



Shabbat & Holiday Candle

Lighting Times

Friday, May 6	7:50pm
Friday, May 13	7:55pm
Friday, May 20	7:59pm
Friday, May 27	8:04pm

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Celebrate Israel's 63rd Birthday at the JEA

On Sunday May 15th at 2:00pm come to the JEA and let's together as one community celebrate Israel's 63rd birthday and commemorate Israel fallen soldiers memorial day.

In Israel there's only sixty seconds separating these two events – Yom Ha'Zikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. The sudden transition from sadness to joy is very hard for everyone, not just for the families that have lost their loved

ones during Israel's wars. The state of Israel is unique in that it decided to mark the fallen soldiers Memorial Day just a short twenty-four hours before the celebration of independence, the close connection of the holidays was intended to emphasize the unbreakable connection between the independence and the heavy death toll paid for this independence.

For 63 years this decision was quite controversial throughout Israeli society. The supporters of this decision claim that this connection is inseparable, it is a big part of the ethos as a nation that rose from dust and fought for its independence, and we have to be reminded that in their death they gave us our lives. The critics of this decision, mostly bereaved families, but not limited to, claim that this transition is



unbearable and that the difference between these two days is just too big of a bridge to gap.

There is a difference in the perception of Memorial Day in America and Memorial Day in Israel. It's a difficult atmosphere to describe being in Israel during this important day, and if you have ever heard the siren and saw everyone stopping their lives for two minutes and standing in honor of the

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Are You Crazy?

By Paul Kulbersh

"Are you crazy?" That was the typical comment that I received from family and friends when it was announced that I was going to return as President of the JEA for one more year. However, that was not the type of reaction that I got from Harriet, my children or my friends who know me well. Let me explain.

When Harriet and I moved to Savan-

nah 35 years ago, I really did not know what it was like to be part of a real Jewish community. I certainly identified as being Jewish and I was proud of it. I grew up in Tifton, GA, which was the home of about 15,000 people, 25,000 cows, acres of tobacco, and 8 Jewish families, all of whom were merchants. We attended a synagogue in Fitzgerald that had a membership of probably 100+ families from all parts of South Central Georgia. We had a full time Rabbi and Friday night services year around, except perhaps during high school football season, and we drove to Fitzgerald each week for Sunday/Hebrew school. We celebrated holidays and participated in life cycle events. In fact, the Friday of my Bar Mitzvah weekend was November 22, 1963. Ring a bell? While some of my experiences growing up were Jewish ones, I really lived



Dr. Paul Kulbersh

in a community where the life style was southern American and some of the friends that I associated with happened to be Jewish.

Being Jewish is important to me and it is important to Harriet, my children, their spouses and my grandchildren. In Savannah, our lives became immersed in Jewish thought and tradition and belief. Perhaps my style of Judaism is different from yours. But my Judaism it is no less important to me or my family than it is to yours. This devotion to Judaism and our community, and respect for all Jewish beliefs was learned in Savannah, GA. My family's Jewishness was influenced by our synagogue, our teachers, our friends and neighbors and certainly by this wonderful facility. For me, personally, the JEA helped me to meet and learn from Jewish people of all backgrounds — from Holocaust survivors to observant Jews who wore yarmulkes even when they were not in Synagogue!

I have had the same experiences in Savannah that many of you had. In November of the first year of my den-

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Happy 63rd Birthday to the State of Israel



My Israel - For Yom Ha'Atzmaut

My Israel is the Negev, the most beautiful place on earth. The house I grew up in, the feeling of a bare foot on hot desert soil, sunsets in shades of red and orange on the sides of the mountain, an unexpected sweet cold water spring at the middle of the road.

My Israel is Jerusalem. The mix between the sacred and the profane; the new and the old. Wishes and desires lie between the cracks of holy stones. Paratroopers in the Old City. The smell of a bakery in the morning, fresh produce and Falafel for 5 shekels at the Shuk. The absorption center I volunteered a year in. Egged bus number 18 where I had the most fascinating discussions with random people on daily basis.

My Israel is living the history. To stand at the dock in Jaffa and to know that Jonah the prophet sailed to his journey from the exact place you're

standing, To stand at the top of mount Gilboa and to watch King Saul fall on his sword, To walk with Abraham the trail from Beersheba to Jerusalem. To walk down the valley of Ella and to pick the same pebble King David picked. To know that best way to study torah is to relive it. To use the Hebrew language to thank G-d and also to curse at the traffic light, and to think it's perfectly normal.

My Israel is people and memories. An improvised Friday night Kiddush during Operation Cast Lead, a piece of pita bread, grape juice, and strong Ashkenazi - Sephardic - Israeli melody. Druze, Ethiopian, Russian and a forth generation Sabra sleeping together in one tent at new recruit mili-



Gershon Peru
Israeli Shaliach

tary camp. An old eccentric hitchhiker from Netherlands wandering without a map, asking what's the best way to get to the tombs in Safed.

Friday afternoon, when everybody is back home for a Shabbat vacation from the army, in the neighborhood's soccer field, comparing stories, planning together the big trip, and playing until exhaustion or sunset, whichever comes first. To meet new people, and two minutes later realize that you had the same mutual friends from the army, high-school, and youth movement, or worse, you're related. To wear jeans and sandals to a wedding, and to un-tuck your buttoned shirt, because it's just too hot. Sitting near the bonfire with a 17 years old shepherd from the nearby Palestinian village, talking about girls and drinking coffee with fresh milk after milking the goats. Walking down Tel Aviv promenade, see a group of excited young Jews touring around, and to know that Israel is more than just the nightlife in Tel Aviv or the holy places

in Jerusalem. Shabbat, whether it's in the Deseret with a guitar and a steamy herb tea, in grandma's house with the extended family around a long table, or just spent it with close friends, there is no place in the world that has the same special Shabbat atmosphere.

This is my Israel. Everyone that had some experience in Israel will have hard time forgetting it, and they can truly say it's a life changing experience, whether it's the people, the places, the sights, smells, the feelings, or the general atmosphere, you can't stay apathetic. Every time I have a conversation with a community member I always say that I can talk about Israel for days, but it never equal a real experience in Israel. Go and visit, it's your birth right.

This month we will celebrate together Israel's 63rd Independence Day, and before you all go for a summer experience, you are all invited to our community Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration. Come and share your support to state of Israel in these difficult times.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I kept wondering how I would answer the question, "What does it mean to be Jewish?" I found the answer in a most unlikely place: the tiny town of Marianna,

Florida, population 6000, that includes only four Jews (my daughter, her husband, and two boys ages 14 and 10. Both boys had a strong Jewish background, attending a Hebrew Day School in Melbourne, Florida prior to their move to Marianna last year.

It was very important to Lisa and Ricky that they establish themselves in a Congregation and joined Temple Shomrei Torah in Tallahassee, about one hour drive away since there are no synagogues in Marianna. Gabriel, age 10, is very proficient in his Hebrew and this became evident to the congregants in his new synagogue. He expressed a desire to read Torah and he became the youngest who was afforded the honor of reading from the Torah on Shabbat. On our way home from his most recent Shabbat torah reading, Gabriel gave me the answer to my question. Here are his exact words:

What Reading Torah Means to Me
By Gabriel Leff

"Reading Torah is amazing to me because I'm reading the words G-d passed on to Moshe thousands of years ago, the words our sages had pondered and we still questions today. There is so much to learn from Torah, not only G-d's commandments, but also human nature as well as ethics and morals. Beyond what

I'm reading the most fulfilling part is the spiritual connection; to hold that Yad you feel everyone who's touched that Yad. I believe when you read Torah you leave, I don't know, I guess part of your soul is left with that Yad. I feel those people touch me (figuratively); it's empowering. One way to describe it is, well have you ever taken a big breath and it fills your body, and you feel full? That's what I feel after I read. It truly is enchanting."

Identification Statement

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That is what being Jewish means to me. The richness of my heritage, the continuity that was passed down to me. I have passed this to my daughter who has passed this on to her chil-

dren. From generation to generation, L'dor V'dor. Amen.

Sincerely,
Marcia Berens

The entire Savannah community is cordially invited to the 99th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Educational Alliance Wednesday May 18th, 2011 7pm



Installation of new Board of Directors and Officers
Recognition of retiring Board Members and Officers
Harvey Rubin Award Presentation
Special President's Awards
Year in Review

In accordance with Article 6, Section 3 of the JEA constitution, the Nominating Committee, Chaired by Marcy Konter, presents the following slate for nomination to the JEA Board of Directors:

Officers

President	Paul Kulbersh	Past Presidents	Scott Samuels
Vice President	Bill Sand		Marcy Konter
Sec/Treasurer	Eva Locker	SJF President	Linda Zoller

Nominees for 2-year term ending 2013

Michelle Allan	Carol Greenberg
Meredith Bodziner	Amy Kaminsky
Russell Bridges	Joanne Kooden
Norman Dolgoff	Arlene Ratner
Louis Freedman	Deganit Ruben

Current Board Members serving 2-year term ending 2012

Carole Cohen	Alan Lowe
Sandy Goodman	Joshua Reeves
Sally Greenberg	Tricia Rosenthal
Gale Hirsh	David Rubnitz
Allison Konter	Kayton Smith

... one bite at a time...

George Burns ? Sylvan Byck ?

Once on a trip to Israel, traveling with his wife Judy and friends, Sylvan Byck crossed paths with George Burns. The group was visiting a college to which Sylvan had contributed monetarily. They arrived on campus unannounced. Sylvan didn't want a special tour or any kind of VIP treatment; he just wanted to see where his dollars had gone. Coming upon an alphabetical tribute to the donors, they found Sylvan's name. It was right below that of GEORGE BURNS! His friends chuckle about it to this day. Did it mean Sylvan was as famous as George Burns? Did it mean they were two of a kind? Whatever it meant, I would say George Burns was in very fine company.

Our community lost another irreplaceable member last month with Sylvan's death. He was a very strong and decisive man. His vision was always clear, no matter what the challenge. Those who didn't know him might perceive him as gruff or intimidating, but those closest to him knew him as a man with a very gentle heart. Charitable and caring, he helped many quietly.

Friends describe Sylvan as a giant among men -- in stature, in knowledge and in compassion. "He always knew the right thing to do and was a great 'go-to' person for anything you wanted to know." Though tough in business, he melted in the presence of his grandchildren. He adored them.

