you didn't realize you had.
- 9. Benefit From the Buddy System.** What could be better than making a commitment to regularly meet with someone who will provide you with individualized attention and support?
- 10. Take Charge of Your Program, and Do It Your Way.** With the right personal trainer, you can find the exercise program that works best for you. Are you more comfortable with a demanding program or a gentler approach? How many times per week or month do you want to meet your personal trainer, and for how long? Carefully choosing a personal trainer enables you to select the type of guidance that will benefit you. You can get fit and healthy your way and take ultimate responsibility for your own health.

Give Stephanie Johnson a call at 355-8111 or email at stephanie@savj.org to schedule your time.



JEA FITNESS CLASSES					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	5:00-6:30 am Master Swim		5:00-6:30 am Master Swim		5:00-6:30 am Master Swim
9:15-10:15 am Pilates	8:30-9:45 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:45 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:45 am Firm It Up
10:15-11:15 am Total Body Blast	10:00-11:00 am Aqasize	10:00-11:00 am SilverSplash		10:00-11:00 am Aqasize	10:00-11:00 am Aqasize
	10:30-11:45 am Gentle Yoga		10:30-11:45 am Gentle Yoga		
	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers MSROM	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers Cardio Circuit	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers MSROM	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers Cardio Circuit	
1:00-2:00 pm Extreme Toning					Noon-2:00 pm Noon Basketball
	5:30-7:30 pm Karate	5:45-6:30 pm Zumba	5:30-7:30 pm Karate		
		6:00-8:00 pm Savannah Kenpo	6:00-7:00 pm Boot Camp	6:00-8:00 pm Savannah Kenpo	
		6:30-7:30 pm Total Body Blast		6:30-7:30 pm Yoga Flow	
	6:00-7:00 pm Eve. Water Aerobics		6:00-7:00 pm Eve. Water Aerobics	6:00-7:00 pm Eve. Water Aerobics	
		7:00-9:00 pm Sav. Fencing Club		7:00-9:00 pm Sav. Fencing Club	

Art at the JEA



June Artist - Elizabeth Leichtner

[Elizabeth Leichtner - Biography](#)

Elizabeth comes from a diverse artistic upbringing. A descendent of Marcus Illions, the renowned carousel horse carver, her goal is to one day transform her fiber works into life-size replicas. Currently using primarily wool, cotton/polyester blends, and an assortment of yarns on unbleached linen backings, she uses the rug hooking method to create. By keeping her color palette simple and bold her works make captivating statements. Her latest pieces are pillows, wall hangings and three dimensional works.

Elizabeth studied Studio Art at Georgia College and State University and has studied privately throughout her life in painting, drawing and weaving. An avid knitter as well, Elizabeth is always looking for ways to incorporate various disciplines into her creations.

Artwork available for viewing June 1-29, 2012
Art Reception June 7, 2012, 5:30-7 pm

JEA “CONGRATS!” on Our 100th Year! Sponsor a Page in Our 100-Year Tribute Journal

The 100-year Tribute Journal will be unveiled on September 9, 2012 at
Bites and Bubbly—A Black and White Gala to Celebrate Our First 100 Years.

This soft-cover, 8.5” x 11” publication will feature oral histories from Savannahians who have been the life-blood of the JEA throughout the years, a written time-line of JEA milestones and highlights, eclectic pictures of our flourishing community and the JEA buildings, tributes from the JEA's past presidents, good wishes from businesses and sponsors, and heart-felt messages from community supporters.

One journal will be distributed to each family who attends the Gala.
Additional copies will be available for purchase through the JEA.

