



Shabbat & Holiday Candle

Lighting Times

Friday, March 2	6:05pm
Friday, March 9	6:10pm
Friday, March 16	7:15pm
Friday, March 23	7:20pm
Friday, March 30	7:25pm

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 4th

JEA Purim Carnival

11:30 am - 3 pm

\$5 Single / \$15 Family

Sunday, March 11th

Opinion Minyan

Joint Event with the SJFF

Unmasked Judeophobia: The Threat to Civilization

10 am, FREE for JEA members

\$8 For Non-Members

Friday, March 16th

Community Shabbaton

Service at 6 pm, Dinner at 7:15 pm

\$15 per person,

12 and under is FREE!

(Donations Accepted)

Thursday, March 22nd

SJFF: The Infidel

Dinner at 6:30 pm, Movie at 7:30 pm

\$18 M / \$19 NM Meal and Movie

\$8 M / \$9 NM Movie Only

Sunday, March 25th

SJFF: The Prince of Egypt

Family Film Night!

Dinner at 5 pm, Movie at 5:45 pm

\$5 Single/\$25 Family Meal and Movie

FREE for Movie Only

2012 SJF Annual Campaign Nears End – You Can Say “Yes!”

The 2012 Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign is nearing its end but hasn't finished yet. The 2012 Annual Campaign is currently within reach of our community's million dollar pledge goal; to date, we have \$947,410 in pledges. During our campaign season we have had many successes. The Super Sunday Telethon was great; many of those that have donated to our community's needs have increased their pledge this year, and the solicitors have done an outstanding job of being able to share the story of what exactly the Savannah Jewish Federation does and why it is of such importance to the Savannah Jewish community and the Jewish world.

“The whole campaign team wants to thank our wonderful community members who have so generously said “YES” to the Savannah Jewish Federation 2012 campaign. Many have increased their pledges from past years, helping us to get closer to the \$1 million mark. However, we're not quite there yet, and need everyone's pledge as soon as possible so as to be able to make our allocations to the many Jewish services that need our support each year. This is a true community effort and we hope everyone will come forth with support at whatever level is possible for them,” shares Toby Hollenberg, 2012 SJF Annual Campaign Co-Chair.



Rabbi Saul Rubin (pictured with SJF President, Jeffrey Lasky) making a gift to the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Rabbi Rubin brought even more meaning to the gift when he made his donation in Israeli Shekels.

A Shabbat Together

Shabbat V'Yachad – A Shabbat Together is the theme of this year's JEA Community Shabbaton. Once a year the JEA organizes a communal dinner on Erev Shabbat. It's an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. It's an opportunity to pray, sing, eat, learn and enjoy together.

On Friday, March 16th, come and cel-

ebate Erev Shabbat with the Savannah Jewish Community at the Jewish Educational Alliance with a Community Shabbaton. The evening's events will include an Erev Shabbat service followed by a wonderful dinner, prepared by Chef Extraordinaire Bryan Graves. The Shabbat service will begin at 6pm. It is open to anyone and all who wish to participate. However, reservations are required for the Shabbat dinner that will follow the service at 7:15pm. You can make your paid reservations online, stop by the JEA Front Desk, or mail it in.

After dinner, Rabbi Kenneth Leitner, Congregation Agudath Achim, and Rabbi Darryl Crystal, Congregation Mickve Israel will be giving short addresses relating to the Torah portion of the week, *Parsha Hashavuah*. Rabbi Slatius is unable to attend this year's Shabbaton due to a previously committed family simcha.



During this time, in another room, children who do not wish to or can't sit and listen to the Rabbis will have supervised fun with Shabbat appropriate activities, including a Shabbat story time.

See page 8



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Purim's Antidote

I never liked Purim, not even the *Hamantchen*. I never felt interested in Purim, it was just another party, like other holidays of "they tried to kill us, we were saved, let's eat." So, yes, the celebrations in the streets of Israel are festive, costumes are always fun and even the *mitzvah* (commandment) to drink heavily was not so bad. But as I mentioned in my other columns I go by the story and this story did not do it for me.

I couldn't identify with the characters in the *Megilah* story, because, what do I, as an Israeli living in a Jewish state, in the land of Israel, that can defend itself from its enemies while still be humane, modern, a leader in new technologies, and much more that makes Israelis forget that we still have much to work to do. And Esther, who lived about 70 years after the destruction of The Temple, in the time when the Jewish people were broken and exiled to Persia, living at the mercy and obeying the decrees of a cruel ruler who suddenly wants to destroy the people of Israel?

Recently we witnessed the fiery proclamations of the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that his country entered the atomic age when it began to engage in enriching uranium to 20%.

Gary Milhollin, Director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, was quoted as saying: "This is worse and more disturbing than we thought." And if Mr. Milhollin worries; how should the Israeli people feel? Iranian President Ahmadinejad repeated several times on his threat to "wipe the Zionist entity off the map," and now has rotating centrifuges to make his dream a reality.

I think we've seen this movie already. In 355 BC, Ahashverosh, King of Persia (present-day Iran) issued an order, "to destroy, kill and exterminate all Jews, young and old, women and children in one day". However, before reaching the specified day of Adar, the plan was foiled. In memory of this wonderful rescue we celebrate Purim.

After noticing this similarity, I wanted to learn more of Purim to understand what I missed. After reading articles, asking a few of my more religious friends, and some of my other more politically active ones about this; I finally found a connection to the *Megilah* story.

If we examine the story we learn of a good response to the current Persian threat. When Haman, went to the king of Persia with his extermination plan, he described us with these words, "They are a people, scattered and dispersed among the nations." Pre-

senting the separation and division of the Jewish people was a cause of our vulnerability.

Unity is counterbalance to separation.

When Esther (by divine providence was chosen to be Queen of Persia) had heard about the threat, she directed Mordecai to create a spiritual backing for the daring plan to bring down Haman. She told Mordecai: "Go, assemble all the Jews..." The Jews understood the fatal danger in front of them, and united in prayer and fasting. The result was a complete reversal in their fate -Haman's decree was canceled and they gained the empires respect and appreciation. So now how do we apply this?

Let's face it: we Jews are full of disputes. The expression - two Jews, three opinions - loses its humor when, when we understand our tendency to separate may - as before - bring on the



Tal Bratman,
Savannah Jewish
Community Shlichah

end. The Talmud states that the destruction of The Temple was caused by one thing: hatred between Jews. The problem is not our diversity, but the disputes. Rabbi Akiva, summarized the essence of the Torah with the words, "Love your neighbor as yourself". And when we fail to love each other, we also lose our strength when faced with anti-Semitism, terrorism and war.

The key to cancel the decree is Jew-

ish unity-"love of Israel". The meaning of love for Israel is to love all Jews the world over; no matter how different, religiously or politically, no matter dress, where they live or opinions they hold. No matter how much we love to argue, no matter how much we are sure our position is correct. Our power is in our unity and I hope that this power will help us once more to face the threat over Israel.



YO TEENS!



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All submissions due by April 15, 2012

Savannah Jewish News

Published by the
Savannah Jewish Federation
5111 Abercorn Street
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SJF President: **Jeffrey Lasky**
SJF President-elect: **Stephen Greenberg**
SJF Vice President: **Amos Timna**
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Allan Ratner**
SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**

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

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

All submissions must be in MS Word format (articles) or pdf format (fonts embedded for advertisements). All color must be in the CMYK format. All type in true black, photos in .jpeg format.