Sylvan assumed major leadership responsibilities such as chairing the Metropolitan Planning Commission and the Port Authority, but he also liked to work by himself. He was known to say "don't give me a committee... just give me a budget" and he would take charge from there. He

knew how things should be done, admired detail, and reached for perfection. His advice was "do it right or don't get involved."

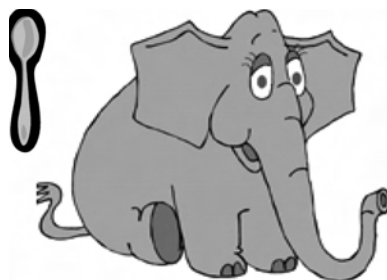
Sylvan was committed to the J.E.A. and Congregation Mickve Israel; Judy was devoted to the Federation. Combined, their support for the Jewish community grew exponentially, and all of us benefitted.

Why Sylvan's devotion to the Alliance? Probably for many reasons, but I was told his father owned the contracting firm that built the center on Abercorn. Somewhere in the course of construction, the JEA ran short of funds. Sylvan's father completed the building, absorbing the loss. Recognizing its value to our community, the Alliance became his passion and he continued to support it for the rest of his life. Out of the love and respect for his father it became Sylvan's passion as well. What a legacy for a father to leave his community. What a son to care for his father's legacy so well.

The Federation joins me in saying goodbye to a remarkable man and a very good friend.



Linda Zoller.
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation



Truly A Measure

"A good friend is a tower of strength; to find one is to find a treasure." - Ben Sirach

Next month we "add another picture to the President's Hall" when Scott Samuels finishes his term at the Jewish Educational Alliance. Being president is a long journey. For Scott, it has been over a decade in the making - committee work, coaching, and chairmanship, followed by a two year stint in each of the officer positions. If you ask me, I'd say his presidency was in the making over a lifetime.

Scott has been a tireless promoter and leader of the JEA. Not a day has gone by (save Shabbos) that I have not spoken with Scott numerous times a day. We talk about the history of the institution, day to day challenges, and future ideas. We speak about the iron pipes that are rusting in the walls, the wonder of children attending various programs, and senior programming. A typical conversation begins, "What if we..." and off we go on another discussion. I'm not sure if Title Pawn has done any business over the past two years while Scott has been president. It is hard to imagine that any one person has enough to give to his vocation while giving so much to the JEA.

When I first came to interview in Savannah, the Search Committee assigned Scott to take me around the JEA. He wasn't shy in describing the challenges that an aging facility presents. It was a very hot afternoon, I was wearing a suit and tie, and Scott felt obliged to take me into every closet, to see the chiller

in action, and to get a tour of the boilers. Even with the maintenance challenges around every corner, he was so proud of the building and so happy to be showing it to me.

Scott has missed "nary a step" during his family's personal challenges. Always putting family first (as it should be), Scott has managed to continue signing checks, reviewing budgets, and attending committee meetings. Even during the most difficult times he has remained at the other end of a computer or phone - always asking, always encouraging.

Lay-professional relationships are often defined with each person playing a very specific role. Typically, the lay leader determines the policy and the professional is in charge of implementation. The effectiveness of the relationship is determined by how complimentary the personalities are. Scott has always made me feel like an equal partner, has given me enough independence to lead, and has been a true partner. We have been complimentary partners.

While our relationship only dates for 3 1/2 years, I feel like Scott has been a friend for a lifetime. While I'll miss him as president, I know he'll always be my friend, and that is truly a treasure.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

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Congregation Beth Yam to Receive Prestigious Award for Hunger and Homeless Coalition

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC, March 21, 2011 — Congregation Beth Yam will receive the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism's coveted Irving J. Fain Award for Outstanding Synagogue Social Action Programming, one of the highest honors available to congregations within the Reform Jewish Movement. Winners of

the Fain Award have been chosen from a pool of more than 900 synagogues and exemplify the passion for social justice that is the hallmark of Reform Judaism.

Congregation Beth Yam receives this award for its Hunger and Homeless Coalition, an interfaith network of CBY synagogue and local churches

to feed the hungry and provide shelter to the homeless. The coalition has implemented several local programs to meet the needs of the local community, including Backpack Buddies, a soup kitchen and the creation of a directory of social service resources.

"Social justice is such an essential component to our Movement," said Dr. Cheryl Gutmann, Chair of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. "As Reform Jews, we are commanded to be God's partners in standing up for the voiceless and fixing what is broken in our society. The winners of the Irving J. Fain Award for Outstanding Synagogue Social Action Programming justly embody what it means to profoundly pursue *tikkun olam* — repairing the world. Their innovation in the pursuit of justice is truly inspiring."

Established in 1983, the Fain Awards recognize Irving J. Fain, a dedicated member of the Commission on Social Action who served as Chair for a decade and is considered a social justice



icon in the Reform Movement. The award is given biennially to select congregations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to social justice in their social action programming.

The Fain Awards will be presented during the Religious Action Center's Consultation on Conscience, May 1 – 3, 2011, the Reform Movement's flagship social justice conference. Each synagogue's award-winning program will be depicted in a booklet that will be disseminated widely to provide examples of best practices. They also will be available on the Religious Action Center's online program bank at www.rac.org.

The Commission on Social Action is a joint instrumentality of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism and its affiliates. The Commission oversees the work of the Religious Action Center.



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Let's see...What am I going to do this summer?

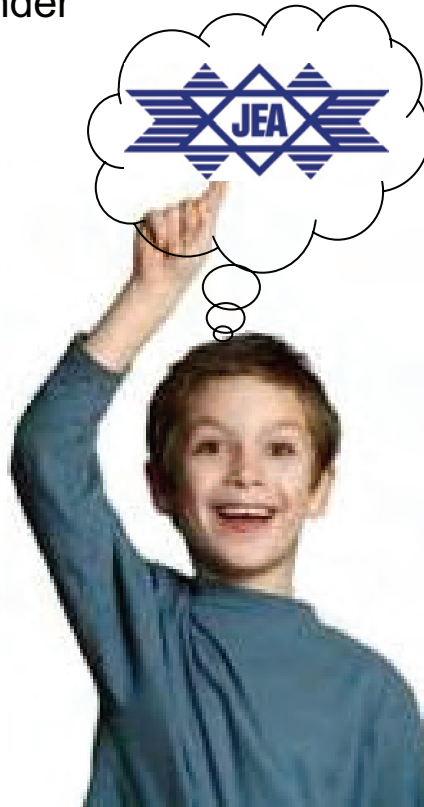
- I could sit in front of the TV all day
- I could torture my little sister
- I could play with the red ants in the backyard
- I could destroy Daddy's power tools
- I could whine endlessly, "I'm bored"
- I could become a video game expert with 10 hours of play a day
- I could sleep till 11am and then have trouble falling asleep at night
- I could do experiments with the family dog
- I could teach myself how to use the mixer and blender

OR

I could go to JEA Camp Savannah where

- They have two weeks of Camp Invention
- I can meet the Israeli Scouts and learn new songs and games
- I can make new friends
- They have the best counselors in the world!
- I can learn new sports like hockey, soccer, and lacrosse
- I can become a more confident swimmer!
- Gershon will teach us about Israel
- I'm going to excel during Color War
- They have the new TAG Torah, Avodah, Gemilut Chasadim program to teach Jewish values in a fun, thoughtful, and meaningful way.
- They create memories to last a lifetime.***

Sign up today for JEA Camp Savannah



Never Again?

By Dr. Misha Galperin

We have heard the words "never again" dozens if not hundreds of times. In association with the Holocaust we all know what these words mean. We will not tolerate the decimation of our people ever again. We have our own homeland, our own army, and the collective memory of the Jewish people. These are ever-present reminders that we remember the past from a position of strength and determination. We will not suffer oppression again.

We say "never again" not only when we as Jews are oppressed by others but when any nation in our global family is oppressed or vulnerable to injustice. We speak from the heart and from personal experience. We give the anguished a voice. We don't only talk about about collective responsibility. We live it. Anything else will not do. Never again. Never, ever again.

And yet could we speak as confidently about the way that we care for the Holocaust survivors still in our midst? Can we say that they will never again experience pain and oppression? We

cannot. We cannot because over 80,000 Holocaust survivors are living at or below the poverty line in Israel today. We cannot because thousands of survivors live in unsafe housing conditions, rely on welfare agencies and can barely make it to the end of the month.

Jewish law tells us to stand before the dignity of the elderly. We are supposed to honor those who have profound wisdom to share, especially those who have faced humanity's darkest hour. But instead, we sit passively while our only witnesses to last century's devastating losses live out their last days alone and often hungry.

It's true. Twenty-five percent of Holocaust survivors in Israel must choose between meals and medication, a choice few of us will ever have to make. Those who eat often do so alone. They have outlived one of history's greatest dictator only to find themselves without companionship and the love and protection of a community that should



Dr. Misha Galperin

never have let them down.

But we have.

We have relinquished our responsibility to our very own heroes. The Jewish Agency is doing something about it. We are partnering with other agencies and non-profits, including the Savannah Jewish Federation, and creating new programs to better daily living conditions for aging survivors living in distress.

JAFI supports the Amigour Sheltered Housing project to provide safe living conditions for low-income seniors who are survivors. JAFI is also a sponsor of Project HEART, the Holocaust Era Asset Restitution Taskforce, that provides the tools, strategy, and information so that the Government of Israel and its partners can get survivors and their families much needed funding. We can never repay survivors for what they lost, but we can and must ensure fair restitution.

In Israel and in our Jewish tradition, our past is our future. We become more compassionate by showing compassion. We become more giving by sharing our blessings. We become more sensitive by making sure that those with less can benefit from those who have more. That is what it means



to be a Jew.

Join me in saying "never again" this Yom Hashoa. Never again will a Holocaust survivor go without a meal. Never again will a Holocaust survivor go without safe housing. Never again will a Holocaust survivor live without a friend. Never again will a Holocaust survivor suffer indignity after suffering the world's worst indignities. Say it with me and mean it.

Dr. Misha Galperin is the CEO and President of the Jewish Agency for Israel International Development. The Jewish Agency for Israel is a partner and beneficiary of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

For more information on how you can help, please contact the Savannah Jewish Federation at 912.355.8111 or Yael Shmookler at the Jewish Agency for Israel at 727.362.3389 /yaelshm@jafi.org.