Join us as we celebrate the past 100 years and plan for 100 more great years to come!
Contact Anna Berwitz for details. 912-355-8111 or anna@savj.org

JEA Donations (4/10/12-5/10/12)

ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In honor of Riette Pollack's speedy recovery
Doris Klugman

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In honor of Jerry Kaminsky's speedy recovery
In memory of Mark Silvers
Nancie & Fred Clark
In memory of Sheila Gottlieb Miller
Sharon Sand
In honor of Riette Pollack's speedy recovery
Marilyn Seeman

JEA BUILDING FUND

A very generous donation was given by Marcy & Jerry Konter

In honor of Sara Lowe & fiance, Gary Silver
In memory of Marlene Dobbs' father
In memory of Roselee Gellman
Esther & Aaron Buchsbaum
In honor of Dick Hochman
Judy & Paul Todtfeld

A very generous contribution in honor of Judge Michael Karpf

David M. Zacks
Matthew Forstadt
Carole Hagstrom
Francis Lamden
Donna Langburd
In memory of Gloria Kulbersh
Judy & Paul Todtfeld
Sue & John Adler
Michael Karpf

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Gloria Kulbersh
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In memory of Gloria Kulbersh
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In honor of Michael Schwarz
Judy & Larry Odrezin

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Roselee Gellman
In honor of Bernice Elman's birthday
Elise & Victor Shernoff
In honor of Harvey Pam's speedy recovery
Katherine & David Eichelbaum

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Gloria Kulbersh
In honor of the birth of Richard & Lynn Berkowitz's grandchild
Sarabel & Ross Stermer

June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 27 Shavuot - Day 1 JEA Closed	28 Shavuot - Day 2 Memorial Day JEA Closed	29	30	31	June 1	2
3 Camp Meet-n-Greet- 1 pm PJ Library Pool Party- 2 pm	4	5	6	7 JEA Art Gallery Reception- 5:30 pm	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Israeli Scouts- 6:15 pm	29 Camp Glee Show- 8 am	30

Mazel Tov to the 2012 High School and College Graduates

employed at High Voltage Fitness in La Jolla, CA, where he will be on staff as a personal trainer and a research assistant conducting case studies in the area of speed biomechanics on Division I athletes. He hopes to train athletes of all sports, with an emphasis on golf and racquet sports. Seth attended Rambam Day School from three years old through eighth grade.



Alli Klugman
University of Georgia

The daughter of Susan and Danny Klugman, Alli graduated from the Honors Program at the University of Georgia with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Accounting. While at UGA, she was a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, Sigma Delta Tau sorority, the Clarke County mentor program, Beta Alpha Psi, and UGA Heroes. Alli also was a recipient of an honorary scholarship from the Georgia Society of CPAs Educational Foundation. After interning at Deloitte Touche, she plans to enter the graduate program at UGA in accounting. Alli attended Rambam Day School from two years old through the sixth grade.



Craig Novack
Wofford College

The son of Linda and Steve Novack, Craig graduated from Wofford College with a B.S. in Biology. While at Wofford, Craig played on the football team, was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and served on the college's orientation staff. He also was Vice Chair of the school's Judicial System for two years. Craig will spend the next year working with a cardiovascular research team in Columbia, SC, and then plans to apply to medical school. He attended Sunday school at Congregation Mickve Israel.



Leah R. Portman
Yeshiva University

The daughter of Myra and Jerry Portman, Leah graduated from the Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University with a B.S. in Accounting and an Associate Degree in Arts for Judaic Studies. She volunteered as a student tutor; established a volunteer *chesed* partnership between women at Stern College and families in Washington Heights, NY; was a

volunteer mentor and coordinator of the Livingston Learning Initiative; and was vice president of the non-profit fundraising group, Kaps 4 Kallahs. In August, Leah will join the New York accounting firm Loeb & Troper as a staff auditor. She plans to pursue her CPA certification. Leah attended Rambam Day School from two years old through eighth grade; Yeshiva of Greater Washington from 10th through 12th grades; and Michlalah College for Women in Israel her freshman year.



Julia Schwartz Schachter
Armstrong Atlantic University

The daughter of Barbara and Philip Schwartz, Julia graduated from Armstrong *magna cum laude* with a degree in Laboratory Sciences. While at Armstrong, Julia also served on the school's Judicial Board. She will be employed in the lab at Candler Hospital. Julia attended Rambam Day School from pre-school through eighth grade.



