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Archives Joining Breman Collections in Atlanta

by Sophie Lichtman

We, as Jews, have a long-standing admiration and respect for our heritage. As children, we study it in our Hebrew classes. As teenagers, we admire it in person while on Birth-right trips. As adults, we teach it to our families by observing the holidays and their customs. Living here in Savannah, we are continually surrounded by history. The downtown district is home to beautiful, historic architecture and landmarks, while the coastal area claims some of the country's oldest forts and battle sites.

Savannah's Jewish community is no different. Not only are we home to the third oldest Jewish congregation in America, but many of us claim personal histories that have been written right under our city's famous Spanish moss. For this reason, Kaye Kole was asked and eagerly agreed to create the now well-known Savannah Jewish Archives. However, after many years under her direction and

having amassed an impressive collection of thousands of documents and artifacts, it is time for the Savannah Jewish Archives to make an even bigger historical impact.

Our archives are being moved to Georgia's largest Jewish museum, The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta, where people from all over the country now will be able to learn and explore our community's story and its legacy.

Though Jewish families have lived in Savannah for almost three centuries, the task of creating the Savannah Jewish Archives was initiated only a little over 20 years ago. Says Kole, "Sol Briebart, a historian who lived in Charleston and was a leader of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, asked me to compile a bibliography of the historical documents at Congregation Mickve Israel." It was this commission that really helped Kole become "aware of the riches of ma-

terial that we had in Savannah." The Savannah Jewish Archives was born of that project.

As it can be imagined, gathering and documenting the history of hundreds of families was quite the daunting task. "It was very time consuming. Throughout the process we collected 6,000 photographs, copies of which were sent to numerous people to identify. Other documents were sent to an archivist to process," Kole explains.

The Savannah Jewish Archives are definitely the product of hard work and dedication, a resource that our community is proud to claim. It is because of this that the Archives' move to Atlanta is bittersweet. However, Kole is positive that this move is one from which we, as well as the rest of the country, will benefit. "I believe that the move to The Breman will be

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Memories of the Birth of a Nation

by Lynn Levine



Martin Cohen

Martin Cohen insists he is not a hero and quickly will put an end to any such talk. But there is no denying that this gentle grandfather living here among us was a true freedom fighter in Israel's 1948 War for Independence and that he is one of many we have to thank for the modern State of Israel.

Prologue

He does not describe himself as such, but Martin Cohen is a Holocaust survivor. He was born in 1928 in Cologne, Germany, to an observant family. His father, Heinrich, was beaten in a roundup of all the local Jewish lawyers, of which there were quite a few, and in 1933 he made the

decision to take his family from Germany across the border into Czechoslovakia. But Martin's father could not practice law there nor could he speak the language. Supporting his family was difficult.

Martin and his younger sister attended a non-denominational but Zionist Jewish school in Prague; Heinrich purchased a patent for some kind of sausage casing, but Martin says, "He was kosher so he couldn't sample it and most of the customers actually were in the part of Czechoslovakia inhabited by Germans who became the early Nazis" (the area that became known as Sudetenland). It was not an easy business for him.

In late September 1938 the Germans signed the Munich Agreement (with France, Italy and the United Kingdom), allowing them to annex part of Czechoslovakia. According to Martin, "My father was always pessi-

mistic, and during the Munich negotiation he was afraid there might be war. We kind of escaped to Rataje where we used to vacation. We saw this lady who 'saw the future' in coffee seeds and she predicted there would be peace, but the peace we got was an obvious preface to the full occupation of Czechoslovakia so my father said we had to leave there, too. We could either go to Israel by getting the so-called certificate because the British had restricted immigration to Palestine or get a visa and go to America where my mother had brothers. It turned out it wasn't so difficult to get the certificate but there was no visa [for America] in sight."

The Cohens left Europe for Palestine a few months before Hitler

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Candle Lighting Times

Friday, Sept. 4	7:27pm
Friday, Sept. 11	7:18pm
Sunday, Sept. 13	7:15pm
Monday, Sept. 14	8:10pm
Friday, Sept. 18	7:09pm
Tuesday, Sept. 22	7:04pm
Friday, Sept. 25	7:00pm
Sunday, Sept. 27	6:57pm
Monday, Sept. 28	7:51pm

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and even Sweeter company.
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anew.