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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Harvey Rubin Memorial Award 2012

**Do you know a high school teen who has shown
exceptional athletic ability
and leadership in the community?**

**How about nominating him or her for the
Harvey Rubin Memorial Award?**

Download the application at
www.savj.org

*Completed nominations are due to the JEA
no later than April 15th*

Harvey Rubin Memorial Award 2012

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www.savj.org
Confidential applications must be submitted by April 15, 2012

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Listen and See What You Hear Global Jewish Responsibility

Before I became a lawyer, I always thought the single most important asset was to have a *silver tongue* that could influence and persuade others. I quickly learned that this was a fallacy; a lawyer's most important asset is the ability to be a good listener. It is amazing what you learn when you carefully listen to what someone is saying. An active listener better understands what is happening in their world.

Recently, I was at the JEA listening to all of the activities going on that day and I was truly amazed. As I got out of my car and headed inside, I heard Carol Greenberg talking with a group of volunteers who were spending their Sunday planting daffodil in the front of the JEA and beautifying the entrance to Rambam Day School. I heard the volunteers' enthusiasm for this very worthwhile Tu B'Shvat program and the pride in their voices in being able to do a good deed for the entire community.

On my way to the lobby, I ran into a group of young superheroes who were at the JEA for a three year old birthday party. The sound of so many children running around having fun at the JEA brought a warm feeling to my heart. I remembered my own sons' birthday parties at the JEA and how important the JEA was (and is) in our family.

When I got to the lobby and said hello to Sharon, I overheard some members talking passionately about the fitness classes they had just attended and how fortunate they felt that there was so much going on at the JEA that day.

I believe it is extremely important that all of Federation's leadership listens. We need to listen to our donors to find out what motivates them to give to our Annual Campaign. We need to listen to our recipient agencies so that we really understand what challenges they face and how Federation can help.

We also need to listen to those individuals who choose to not be affiliated with our other Jewish community organizations to find out why and try and find something that will get them engaged.

Toward that end, I am pleased to announce that the officers of Federation will be conducting a community "Ride the Wave Listening Tour" over the next year. At our last board meeting, we discussed what we believe are some of the important issues facing our community. We have compiled an initial list of individuals from all different corners of our community. The officers and our Executive Director, Adam Solender, will now be making appointments to sit down with many of you to listen to what is on your mind. We want to know what you think are the major issues facing our community now and in the future. We want to know what Federation can do better to meet your needs and goals. As we listen to each of you, I can assure you there will not be any "ask" for money or any hidden agenda. Our only goal is to listen so we can continue to Ride the Wave of our community's successes and continue to make the Federation and our community the best that it can possibly be. I hope when we call you to be a part of our Ride the Wave Listening Tour that you will agree to meet with us. After all, we can only be good listeners and improve our community if we have someone to listen to. If you would like to be part of the Ride the Wave Listening Tour please call either me or Adam. We want to listen and I can assure you what we hear will make a difference.



Jeffrey Lasky,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Two weeks ago, my phone extension buzzed... "Stacey Schlafstein is on the phone for you." I picked up the phone and for the next ten minutes, listened to Stacey share the experience that she and Barry had just had.

Stacey and Barry had just returned from Israel as part of a special national Federation Mission. Not that every mission isn't special, but this one was extra special. They were part of a group of 60 participants from around the country who flew to Ethiopia to meet and accompany 80 Ethiopian Jews as they "Completed the Journey" to Israel. At the behest of the Government of Israel, Jewish Federations are spearheading the effort to raise \$5.5 million on behalf of the Jewish Agency for Israel to take care of the remaining approximately 6,000 "Falas Mura" community members in Gondar and facilitate their *aliyah* to Israel.

While in Ethiopia, the Schlafsteins visited schools, clinics and community centers that are run by Savannah Jewish Federation partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). They met with Ethiopian Jews in their Gondar homes, attended synagogue and learned about the life that they created to sustain their Jewish identity in Ethiopia while waiting to make *aliyah*.

Barry's sister, Yvonne Distenfeld (who co chaired the Mission with her husband, Jeffrey) stated, "It was such a moving experience to watch the sun set over the Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa and see the Olim families walk down the hill to the

transit center, carrying all of their possessions to board the buses to the airport. The symbolism of the sun setting, just as they were leaving their lives in Ethiopia behind to realize their lifelong dream of going to Jerusalem, was reminiscent of the *exodus* from Egypt. It was truly stunning."

John Ruskay, another participant (and CEO-UJA, New York) stated "To see the clinics created by JDC, Hebrew language classes and *aliyah* preparation led by the Jewish Agency, and head start and job training programs in Israel, is to see yet again what it means to actualize global Jewish responsibility in every part of the world. That's what Federations and our campaigns make possible."

Stacey described what it was like to be with the new immigrants as they spent their final day in Ethiopia. She shared the many pictures that Barry had taken of the beautiful children, eyes bright in anticipation as they prepared for their modern day *exodus*. She showed me pictures of them receiving "modern clothing" for the first time and described the plane ride of four hours where they were literally taken forward two thousand years.

I had the opportunity of being at Ben Gurion Airport to greet new Ethiopian émigrés many years ago during a Federation mission, so I could relate to the experience (a little). How does one put words to being a witness to the rescue your own people? How can you adequately describe what it means to take a flight from ancient culture to modernity?

At the core of Federation's historic mandate is our responsibility to care for the vulnerable in our community and around the world - It's what we do as Jews. Barry and Stacey were a part of this mandate and modern miracle.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Countdown of the Century: In 5772 Make Moments Count with Hadassah!



HA DAS SAH	1912 Hadassah Began!	2012: Sunday March 27	LEWY 100 YEARS celebrating FASHION THRU THE AGES	2012: Thursday, April 19	2012: Sunday, May 20	2012: October 15- 17
	Making History! 100 years ago women imagined that they could change the world... and they did! Join & Participate! Life membership \$212	Annual Hadassah Presents: 10 Decades of Fashion Celebrate 100 years with this special event. RSVP today to Sue: 912-236-3395 11:30 to 3:00		Select any hour during the day: Help Hadassah help our community commemorate Yom HaShoa with a series of special volunteer opportunities.	Yom Yerushalyim JEA 12:15 to 3 Hadassah joins the Jewish Community with a Green Grocer and Israeli Map program	Hadassah National Convention in Jerusalem!

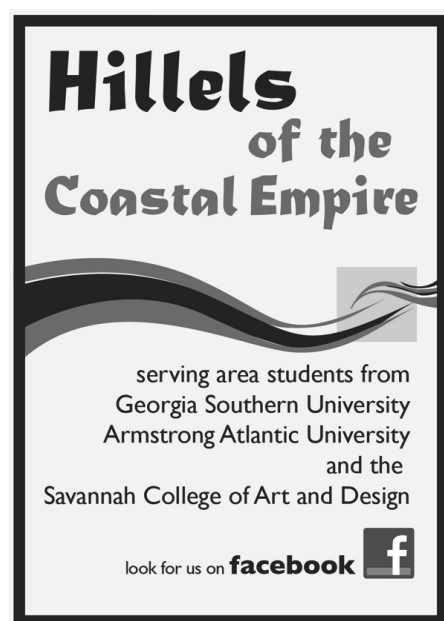
SCAD Hillel Hosted Assi Azar

On a beautiful fall evening in the middle of Finals Week at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Hillel hosted an innovative program. Israeli TV personality Assi Azar was in town to screen his documentary *Mom, Dad, I Have Something to Tell You*. Famous in Israel, as one of the foremost spokespersons for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, Azar was named by *Out Magazine* as one of the world's top 100 most influential gay men.

The audience was an assortment of Jewish and non-Jewish, gay and straight, young and not-so-young. The large crowd was clearly touched by his well-balanced combination of humor, humility and empathy. The conversations afterward were evidence of his impact on the crowd. The event could not have happened without the financial support of the JEA's Israeli Emissary, Tal Bratman's ideas and perseverance.