Graduating High School and College Seniors



You are invited to submit your pictures and information for a special feature in the June issue.

Secure a form from the JEA, download from www.savj.org, complete it, and return it to the JEA by May 11th.

You may mail it to us at
Savannah Jewish News
5111 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31405
or email it to Benjamin Bloom at
programming@savj.org
or call 912.355.8111

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!

The Miriam Slotin & Jack Malitz Levy Memorial Concert



**Sunday, May 8th
2pm at the JEA**



Back by popular demand
Elliot & Ian Finkel



Elliot Finkel is a pianist, conductor and composer of great magnitude and versatility. Not only is his six-foot plus stature commanding, but his unique talent bridges the gap between the classical and pop idioms.

Elliot has appeared on the great stages of the world including Carnegie Hall, Hollywood Bowl, London Palladium and three appearances at the White House.

He has played hundreds of recitals across the globe, both as a soloist, and together with his brother, Ian Finkel, xylophone virtuoso. Three times he has costarred on Broadway with Michael Feinstein, with Sid Caesar, and with Ian Finkel and their father, Fyvush Finkel. Mr. Finkel's shows and concerts have become a favorite on cruise ships. He has played and conducted for such diverse artists as Ginger Rogers, Milton Berle, Danny Thomas, Regis Philbin, and Theodore Bikel.



This free program is made possible by the JEA Endowment Fund in memory of Jack Malitz Levy and Miriam Slotin Levy

2011 Matthew J. Cranman Endowment Fund Recipient Chosen

By Karen Cranman

The Matthew J. Cranman Endowment Fund is pleased to announce the 2011 recipient of the upcoming Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teacher's Program, Elizabeth Holland. Ms. Holland is an Honors and Advanced Placement English and Literature teacher at Herschel V. Jenkins High School.

The Cranman Family established this fund in 1999 in memory of their son and grandson, Matthew J. Cranman. The goal of the endowment

is to deepen teachers' knowledge and strengthen their ability to implement Holocaust Studies in the classroom. In doing so these participants are better equipped to teach a new generation about the Holocaust, Jewish Resistance, and how the lessons of the past serve as warnings for the present and future.

The Holocaust & Jewish Resistance Teachers Program is sponsored by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, American Federation of Teachers Education Chapter, and Jewish Labor Committee with active

support of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and others. The program is for teachers of all faith backgrounds who teach the Holocaust in the classroom.

Beth, like those highly qualified recipients before her, will be able to incorporate her experiences in Washington, Germany, Poland, and

Israel into her curriculum. Among the important places that will be visited will be the United States Holocaust Museum, Berlin, Auschwitz, and Yad Vashem.

Ms. Holland stated that she was extremely excited and appreciative of the opportunity to travel and learn. She feels honored to be entrusted with this incredible learning experience.

The Cranman family is proud to have such a qualified and enthusiastic participant.

If you would like to make a



THE ENDOWMENT FUND
Savannah Jewish Federation

donation to help support this worthy fund so that teachers in the future can have the opportunity to learn how to teach and better implement Holocaust studies in the classroom, please go to www.savj.org, find the Ways to Give tab on the left and then look for Holocaust Education Funds.



Auschwitz

Did you know?

Lag B'Omer occurs thirty-three days after the start of Passover, the 33rd day of Counting the Omer. Its name comes from the Hebrew letters, lamed and gimel, which together equal 33, according to gematria in the Hebrew numerical system. On the 33rd day of the Omer, Rabbi Akiva's students stopped dying. Also on the 33rd day of the Omer, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the author of the central work of Kabbalah called the Zohar, died. His death is a celebration because on the day of his death he revealed the light of the Torah to his students. In modern day Israel, Lag B'Omer campfires are pervasive among both traditional and secular Jews. Tens of thousands of Chasidic Jews make a pilgrimage to Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai's grave at Mt. Meron, where huge bonfires speckle the landscape.



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Kol HaKavod to Jerald Gottlieb for successful Israel advocacy seminars led by Neil Lazarus with Rambam Day School, Shalom School and the Community.

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Myra & Jerry Portman
Beth Vantosh & Kenneth Richards
Peggy & Harold Yellin
Sheree & Larry Zaslavsky

Chain Links

asks:

Can you supply the missing piece?



Chain Links project is hunting for group Confirmation Class or newspaper pictures to complete this page in Savannah's Jewish History. Many photos between 1880 and 1934 are missing as well as the following years:

1880 to 1934			
1935/5695	1940/5700	1953/5713	1963/5723
1936/5696	1941/5701	1954/5714	1969/5729
1937/5697	1942/5702	1955/5715	
1938/5698	1944/5704	1956/5716	1993/5753
1939/5699	1948/5708	1958/5718	1997/5757
	1949/5709		

Do you have a family photo album you could search?
Contact Carol at 912-927-9922 or MStarArts@aol.com.

COMMUNITY-WIDE
PROGRAM

May 15th 2:00 PM

Yom Ha'Atzmaut
**ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY
AND ISRAEL MEMORIAL DAY**

Exploring Israel - Children activities - Special Ceremony
Israeli food - Israeli music and videos

At the JEA



What's Classical Reform Judaism?

By B.H. Levy

Savannah Jewish News presents a two-part article on Classical Reform Judaism. Part 1 reviews the development of Classical Reform from its historical perspective. Part 2 to be published in the June 2011 issue will describe the enduring significance of its theological principles.

Like most liberal religious groups, today's Reform Judaism embraces a broad spectrum of interpretation, belief, and practice appropriate to a liberal religious movement that affirms individual and congregational freedom and autonomy. "Mainstream" Reform in contemporary America reflects the widespread embrace of traditional Jewish ritual and observance that has characterized the movement's theological perspectives, liturgies, and approach to observance over the past forty years.

The term "Classical Reform" is the most commonly used expression to denote the historic expression of Reform Judaism, as it developed in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The use of the term "Classical" is admittedly problematic, as it raises the danger of viewing a vital, dynamic expression of religious commitment as antiquarian. Other terms associated with this interpretation are "Prophetic Judaism," referring to the centrality of the ethical ideals of the Biblical Prophets, and "Progressive Reform," reflecting both the dynamic element of change, as well as a spiritual and social liberalism.

- Historical Background -

This tradition embodies the liberal spiritual ideals, rich intellectual foundations and broad universal vision of the early pioneers of Jewish Reform, initially in Germany, but primarily in the United States. Theologically, Classical Reform was grounded in the Biblical tradition of the Hebrew Prophets, interpreted as the emphasis on ethical action and social justice, rather than on ritual observance or ceremonial law. Intellectually, it was an outgrowth of the modern academic, scientific study of Jewish history and philosophy that emerged in Germany in the early decades of the 19th century. Culturally, it reflected the transformation of Jewish communal life at that time, in response to the Emancipation of European Jewry from the social isolation of the ghetto. In America, the early Reform Movement embraced the pluralistic culture of American democracy and developed a liturgy and rationale reflecting the unique experience of Judaism in the free and open society of the United States. American Reform's intellectual approach to Biblical interpretation and authority, as well as its progressive response to social issues, also reflected

the influence of the development of liberal religion generally in the United States in the 19th Century.

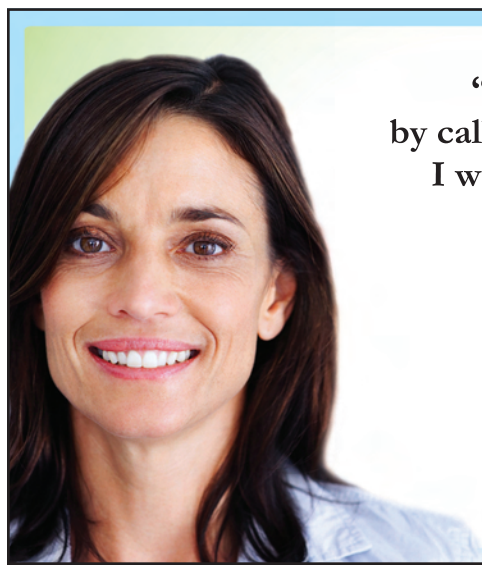
The Classical Reform tradition is rooted in the legacy of the "radical" wing of the early Reform movement, which sought a substantial revision of both synagogue worship and theological principles. Its leading rabbinic advocates were David Einhorn, Emil G. Hirsch and Kaufmann Kohler, as well as the more "moderate" Isaac Mayer Wise. The first major statement of principles of Reform Judaism known as the "Pittsburgh Platform," adopted by both viewpoints in 1885, remains a formative expression of historic Reform teaching. In particular, its interpretation of the primarily religious nature of Jewish identity, and its emphasis on the ethical and spiritual, rather than the ritual nature of Judaism, continue to influence many Classical Reform Jews today. The subsequent formulation of the Movement's ideals, known as "The Guiding Principles" was ratified by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in Columbus, Ohio in 1937. This document represented a significantly different focus in its affirmation of Jewish "peoplehood," and reflected the trend toward reclamation of traditional ritual. Despite the debates on the role of Zionism that divided the two ends of the Reform spectrum in the 1940's and 1950's, what is now called "Classical" in fact remained the broader Movement's predominant worship style and synagogue culture, until the significant shifts that influenced a major neo-traditionalist trend in the 1960's. Much of this redirection of American Reform Judaism was a response to the tragedy of the Holocaust and to the new dynamic of Jewish identity engendered by the birth of the State of Israel in 1948. These trends were further reflected in



the two subsequent formulations of theology and practice by the CCAR over the past forty years – the "Centenary Perspectives" of 1975, and the new "Statement of Principles" adopted in Pittsburgh in 1999. These platforms represented the continuing emphasis on ritual observance and the centrality of the State of Israel for Jewish identity. Classical Reformers fully embrace the strong expressions of commitment to social justice and inclusive community that distinguish these documents. However, we continue to affirm the validity and viability of the movement's historic liberal principles and worship traditions as an alternative context for understanding both of these issues.

This article derives with permission from its original author, Rabbi Howard A. Berman, the Executive Director of The Society for Classical Reform Judaism. Founded in 2008 by a group of rabbis and lay leaders from congregations throughout the United States, the Society is the national voice of advocacy for the broad, universalistic ideals of the Classical Reform tradition. B.H. Levy, Jr is the Society's founding Board President.