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The Time Machine

One of the enduring topics of literature, science and thought is the desire to look back in time, and project ahead in time. History teaches us so much and conjecturing what the future will look like is a never ending fascination. As Jewish people, we have such a rich history that should never be forgotten.

And, as Jewish people, we discuss the future with interest, commitment and passion. But these traits are never more evident than during the High Holidays, when we have the unique ability to do both at the "same time."

Yes, the High Holidays have the traditions and observances that we hold so dear. They have all of the connections that make us what we are, from being with families and friends to preparing the foods of our parents and grandparents. But, as much as we share the High Holidays with those around us, it is also a time to do the opposite- to look within ourselves, both looking back and forward, and in the present.

To look back requires a certain patience and introspection. It requires us to examine ourselves. It requires us to look at what our role was in our Jewish community — congregations, schools and organizations. It requires that we think about how we helped perpetuate the tenets on which our faith is based. It requires that we consider whether we actually were part of the historical progress of the Jewish people or did we just observe? What we read, hear and think about during the High Holidays is the foundation for this perspective. The question is will we take advantage of the opportunity?

To look to the future also requires introspection but can require a change in thinking- not an easy task for humans. What do we want for future generations? What can we do for the young people who are dependent on all of us to create a Jewish

future that will be worthy of the past we hold so important? Yes, the family unit is the critical element of this idea but the responsibility rests on all of us. And while tomorrow is, in fact, the future, that future is also one, five and ten years hence. Whatever the span of the calendar, the commitment by each of us to a joint Jewish future is paramount.

Then there is the present. The moment we have these thoughts. The moment we are really in our own place, our own sense of personal history, our feelings about what we want, are, and what we want to be. This is perhaps the greatest challenge and the most important. And it is the hope of the Savannah Jewish Federation that the High Holidays be an inspiration for keeping alive the past, encouraging the future and really engaging the present-every day. Judaism is dependent upon the sincere dedication of every person.

This particular year we also have the additional opportunity to watch as our Federation changes from past leadership to future leadership. Our community does build on its past and uses it as a guide for tomorrow. Leaders learn from each other. But a new board, new officers and a new president are invigorating, re-charge an organization and offer endless possibilities.

We wrote this column together to demonstrate not just the continuity of leadership of our Savannah Jewish Federation but also the continuity of our community. In football parlance, there may be a handoff but we are all running the same play. The entire community is our team and the success of one is the success of all.

The journey of the Jewish people through history is one that has surmounted every challenge, every despot, and every prejudice. We are here because we believe in each other, our faith, our Torah and that good does ultimately triumph over evil. The High Holidays is the time to imbue within ourselves the past, present and future and carry forward all that makes us unique. May each of us find within ourselves the forces of respect, concern and dedication and uplift ourselves and those around us to better the Savannah Jewish community.

On behalf of the Board of Governors and Staff of the Savannah Jewish Federation, we wish you and your family and friends a sweet, healthy and meaningful new year.

Steve Greenberg
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation



Sherry Dolgoff
President-elect,
Savannah Jewish
Federation



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Choosing a Calendar

For the past five years, a group of teens from Ramat Ha-Sharon (Israel) and the Westchester JCC (New York) have travelled to Sa-

vannah to work together with teens from the Savannah Youth Commission to put together a camp program, Camp Lighthouse, for children from the Yamacraw Village-Kayton Frazier communities. It is an opportunity for the teens to have fun, provide service, and get a taste of different cultures and challenges. The camp is held at one of the Chatham County schools, this year, Godley Station.

The program, Havaya (Hebrew for "experience" or "being") has the New York area teens travel to Israel where they meet up with a group of like Israeli teens. They all travel together in Israel and then travel together in the U.S. Ultimately, their trip ends in Savannah.

It is a program that seeks to teach the teens a different understanding of their place in the world and their responsibility to others.

When the teens (Israelis, New Yorkers and Savannahians) first met at the JEA you could see that they didn't know each other, what their roles were, or what they were each about, but after a few hours of planning and group-building exercise(s), they found common ground. Before the four-hour session was over, they were broken into planning groups establishing their programs for the week at Camp Lighthouse.