Ashley Schlafstein
Cornell University

The daughter of Stacey and Barry Schlafstein, Ashley graduated *cum laude* from Cornell's College of Arts and Sciences. While at Cornell, she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau sorority and Phi Delta Epsilon, the pre-med society. She also tutored at a juvenile

detention facility in Ithaca, NY. Ashley's plans are to take a year off then to attend medical school. She attended Rambam Day School through the third grade, then Shalom School through the ninth grade.



Samuel Schwartz
Georgia State University

The son of Barbara and Philip Schwartz, Sam graduated from Georgia State *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science degree. He plans to pursue a career in Physical Therapy. Sam attended Rambam Day School from pre-school through eighth grade.

POST-GRADUATE



Bari Bridges
Georgia Southern University

The daughter of Renee and Russell Bridges, Bari received a Masters in Business Administration from Georgia Southern, maintaining an overall 4.0 GPA. She served as a Dean's Assistant, participating in faculty conferences, and worked for the Department of Finance and Quantitative Analysis. Bari also is an active participant and fundraiser for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. She plans to pursue a career in finance. She attended Rambam Day School from pre-school through eighth grade.

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It's All In A Name

Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon, who became known as Maimonides for whom Rambam Day School was named, was an incredible scholar and physician. A brief look at his life will give great insight into Rambam's mission as a Jewish day school. It is believed that when parents choose a name for their children, G-d gives them a special intuition so they can choose a name that will tap into the nature of their child. In this same vein, I believe Rambam was given its name.

The Rambam was known for his greatness and his tremendous capacity to absorb knowledge in a comprehensive range of highly contrasting fields, and deliver them as highly structured, clearly worded, interpretive text. Furthermore, the Rambam understood the era in which he lived and its challenges to Jewish literacy, taking the lead in creating a new field of Jewish literature and commentary. He also combined his Jewish knowledge with distinction in areas of contemporary scholarship - philosophy, sciences, and particularly medicine - in the same way as he combined his spiritual vocation with a demanding professional position as Saladin's court Physician in Egypt.

Maimonides was from an elite and erudite Jewish family. He received an extensive secular and Judaic education. Maimonides lived through periods of persecution under a proselytizing Islam. And yet, against tremen-

dous adversity, the Rambam had the strength and determination to dedicate himself to the illumination of Jewish communities both in his, and future generations. The Rambam influenced those around him without compromise, and generated the heritage of Judaism. The Rambam accomplished this through the power of the word, from his brilliant mind and hand, in succinct summaries and meticulously detailed treatises - as he made his way in the Jewish world, strengthening people spiritually, and as he made his way as a renowned doctor - in the Muslim world.

Rambam is a home away from home to our students that is - respectful of all, sensitive to all, tolerant of all, welcoming to all and dedicated to making sure that our students are well versed about their heritage so they can make knowledgeable decisions.

As the school year of 2011-2012 comes to a close, we look back with great pride on all that our students have accomplished. We look to next year enthusiastic about changes that will enrich our program and the continued dedication from our staff towards excellence.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Keep Up the Good Work ...

Our Hebrew school parents are to be praised; they want it all for their children: a good secular education AND a good Jewish education.

The efforts and sacrifices they are making ten months a year are to be recognized: bringing their children to school on Wednesday after a long day at school, limiting Saturday night sleepovers because there is Hebrew school the next day, and pulling out of bed sleepy children on Sunday mornings is just the obvious. Multiple things like financial or family situations might even add to that load!

Because of all those efforts being made on behalf of Jewish identity, I thought one might want the summer to put in practice or extend the work done at school during the year. Different rhythm, places, new people... all could make great opportunities for a different Jewish education setting.

1-Old or new...

Now that you are not competing with the ballet, baseball or soccer it will be so much easier to make it to the Friday night services; and because not all services are catered especially for children make a point of taking your children to "regular" services as well as to a children's one (so they can appreciate the difference).