SCAD freshman Hillel member Jessica Polk recounts her own experience at the event:

Growing up in a Reform Jewish home, attending a Jewish Day School and private Jewish High School, had a tremendous influence on my views and beliefs. While I was always raised to be a free thinker, as well as encouraged to express my opinion, most of my experience with homosexuality was extremely limited. The subject was rarely discussed and the topic almost seemed like taboo to most of the Jews I know. However, one of my closest friends in high school was an Orthodox Jew who was a homosexual. For four years, I watched as he struggled with hiding his sexual orientation. Eventually, his sister, who also attended our school and knew of his sexual orientation, started a gay-straight alliance. There was controversy when this group first formed. Yet, I watched my friend's sister persevere and eventually receive acceptance from the community.



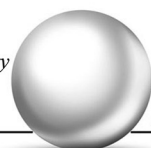
When the opportunity presented itself at SCAD to view the film *Mom, Dad, I Have Something To Tell You*, I was truly intrigued. I had no idea what an amazing and enlightening film I was about to watch. In the documentary, Assi Azar explores homosexuality through the eyes of different Jewish families in Israel. Hearing the views of mothers, fathers, sons and daughters was both touching and fascinating. Each situation portrayed was different. While some families were tolerant and accepting, others were not. As a Jewish woman, I tried to imagine how I would feel if my child confronted me with the news that they were homosexual.

My hope is that because of being exposed to a film like *Mom, Dad, I Have Something To Tell You*, I would be able to support my child in whatever lifestyle suited them. The other students who attended the viewing of the film were also impressed and remarked how touching they found the different stories. The experience was only heightened by my opportunity to actually meet as well as pose for pictures with Assi Azar. I truly felt that he appreciated our attendance as much as we appreciated his message.

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JEA CAMP SAVANNAH IS NOW HIRING SUMMER CAMP STAFF!



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Lead Group Counselors College Freshmen and up, Early Childhood Education Majors and Teachers preferred.

Junior Group Counselors High School Juniors & Seniors

C.I.T. (Counselors in Training) High School Freshmen & Sophomores
A great way to fulfill your public service requirement and have fun at the same time.

Specialty Counselors: Arts & Crafts

Sports & Recreation

WSI-Certified Swimming Instructors

Those applying should possess the following qualities:

- Knowledge and experience working in a camp setting or with children.
- Ability to be an excellent role model, exuding maturity while still remaining youthful.
- Must be responsible, creative, motivated, and professional.
- Flexibility with regard to tasks, work hours and changes in program.
- Ability to positively relate to children, coworkers, and parents alike.

Online Counselor Application available at www.SavannahJEA.org.

For more information, please contact

JEA Camp Director

DJ Horton at 355-8111 x225 or

JEA Camp Registrar

Anna Berwitz at 355-8111 x211



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 BAGEL BREAKFAST AT 10 AM

SAT. 3/22 "THE INFIDEL"
 MEAL AT 7:30 PM / MOVIE AT 8:30 PM

SUN. 3/25 "PRINCE OF EGYPT"
 FREE MOVIE ADMISSION! FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!
 MEAL AT 5 PM / MOVIE AT 5:45 PM

THU. 4/26 "AN ARTICLE OF HOPE & MY BROTHER'S KEEPER"
 MEAL AT 6:30 PM / MOVIE AT 7:30 PM

THU. 4/11 "MY SO CALLED ENEMY"
 MEAL AT 6:30 PM / MOVIE AT 7:30 PM

THU. 5/17 "JEWS AND BASEBALL"
 MEAL AT 6:30 PM / MOVIE AT 7:30 PM

★
ADMIT ONE

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The Higher Ground: Choosing the Views of Our Communal Life

By Carol M. Towbin Greenberg

We choose the colors, the textures, the arrangements of furniture, papers and flowers for our homes or places of businesses in order to create the ambience that sometimes are not only extensions of our personalities, but that can elicit feelings we want to convey to others. Controlling the style and design of one's personal space can provide comfort, excitement, efficiency, and familiarity. We create areas for communing with others or for solitude and reflection. Our shared Jewish community surroundings at the JEA have this same power.

Sitting on the roof on a clear, crisp autumn day last fall waiting for JEA Buildings and Ground Committee Chair Rusty Bridges, Co-Chair Kayton Smith and JEA Maintenance Supervisor Larry Layne to finish their tour of roof integrity and air condition condensers, I took in the view from the top. Finally I think I understood the vision of that board in the 1950's who created this beautiful midtown Jewish haven. It must have been hard to leave the familiar building on Barnard Street that area Jews called home for decades, but that board was convinced that this change was necessary for the continuity and cohesiveness of the community

and they sold that idea to their members.

How stunning a property we have, how incredible our vantage point from this spot mid town, how valuable this real estate is for its size, for its trees, for its location----or is it?

Speaking for myself, I contend that the value of our property is in the services and opportunities it provides to our community, and I know that your dedicated JEA board members are listening and hoping that you and your children become involved in our myriad of programs and plans for our future.

For most of our twenty three years, MorningStar Cultural Arts Group, my alter ego, has conducted oral histories of Jewish Savannahians. When talking about the JEA, interviewees don't speak of pipe rot, or ceiling tile stains, but of having a Jewish communal building where their children are safe and friends and neighbors congregate. They sometimes spoke of the future with a yearning for the past. It is the responsibility of board members to listen to these ideas, tempered with fiscal responsibility, to apply them to new ideas that are of interest to the next generation of Jewish Savannahians.

The JEA is starting to show its age since its last renovation (twenty years

ago). The *face lift* was necessary and beautiful but there are parts of the structure that are over fifty years old. I am amazed what Larry and the Maintenance staff does to keep some of the older pieces churning away in bowels of the building unbeknownst to the people enjoying the pool, Health & Wellness facilities, common meeting areas, the school or the Art gallery.

Over the last five months, Rusty, Kayton, Larry and I have been inspecting drains, ceiling cracks, plumbing/electrical lines, heating and air conditioning equipment--the parts of the property that most people never see or think about. I am happy to report that there is incredible progress in identifying problems, fixing the items requiring immediate attention, making schedules for maintenance of large items. We are beginning the process of upkeep on the building and grounds that will make the vision of the Strategic Planning Committee a reality, both as a testament to the last 100 years, and for our children to enjoy our building and grounds for at least the next 100.

The economy is a challenge for everyone. I have seen an incredible spirit of volunteerism and levels of product donation that is so encouraging. In addition to the children and parents here for February Fun Day, Hadas-



JEA Beautification

sah volunteers, members of the JEA Children's Committee, Schlichta, Tal Bratman, PJ Library volunteers, there were over seventy-five people who came to donate time and materials to reclaiming the gardens. Special thanks go to George Feehley and his amazing crew, Rambam and Shalom School parents and children.

In the April SJN, look for future dates for Family Fun Days and plan to join us. Maybe it is a little premature for baseball metaphors... If we fix our Field of Dreams, will you come?

The JEA presents, a 100 Year Celebration Event Scenes From An Italian Restaurant

A Billy Joel Dinner Theater featuring "The Stranger" Billy Joel tribute band.