Following the planning session, the Israeli and New York teens retired to dinner (the Savannah teens went to their own homes) and their leader, Nitzan Aviv, took some time to

review the past five weeks of travel together and talk about the program that they were about to provide.

I have sat in on the dinner the past two years and learned a lot from watching and listening. It is the "little things" that teach you a lot—the nervous comments, the way that the teens talk to each other and the looks on their faces when they learn something new.

I was most taken when Nitzan told a Kabbalistic story about "time." While I'm sure the original story was not exactly the way Nitzan shared it, the meaning and concept endure.

He told the group that there are two ways to imagine the experiences of the six-week journey that they were finishing. He suggested imagining an "old time calendar" on the wall with each day being another sheet, 365 individual sheets of paper. As each day goes by you take down a sheet and as the weeks and months go by, the calendar gets thinner and thinner. At the end of the year, there is nothing left except the cardboard backing.

The other imagery is of the person who begins the year with a blank diary calendar. Each day, you open up the book to a new blank page, a blank page of opportunity in which you write down your appointments, obligations, and experiences. At the end of the year, you have a calendar of what you did and who you met. A book literally full of life and experiences.

As we prepare for the new year, we each have a choice as to what type of calendar we will have and how we will live our lives in 5776...we can quickly tear the days of the calendar off the wall, ultimately leaving us with little, or we can take the blank book and fill it with meaning.

Wishing you a New Year of



Sweetness as the purest honey



Prosperity as plentiful as the seeds of a pomegranate



Beauty as the finest rose

*The Officers, Boards and Employees of
Savannah Jewish Federation*

Archives.....from pg 1

much to our advantage, where we will have Jewish oversight, our collection will be highly regarded and publicized, and some would be displayed in an exhibit space,” emphasizes Kole. “I am looking forward to our plans, [and] to have the collection completely processed and made available to scholars as well as family members.”

So what are our counterparts in Atlanta thinking about the decision to move the Archives to The Breman? “I think that this absolutely is a wonderful opportunity. We really see this as the beginning of an ongoing relationship. This is the first step in a lot of programming between Savannah and Atlanta,” says Aaron Berger, Director of The Breman.

Not only is Berger enthusiastic about our two cities’ newfound partnership, but he is also very excited about what our historical collection can offer the museum as a whole. “The collection is so large, that it is going to grow The Breman’s collection by about 20%,” exclaims Berg-

er. “We are a Jewish cultural center so we have a vast array of reasons for people to come to The Breman and this is a great way for people to learn more about our southern history and Savannah’s story in particular.”

The Breman plans to integrate the Savannah Jewish Archives both into the museum’s library as well as putting parts of the collection online. In addition, Berger adds that the museum plans to hold “...an exhibition on Georgia immigration in which we plan to incorporate some of the materials from the Savannah collection.”

For us here at home, it is incredibly exciting to recognize that the Savannah Jewish Archives, once viewed only by our community, now has the opportunity to be studied by thousands. “We bring in over 30,000 visitors per year to The Breman. We have several hundred visitors who come to The Breman each year to do research on-site with our archives. They may be professors or scholars doing research for books, family members interested in their relatives’ history,



From 2009, Savannah Jewish Archives volunteers with an award they received from the Georgia Archives. Standing (l-r): Bobbie Levy, archivist Lynette Stoudt, Matiel Leffler, founder Kaye Kole, Anne Silberman, Susan Lieber-Lozada, Carole Cohen, Harriet Meyerhoff. Seated (l-r): William Raffel, Diane Kuhr, Suzanne Kantziper, Marilyn Farley.

fiction authors who come and just try to get some historical background, and even movie makers looking for material and context for their films,” expounds Berger. His enthusiasm about our archives underscores the opportunity this represents for us to share our rich history with others.

Kaye Kole would like to acknowledge the amount of work and time dedicated by numerous volunteers over the years in order to make the Savannah Jewish Archives collection

possible. Thanks to this labor of love established and tended by Kole and others, the Jewish presence that still blooms in Savannah will continue to be collected and archived for years to come. Simply put, our community is one that was, is, and continues to be vibrant and strong, and we can all agree, *that is something worth documenting.*

Sophie Lichtman, a contributing writer to the Savannah Jewish News, is a sophomore at the University of Georgia.