If Shabbat dinner is not part of your family rituals, summer and its longer evenings will be a good time to give it a try. You can then let little hands help to set the perfect Shabbat table.

Another experience could be through cooking together traditional Jewish foods. If cholent or latkes are not your idea of the perfect summer meal you might be able to give a shot to different variations of "pita and falafel," with or without Hummus, tahini, French fries (actually those are a must!)... learn together about why we have those certain foods; or how the foods connect to a holiday.

2-Personal Connection

It is important to encourage your children to find some personal connection to Judaism and Jewish life. The religious concepts of Judaism (once we get past the basics of G-d /Creation) can get pretty abstract and confusing especially for younger children. It is sometimes difficult for kids, and even for grownups, to understand the overall messages of the teachings.

A good place to start might be the Jewish history of your family. While visiting relatives, discuss with them family fundamentals such as "Did your child's great grandparents come from Eastern Europe?" "Where were they during the Shoah?"

Another good step would be to make an appointment and take your children to introduce them to the new Rabbi. Being able to make a first encounter "off" the Bima will make it easier for a child to establish a special connection with the Rabbi.

3-Practice a little

Shabbat, rituals...Hebrew. The key to learning anything, especially a foreign language like Hebrew, is repetition. If you want to help your child learn Hebrew or any of their Judaic studies, practice with them. You might be very proud of the progress they did this year, but let those several weeks of summer pass by without any practice and September might be tough! So much is available now online that your child can learn and play at the same time.

These are just some ideas. Basically, keep it fun, keep it real, and keep up the good work!



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

B'Shalom
Eva Locker

Want to know what's happening in the Savannah Jewish Community?
Check out www.savj.org &
www.savannahjea.org to find out.

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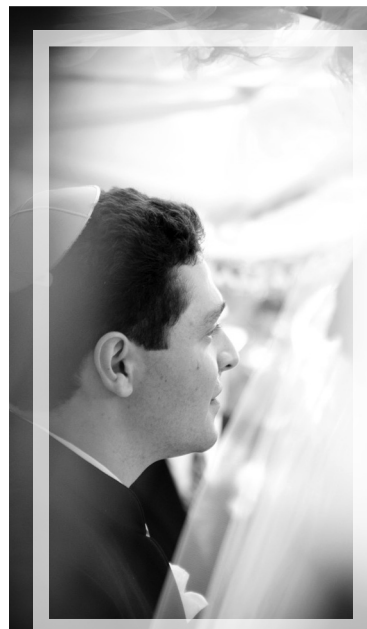
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100 Years Celebration

Serving the Savannah community for 100 years!

JEA 100 Year Celebration Tribute Journal

Wish the JEA "CONGRATS!" on our 100th year! Sponsor a page in our 100 Year Tribute Journal

The 100-year tribute journal will be unveiled on September 9, 2012 at ***Bites and Bubbly—A Black and White Gala to Celebrate Our First 100 Years.***

This soft-cover, 8.5" x 11" publication will feature oral histories from Savannahians who have been the life-blood of the JEA throughout the years, a written time-line of JEA milestones and highlights, eclectic pictures of our flourishing community and the JEA buildings, tributes from the JEA's past presidents, good wishes from businesses and sponsors, and heart-felt messages from community supporters.

One journal will be distributed to each family who attends the Gala. Additional copies will be available for purchase from the JEA.

Join us as we celebrate the past 100 years and plan for 100 more great years to come!

JEA Tribute Journal Supporter Levels*

Page Size	Dimensions	Price
Full Page	8.5" w x 11" h	\$300
Half Page	8.5" w x 5.5" h	\$200
Quarter Page	4.25" w x 5.5" h	\$100
Eighth Page (text only)	4.25" w x 2.75" h	\$50

- All pages must be submitted electronically, camera ready. (Photoshop, JPEG, Tiff or as a PDF)
- There will be a \$25 setup fee added if your ad needs to be designed in-house by the JEA
- All ads must be received by the absolute deadline of **July 1, 2012**. Ads will NOT be accepted after the deadline.