Sunday, April 29, 2012

\$72.00 Per Person, Open Seating

Tables of ten (10) can be reserved for an additional \$250.00,
includes a champagne toast

Door at 5:00 pm | Dinner at 5:30 pm | Band at 6:45 pm

Purchase Tickets at the JEA, by phone at 912 355-8111,
or online at SavannahJEA.org R.S.V.P. by April 20th

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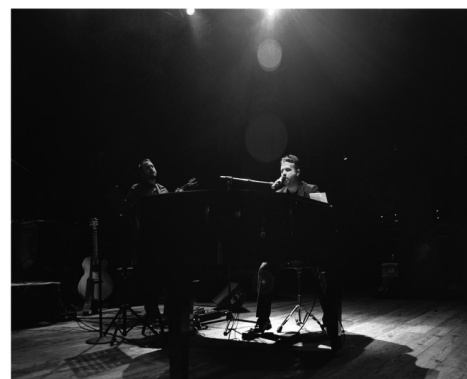
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Mr. and Mrs. Aron Weiner
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Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Weitz
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Weitz
Col. Edward I. Wexler
Mr. and Mrs. Morris Whitlock
Ms. Ida Wilensky
Ms. Sylvia Yellin
Ms. Carolyn Zalesne

If you are not a member you may join by sending a check in one of the following amounts to:
Savannah Jewish Archives, c/o Savannah Jewish Federation; 5111 Abercorn Street; Savannah, GA 31405

Benefactor - \$500 Sustainer - \$250 Friend - \$100 Member - \$50

Shabbat.....from page 1

We welcome everyone's participation in this wonderful opportunity for our community to join in for "Shabbat V'Yachad" (A Shabbat Together).

What's a *Shabbaton*? The term *shabbaton* means an event or program of education, and usually is a celebration, that is held on *Shabbat*. Shabbatonim (plural of Shabbaton) are held throughout the Jewish World. By calling such a program a *shabbaton*, we recognize of the central importance of Shabbat in

the event.

To make your reservations for dinner, RSVPs are a must by Sunday, March 10th, go to www.savannahjea.org or reserve at the JEA Front Desk. To make this evening as affordable as possible, the meal is only \$15 per person, children 12 and under – please consider a voluntary donation. All adults and children must have a reservation.











927-0700
Shop 24 hours at: www.southern-motors.com

Have an Opinion? Don't Miss the Minyan!

The JEA is proud to present the Opinion Minyan, an interactive, participatory discussion series which includes a buffet brunch.

Don't Forget to Save the Dates!

Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 10 am

A Special Screening of *Unmasked: Judeophobia* with a discussion following. This is a joint event with the *Savannah Jewish Film Festival!*

Thursday, April 5, 2012* at 12:30 pm

"Medical Ethics, Jewish Influences, and Important Questions"

Dr. Martin Greenberg

*A Special Pre-Passover Luncheon will be provided at this event.

Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 10 am

"What's so Funny about being Jewish?"

What's so Jewish about being Funny?"

Melinda Stein

Admission is free for JEA members and \$8 for non-members which includes the meal and speaker.

"The food was great, the company was wonderful, and the speaker was very entertaining!"



Visit us at www.SavannahJEA.org!

Your Campaign Dollars at Work!

My Trip to Israel

By Aaron Solender

July 3, 2011 - After a very quick two hours on I-95, we drove up the ramp to "Departures" at the Jacksonville Airport. One of my best friends, David Sokolin, and I got out of the car, hoisted on our backpacks, said our goodbyes, and made our way towards the terminal. As we were going through security and getting onto the plane, we both agreed that the next month in Israel was going to go one of two ways. Either it was going to be a very long month where we were going to have to stick together to get through it, or, we were embarking on the time of our lives. Thankfully, it was the latter and more.

This past summer, I participated in NCSY's TJJ- The Jerusalem Journey. We travelled throughout Israel staying in obscure locations, such as the predominantly Arab town of Peki'in, and not so obscure ones, including the holy cities of Tzfat and Jerusalem.

Whether it was kayaking on the Jordan River (which really turned into swimming in the Jordan River), repelling down mountains, riding camels and staying in Bedouin tents, or banana-boating on the Red Sea in Eilat, the trip provided a perfect blend of action oriented and fun activities with the experiences that really allowed for one to spiritually get in touch with their Judaic roots.

There was one moment from the trip that struck me as important to share. The second Shabbat of the trip, we went to the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. This was the first time I had ever been there. While I don't consider myself to be the most religious person, the experience of prayer as I was touching the wall was overwhelming. When I was dancing in the Kotel plaza with my new friends, Israeli soldiers, yeshiva

students, and hundreds of others, I experienced a new deeper connection to Judaism and our roots. I began to cry. It was one of the most uplifting experiences of my life, and I'm ecstatic that it was able to take place.

It was incredible to be a part of a trip that had equal parts history, experience, and spirituality. I could not believe how quickly thirty individuals from all over North America had become one community. Not only did we get to know each other, our communities and different Jewish practices, we got to know ourselves in a whole different way. It's one of the miracles of experiencing Israel.

None of this could've have taken place without the generous contribution of the scholarship I received from the Savannah Jewish Federation. Thanks to all of you, I was able to have the time of my life, make new friends and connections all over the country, and gain a deeper connection with Judaism, all while in the holy land of Israel. Todah rabbah!

Aaron Solender is a senior at St. Andrew's School and participated in the NCSY Jerusalem Journey with support from the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign. He is a member of Congregation Mickve Israel and active with BBYO.



Aaron Solender with fellow Savannahian, David Sokolin.

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



JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
CENTRE
PREMIERE

SAVE THE DATE
for Our Next 100-Year Celebration Event



Sunday, April 29, 2012

A Night with “The Stranger” - Billy Joel Dinner Theatre

Join us for a delicious family-style Italian dinner & dessert, wine & beer, and the musical talents of the complete premiere

Billy Joel Tribute Band

\$72 per person (can be purchased on-line or at the JEA)
Doors open at 5:15 pm

“A bottle of white, a bottle of red.
Perhaps a bottle of rose instead.
We’ll get a table by the street, in our old familiar place
You and I, face to face, at Savannah’s JEA”

‘The Stranger’ is the complete premiere tribute to the music of the Piano Man himself, Billy Joel. Fronted by accomplished pianist & vocalist Mike Santoro, and backed by some of the finest seasoned musicians in the business, this 6-piece band brings together an authentic replication of Billy’s timeless music, crowning it with soulful, spot on vocals that make a Billy Joel song what it is. So much so that you will find yourself taking a second look. Join us for an amazing evening as the JEA is transformed into an Italian restaurant, serving up a traditional Italian dinner with wine and beer, proceeded by a night of wonderful entertainment with music by everyone’s favorite Piano Man, Billy Joel, as performed by Mike Santoro and his 6-piece band.

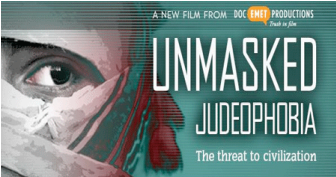
New JEA Members

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 12/30/11-2/7/12)

Lynda Beam
Jessica Bean
Kristen Burns
Bethany Campbell
Wilbert Davis
Michael DeVegter
Kathleen Doyle
Mark Egan
Marianne Fahey
Bill Fischer & DeAnna Daniels
Teresa Foote
Beverly Fox
Reginald Franklin
Michael & Jami Ganem
Daniel Hayes
Jesse Hinton
John Ilocovini &
Charlalee Sedgewick
Julia Jacobs
Benjamin Karpf &
Suzanne Wallace
Michael & Teri Kelly
Anna King

Blazo Kovacevic &
Natalija Mijatovic
Deborah Lonergan
William Lucas
Michael McGreevy
Andres Montes
Sarah Morris
Paul Nease & Rachel Etheridge
Anthony Phillips
Matthew Poisson &
Christine Callaghan
Constantinus Popaconstantinou
& Simoni Trapsioni
Cromwell Reeves
Justin Shapiro
Michael Spears
John & Linda Thames
David & Michele Wagner
Ryan Wagner
Richard Williamson &
Allison Barnes
Michael & Heather Wolff

SAVANNAH JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL



UNMASKED JUDEOPHOBIA: THE
THREAT TO CIVILIZATION

Sunday March 11
Movie at 10 am, a joint event with
The Opinion Minyan!