Operation Isaiah Food Drive September 8, 2015 - October 9, 2015

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The **power** of community

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Congregation Mickve Israel, Rambam Day School**

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The New Year is a time for self reflection and thinking about those less fortunate. Team up with the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Second Harvest Food Bank to help provide food for those in need. Donated food is distributed through Second Harvest Food Bank and Backpack Buddies.

The Savannah Jewish Federation encourages you and your family to participate in the richness and beauty that our synagogues offer.

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Rabbi Robert Haas
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Steve Greenberg
President

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Executive Director



Why twice a year is not enough

Remember that feeling?

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You can share those feelings, and more, all the rest of the year, too.

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The comfort of sharing your joys and sorrows in a community of friends

The excitement of learning and growing with like-minded adults

The gratification of helping others in your congregation and community

The satisfaction of passing on your faith and heritage to coming generations

The fulfillment of connecting to our tradition through worship in a congregation of active members

Experiencing all this with people who share your feelings about life and faith.

There's a congregation near you of people who share your way of living in the world, who look forward to answering your questions about membership, who'd be happy to help you discover

why twice a year is not enough
L'SHANAH TOVAH! 5776

JEA New Year Greetings

The new year is a time to reflect upon our accomplishments and shortcomings of the past year and resolve to

cultural experiences of our Jewish community.

We hope the JEA will figure in your plans for the new year; that you will avail yourselves of the programs and services provided for our members: from fitness to films, from lectures to lunch-bunch, from early childhood to senior services. We hope too that you will contribute to the health and well-being of the JEA: by maintaining membership and supporting our activities and using our facilities. It is your patronage that will guarantee our growth and health in the year to come.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and professional staff and the entire JEA family, I extend best wishes for a happy, healthy, fulfilling 5776. May we continue to grow from strength to strength.

L'shana tova,
Joel A. Greenberg



Joel Greenberg,
JEA President

improve ourselves in the upcoming one. As individuals we each do this during the High Holy Days. With introspection, prayer and tzedakah we plead for forgiveness and then start the year anew, hopefully working at least a little harder to better ourselves in the new year.

Just as people can use the occasion of the new year to take stock and improve, so too can our institutions. At your JEA we are using this opportunity to take a close look at our programs and priorities; at what we did well last year and where we need to improve. In the upcoming year we hope to expand programs that have been successful and create new programs and activities to bring added value to our members. We plan to take a strategic look at where we want the JEA to be in the future and what services will best serve the needs of our members. Like each of us, the JEA will strive to grow and improve and live up to our mission to enhance the physical health and

Hadassah New Year Greetings



Jean Weitz

The new Jewish year, 5776, is around the corner and as Jews we are all involved in the discussions over the nuclear deal with Iran, about the recent acts of

terrorism against the citizens of Israel by extremists—and the upcoming election year of a new U.S. President and Congress. For the members of Hadassah, all of these issues are important to us as we pray for peace in our beloved Israel and peace of mind as political decisions move forward.

Inbar Azrak, survivor of a recent firebombing of her car, thanked the members of Hadassah... “for building such a wonderful facility and supporting Israeli medical progress.” Savannah’s nine decades of support of Hadassah Medical Organization has helped to insure that state of the art treatment is available in Israel and that our medical contributions serve

as a bridge to peace in the Middle East.

ALS medical trials, developed at Hadassah Hospital, have begun in three institutions in the United States. Hadassah is pioneering cutting edge stem cell treatment to reverse disability caused by stroke, to advance the treatment of MS, and to limit effects of Parkinsonism. These are just a few examples of the far-reaching benefits of Hadassah’s extraordinary research.

Savannah Hadassah, now celebrating its 90th year, appreciates your continued membership and support. Your support helps HWZOA, Hadassah the Woman’s Zionist Organization of America, to impact all our lives.

On behalf of the almost 500 members of Savannah Hadassah, may this year be one of Peace and Health.

Shana tova tikatavu,

Jean Weitz
Savannah President

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Ambassador Opher Aviran
and Mayor Edna Jackson

Mayor
EDNA JACKSON
wishes the entire
Jewish Community
a sweet, healthy,
and prosperous
New Year!

Memories.....from pg 1

marched into Prague. Martin was 10 years old yet today his voice still carries the accent of his childhood.