Jewish Educational Alliance | 5111 Abercorn St. | Savannah, GA 31405
Tel.: 912-355-8111 Fax: 912-355-8116 | anna@savj.org

It's A Funny Thing

By Melinda Stein

Poking a little fun at a well-respected and valuable profession . . .

Jacob calls up his psychiatrist in a panic,

"Doc, it just happened again! Early this morning I dreamed that you turned into my mother!"

"Hmmm . . . very interesting. Then what happened?"

"Well, I woke up in a sweat. I ran downstairs and grabbed a Coke from the fridge and drank it down in a single gulp."

"A Coke? You call that a breakfast?"

When the new patient was settled upon the couch, the psychiatrist began the session.

"I'm not familiar with your problem, so perhaps we should start at the very beginning."

"Of course," replied the patient. "In the beginning, I created the Heavens and the Earth . . ."

David has just returned from seeing his psychiatrist. He calls his mother.

"Mom? Hi, it's me. Listen, my shrink says that all of my problems can be traced to poor parenting, and especially my relationship with you. He says that I've got an Oedipus complex."

"Oedipus, shmedipus! As long as you love your mother!"



Melinda Stein

Welcome To the
Psychiatric Hotline:

If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly, then clean the phone 20 times.

If you have multiple personalities, press 3, 4, and 6.

If you are a pathological liar, don't call but tell everyone that you did.

If you are depressed, it doesn't matter which number you press, no one will answer you. Ever.

If you have low self-esteem, please hang up. We're too busy to talk to you.

If you are narcissistic, stand in front of a mirror and watch yourself press 8.

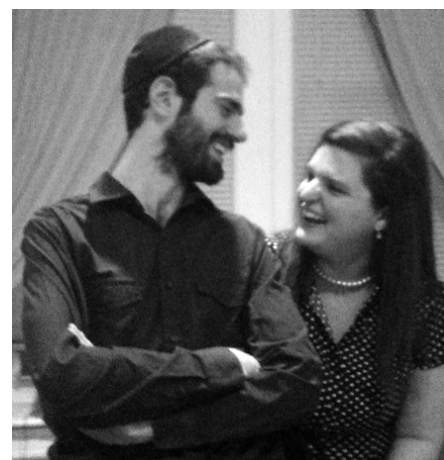
If you are paranoid, don't press anything because we have your number and we know who you are.

If you are schizophrenic, a little voice in your head will tell you which number to press.

If you are delusional, be aware that the thing you're holding to the side of your head is alive and may bite your ear.

Thank you for calling the Psychiatric Hotline.

Vital Statistics



Beverly Jan Kramer and David Gertler are pleased to announce their engagement. Beverly is the daughter of Andrew and Cheri Sugarman Kramer of Savannah. She is the granddaughter of Nita Kramer and the late Bernard Kramer of Savannah and Ruby Sugarman and the late Dorothy Levy of Baltimore, MD. Beverly graduated from the University of Maryland in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and in Judaic Studies. She currently attends Cardozo Law School in New York. David is the son of Richard and Ellen Gertler of Teaneck, NJ. He is the grandson of Yetta and the late Dr. Asher Massarsky and Sidney and the late Helen Gertler, all of New Jersey. David attended Yeshiva University and is employed at Aish HaTorah in Manhattan as their IT Director. The wedding is planned for August 19, 2012, in Savannah. The couple plans to reside in Teaneck, NJ.

JEA CAMP SAVANNAH
MEET-N-GREET!

Sunday, June 3rd, 1:00-3:00 pm

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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Mark Mitchell Silvers, Jr.
Who died April 23, 2012

Surviving are his daughters, Laura Silvers Ross and Lisa Silvers (Danny) Kaminsky; son Mark Mitchell Silvers III; two grandchildren; and his companion Bonnie Lee Smith.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah 31416.