An examination of rising anti-Jewish ideology. Filmmaker Gloria Greenfield travels from Israel to Europe to North America, covering this phenomenon from all angles, including Christian and Islamic polemics against Jews, the proliferation of anti-Israeli bias in academia, misinformation campaigns and state-sanctioned denials of Israel’s right to exist. This movie is a call to action and urgent reminder that anti-Semitism is a menace not only to Jews, but to the human condition itself.

81 min, Documentary, English
FREE to JEA Members
\$8 for Non-Members
Babysitting available and included in the ticket price.



THE INFIDEL
Thursday, March 22
Dinner at 6:30 pm
Movie at 7:30 pm



A Muslim family man, Mahmud Nasir, experiences an identity crisis when he finds his birth certificate and discovers he was adopted at birth. He was born to a Jewish mother. In order to embrace his heritage, Mahmud seeks the advice of drunken cab driver Lenny, whose crash course in Judaism is more quirky than kosher.

105, min, Comedy, English
Paid Dinner Reservations by March 20th.
Movie Only: \$8 Members, \$9 Non-Members
Dinner & Movie: \$18 Members, \$19 Non-Members.

THE PRINCE OF
EGYPT



Sunday, March 25
Dinner at 5 pm, Movie
at 5:45 pm
FREE FILM
ADMISSION!

This is an extraordinary tale of two brothers - Moses and Ramses - one born of royal blood and one an orphan with a secret past. Growing up the best of friends, they share a strong bond of free-spirited youth and good-natured rivalry. But, the truth will ultimately set them at odds, as one becomes the ruler of the most powerful empire on earth, and the other the chosen leader of his people.

99 min, Animated, English
Paid Dinner Reservations by March 23
\$5 per or \$25 per family



JEA CAMP SAVANNAH 2012

Creating memories to last a lifetime!

CAMP STARTS JUNE 11TH REGISTER ONLINE

at www.SavannahJEA.org



2012 JEA TORNADOES SWIM TEAM

Registration begins April 2nd

Practices begin May 14th

For children ages 5 and older

All registration information can be found on line at <http://savannahjea.org/page.aspx?id+219374>. You will also find information about how to order the team swim suits that for your child. Any questions, please contact Stephanie at 355-8111 or at stephanie@savj.org.



JEA PURIM CARNIVAL!

Time for some fun and relaxation!

When?
Sunday, March 4th
11:30am - 3:00pm

Where?
JEA Rear Circle

Prices?
\$5 Single, \$15 Family
Concessions Sold Separate

- ★ Inflatables
- ★ Rock Wall
- ★ Costume Contest!
- ★ Face Painting
- ★ Arts and Crafts Table
- ★ Petting Zoo

JEA Community Shabbaton

Friday, March 16th
6 pm - Shabbat Service
7:15 pm - Dinner

Join us as we celebrate "A Shabbat Together."

Dinner is \$15 per person for those 13 yrs and older.

For those 12 and younger, donations are accepted in lieu of dinner price.

Paid RSVPs required by **March 12th**. You can make your dinner reservations on-line at www.SavannahJEA.org-6835



Evening child care

24 Hour Advance Notice

10 Slots Available

JEA Members ONLY can drop off their children from 5:30-8 pm, Monday-Thursday in the babysitting room while working out. Cost for evening childcare is \$30 per 10 hour card.



Who: Children 6 mon.-11 yrs

By Reservation Only

JEA Donations
(12/21/11-2/7/12)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Ruth Sadler
In honor of Judge Michael Karpf
In honor Allison Konter
Elizabeth & Steven Arkin
In memory of Maxine "Midge" Schildkraut
Nancie & Fred Clark

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of William Keith
In memory of Phyllis Aronson Levin
Doris & Arnie Goldstein
In honor of Ethyl Rosenzweig
Eva Odrezin
In honor of Judge Michael Karpf
In memory of Herman Barnett
Sally Krissman
In honor of Louise Harkavy's speedy recovery
Harriet & Paul Kulbersh
Stacy & Jeff Lasky
In honor of Louise Harkavy's speedy recovery
In memory of Beezy Forstot
In memory of Herman Barnett
Doris & Arnie Goldstein

Donations continued on pg. 4

JEA Aftercare Program

Aftercare Hours:

Mon-Thurs - 3:00-6:00 pm, Fridays - 3:00-5:00 pm

Open most days out of school

Cost: \$50/week \$12/day

Transportation from Jacob G. Smith,

Charles Ellis & Garrison

Transportation cost: \$30/month \$3/per trip



- **Swimming**
- **Gymnastics**
- **Sports**
- **Yoga**
- **Much more!!**

- **Homework Help**
- **Daily Snacks**
- **Cooking**
- **Fitness Fun**
- **Art**

Healthy Posture Tips for Seniors



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Poor posture can cause you all sorts of aches and pains, but more importantly for seniors, poor posture can increase the risk of falling. Approximately 30 percent of seniors fall each year, and falling can result in serious health consequences. As we age, the effectiveness of many body systems that control a stable posture deteriorates. Not only are we at greater risk for falling, but our ability to recover our balance or “break” a fall is compromised as we get older.

If better posture is a means of preventing accidents, then working on getting straight is worth the effort. Begin by taking a look at how you normally stand and sit. Have a friend take pictures of you from all sides while you are standing and sitting as you normally do. Then take a critical look.

- 1. Are your shoulders rounded? Your shoulders should align with your hips, knees, and ankles.
- 2. Is your back too arched? Your head should not poke forward.

Out of Whack?

Pay attention and get moving. Physical activity is significantly correlated with good posture and balance. And, how you sit and stand when you

are not exercising is important too. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- 1. Even if you have to sit for long periods, try to keep your head up straight, not tilted forward or back.
- 2. When sitting, keep your thighs parallel to the floor and your knees at a 90-degree angle.
- 3. Always stand as straight as you can.
- 4. Wear supportive shoes and use arch supports if you need them.
- 5. Do back strengthening exercises and muscle stretches each day. Stand against a wall and lift one knee to a 90-degree angle for 1 minute three times per day; this will help remind your body how to balance.
- 6. Change your position about every 15 minutes, whether you’re standing or sitting.
- 7. Sleep on a firm mattress.
- 8. Maintain your optimum body weight.
- 9. Be patient.

Maintaining good posture is a simple way to make your life more comfortable and avoid injury. Good posture while sitting, standing and lifting can help you avoid pain--even if you never take a tumble. Just being aware of when you are not practicing good posture is a great start. However, to improve old habits, you must exercise to relax muscles that are accustomed to old patterns of movement. Get started today and you will likely see results in about a month.

When trying to fix bad posture habits in seniors and the elderly there are a few things to

keep in mind. First, poor posture habits affect your mobility and function during your daily activities. With time, these postural problems add up to chronic back pain, joint pain in your hips and knees, and decreased endurance with walking and chores.

To fix bad posture we must know what good posture is. When we see someone with good posture, they stand out as a healthy and confident person. They are standing tall, ribs are lifted, shoulders are back and down and spine is in neutral. They look light on their feet and likely are not overweight.

Take a posture check and see how you are doing. First, sit with your hands under your buttock. Are you balanced on both sides? Elongate your spine by imagining a line pulling up from your head. Lift your ribs and bring your shoulders back and down. Take your index finger and place it on your chin pointing in the direction of the crown on your head. Begin to push your chin back with your finger. This will bring your cervical spine into a more neutral position and help raise your chest and center your shoulders.

There are many different exercises that you can do to improve posture. If you are interested in learning specific exercises, please stop by my office or call and make an appointment. I will be able to help you with more specific exercises for your needs.