Their new life began in Jerusalem where Heinrich's brother lived but it was not a commercial center so they soon moved to Tel Aviv, where Heinrich went into real estate and "actually did quite well," Martin says.

"At that time there already was quite a bit of campaigning for a Jewish state. My sister and I went to a Modern Orthodox school. Everybody knew that sooner or later there would be action between the Israelis and the Arabs. Disturbances had been going on for a long time," Martin relates. "In high school we already were training, even though it was somewhat limited because the British didn't allow us to have any weapons. [By the time of the War for Independence] most of the weapons we had were left over from the war [WWII]. There even was underground manufacturing of rifles and things."

Into the Fight

Even before there was a State of Israel, there was mandatory service for Jewish youth. As Martin explains: "In 1946 I graduated from high school. You did not get your diploma until you had a year of service. There were all kind of options; I joined the Palestine Police Force who was nice enough to train me.

"In 1947 I passed a competitive examination to enter Hebrew University. In September I began there to study chemistry. We didn't have a lot of money. I had to live in Jerusalem so I lived with my uncle but he wasn't too well off; to help out I worked nights with the Palestine Police.

"It didn't last very long because in November 1947 there was the United Nations declaration with the division of Palestine that immediately started disturbances. Jewish settlements were isolated and not defended by the British; there were bombings in Jerusalem. Hebrew University on Mount Scopus was isolated by an Arab enclave so you couldn't go there on a regular basis. There was a Hadassah Hospital convoy to Mount Scopus that was attacked and they tried to defend themselves and they were all killed. After a while I couldn't commute any more to school so I went full-time with the Haganah" (the Jewish paramilitary organization that later

formed the basis of the IDF).

In his quiet, understated manner, Martin Cohen tells the stories of his involvement in a number of strategic battles for control of Jerusalem in 1948.

"My first assignment was in central Jerusalem in Katamon. We just had a few rifles. We looked out of the windows and on the other side of the street were the Arabs who looked out of their windows. Occasionally we took a pot shot at each other. This continued until late April 1948. The British left on May 15.

"In late April or early May, the Palmach first shot the *Davidka*, a 10-inch pipe that fired explosive and made a lot of noise, and the Arabs thought we had an atom bomb! It helped us finally occupy Katamon. So we occu-



Martin's Haganah youth training group.
Martin is second from left, standing.

pied Katamon and my small group, *Gdud Yonatan*, moved south, first to the Greek Colony and then to the Germany Colony."

Martin describes the dire conditions in the city at the time: "Of course, Jerusalem was under siege. The water supply was cut. Older buildings had cisterns, but most people had to stand in line with buckets to get water from tanks, which was very dangerous because the Arab Legion (the Jordanian army) were standing on the walls of the Old City and shooting at people in the lines. People died waiting for water. Neither the British nor the UN did anything about it.

"There wasn't any supply of food. Jerusalem was completely cut off for about half a year – no supplies for about 100,000 Jews, many of them the Old *Yishuv*" [name coined for the mostly ultra-Orthodox Jewish population who had continuously resided in *Eretz Yisroel* for centuries]. We worked our way down south. We were pretty hungry; we were rationed to one slice of bread and one small water bottle (canteen) a day.

In the German Colony we discovered someone's pantry of canned food supplies and helped ourselves before turning it over."

Martin's group was determined. "We finally wound up at the southern tip of Jerusalem at Ramat Rachel where we faced Egyptian units. There were maybe six or seven of us and we may have had two or three old German rifles and one Bren gun — a British machine gun. We were sitting on a hill and the Egyptians were coming up so we took that machine gun and handed it from one edge of our group to the other so they thought we had a lot of machine guns and they retreated."

Disappointment & In-fighting

As Martin acknowledges, not all of their missions were successful. You can almost hear in his voice a wish to go back in time, to have the chance to do some things differently: "We occupied Mount Zion right next to the Old City, while we still had a contingent of Haganah in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City and we were trying to get to them and we couldn't.

"There was a story about an Armenian church we [the Jewish forces] occupied and there was a lot of pressure on the Israelis to get out of it and eventually our soldiers in the Old City had to surrender and I believe we got cheated – we could have gotten to the Jewish Quarter, but we didn't. I always felt that was one of the major failures of the War of '48; that we didn't have the resources to save the Old City, and that's why we have so many problems today."