Simon Lipsitz
Who died May 5, 2012

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rachel Stein Lipsitz.

Henrietta Kathryn "Kay" Salke Becker
Who died May 10, 2012

Surviving are her daughter Laura (Larry) Blumberg of Dothan, AL; son Stephen (Berta) Becker of Atlanta; and four grandchildren.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405 or Jewish Educational Alliance, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.

Phyllis Wolf
Who died May 15, 2012

Surviving are her husband, Jack Wolf; her daughter, Janet Greave, and one granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her daughters Marcia Samero and Constance Greave.

Remembrances: The charity of the donor's choice.



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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 Summer Shabbat 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 28, 2012 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 extension 26** or visit www.mickveisrael.org.

CREATE a Jewish Legacy



The Giving Pledge

In 2010, Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates launched the Giving Pledge to help address society's most pressing problems by inviting the wealthiest American families and individuals to commit to giving more than half of their wealth to philanthropy or charitable causes either during their lifetime or after their death. Lynn Schusterman, founder and chair of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, recently became a signatory to the pledge, hoping that by doing so, she could help to inspire and motivate more donors to give to the causes closest to their hearts. We share here excerpts from her letter to Warren Buffett.

Dear Warren,

As you know, my initial reaction to your kind invitation to sign the Giving Pledge was one of reticence and concern. Would my stepping forward make a difference? Could doing so be misconstrued as an act of self-aggrandizement rather than one motivated by a deep appreciation for the transformative power of philanthropy?

Upon further reflection, however, I found myself moved to action by the words of the great Jewish sage, Hillel, found in the text of *Pirkei Avot* ("Ethics of the Fathers"), part of the rabbinic writings:

*If I am not for myself, who is for me?
If I care only for myself, what am I?
If not now, when?*

I was raised in a household in which giving back was a core value. One of my fondest childhood memories is holding my father's hand as he visited less fortunate elderly people who had no one else to care for them. I also remember his telling a struggling medical student for whom he had advanced some tuition payments that he did not want to be paid back; he wanted that student to become successful and to "pay it forward" by helping someone else.

Years later, I grew to understand that these expressions of my father's universal ideals probably stemmed from his deeply-rooted Jewish values. In addition to caring for our own community, Jewish tradition teaches that we have a solemn duty to treat all people with respect and care. In the words

of Maimonides, "One ought to treat everyone with *derekh eretz* (civility and humanity) and *hesed* (mercy and kindness)."

When my late husband, Charlie (z"l), and I were first married, we had little to spare and whatever we earned was being put back into the business. In 1967, desperate to help our beloved State of Israel survive yet another existential challenge, the two of us impulsively agreed to contribute \$500 that we did not have to the United Jewish Appeal.

More than forty years later, the lessons I learned from my father and the values I shared with my husband remain of paramount importance to me as my family and I work to use the resources with which we have been blessed for the betterment of the communities in which we live as well as society as a whole.

When Charlie and I established our family foundation in 1987, we knew that giving effectively would require us to bring the same focus, due diligence and risk-taking to our philanthropy that we employed in our energy business. For the first decade or so, we experimented; we made various kinds of grants, both small and large, and for different lengths of time. We looked to strengthen existing organizations and institutions, to establish new ones and to build coalitions. And we pursued excellence every step of the way.

We learned much in our early years, lessons that continue to inform our philanthropy today. Our focus remains narrow, our foundation is professionally staffed and we continue to take advantage of opportunities as they arise in our primary areas of interest: enhancing the quality of life in Tulsa, assuring the future of the Jewish people, and ensuring the safety and security of the State of Israel and all its inhabitants.