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What does it mean to be Jewish?

*A monthly query to members
of our community*



Fred S. Clark

Jewish tradition embraces joyous family gatherings so I'm family conscious and oriented. I'm also sentimental when attending synagogue services because I know that I am saying the same prayers and singing the same songs my ancestors said and sang for many generations. I hope that I've successfully instilled a similar attitude in my



Charles Grossman

"Being Jewish means you are obligated to act morally and ethically. It means you should always try to be a good person. A real Jew gives respect to others and hopes for respect in return,"



Billy Bateman

"Being Jewish means that I have a life that I wanted and needed."



Stan Gefen

"Being Jewish means community, spirituality and religion."



Jules Kerness

"To be Jewish is to be the best that you can be, and thereby, becoming a partner with G-d in completing the work of creation."



Judy Todfeld

"In my view, Judaism represents an optimistic attitude toward living. Each time we raise a glass and say L'Chaim we are reasserting our exuberance for living, Jewishly. By celebrating the milestones in life—births, birthdays, weddings and anniversaries—we are upholding all the pleasures of life. We dance, we sing, and of course we eat with gusto. In addition, Judaism includes a sense of pride in the State of Israel and in the accomplishments of the Jews. Lastly, being Jewish means touching the world in positive ways by helping the less fortunate."

Submit your answer for
"What does it mean to be Jewish?"
(100 words or less) with a headshot to sjnews@savj.org.



JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
CENTER

JEA Campus Goes Smoke Free



On the recommendation of the JEA Health & Wellness Committee and as part of helping our members to take steps towards a healthier lifestyle, the JEA became Smoke Free on April 15, 2011. The Savannah Smokefree Air ordinance became effective January 1, 2011, to eliminate smoking in all workplaces. We took it one step further by requiring that tobacco products not be used on the JEA property.

Signs were posted on the lobby doors and at each driveway entrance to the property so that everyone who comes in the building was properly informed.

This law reduces your exposure to second-hand smoke and its associated risks. Tobacco use, particularly smoking, is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Eliminating smoking in public places will reduce the number of tobacco-related illnesses and deaths which number more than 11,000 each year in Georgia alone. This law provides cleaner and safer environments for us to live, work and play.

For more information on how to quit, you can contact the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line. They provide free counseling, support and referral services for tobacco users. Quit Line services are available free of charge for Georgia residents ages 13 and over who want to quit. Call 1-877-270-STOP (7867) or visit <http://dhr.georgia.gov/gasmokefreeair> for more information about cessation resources.

You're Invited

JEA

99th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

7:00-9:00 pm

Dairy Dessert

Say "thank you" to our retiring Board Members, welcome our in-coming Board Members and President and enjoy being a part of the JEA - The Home of Our Community!

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 3/10/11-4/8/11)

Stephen Beasley
Gregory & Jennifer Borak
Mary Casem
Lisa Clark
Regina Cobb
Andria Dent
John Duncan
Ira Harris
Wanda Hughes
Caitlin Jadlocki

Sandy McCloud
Pfeffer McMaken
Dean Moesch
Mark Payne
Patra Rickman
Gregg Schroeder
Shirley Sessions
Laura Walker
Amanda Watkins

JEA Donations (3/9/11-4/12/11)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Marvin Arkin
Marvin H. Shoob
In memory of Sylvan Byck
Marilyn Seeman

JEA BUILDING FUND

In honor of Bill & Sharon Sand becoming grandparents
Sarah Denmark & Adam Solender
In honor of Arthur Altman's speedy recovery
Doris & Arnie Goldstein
In honor of Sally Greenberg
Marry & Richard Bodziner
In memory of Sylvan Byck
Sarah Denmark & Adam Solender
Myron & Fran Kaminsky
Stephen Myers
JC Lewis Ford
Sylvia Yellin
Gail Wexler
Gerri & Buddy Hudson
Nancy N. Lewis
Gale & David Hirsh
Paul & Harriet Kulbersh
Esther & Aaron Buchsbaum
Eva Odrezin
John & Barbara Lientz
Mrs. Herbert Curry
Derek Brown/Dolphin Magic Tours
Sylvia & Burton Udinsky

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In honor of Murray & Sharon Galin
Dick & Joanne Hochman
In honor of Phil Scharf's 85th birthday
In honor of Frances Waggar's 90th birthday
Muriel & Murray Bono
In memory of Norton Melaver
Marvin H. Shoob
In honor of Sharon Galin
Joanne Hochman
In memory of Sylvan Byck
John & Carol Divine
Lawrence & Robin Brody
In honor of Phil Scharf's birthday
Sylvia & Burton Udinsky

PEARL & JOSEPH GEFFEN ADULT EDUCATION SERIES FUND

In honor of Eric Meyerhoff's speedy recovery
In honor of Chrissie Karp's speedy recovery
In honor of Dot Stock's speedy recovery
In honor of Alan Lowe's speedy recovery
In honor of Jerry Kaminsky's speedy recovery
In honor of Frances Waggar's 90th birthday
In honor of Gerald Caplan's appointment to the MMC Hospital Board
In honor of Ed Wexler's grandchild
In honor of Jason & Sara's engagement
In honor of the birth of Stan & Rose Konter's grandson
In memory of Chaim Melamed
In memory of Norton Melaver
In memory of Bailee Kronowitz
In memory of Isadore Karpf
In memory of Norman Kaplan
Adelle & Ted Geffen

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Sylvan Byck
Victor & Elise Shernoff

JEA FITNESS FUND

In honor of Frances Waggar's birthday
Linda Karpf
In honor of Simone Wilker's 65th birthday
Brenda & Patrick Salter & Bernice Elman

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Basil Lukin
Elaine Becker

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Abe Klugman
In memory of Evelyn Scharf
In memory of Dr. Barry Levine
Harry & Vicki Center

Starts June 13th

.....Coming Soon JEA SUMMER CAMP 2011

K'toni / Yeladim Campers

Week #1 - June 13th-17th
Around the World

Week #2-June 20th-24th
Spirit Week

Week #3 - June 27th-July 1st
Wet N Wild

Week #4 - July 5th-8th
Safari Adventure/Hockey

Week #5 - July 11th-15th
Harry Potter Week

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

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

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

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

Chaverim / L.I.T. Campers

Week #1 - June 13th-17th
Camp Invention (Create)

Week #2-June 20th-24th
Spirit Week

Week #3 - June 27th-1st
Wet N Wild

Week #4 - July 5th-8th
Safari Adventure/ Hockey

Week #5 - July 11th-15th
Harry Potter Week

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

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

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

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

REGISTER NOW!



Discounts for:

JEA Members

Multiple Children

Please see www.savj.org to download registration forms

Camp Meet & Greet
Sunday, June 12th, 1-3 pm

Meet our counselors, friends old and new, get your camp shirt & dip in our pool!

Post Camp
August 15th-19th

Need that extra week of fun before school starts?

Stay for an extra week of fun and games.

Available for all age groups.



Upcoming Events

May 1—Family Fun at Starlight Pottery. 2-4 pm.
Calling families of all ages for an afternoon of painting pottery and fun. Contact Michelle Allan to RSVP or for more information.

A Movie & Beer!

Adults 21 and Over—
Join us at the JEA for a movie & a beer!

May 5th—7 Days (Shiva)—It is 1991 in the midst of the first Gulf War and Israel is under daily missile attacks. In the Ohayon family, tragedy has hit as beloved Maurice has suddenly died. The family gathers for the traditional seven days of mourning (shiva). Jealousy, gossip, long-term rivalry and financial problems come to the fore, as each of the siblings is faced with his frustrated ambitions.

All movies shown at 7:00 pm
FREE to Members with ID
\$7 for Non-Members
FREE Beer, wine, beverages and popcorn

*Movie & Beer Night sponsored by
Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein.*

The Miriam Slotin & Jack Malitz Levy Memorial Concert

Sunday, May 8th
2 pm



Back by popular demand



Elliot & Ian Finkel

Elliot Finkel is a pianist, conductor and composer of great magnitude and versatility. Elliot has appeared on the great stages of the world including Carnegie Hall, Hollywood Bowl, London Palladium and the White House.

He has played hundreds of recitals across the globe, both as a soloist and together with his brother, Ian Finkel, xylophone virtuoso. He has co-starred on Broadway with Michael Feinstein, Sid Caesar and with Ian and their father, Fyvush Finkel. He has played and conducted for Ginger Rogers, Milton Berle, Danny Thomas, Regis Philbin and Theodore Bikel.

*This free program is made possible by the JEA
Endowment Fund in memory of Jack Malitz Levy and
Miriam Slotin Levy.*

Join the JEA Tornadoes In 2011

Ages 5 & Up

First Practice: Tuesday, May 17th
8 & under—6:00-6:45pm
9 & up—6:45-7:45pm

Our program provides an environment where children of all talents can participate and feel as though they have contributed to the team's success. All children are welcome to join the team as long as they can swim safely. You don't have to be fast to be on the team, you just have to want to come out and have fun!

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Call Stephanie at 355-8111 for more info.

Camp Invention Donations Needed!!

Take Apart Donations - Discarded, broken and unusable small appliances (mechanical items)

Computer hard drive Telephone VCR DVD
Stereo player Tape recorder keyboards

Recycling Donations

Beads Bottle caps Bubble wrap Buttons
Cardboard Boxes Water Bottles Cardboard
Tubes Cereal Boxes Fabric Film Canisters
Foam Trays Wrapping paper Magazines
Milk Cartons/jugs Newspapers
Oatmeal Canisters Paper/Plastic Bags
Plastic Containers w/lids OJ Cartons/jugs
Plastic tubing Shoe Boxes Tissue Boxes

**** Please thoroughly wash out all items that may have previously contained chemical or food substances. ****

**** Please DO NOT DONATE any glass, sharps, or items that could be considered to be a potential safety hazard. (Ex: Batteries, cords, foam peanuts, soda cans...)**

Bin is located next to the 2011 Summer Camp Display in the JEA Main Lobby

Donations needed by June 1, 2011

Need a Summer Job?

Become a JEA Summer Camp Counselor!

Each day, new challenges are met, friendships are formed, and memories are made at Camp Savannah. We are currently interviewing for Summer Camp Counselors for the 2011 season.