Martin also remembers serious differences of opinion between different Jewish factions at the time that led to a number of events, including one which involved his small battalion, and one he saw afterwards.

"We were camped somewhere in south Jerusalem during the negotiations between Ben Gurion and the United Nations to internationalize Jerusalem," he says. "My little *Gdud Yonatan* (about 30 men then) had a lot of Yemenites who didn't agree with this idea of internationalizing Jerusalem. I could agree with Ben Gurion — he was spending a lot of assets to defend Jerusalem.

"So suddenly we were surrounded by the so-called Stern Gang calling us traitors, yelling 'you want to internationalize Jerusalem, you are our prisoners!' A lot of people in our group agreed and were willing to surrender and we were their prisoners for a night until there were some ne-

gotiations at a higher level and we were liberated." He is amused by the story today but says it was unnerving at the time.

He also remembers the famous *Altalena* incident, involving an attempt by the Irgun to bring its own cache of weapons and fighters into Israel during one of the truce periods in the war. It was a complicated and involved story but in the end the newly-formed IDF fired shells that disabled the cargo ship (some say they were warning shots that accidentally hit the ship). Sixteen Irgun and three IDF fighters died on the Tel Aviv shore and the *Altalena* was "beached" there for about year before being towed out to sea and sunk. The incident could have incited a civil war for the day-old State of Israel. Martin went to see the shelled ship.

After the War

"Life just after the war was very difficult," says Martin. About one percent of Israel's Jewish population had died in the struggle (as Martin is quick to point out, the equivalent of 3,190,000 Americans today). "It was very difficult economically," he continues. "It was a socialist government. You had to stand in line for everything. The old joke was, 'it's so desperate, let's kill Ben Gurion, but the line to kill Ben Gurion is too long.'

"I tried to go back to school but as a chemist, most of the labs were closed – there were only some makeshift labs." But in 1950, Martin received a scholarship to attend Columbia University and moved to New York with his mother; his father had died when Martin was 13. His sister followed them later.

Martin became a chemical engineer. While in New York, he met his wife, Susan, also a Holocaust survivor. They moved to Savannah with their son in 1986 when Martin's job with Union Camp brought them here. They have since retired here and their son and his family (including their three grandchildren) now live in New Zealand.

Martin Cohen says that though he has not been back to Israel for many years, he continues to defend it whenever it comes under attack, wherever he is.



Martin Cohen's Israeli army ID, issued in May 1948



Martin, right, with a fellow soldier and a 3-inch mortar at a post in Jerusalem

Rosh Hashanah Greetings from Our Rabbinical Leaders



Rabbi Avigdor Slatus,
Congregation
Bnai Brith Jacob

Standing With Israel

A year ago, the summer of 2014, Hamas began its bombardment of Israel by launching rockets and compelling Israel to respond to defend its citizens. The media questioned the proportion of Arab casualties as compared to Israel's. The IDF was accused of harming innocent women and children and the avalanche of criticism was endless. The biased reporting not only emboldens Hamas, but the media is actually fighting their war. The barbaric, crazed murderers threaten not only Israel, but all of Western Civilization, men, women and children. How can Israel defend itself when Hamas uses their women and children as human shields? The lack of harsh outrage against these inhuman terrorists, the failure to publically declare total support for Israel and international condemnation of those who seek Israel's annihilation is a failure of the moral fiber and the core of human decency.

Anti-Semitism continues to grow in Europe with more neo-Nazi parties winning seats in democracies. The modern population is violently threatening loyal Jewish citizens in Britain and France. Iran — who continues to proclaim "Death To America," is the main architect of terror throughout the world, and boldly promotes the destruction of Israel — is now the power in the Middle East with the hopeful yet unenforceable treaty for nuclear development.

The abandonment of Israel, America's loyal ally, the only democracy in the Middle East, is astonishing. It is comforting to imagine better relations with Iran (although this is a mere fantasy), when we live in a different neighborhood. Israel, however, is surrounded and engulfed by the Iranian tentacles of terror.