We believe in the importance of investing in young people by providing them with educational experiences



Lynn Schusterman

of high quality and by nurturing their creativity. We live in a time of unparalleled prosperity in some parts of the world, deep impoverishment in others and growing willingness of the next generation to strive to bridge the gap between the two. In the Jewish tradition, this desire to serve is captured best when people express a desire to engage in "tikun olam," which is often translated as "repairing the world." This concept is based on the idea that God could have created a perfect world, but deliberately decided not to do so in order that humankind could join God in attempting to perfect it. Such a lofty goal demands our attention and deserves our support.

So, too, does the educational reform effort currently sweeping the country, a movement powered by an emerging generation of inspiring and effective young leaders. These men and women represent what is best about our nation, and we share their optimism and their drive. If those of us with the good fortune to have received an excellent education work together to make certain every child enjoys that same opportunity—and is free from abuse and neglect at home—the dreams of the reformers can be realized and the future of this country brightened.

... While times are difficult and our standing in the world is under challenge, [the United States] remain[s] an unparalleled driver of innovation as well as a beacon of freedom, democracy and justice for much of humanity—a status we will maintain only by pursuing and achieving excellence in every corner of our educational system. A better educated populace is not just good for America; it is good for the world.

Our funding of Jewish causes and involvement in Jewish life is driven by a similar conviction: that ensuring a vibrant Jewish future is important not just for the Jewish people, but also for society as a whole. That is why much of our giving, and virtually all of my time, is directed to deepening the Jewish identity of young Jews and to strengthening Jewish communities all over the world...

From monotheism and the Ten Commandments, to the contributions of Nobel laureates in the fields of medicine, science, literature and more,

to the technological innovations emanating from modern Israel, the Jewish people have given much to civilization over the millennia. There are many theories about how and why the Jews have managed to survive when other peoples and cultures have disappeared, and understanding this phenomenon is important to the extent that it helps us decipher the flow of human history.

What drives our family's investment in Jewish life, however, is more than anthropology, sociology or even pride; it is a fervent belief that the Jewish people still have much to contribute to society and a deep sense of responsibility to ensure that the opportunity to share those gifts exists in the future. It is with all this in mind, and with the memories of how modestly Charlie and I began our philanthropic journey, that I pledge to devote the majority of my resources to the pursuit of the charitable agenda Charlie and I set for our family more than 20 years ago. I do so with respect and admiration for the efforts of those with whom we are engaged in similar endeavors, and in full recognition of the scope of the challenges that confront us.

I also pledge to continue working to encourage others, including emerging philanthropists of all ages and all capacities, to join us in seeking to repair the world; the further we broaden our reach, the more we will benefit from a diversity of people, perspectives and approaches as we strive to tackle problems of common concern. The same is true in the Jewish community, one I hope will receive greater support in the future from those with the means to assist.

Although the issues that confront all of us are daunting, we accept the teaching of Rabbi Tarfon in *Pirkei Avot*: "You are not obligated to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from trying."

Sincerely,
Lynn Schusterman

The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation currently partners with and provides funding to programs such as BBYO, Birthright Israel, Hillel, Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion, Goldring Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, Jewish New Media Innovation Fund and more.

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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If you have questions that are not answered by Ayelet, please

Contact Jean Weitz, the Southeastern Region's Convention Chair, at jweitz@hadassah.org.

But if you cannot travel to Israel.... Remind yourself of its beauty and our mission by ordering cards, trees and special certificates. Who are you Celebrating, Honoring, Remembering?