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 Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am SilverSplash		10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize
	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



March Artist - Richard Hochman

Dick Hochman has been taking pictures since he got his first Brownie at the age of ten. His enthusiasm for photography has taken him through all the stages of black-and-white images including the bulk-loading of film in the home darkroom, to his own space properly equipped and dedicated to the processing of his photographs.

Although he has had no formal training, he has tried to make up for the lack of academic and disciplined guidance with enthusiasm, technology and the occasional professional input from people who have been kind enough to share their expertise.

Dick has always enjoyed the beauty of the natural world. Walks through the woods, on the beaches or in the mountains afford him tranquility, spirituality and moments of unparalleled peace. These images reflect his joy with and appreciation for the world around us.

It wasn't long before Dick began photographing couples (friends) and has gotten into 'people' photography. For Dick, photography is all about connections; the connection between couples, both to each other and to the camera.

One of Dick's professional connections is Alec Gilmore, a friend and mentor. This exhibit would not have been presented save for Alec's guidance, energy, and his encouragement. Dick will be forever grateful for the friend Alec has been to him since his chance arrival at Bay Camera.

Dick hopes you'll enjoy the beauty of both the "scenic" and "people" in his images. As they 'spoke' to Dick, he hopes they will 'speak' to you. He hopes that you will enjoy seeing these couples engaged with each other, seemingly oblivious to the camera, yet at the same time, projecting their connection so well for all to see.

Artwork available for viewing Mar. 1-30, 2012
Art Reception March 4, 2012, 1-3 pm

JEA Donations cont. (12/21/11-2/7/12)

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Ruth Sadler
Stacy & Jon Ragitsky
Fran & Edward Harrell
Beth & Richard Bosman
In honor of Judge Michael Karpf
Linda & Michael Zoller
In memory of Sylvan Byck
Paul Felser
In honor of Allison Konter
Beth & Richard Bosman
A donation to the Greenspace Committee for Tu B'Shevat Supplies
Carole & Jerald Cohen
Toby Hollenberg
In memory of Gershon Timna
Norma & Dr. Marvin Rappaport
In honor of Anne Scheer's birthday
Jean Birnbaum

RAYMOND & MORRIS ROSEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Ruth Sadler
Laurie & Jeff Rubnitz

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Candy Lowe's speedy recovery
In memory of Ruth Sadler
Elise & Victor Shernoff
In memory of Ruth Sadler
In memory of Herman Barnett
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein
In honor of Bernard Wilker's speedy recovery
In memory of Jack Kaye
Brenda & Patrick Salter, Bernice Elman

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Lillian "Mickey" Murphy
Fran Engel
In memory of Herman Barnett
In memory of Ruth Sadler
Linda & Eric Karpf
In honor of Allison Konter
LeeAnn & Jeff Kole

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Phyllis Levin
In memory of Dorothy Boblasky
In memory of Herman Barnett
Sally & Steve Greenberg

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Dorothy B. Hume
In memory of Gary Center
In memory of Philip Solomons
In memory of Hal Kanter
In memory of Phyllis A. Levin
In memory of Herman Barnett
Simone & Leo Center

TREE OF LIFE

In honor of Frank Hoffman
Workmen's Circle Credit Union

March 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb. 26	27	28	29 Rambam Pre-school Presentation- 6 pm	Mar. 1	2	3
4 Community Purim Carnival- 11:30 am Art Gallery Reception- 1 pm	5	6 Presidential Primary	7 Megillah Reading	8 Purim	9	10
11 Sav. Jewish Film Festival/Opinion Minyan- 10:00 am	12 Rambam School Play- 6:30 pm	13	14	15	16 Community Shabbaton- 6 pm	17
18	19	20 Hadassah Presents- 12:00 pm	21	22 Sav. Jewish Film Festival Dinner & Movie- 7:30 pm	23	24
25 Sav. Jewish Film Festival- 5 pm	26	27	28	29	30	31

Choosing to Make the World Better

By Dr. Steven Berwitz, DMD

It's been almost two years since I had to make some difficult decisions. Where am I going to practice dentistry? Where are we going to raise our family? Do we really want to leave New Jersey? I had a lot on my plate that May, but it was my family that helped me make the right decision.

I grew up in a Conservative Jewish household, keeping kosher, attending services and Hebrew school for many years. When I was growing up, my mother and father worked very hard to make Judaism an important part of our family life. It was during my college years that my mother told me it was my decision as to what type of Jew I wanted to become. College came and went, followed by graduate school and then dental school. It was not until after college, that I came face to face with what being Jewish means to me. I knew the path I wanted to follow and made the decision to be a committed Jew.

We all make choices in our life that affect the type of person we are. Some of us become involved in our communities, some in our synagogues. Some choose not to be involved at all, while

others feel that they have done their part. The day after we moved to Savannah we became members of the JEA. We decided that being part of this community was important to us. It was not long after that my son, Eli, became the official greeter at the front desk of the gym. My wife became involved in all aspects of the JEA and its Camp.

I was asked to help with Young Jewish Savannah and then sit on a committee of the Savannah Jewish Federation. I turned to my wife and said, "Why me?" I realized that this was a call to action and I had decided prior to moving to Savannah that I would become an active participant in the Jewish community. Soon I became a board member of Savannah Jewish Federation. Then I began to help with a committee at Congregation Agudath Achim. I realized that it is important for me to establish a Jewish identity not only for myself, but my son. I want him to realize that we have a responsi-



Dr. Steven Berwitz,
DMD

bility to help others in our community.

When I meet my wife she was working as an Oncology Social Worker for the American Cancer Society. She worked very hard in extremely stressful situations. It seems like almost every day she would sing a song with a verse that always stayed with me. "Fixing the World, *Tikkun Olam*..." When I started my residency, I took this to heart. I began to take an interest in helping patients with special needs, taking them into the operating room to complete their dentistry.

As I finished my residency I felt that there was more to be done. I soon became an attending at the hospital, volunteering my time to help those special needs patients receive the dental care they deserved. I taught other residents in the operating room. Shortly after that, I became a member of the American Association of Hospital Dentists.

When I arrived in Savannah, I quickly chose to become one of a few dentists on staff at Memorial Univer-

sity Medical Center. I believed that I could help those patients that needed dental care, but could not receive it in a conventional setting. Being on staff has given me the opportunity to help others; *Tikkun Olam* one mouth at a time.

As I write this article and approach the two-year anniversary of our move to Savannah, I am so proud of what our family contributed to our community. Our involvement has enriched our lives. We choose to be members of the JEA. We choose to be members of Congregation Agudath Achim; we choose to support our new Jewish community. Anna and I believe that by making these choices we are showing our son that we can make the "world a better place."

Dr. Steven Berwitz, DMD has his own dental practice in Savannah and volunteers his dental knowledge and ability at the Dental Clinic at Memorial University Medical Center. His wife, Anna, works at the JEA as Development and Special Events Coordinator.

*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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*Henrietta Szold, Photo courtesy of [Hadassah Archives](#)
"dressed to explore the countryside of Palestine" Circa 1909

“In the Beginning, We Were There”

By, Phoebe Kerness

Girl Scouts of all ages and friends of the Girl Scouts, please join us at Congregation Mickve Israel on Friday evening, March 9th, 2012 for Girl Scout Shabbat.

We will gather for Shabbat dinner at 5:45 P.M. followed by Shabbat Services at 6:45 P.M. during which time Rabbi Crystal will pay tribute to the historic interaction between the Jewish Community of Savannah and the beginnings of the Girl Scouts. Margaret Skene, the Chief Executive Officer for the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, will be the featured speaker during the service. Following services, there will be an Oneg Shabbat featuring cookies baked from the original recipe used for the first commercially baked Girl Scout cookies by Gottlieb's Bakery here in Savannah in 1936, along with the new Savannah Smiles which is



the official cookie celebrating the Girl Scout Centennial.