Those applying should possess the following qualities:

- Knowledge and experience working in a camp setting, preferred.
- Ability to be an excellent role model and mature while still remaining youthful.
- Ability to follow supervision and instructions.
- Must be responsible, creative, motivated and professional.
- Flexibility with regard to tasks, work hours, changes in program or plans.
- First Aid and CPR certified (training provided by camp).
- Love the outdoors.
- Must be able to commit for at least majority, if not all, of the summer! (June 13th-August 12th)

We are interviewing for the following positions: Sr./Jr. Counselors, Art, Sports and Swimming Instructors

- ★ **Sr. Counselors** (College Freshmen and up. Early Childhood Education Majors and Teachers are a plus but not required)
- ★ **Jr. Counselors** (High School Jr/Sr's)
- ★ **CIT (Counselors in Training)** 9th & 10th graders. (Volunteers)
- ★ **Specialty Counselors** (Art, Sports, Drama/Dance, Cheerleading/Gymnastics)

Please stop by the JEA Front Desk to get your application!

Camp Invention Challenges Campers to Spark Their Creativity

The 2011 camp season is slowly creeping around the corner and soon young campers will be parading around the JEA. This year the Children's/Camp department has been working hard to plan a program that will surely create memories to last a lifetime. Some of the camper's favorite weeks will be returning again including the ever so popular Camp Invention®. This particular program infuses academics with a camp setting that inspires kids to explore fun modules of History, Math, Science and Arts. In the past, Camp Invention® was usually offered during the first week of camp for the 1st – 5th graders. However, this year we will be offering it twice, during the 1st and 6th week of camp.

During the 1st week, the campers will thrill to the *Create* program! Throughout the week they will cycle through 4 modules (*Planet Zak*, *Saving Sludge City*, *Power Play* and *Ride the Physics*) daily to come up with different solutions to solve both everyday and unusual scenarios. For example, in the module *Planet Zak*, campers explore science fiction to reassemble their crashed spacecraft while also figuring out different solutions to survive on other planets. Elsewhere, in the module *Power Play*, campers practice teamwork and cooperation to learn how to modify traditional games so that they can

creatively come up with games of their own.

In the 6th week of camp, the 1st-5th grade campers will tackle the *Spark* program! As with the *Create* program, campers will cycle through 4 new modules (*Edison's Workshop*, *Wild*, *An Atomic Journey* and *Cypher Club*). For example, in the module *Wild*, campers will embark on a journey to explore some of the most amazing



fun experiments!

Camp Invention® is sure to be a huge success again this year. Space is limited for these particular weeks of camp. Unlike most surrounding Camp Invention® sites, ours runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to incorporate some pool time and other fun camp activities and is also one of the cheapest in town. To ensure that your child doesn't miss out on all the fun, swing by the JEA and register today!



**Yom Ha'atzmaut
Israel
Independence Day!
Sunday, May 15th
2-5 pm
at the JEA**

Celebrate Israel's 63rd birthday with an exciting ceremony, Israeli-themed children's activities, Israeli food and music and lots of fun!



Food Choices that Can Help to Decrease Your Likelihood of Getting Cancer



Stephanie Johnson,
HPER Director

Governments throughout the world rarely tell their populations what the individual can do to prevent a disease occurring in the first instance. While all the emphasis is put on building more hospitals, better equipped hospitals and reducing waiting lists, lowering the need for hospital space by preventing diseases largely gets ignored.

Cancer is a good example of a disease where its strike rate can be greatly reduced by the individual taking precautionary measures. The incidence of cancer can, in some cases, be reduced by more than 50 percent by taking simple preventative actions.

The first preventative measure that should be taken is adequate exposure to direct sunlight. The effect of direct sunlight on the skin produces vitamin D, which is vital to good health. While some vitamin D can be obtained from food sources, the individual is unlikely to get enough from sources other than the sun. The exposure for white people need only be 10-

15 minutes a day 3 or 4 times a week. However, the further you live from the equator, the more exposure you need. It should be noted that people with dark skin pigmentation require 20 x the exposure stated above to create the same amount of vitamin D. Sufficient levels of vitamin D are crucial to calcium absorption in the intestines.

The individual can further reduce his/her susceptibility to this disease by the choice of foods eaten at meal times. Limit your intake of meat, butter, eggs and cheese. These animal fats increase your risk of developing certain types of cancer (breast, prostate, intestine and pancreas). Eat more fish and poultry instead.

Eating a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables (tomatoes, carrots, leeks, cabbage, broccoli and onions etc) helps protect the body against cancer of the colon, stomach, rectum and lungs. These are also rich in vitamins A, B and C, all of which help to fight free radicals and thereby prevent cancer.

Eat wholegrain bread for its fiber content. Fiber improves intestinal functions and helps protect against colon cancer.

Get as much vitamin C as possible by

eating fruits like kiwi, apple, black currant, raw turnip, sorrel, raw green pepper, raw green cabbage and citrus fruits. Also season salads with parsley which is very rich in vitamin C.

Avoid smoked, salted, and barbecued foods which contain substances that are potentially carcinogenic, especially as far as stomach cancer is concerned.

Due to the variables with food dependent upon where it came from, how it is stored, how fresh it is and how it is cooked, it may be prudent to take a multivitamin and mineral tablet to ensure there are no deficiencies. The vitamins crucial to preventing cancer are A, the B-complex group, C, D and E. As vitamins are largely ineffective without minerals, it is best to take a combined vitamin and mineral tablet. These are readily available in health food shops, or can be ordered over the Internet for delivery via the mail.

Don't let yourself get too fat: persons who are 40% or more above their normal weight stand a much higher risk of getting cancer.

The above simple measures should cut in half the likelihood of you contacting cancer in your lifetime!

Art at the JEA



Grandpa—Law



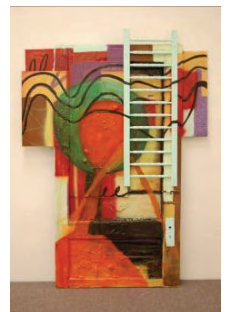
The Crabber 1—Law



Oyster Picker 1—Law



Riding the Wave in the
Mist of the Storm—



Consciousness from the
Devine—Watson

May Artists—Richard Law & Roosevelt Watson

Richard Law - Biography

Born in Savannah, Richard Law's work is inspired by his upbringing in the deep South, black culture and the landscapes of the low country of Georgia and South Carolina.

His paintings reflect the experiences of his life. "I paint things that are around me and things that I grew up with," he said, "such as barbershop pieces, musicians, container ships that pass through Savannah's ports, and museum pieces, many of which portray low country scenes of Georgia and South Carolina, and their inhabitants."

Law's work is a blend of folk art, jazz and contemporary, all drawing from his unique background and religious principles. 'Our life experiences tell a story, and there's a story behind every painting that I put on canvas.'

Roosevelt Watson - Biography

Roosevelt Watson was born in Jacksonville, FL, and has been painting for over 30 years. He received an associate of Graphic Design degree from the Tampa Technical Institute and then studied at The Atlanta College of Art, which is now the SCAD Atlanta Campus.

His first show was in the May Cohens Department Store in Jacksonville and his art in that show depicted early religious influences. As he has matured as an artist, he has mastered several techniques which display his life, influences and experiences. His styles range from abstracts, caricatures and landscapes, to portraits and surrealism.

Roosevelt has received several design and drawing awards including first place in the 3rd Annual Juried Art Show in Jacksonville, and the 14th Annual Art Fair at the Telfair Art Museum in Savannah. Several private collectors have requested commissioned artwork from Roosevelt. Roosevelt has also completed commissioned pieces including sculptures, a mural and a 25th Anniversary vase for a church in Jacksonville.

Roosevelt is the co-creator and founder of Deepressionist, a movement begun with two fellow artists, and they have had a documentary centered on their collective work.

Artwork available for viewing May 1-31, 2011

Reception May 19, 2011, 6:30-8:30 pm

Author Jane Kahn celebrated her engagement to Buddy Kahn at the Harmonie Club on September 26, 1954!

Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

145 YEAR-OLD SAVANNAH HARMONIE CLUB CLOSES

BY JANE KAHN

SAVANNAH, GA After 145 years, the Harmonie Club of Savannah, Georgia's first Jewish social club, closed its doors.

The final meeting was on December 9, 2010. In attendance were Irwin J. Warshaw, (president for the last three years), Leon Aronson, Mel Goldstein, Ricky Friedenberg, Russell Bridges, Jack Karesh, Howard Cohen, and Frank Katz.

According to Warshaw, "It was a matter of not being able to attract new members to keep it going. I hated for a club so established in Savannah to close but we just have a different lifestyle today."

When the club was founded in September of 1865 (just at the end of the Civil War), virtually every Jewish merchant on Broughton Street was a member. They wanted a social club and they wanted good food. The men would meet at the members' houses and the women cooked for them. "Over

the years," Warshaw said, "Some of the greatest Jewish men of Savannah were leaders of one of the oldest Jewish social clubs in America."

Most of the Harmonie Club records are housed within the Savannah Jewish Archives collection at the Georgia Historical Society. The club's earliest minute book, 1865-1876, is the property of the Georgia Historical Society.

One entry of October 10, 1865, written in precise detail and flowing penmanship, records the club's vice president, Lawrence Lippman, addressing the members:

It is but one year since this country was deluged with the greatest war that the world ever saw, one that needs no History to be erected, but is engraved in the hearts of every person, who cannot look back without a shudder...and thank God that they escaped with their lives. Peace has implanted in our

souls that longing for companionship...in the formation of this Society... (for) mutual companionship. Nature preserves it, the Club performs it and we lead to it...Such will be the Harmonie, such will be the society which you and I belong....

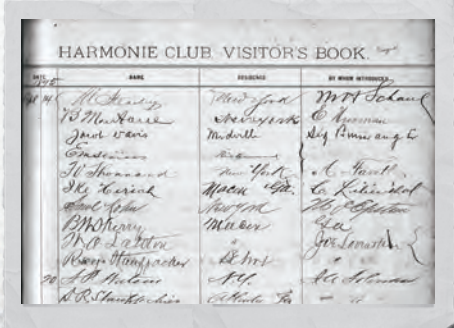
In the earliest years, the club occupied the Masonic Hall at Bull and Broughton Streets. In 1883, the club purchased a

three-story brick building at the corner of Bull and Jones Streets (for \$16,000!) and met there until December 1959. That building is now occupied by Savannah College of Art and Design, although the words "Harmonie Club" can still be seen in dark reddish-brown mosaic tile in the entryway floor. Stop by sometime and take a look!