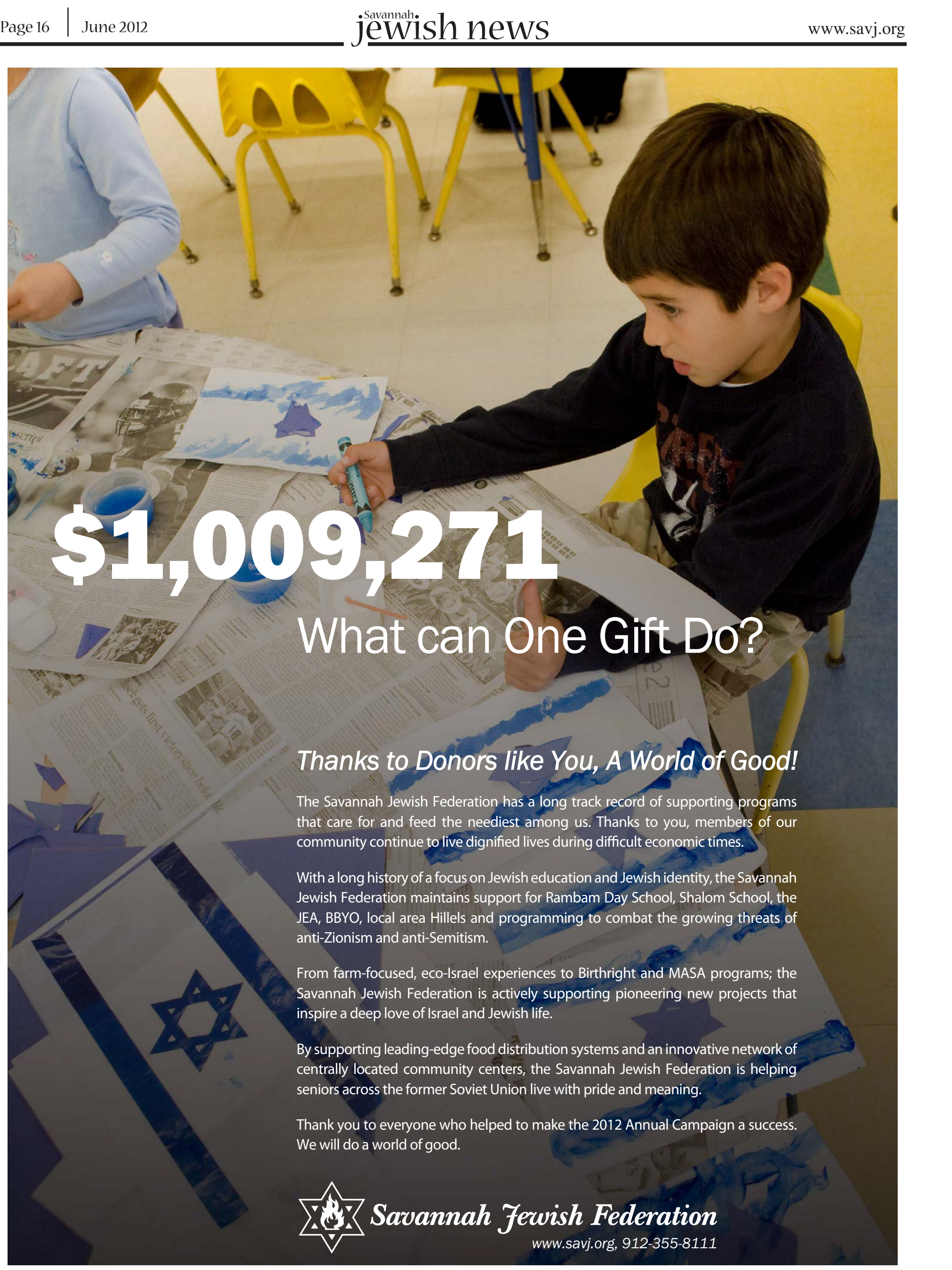
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With a long history of a focus on Jewish education and Jewish identity, the Savannah Jewish Federation maintains support for Rambam Day School, Shalom School, the JEA, BBYO, local area Hillels and programming to combat the growing threats of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

From farm-focused, eco-Israel experiences to Birthright and MASA programs; the Savannah Jewish Federation is actively supporting pioneering new projects that inspire a deep love of Israel and Jewish life.

By supporting leading-edge food distribution systems and an innovative network of centrally located community centers, the Savannah Jewish Federation is helping seniors across the former Soviet Union live with pride and meaning.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2012 Annual Campaign a success. We will do a world of good.



Savannah Jewish Federation

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