The menu for the Shabbat dinner will include: poached salmon, macaroni and cheese, green beans, Moroccan tomato salad, green salad, challah and beverages. The price for dinner is \$12.50 per person; \$8.00 for children ages five through twelve, and is free for children under the age of five.

Reservations made by contacting Khrsten Garrett at 233-1547 or kgarret t@mickveisrael.org by March 5, 2012.

We, at Mickve Israel look forward to having a big celebration for this historic Shabbat.

Vital Statistics

MAZEL TOV – Carol M. Towbin Greenberg for being named one of Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia's Women of Distinction “for setting an example of excellence” awarded on March 2 in time for the Centennial Anniversary of Scouting the following week. Most recently her arts charity MStarArts worked on the display of 100 years of Jewish Participation in Scouting and will premier a short film for the occasion later this spring.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Ruth S. Sadler

Who died on January 4, 2012

She is survived by one daughter, Lynne Sadler (Mark) Levine; three sons, Alan Sadler, Gary (Tara) Sadler, and Kenneth (Jodi) Sadler; eleven grandchildren, William, Brett and Marissa Levine, Eva, Lauren and Phillip Sadler, Scott and Bari Sadler, and Rose, Beth and Barney Sadler and one brother; Marvin Smalheiser of Los Angeles, CA

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, the Jewish Educational Alliance or American Diabetes Association.

Bernice “Beezy” Forstot

Who died on January 20, 2012

She is survived by one daughter, Sheila (Steve) Gendil, of Columbia, SC; one

son, Richard E. (Roslyn) Forstot of Lawrenceville, GA; seven grandchildren, Andy (Julie) Gendil, Jenny (Steven) Wagner, Lauren (Andrew) Waldorf, Abby (Michael) Shashoua, Jody (Matt) Clickner, Jeremy (Nicole) Altfeder and Lisa (Sean) McNeal; ten great-grandchildren, and one sister, Evelyn Feldman of Boston, Massachusetts.

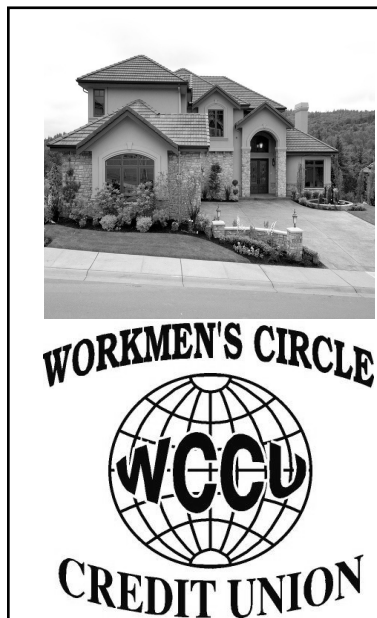
Remembrances: Hadassah or Congregation Agudath Achim.

Maxine “Midge” Schildkraut

Who died on January 22, 2012

She is survived by her husband, Herbert "Herbie" Schildkraut; her daughter, Robyn Schildkraut of Atlanta, GA

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim.



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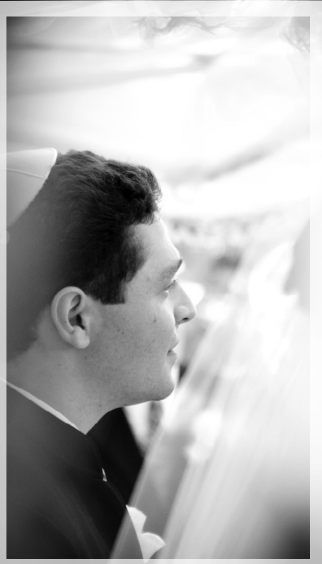

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Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Lauren and Adam Fins

1. I know that Lauren is from Savannah but, why did you decide to come back to live in Savannah?

Lauren: Although I enjoyed my ten years away from Savannah, a part of me always felt like Savannah was still my true home. Each time I visited Savannah I was surprised how much the city had to offer, and how much it has grown during my time away. It was difficult to leave our jobs, friends, and Adam's family in New England, but we felt like Savannah would be a great place for us to put down roots.

Adam: Well, like you said, Lauren is from Savannah and has lots of connections to the community. From a professional standpoint, knowing that there was a long-time family business to maintain and build, made the transition a lot easier, taking away a lot of the inherent fear of relocation. From a personal standpoint, most of my friends had relocated to a number of places, near and far, so there was nothing to keep us in New England, besides my own family, of course. But when it all comes down to it, we felt that Savannah provided us the best opportunity for our future family.

2. Adam, how did you perceive you life here and how has it turned out so far? Lauren, same question for you?

Lauren: I didn't really know what to expect when moving back to Savannah. I had changed a lot since living here,

and assumed that the city had changed as well. After living here for over a year I have found that Savannah is still as beautiful and welcoming as I remembered it. I have enjoyed exploring Savannah as an adult, and feel that the city has a lot to offer. The milder winters aren't bad either.

Adam: I really didn't know what to expect. Turns out that Savannah isn't all that different from where I was from, except for the weather. I've already gotten used to the no-snow winters, though I don't think I'll ever get used to the summers. The pace of life, the friendliness, the cost of living, and, most importantly, the food are all so much better.

3. I know that you both are active in several organizations in Savannah, Jewish and secular; what are they? Tell me about why you have become involved and what leadership positions you have attained and your goals?

Adam: Our main involvement has been with Young Jewish Savannah. We became involved with the group after only one week in town. The way we were welcomed made it something we wanted to continue to be a part of. We've made most of our best friends here we've made through the group. When we were asked to join the board last Fall, it was an offer we couldn't and didn't want to refuse. My current goal for the group

is to find new members and boost participation. We've got a lot of fun events coming up this year, so stay tuned. If you or someone you know wants to join, email us at youngjewishsavannah@gmail.com. I'm also involved in Buy Local Savannah. I haven't become involved in leadership yet, but I believe in its importance to the businesses of the city. As a future business owner, it's a great way to get insight and advice from experienced people. And learn about taking a long-term view for the betterment of the city and its businesses.

Lauren: Our main involvement is with Young Jewish Savannah. The group welcomed us when we were new to Savannah, and helped us make a smooth transition to a new city. I would love to help other new comers to Savannah feel as welcomed as we did. One of my goals as Sisterhood Chair is to have interesting events that will hopefully bring new people into the group. I also volunteer with the Savannah Chatham Animal Control, where I work with the dogs and help find them loving homes.

4. What is happening professionally in you lives right now?

Lauren: I guess you can say that my professional life has "gone to the dogs." I spend most of my time as a Dog Trainer at PetSmart, teaching obedience classes. I am also in the



Adam and Lauren

process of starting my own business, called B.A.R.K. Training, which focuses on positive training and reinforcement to correct behavioral issues such as anxiety. Animals have always been an important part of my life, and I am very lucky to be able to work with them for a living.

Adam: I'm becoming more and more involved in the operation of Friedman's Art Store, Inc. With the help of the staff, and the blessings of Julian Weitz, owner and my father-in-law, we're actively expanding the three businesses under the company umbrella. I wouldn't say we're on the cutting edge, but when you're talking about a 110 year old company, every step is a big one.

To learn more about Young Jewish Savannah contact Lauren and Adam who are both reachable through Young Jewish Savannah email address, youngjewishsavannah@gmail.com or through the YJS Facebook page. Or to reach them individually; Lauren can be reached through her website, www.barktrainingvpweb.com and Adam can be reached through www.friedmansfineart.com or by calling (912) 234-1322.