The brick building at the corner of Bull and Jones Streets: Headquarters of Savannah's Harmonie Club from 1883 until 1959. (Photo courtesy of the Georgia Historical Society.)

A page of the 1895 Harmonie Club Visitor's Book. The Savannah Jewish Archives is proud to count the actual book among its collection.



It's A Funny Thing

A Humorous Look at Jewish Life and Savannah

By Melinda Stein

May's a special time in Savannah -- graduations, weddings, warm weather, and especially, school's out. The kids are delirious about the start of summer vacation while moms reach for aspirin (or Manischewitz) bottles.

Here's some humor from and about the younger generation. The first three are true stories from Savannah children.

A four year old girl came home from her pre-school class, proud of having learned to recite, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our G-d, the Lord is One." Mother praised the child, who then asked, "But Mommy, when is the Lord our G-d going to be two?"



Melinda Stein

An eight year old boy at a Passover Seder, after asking the Four Questions, said, "I have another question. I learned all about the things that happened -- slavery, the Exodus, and crossing the Red Sea -- to the Children of Israel. But... where were their parents?"

I once divided my fifth grade Hebrew School class into teams for a Jewish Knowledge competition. Team A was asked, "Name three men of the Torah." The kids yelled out, "Abraham!" "Moses!" "David!" Then Team B received a similar question, to name three women from the Torah. No answers were forthcoming. "Come on," I urged, "think!!" Finally, a hand was raised and a voice asked tentatively, "Mrs. Abraham, Mrs. Moses, and Mrs. David...?"

A curious youngster asked his

mother, "How did human beings come to be?" Mom replied, "Well, in the beginning G-d created Adam and Eve, the first people. Then they had children, who had children, and so on. And we're descended from them."

The boy then asked his father the same question. Dad's response was, "Well, in the beginning there was the primordial sludge. Organisms developed and eventually evolved

into creatures that walked onto the earth. Through the eons they further developed into mammals like monkeys and apes, and we are descended from them."

The youngster then returned to his mother and asked why her answer and the father's answer were so different.

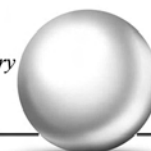
"Oh," said mom, "that's because I was talking about *my* family, and Dad was talking about *his*!"

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

AGUDATH ACHIM

ANNUAL CRUISE RAFFLE AND DINNER

The grand prize winner will be able to choose from many cruise destinations of their choice by Oceania Cruises or they can choose \$5000 cash.



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****To Purchase your ticket(s) please call the Synagogue office at 352-4737 or
you can come by, our address is 9 Lee Boulevard****

Join Us At Mickve Israel

Mickve Israel extends to you an open invitation!

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

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

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

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

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



Image by Attic Fire Photography

Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Jerry Portman

1. Having grown up in Savannah, what do you appreciate most about Savannah now and what do you miss about Savannah of the past?

Having visited many big cities around the country, I now appreciate the quality of life that Savannah offers. We have a great climate all year long. We're close to many outdoor recreational activities like rivers and the beach. There are lots of cultural opportunities throughout the year. Savannah is rich in history which can be seen and visited in the downtown area. Our vibrant Jewish history is not only evident within our community; it can now be visited in our Savannah Jewish archives at the Georgia Historical Society building.

I miss the JEA as it was when I was a child. Almost everyone lived near the JEA and spent most of their free time at the JEA, participating in lots of activities in the community as I did. There was the community Hebrew School, 4 days a week in the afternoon. Then, there was gym class before, arts & crafts or modeling class afterwards and AZA, young Judea or Boy Scouts in the

evening. Once school was out for the year, we lived at the JEA with summer camp and the pool. Today we are all spread out living in different areas, with many different interests.

2. You and your family have a very successful, multi-generational musical instrument store, what keeps you going in the business?

I was raised in the business as a teenager and beyond. What keeps me going is the love of music and more importantly the chance to help others learn and enjoy the ability to play and perform their favorite music on an instrument of their choice.

New musicians today find that learning to play a musical instrument is one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. We now teach over 500 people a week between the ages of 2 and 80. They are learning how to play



all types of brass, woodwind, percussion and string instruments as well as piano and voice. Many customers today who shop at Portman's Music Superstore are children, grandchildren, or even great-grandchildren of my parents' customers of yesteryear.

3. As incoming President of Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, what plans do you have for your term that differs from your predecessor that you'll share with the greater Savannah Jewish community?

Bnai Brith Jacob has been in continuous operation in Savannah in 4 locations for 150 years. Year after year there are many things that each president has to do to preserve the integrity and continuity of the synagogue. During my term I will be facing 2 major projects.

The synagogue needs a new roof on the entire building. Also, our kitchen, which has had minor refurbishments in the past 50 years, now needs an entire overhaul from top to bottom to bring it up to today's standards.

What else will I do during my term as president... being a community minded person I am going to try to bring more professional Orthodox Jewish people to Savannah to live and be a member of our synagogue, the JEA and our community.

I will also reach out to other synagogues and the JEA to do the same. Another project that I am going to do is to reach out to past members who are no longer affiliated and try to get them back as members of the synagogue and the JEA.

4. Being a synagogue president can be trying position, why did you want to take on the congregational leadership position at BBJ?

Both my mother and father worked for the BB Jacob synagogue all of their lives. My mother served on the building committee of our current synagogue as well as president of the synagogue sisterhood twice. My father served as president of the BB Jacob as well as brotherhood president and he was president of the BB Jacob Chevra Kadisha for many years. It is time for me to step up and fill some of their shoes.

I am going to be the president of the BB Jacob synagogue to help make sure that our orthodox synagogue will be there for holidays and with a minyan twice daily for our children and grandchildren just as it was for our fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers. We must continue the Savannah orthodox way of life Dor L'Dor (From Generation to Generation) and this is my responsibility and privilege.



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www.bbjsynagogue.com

Seeing Creates a Clarity of Vision

In Parshas Metzora the verse reads, “and for the person being purified, there shall be taken two live, clean birds, cedar wood, crimson thread and hyssop.”

One who speaks slanderous of other people, not only hurts the feelings of the person they spoke about, but as well displays their own arrogance. The underlying cause of gossip and slander is arrogance, and it breeds contempt and callousness towards others. The cedar symbolizes arrogance and the crimson thread (which obtains its color from a dye derived from an insect), and the hyssop, a lowly bush symbolize humility. These items serve as a formula for serving G-d. We must be proud to serve Hashem, and we must be strong in that conviction and in remaining true to the ideals that G-d wants us to be engulfed in.

As well, we must be humble and without any doubt, understand that all we accomplish is a result of Hashem's desires. I am humbled when I walk the hallways of Rambam and see all that our children are learning; Math, Science, LA, Social Studies, Chumash, Navi, Jewish History, Jewish Holidays, Israel, the Alphabet, the Aleph Bet....there is never a completed list, ideas come up all the time.

At the same time it would be easy to

become arrogant with all the pride I feel due to all that is accomplished in Rambam, however, the fact remains there are still too many who don't know what Rambam is all about. What they know is not what they have seen for themselves. That lone thought keeps me humble. I want Jewish education for every Jewish child, and if Rambam can be there for someone for who is not already attending our school, then we still have some reaching out to do. Please help us reach out by taking advantage of our offer to come see what we are all about.

When G-d was creating the world, the verse says, “and G-d saw the light, and it was good.” We tend to look closely at what we do to self praise and gratify ourselves on our efforts. Did G-d really need to *look* to see that the light was good? The gesture was for our benefit. We need to truly *look* to see the good in things. So I offer again, please come see Rambam for yourself, and you'll have a much clearer perspective of what we are all about.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Shhh ... The Kids Are Listening!

“Daddy, would I be dead if Hitler was the president?”

Questions from a child about the Holocaust will often take us by surprise and, therefore, unprepared. Our reaction toward talking to our children about the Holocaust is ambivalent: we want to protect them from discovering the horrors of this time while we want them to learn about our history. More worrying: what if our answers will turn children away from a positive Jewish identification if this is what it meant to be Jewish.

If the Holocaust is difficult for us to understand, how can we possibly explain it to children?

We cannot always control what our kids hear, or when they hear it. It could be a reference in a book, in a movie, or in a discussion. Whatever our own conflicted feelings, avoiding children's questions leaves them vulnerable to distortion and information taken out of context. We leave them unprotected if we leave them unprepared.

The real challenge is to present the facts with enough information but without overwhelming details that could make them feel vulnerable.

The first time I was confronted with this issue as a parent was much earlier than I expected it. My children, then 5 and 6 years old, had a whole week of preparation on the subject in their class in Israel. There, the surrounding reality will force you to address the Holocaust that early: whether it is a friend who is the grandchild of survivors, the woman with numbers tattooed on her arm on the bus, or the siren and two minutes of silence that is observed by all every Remembrance day. There opportuni-

ties for questions are everywhere.

Luckily we don't need to address those questions at such an early age here. Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Authority, who has worked on the age question with psychologists, recommends that outside of Israel children should begin learning about the Holocaust in the 3rd or 4th grade. It also recommended that we do not dismiss questions from younger children but that our answers should emphasize bravery and heroic stories rather than horror and suffering.

Study of the Holocaust is essential, not only because it is part of our past, but also because it will assist our children in developing an understanding of the roots and ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping in any society. It also provides a context for exploring the dangers of remaining silent and indifferent in the face of the oppression of others and it will remind them that democratic institutions are not automatically sustained, and need to be nurtured and protected.

We can often decide how our children learn and be pro-active with the process rather than avoid it. Eventually, they'll discover that humans are capable of terrible things. Not all humans; not all the time. And sometimes, humans are capable of being godly. They'll need to be reminded of this capacity then, too.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

Apogee Donors Raise \$161,730

Thank you to our 80 families that brought in \$161,730 to Rambam. We greatly appreciate your contributions.

Georgia residents can allocate a portion of their state tax dollars directly to Rambam through the Apogee Georgia Tax Credit Program.