It's A Funny Thing

By Melinda Stein

When we moved to Savannah in the late '70s, there was a new Rabbi in town, who was married to a woman who kept her maiden name for professional reasons. As the Purim holiday approached, the Rabbi and his wife prepared a great many "mishloach manos" (gift baskets of goodies) for their friends and congregants. Many of the recipients were shocked upon reading the givers' two separate names and called around to say, "Oy, a shanda, a scandal – the Rabbi is living with a woman!"

A Catholic priest, a Protestant minister, and a rabbi were discussing what they wanted to hear people say after they died and were being prepared for burial.

The Priest said, "I would like to hear

someone say, he was a righteous and honest man, and very generous."

The Minister said, "I would like to hear someone say, he was very kind and fair, and cared about his parishioners."

The Rabbi said, "I would like to hear someone say, Look! He's moving!"



Melinda Stein

One Shabbat morning, the Rabbi noticed a seven year old boy staring at one of the memorial plaques in the synagogue lobby. It was covered with names and had small American flags along the sides.

"Rabbi, what are these names for?" asked the youngster.

"These are the people of our congregation that died in the service."

"The Friday night service or the Saturday morning service?"

Shortly after Sidney died, his widow, Tillie, spoke of her late husband.

"Sidney thought of everything," she told her friends. "Just before he died, he handed me three envelopes containing his last instructions to me. The first envelope contained \$5,000 with instructions to use the money to buy a nice

casket. So I bought a beautiful one.

The second envelope contained \$10,000 with a note to use this money for a nice funeral. I made Sidney a very dignified funeral and shiva.

"And the third envelope?" asked her friends.

"The third envelope contained \$25,000 with a note to use the money to buy a nice stone."

At that point, Tillie held up her hand and pointed to her ring finger, on which was a ten-carat diamond ring "So," said Tillie, "You like my stone?"

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

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

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 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.

Image by Attic Fire Photography

בב"ד



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Celebrate Purim at the BBJ:

Join us for Megillah reading, Wednesday evening March 7th at 7:00 PM and Thursday morning March 8th at 6:45 AM.

We will be hosting our annual Purim party in the Social Hall on Thursday, March 8th at 5:00 PM, featuring a live band, dancing, a costume contest for all ages, and great food. Please make reservations with the shul office.

Chevra Kadisha Banquet Honoring the memory of Hymie Epstein o.b.m.

Sunday evening, March 4th at 7:15. Please call the shul office to make reservations.

Ongoing Classes and Events:

Rabbi Slatius' weekly classes, held in the Rosenberg Educational Complex:

"Ascending through Leviticus," Mondays at 7:45 PM and "The Laws of Shabbos," Tuesdays at 7:30 PM.



Come and join one of the many outstanding classes the Savannah Kollel has to offer.

Including: Learning how to read and understand Hebrew, our popular Rosh Chodesh class for women in conjunction with the ladies Tehillim Group of Savannah, Delving into The Book of Genesis, Weekly Parsha, Daily Talmud Study and more.

For information on all Kollel classes: contact Rabbi Rabhan at 912-354-7721.



The Southern Region NCSY Chapter of the Year always has entertaining and engaging programming available, whether a trip to Universal Studios, joining 150 Jewish teens for a Weekend Get-together, or Game Night at the shul.

Sr. NCSY (grades 9-12), Jr. NCSY (grades 5-8). All Jewish teens are welcome!

Contact Rabbi Lob: Phone: 912-429-2836 Email: Rabbilob@gmail.com Web: www.bbjnycsy.com

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First Graders Receive Siddurim

On the evening of January 23, nine precious, little First Graders received their siddur. We had a wonderful audience of over 75 people join in this momentous occasion. The audience was filled with parents, grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends.

Each first grader chose whom they would like to present them with their siddur; giving that individual the opportunity to express a few words to them:

Reese Cohen's mother and brother presented her siddur: Wendy Cohen said, "This week's parsha is Parshas Bo, which means 'come'. Hashem will always tell you to come. He will never send you away."

Chana Raizel Rabhan's great grandmother presented her siddur: Cookie Yellin said, "Use your siddur to thank Hashem for all you have. Let your siddur be one of your best friends."

Elie Raskin's father presented his siddur: Alex Raskin said, "I know what Sam received from Rambam academically and morally, and I wish the same for you."

Eleanor Rothschild's parents presented her siddur: Mr. Rothschild said, "I read to you all the time, 'I Love The Moon and Back'. Now you read to me in Hebrew, and I take it for granted you are reading it correctly!"

Jack Saul's father presented his siddur: Brian Saul said, "Are you excited? We are so excited for you to be in Rambam. Yesterday it was Marc and today it is you."



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Shaya Slatos' father presented his siddur: Tzvi Slatos said, "I remember when I received my siddur from Savannah Hebrew Day School. My father always told me, if you ever feel lonely, sad, happy or appreciative, just open up your siddur."

Tova Dena Travis' father presented her siddur. Rabbi Travis said, "It is an honor and a privilege to be here. I told my CO that my daughter was receiving her first prayer book, and he told me – 'you better be there'!"

Binyamin Schachter's father presented his siddur: Dovid Schachter said, "I am so proud of you. I still have my first siddur. Your great grandparents prayed that they should survive to have great grandchildren. Their prayers were answered."

Ayelet Weinberg's grandmother presented her siddur: Beth Weinberg said, "I am proud of you. Use your siddur every day!"

Esther: A Destiny

Many people think Purim is merely an occasion to wear silly costumes and make lots of noise with groggers — but there is so much more; the ancient story of Purim reveals many deep insights, inspirational life-lessons that are so relevant to our mission at Shalom School.

Esther, an orphan who would not be your typical royalty, had a clear understanding of her destiny "at a time as this". Like if God himself was pointing at her and saying, "That is why you are here, are born, this is your Purpose". Only that there was no finger pointed and Esther had to recognize the opportunity herself.

This moment of clarity is not given to all of us. It is rather a daily quest, finding our purpose in myriads of little things rather than through a big first role like Esther. In a general sense, we each need to realize that we have been brought into the world specifically at this point in history; not in the generation of a hundred years ago or a hundred years from now. God has a destiny for each one of us to fulfill. Whether we fill a major or minor role in the big picture, we have a role to play. Whether we are small or great, we have a purpose, just as every part of the human body has a purpose, whether small or great.

In a more specific sense, we need to realize that God often brings us into specific situations "for such a time as this." The situations may or may not be dangerous to us, and they may or may not be of major historical importance in the eyes of the world. They

may be situations as simple as an opportunity to help a stranger crossing the street or to comfort someone in pain.

The interesting thing about the book of Esther is that God's name is never mentioned; we learned from that not to wait for divine guidance and specific instructions; it is our responsibility to discover, and fulfill, our own destiny, a day at a time.

In Shalom School, we try teach our students to look for opportunities in their daily life so they can meet their destiny. Giving our children a Jewish education will prepare them for "such a time as this". By learning Jewish concepts such as Mutual Responsibility (Areivut), Kindness (Chesed) or Respect for Others (Derech Eretz) we help them recognize those moments.

God has delivered His people in mysteriously unique ways. The story of Esther demonstrated God's plan of deliverance through the trembling faith of a young woman raised by her Uncle Mordechai; Mordechai who made sure to give her a strong Jewish Education so she would be up to "such a time as this". We are all parents of little princes and princesses. Let's follow Mordechai example and together with our teachers give the gift of knowledge so our children can find the path to their destiny.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School



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For more information and to explore options, please contact, Adam Solender, Executive Director, Savannah Jewish Federation at adam@savj.org or 912-355-8111.





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