To learn more about this fantastic program, please go to the GIVING tab located on our homepage.

www.rambamdayschool.org



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Vital Statistics

MAZEL TOV – Bill and Sharon Sand are happy to announce the birth of their beautiful grand daughter, Avery Grace Sand. She was born on March 25th weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces. Her proud parents are Matt and Jennifer Sand of New York and grandparents Rob and Sheri Feldman of Atlanta.

Reminder!
Yom HaShoah
Community Observance
Sunday, May 1st—4pm



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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Sylvan M. Byck, Jr.

Who died on April 6, 2011

He is survived by his wife, Judy Appel

Byck; one daughter, Donna (Tony)
Eichholz; one son, David (Helen) Kelly,
and four grandchildren, Amelia Eichholz,
Caroline Eichholz, Charlotte Kelly and
Kurt Kelly.

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How to trade securities for a more secure community
(.....and save the capital gains tax)

Here's a tax tip.

Instead of selling your *appreciated securities* and paying tax on the resulting capital gains, transfer the securities to Savannah Jewish Federation and save 20% on the taxable gain while receiving an **immediate tax deduction** based on the fair market value of the securities.

How it works

Transfer the shares to the SJF Foundation. Receive an immediate donation receipt for the market value of the shares.

When the shares are sold, an endowment fund will be established in your name.

The proceeds of your fund can be designated to a community institution or field of interest.

Since only the income is used, your gift ensures that a permanent legacy in your name will exist in perpetuity.



GIFT OF MARKETABLE SECURITIES

Value: \$10,000

If you **SELL** the securities first, then donate the proceeds.....

Taxes payable on gains	\$2,000
Gift to SJF	\$8,000

If you **TRANSFER** the securities to SJF

Charitable receipt issued	\$10,000
Capital gains	\$ 0
Gift to SJF	\$10,000
Income Tax Savings (@30%)	\$ 3,000

Spring Lamb from Gefilte Girl

Chai y'all!

I love the spring lamb. It's simply delicious. Funny enough, as a child I really and truly disliked lamb. My mother would lovingly roast a lamb leg in the oven and the aroma seemed to permeate every inch of the house...a wonderful treat for most, but not for me. Nope, I turned my nose up at my plate. My mom and dad would drizzle gravy over the pink meat, add a dollop of mint jelly, chewing and moaning with pleasure. Me? I pushed around my mashed potatoes with my fork and asked to be excused from the table. What changed my stubborn mind might you ask? When I owned a small cafe (by now in my late 20's) my food purveyor had a great deal on frenched New Zealand lamb racks at a price that I could not refuse. Patrons had been requesting a lamb dish, I was finally in a position to oblige them. The conundrum I then faced was how to prepare the meat in such a way that I could find it palatable. What I created ended up being the most requested recipe that I ever designed. I do hope that you enjoy it. *Frenched" in butchering means re-

moving the meat, fat and membranes that connect the individual rib bones—gives the lamb rack a clean look.

SAFFRON SCENTED SPRING LAMB LOLLIPOPS

Half the recipe if only doing one lamb rack-

1 onion, chopped
5 cloves garlic, chopped
2 tbs honey
½ cup olive oil
2 pinches saffron
1 teaspoon ground cumin
kosher salt (liberal amount)
cracked pepper
2 "frenched" racks of spring lamb, cut into chops (the "lollipops")
white wine for deglazing

For the marinade: Put all above ingredients (except lamb) into a food processor, purée until it makes a paste.

Marinate the lamb in Ziploc baggies overnight.

To cook: Preheat oven to 350*. Heat olive oil in a saute pan. Remove lamb from marinade, remove excess

marinade with your hands, do not rinse off. Cook the chops in the sauté pan, turning when sides brown. Deglaze the pan with white wine and finish chops in the oven. Cook to desired temperature.

Serve with mango chutney if desired.

Elizabeth Hale Ratner is a proud Savannah resident and member of Congregation Mickve Israel. Visit her website at savannahcitycatering.com.



Gefilte Girl
Elizabeth Hale

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Do You Know What This Is?



*If you don't know what this picture is,
consider yourself lucky!*

In today's challenging economy, the Savannah Jewish Federation's Jewish Family Services has been called on as never before.

Thanks to your support this year we have

- supplied over 120 Food Vouchers to members of our community this year;
- assisted with utility bills on 17 occasions;
- provided social worker case management to scores of families and individuals;
- subsidized rents, paid mortgages, provided shelter, and assisted with tax payments;
- granted funds for scholarship, medicine, clothing, and childcare;
- worked with area professionals to provide dental, medical, and psychological care;
- supported families and individuals confronted with crisis situations or sudden difficulties;



Jewish Family Services is a program of the Savannah Jewish Federation. It is made possible thanks to your generous support of the Annual Campaign and the support of many generous donors in the community who are committed to take care of the vulnerable and to give a hand up to those in need.

What's In A Name?

By Nancie Meddin Clark

If you ask Naples, FL resident, Marshall Sutker, "what's in a name?" his response might be "nearly 2700 relatives (some of them in Savannah) and a multigenerational labor of love." For the last 25 years, he like his father before him collected names and built the Sutker family tree.

His father, Leonard L. Sutker OBM began collecting family information when they lived in Chicago and Marshall has continued that tradition. Not only has he collected the names but also stories, life statistics and photos of 9 generations. He has managed to trace his ancestors with the help of a Polish researcher, to the period before the use of surnames. From his father's list of 660 relatives, Marshall has located another 2000 plus.

When Leonard, retired, he and Marshall's mother, Lillian travelled. Each time they came to a new city or town, he would check the phone book for the name Sutker and call the people. He found relatives in New York, Savannah, Atlanta, Charleston, Charlotte, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and Israel. Marshall uses other resources as well. With the advent of the Internet he has information from sites like Jewishgen.org, Ancestry.com and records from US immigration and census sites.

From Yad Vashem in Israel he found some descendants from part of the family line he thought wiped out during the Holocaust. In the Lomza Ver-ein section of their Chicago cemetery,

he was able to find his great grandfather, Kielman Sutkier. From the Polish National Archives in Lomza, Poland, he was able to enlist the help of Leszek Kolkon, a researcher who located many of the tree's 18th and 19th century additions.

The family, Marshall was told, came from Czyzewo-Sutki, a small town about 35 kilometers from Lomza and took their name from that location when the government demanded that everyone take a surname. And while Lomza is now Poland, it was Russia when his Kielman Sutkier lived there.

Later generations dropped the i from their name. Polish names, like Jewish ones (Marshall ben Leonard for example) can carry the father's name as well. Kolkon located Keilman's father, Mattathias then his father, Zelka Ickowicz and from that name Ick as Zelka's father. "Weicz" is the Polish equivalent of "ben".

Most of the Sutker family members Marshall and his father found in Savannah have passed away or moved away, but some others moved here to replace them. A portion of the Sutker family tree is part of the Savannah Jewish Archives genealogy collection.



Marshall Sutker

Crazy.....continued from pg 1

tal practice, I received a call from a prominent member of the Jewish community. This person wanted to come by and visit and talk. Right!! I knew what was going to happen....I had been warned! Of course, it was the dreaded UJA call. But I survived and UJA and all things Jewish became a big part of my life after that. My Rabbi in Fitzgerald would not believe that the fat little kid who, along with friends and cousins, had terrorized him at every opportunity, would actually grow up to be a President of Jewish organizations and actually travel to Israel more than six times.

The synagogues in this and in every community are and should be the centers for Jewish religious life. But not everyone finds their Jewish fit in the synagogues. Perhaps it is being part of Hadassah, part of BBYO, a member of the JEA or a supporter of Israel that connects some to their Jewish heritage; however for most of all of us, our varied life experiences make us who we are. I am very fortunate to have been associated with many aspects of our community including synagogue, Federation and the JEA. But I have really never considered myself to be a JEA person or synagogue person or whatever. I feel that I am just Jewish and a member of a community.

As most of you know, there are major changes going on all over the world and even sleepy Savannah is not immune to these life changing times. Jewish communities are rethinking how to attract young people and how to reach them in their environment. We are no different. Time and demographics have altered the balance. Once vibrant and stable parts of our communities — Jewish community centers, synagogues, day schools, afternoon schools and international organizations — are struggling. Our JEA is no different. I want to try to help and I am asking each of you to pitch in to help, not only the JEA, but our Jewish way of life in Savannah. The JEA is intertwined with most if not all of these things.

The JEA has been in Savannah for over 99 years helping Jewish families in need, helping Jewish businesses to establish themselves and seeing to the physical and cultural well being of the community. The JEA will continue to offer programs on Jewish identity and culture, provide hot meals, give our children a safe place to play and have fun. The JEA provides activities such as a game room, sports and fitness facilities for strengthening our bodies, and philosophical and psychological assistance from noted scholars such as Sir Charles Grossman. The JEA provides venues for life style and life changing



events, Holidays and Shabbat observances...the list goes on and on. There is no other facility or organization in our community that can offer this wide array of services.

In Savannah, people of every ethnic origin and background know where the JEA is located. It is recognizable in the very center of our city at the corner of Abercorn and DeRenne as a strong symbol of the importance of the Jewish community in Savannah. The JEA is a main link in the chain of Jewish life in Savannah and I think that we all have a responsibility to help maintain this important link. Over 5000 years of Jewish history tells us that the Jewish religion will survive. As with every group, we survive as a united group, not just as individuals. We need each other and even those who do not think that they need the JEA really do. It is an identity. It is a common history. It has to be a shared future.

Okay, here it comes. What does he want? He wants more of the thing that I now have less of: my money. Okay, I am guilty of that, but everyone and everything needs money to operate. Some people would rather give you their money than their time. For others, they would be better off giving you their time not their money. Others can offer their brain power, their physical power, their skills and their enthusiasm. Currently, the percentage of Jewish households who are members of the JEA is less than 30%. Yes, it is a surprisingly low number! If 75% of the Jewish people in Savannah were members of the JEA in one membership category or another, many of our long term financial problems and demographic issues would be minimized or eliminated.

In our community and our religion, we come together to celebrate, to honor, to laugh and to cry, to help and support and to remember. But always, we do it as a community of relatives and friends who share a common past and future. And most often, whether it is for a joyous holiday observance such as Chanukah, Purim or Israel Independence Day or for a solemn observance such as Yom HaShoah, we do it at as one community at the JEA. In your own personal way, please support the organization that has been and promises to be, an integral part of Jewish longevity and identity in Savannah.

Birthday.....continued from pg 1

fallen soldiers that dedicated their lives defending the homeland, it's a sight you won't forget.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut on the other hand, is one of the most happy and festive days of the year in Israel. All the school students are dressed in bright white shirts, waving a small plastic Israeli flag. The national parks are packed with families celebrating with a traditional mangal (barbecue). One of my favorite memories from Yom Ha'Atzmaut is dancing till dawn in Rabin Square in Tel-Aviv, singing old Hebrew songs with teenagers from around the globe from places such as; Argentina, France and the USA.

The Savannah Jewish community has a longstanding tradition of celebrating Israel's Independence Day and showing support to her. In these difficult and

complicated times in world politics, we can't rely on anyone to show their support for the state of Israel, so it's up to us to stand with Israel, together as one Jewish community.

Come and enjoy a beautiful ceremony with Rambam and Shalom School students. Israeli music, videos, and foods that have come from the famous and yummy Israeli cuisine and the full Israel experience with fun and exciting Israeli themed children's activities. Every station at this year's festival will represent one city or area from Israel. For instance there will be a fish pond to represent the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), a model of the Kotel (Western Wall) for Jerusalem, and an IDF boot camp, to name a few with prizes and lots of fun for the entire family.

יום הולדת שמח 63 לישראל!

Happy 63rd Birthday Israel!

בארץ ישראל קם העם היהודי בה עוצבה דמותו הרוחנית הדתית והמדינית, בה חי קומוניות מכלובות, בה יצר נכסי תרבות לאומיים וכלכליים והרוויח לעולם כולו את ספר הספרים הנצחיים לאחר שהוגלה העם מארצו בכוח הזרוע שמר לה אמונים בכל ארצות פזורים ולא חדל מתפלה ומתקווה לשוב לארצו ולחדש בתוכה את חייהו המדינית.

מתוך קשר היסטורי ומסורתי זה התרו היהודים בכל דור לשוב ולהארוז במולדתם העתיקה ובדורות האחרונים שבו לארצם בהמונים וחלוצים מעפילים ומגיעים הפריחו נשמות, החיו שפתם העברית, בנו כפרים וערים והקמו ישוב גדל והולך השליט על משקו ותרבותו, שומר שלום ומגן על עצמו, מבא ברכת הקדימה לכל תושבי הארץ ונושא נשמו לעצמאות מכלכותה.

בשנת תרנ"ז (1897) נתכנס הקונגרס הציוני לקול קריאתו של הגה ריון המדינה היהודית תאודור הרצל והכריז על זכות העם היהודי לתקומה לאומית בארצו.

זכות זו הוכרה בהצהרת בלפור מיום ב בנובמבר 1917 ואשרה במנדט מועט במולדתם, אשר נתן במיוחד תוקף בין לאומי לקשר ההיסטורי שבין העם היהודי לבין ארץ ישראל ולזכות העם היהודי להקים מחדש את ביתו הלאומי השואה שנתחללה על עם ישראל בזמן האחרון בה הוכרעו לטוב מיליונים יהודים באירופה ובמזרח התיכון מחדש בעליל את ההכרה בפתרון שעת העם היהודי מחקר המערכת והעצמאות על ידי חידוש המדינה היהודית בארץ ישראל אשר תפתח לרווחה את שפיר המולדת לכל יהודי ותעניק לעם היהודי מעמד של אומה שוות זכויות בתוך משפחת העמים.

שארית הפליטה שנעלה מהטבח הנאצי האיום באירופה יהודי ארצות אחרות לא חדלו להעפיל לארץ ישראל על אף כל קושי מעינה ומכנה, ולא סקנו לנבוע את זכותם להיות בכור היות אומה ישראלית במולדת עם.

במלחמת העולם השנייה תרם הישוב העברי בארץ את מלוא חלקו למאבק האומות השחורות חירות ושלוש נגד כוחות הרע הנאצי, ובדם חייליו ובנאמניו האוכלוסיה קנה לו את הזכות להמנות עם העמים מייסדי ברית האומות המאוחדות.

ב-29 בנובמבר 1947 קיבלה עצרת האומות המאוחדות ההחלטה המחייבת הקמת מדינה יהודית בארץ ישראל, העצרת הצעה מאת מדינת ישראל ארץ ישראל לאחוז בעצמים בכל הצעות הוועדה מאת החלטה ביועץ ההחלטה הכרה זו של האומות המאוחדות בזכות העם היהודי להקים את מדינתו איתה ניהתה להפקה.

וזו זכותו הטבעית של העם היהודי להיות בכל עם ועם עומד ברישור עצמי במדינתו הריבונית.

לפיכך נתכנסו אנו חברי מועצת העם נציגי הישוב העברי והתנועה הציונית, ביום סיום המנדט הבריטי על ארץ ישראל ובתוקף זכותנו הטבעית וההיסטורית ועל יסוד ההחלטות עצרת האומות המאוחדות אנו מכריזים בזאת על הקמת מדינה יהודית בארץ ישראל, היא מדינת ישראל.

אנו קובעים שהחל מיום סיום המנדט, הילכה, אור ליום שבת-ראש תש"ח, 15 במאי 1948, תהא להקמת השלטונות הנהגים והמדיניות של המדינה בהתאם לחוקה שתקבע על ידי האספה המכוננת הנבחרת לא יאוחר מ' באוקטובר 1948 - תשעל מועצת העם כמועצת מדינה זמנית, ומוסד הביצוע שלה, מנהלית העם, יהווה את הממשלה הזמנית של המדינה היהודית, אשר תיקרא בשם ישראל.

מדינת ישראל תהא מלוכה עליונה יהודית ולקיומו גליון-המשקוד על פניהה הארץ לטובת כל תושביה, ותהא מושתתת על שוויון זכויות חברתי ומדיני גמור לכל אזרחיה בלי הבדל דת, גזע, מין, תבנית חוש דת, צמחון, לשון, היתוך ותרבות, תשומד על המקומות הקדושים של כל הדתות, ותהיה נאמנה לעקרונותיה של מצוות האומות המאוחדות.

מדינת ישראל תהא מוכנה לשתף פעולה עם המוסדות והנציגים של האומות המאוחדות בהגשמת ההחלטות והעצרת מיום 29 בנובמבר 1947 ותסעל להקמת האחדות הכלכלית של ארץ ישראל בשלמותה.

אנו קוראים לאומות המאוחדות לתת יד לעם היהודי בבנין מדינתו ולקבל את מדינת ישראל לתוך משפחת העמים.

אנו קוראים - גם בתוך ההקשר ההדמים הנערכת עליון זה הדשים - לבני הערבי תושבי ישראל לשמור על השלום ולשלוט חלקם בבנין המדינה על יסוד אזרחות מלאה ושווה ועל יסוד נציגות מתאמה בכל מסגרותיה, חומיים והקבועים.

אנו מושיטים יד שלום ושכנות טובה לכל המדינות השכנות ועמים, וקוראים להם לשתוף פעולה וקורה הדדית עם העם העברי העצמאי בארצו. מדינת ישראל מוכנה לתרום חלקה במאמץ משותף לקידמת המורה והתקדמות כולו.

אנו קוראים אל העם היהודי בכל התפוצות להתלכד סביב הישוב בעליה ובבנין ולעמוד למינו במערכה הצדולה על המשמרת שאיפת הדורות למולדת ישראל.

מתוך בטחון בצור ישראל הננו חוזמים בחזותית ידינו לעדות על הכרזה זו, ממושב מועצת המדינה הזמנית על אדמת המולדת, בעיר תל-אביב, היום הזה, ערב שבת ה' אייר תש"ח, 14 במאי 1948.



pm 10 PM SUNDAY
Eyewitness by I.F. Stone:
Birth of Israel
Truman Recognizes Israel
Tel Aviv Reported Bombed; Ben-Gurion Appeals for Help

The New York Times
LATE CITY EDITION
NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1948
ZIONISTS PROCLAIM NEW STATE OF ISRAEL; TRUMAN RECOGNIZES IT AND HOPES FOR PEACE; TEL AVIV IS BOMBED, EGYPT ORDERS INVASION
Navy pushes plan for construction of missile vessels
Heaviest Trading in 8 Years
Marks Stock Market Spurt
1,440,000 Shares Change Hands as Wave of Bullish Enthusiasm Increases Securities 1 to 7 Points
AIR ATTACK OPENS U. S. MOVES QUICKLY
Planes Castle Fire at Port—Defense Flies Go Into Action
BORDER IS BREACHED TRUCE AIM STRESSED
Soviet Gesture to New Nation Anticipated—Others Due to Act
U. N. Votes for a Mediator; Special Assembly Is Ended
THE JEWS REJOICE
Some Weep as Quest for Statehood Ends—White Paper Dies
HELP OF U. N. ASKED
New Regime Holds Out Hand to Arabs—U. S. Gesture Acknowledged
CUNNINGHAM GOES TO MANHATTAN FOR

THE PALESTINE POST
THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT has returned to The Palestine Post offices, Hamel Street, Jerusalem, Tel. 4293.
PRICE: 15 MILLS VOL. XXIII, No. 6114
STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN
The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29. Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.
Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History
Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history. For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the four hundred Hagahim men and women in the Kfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force due to a lack of food and water was a foregone conclusion. There could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and to what extent the Red Cross and the Jewish Committee would secure civilized conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions have now been resolved. On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State, and its official naming at birth, "Medinat Yisrael"—State of Israel, with the seating in of the first Council of Government. The proclamation of the State was made at midnight, coinciding with the sailing from Haifa of Britain's last High Commissioner. Within the hour, President Truman announced in Washington that the Government of the United States had decided to give de facto recognition to the Jewish State, with Jewish sources claimed most of Western Galilee safe against attack. Nabaryah, near Jine at Majma, inside Trans-Jordan, was taken. In other parts of the city fighting flared up. Jews over-ruled after another the area evacuated by the British. By last night, the quarters and 2 Columns Cross Southern Border
ETZION SETTLERS TAKEN P.O.W.
Fighting in the Kfar Etzion, continued throughout Friday, after Kfar Etzion it was taken.