How can Israel, a country of seven million Jews, defend itself against a billion Muslims? How can Israel survive when they are constantly attacked by terrorists, condemned by the United Nations, criticized in the media and rejected by its closest ally? Israel stands alone! However, this is a mere facade. King David writes: "Behold the Guardian of Israel, He does not slumber nor does he sleep. Hashem is your guardian, Hashem is your shelter at your right hand." Psalm 121

Throughout the centuries those who have attempted to destroy us have failed. Not because of our strength or cunning but because of the boundless compassion of Avinu Malkeino—our Father our King. To correct the myopic vision of world leaders, to attain true peace in Middle East and achieve harmony for all humanity, it begins with acknowledging the absolute truth of the sacred words of King David.

May we be blessed with a year of good health, peace and happiness and may 5776 be filled with joy and simcha.



Rabbi Robert Haas,
Congregation
Mickve Israel

My Moral Bucket List

For years, I've been looking forward to vacationing on my 7th continent. I haven't quite made it to Antarctica yet, but I will one day....oh yes I will. It's probably number one on my bucket list, but there's plenty more on that list of all lists. I'm looking forward to hang gliding, cliff diving and bungee jumping, although that's probably off the list....bad knees. I hope to write a book, run a marathon, and even one day, orbit planet earth. I think we probably all have our own bucket lists, with some of the opportunities checked off and more than a few things left to do. What's on your Bucket List?

Recently though, I read an article, "The Moral Bucket List," by David Brooks in the *New York Times* that encouraged me to rethink my own bucket list. He writes: "It occurred to me that there were two sets of virtues, the résumé virtues and the eulogy virtues. The résumé virtues are the skills you bring to the marketplace. The eulogy virtues are the ones that are talked about at your funeral — whether you were kind, brave, honest or faithful. Were you capable of deep love? ...Many of us are clearer on how to build an external career than on how to build inner character."

After reading this article, I decided to follow his lead and list the qualities I most admire in people, then look to follow their lead by improving myself in these areas. For example, I listed: take better control of my temper, have more patience, watch what I say to others, and be more modest. I also decided that it might be asking too much of myself to concentrate on improving myself in all of these areas at once, so as Rosh Hashana approaches, I chose one in particular on which to focus.

I recently asked an Israeli teenager volunteering in Savannah what was the biggest difference between Israelis and Americans. She answered, saying.... "apologies." I didn't understand the answer, so I asked if she felt that people in Israel apologized in a different way. She said, "of course....betach. In Israel, if I accidentally knock someone over, I say, 'I'm sorry.' In Savannah however, the person who was knocked over also says, 'I'm sorry.' It's meshugganah."

First on my bucket list this year is giving forgiveness. At times, I can barely forgive Savannahians for driving slower than Miss Daisy when I'm in a rush recently fell into a tirade when an airline stranded me in Dallas while on the way to visit my brother. I complained to anyone that looked like they had ever worked for the airline, but no matter how many "I'm sorry's" I received, my anger wouldn't dissipate.

I believe our religion asks us to admit our guilt and ask for forgiveness and then receive it, but we know that forgiveness ain't always easy. Although, we are taught to give it from birth, what happens when situations arise when we don't feel forgiveness is due? What about when our favorite athlete apologizes for using steroids only after he or she's been outed? What happens when someone who cheated us out of a lot of money apologizes and then asks for a loan? What about when tragedy strikes? Are we as Jews expected to give forgiveness on these occasions?

I ran across a famous apology lately which led me to ask these questions. It came from none other from Henry Ford.

He apologizes here for anti-Semitic rhetoric found in one of his newspapers, with a long and beautiful apology that concludes with, "I deem it to be my duty as an honorable man to make amends for the wrong done to the Jews as fellow-men and brothers, by asking their forgiveness for the harm that I have unintentionally committed, by retracting so far as lies within my power the offensive charges laid at their door by these publications, and by giving them the unqualified assurance that henceforth they may look to me for friendship and goodwill..."

Should we accept this act of attrition years after his death, even after reading about his less than magnanimous support of the Jewish community, even after learning that he actually hired New York attorney and American Jewish Committee president, Louis Marshall to write this apology note, even after learning that he "wrote" this apology as a reaction to a libel charge brought against Ford by Aaron Shapiro, or even after learning that after the death of Marshall in 1929 these anti-Semitic articles reappeared?

Can we accept apologies when they don't feel sincere, when they come too late to make a difference, when they feel forced, or when we know there's an ulterior motive involved? What if I believe these people don't deserve forgiveness, because forgiveness may allow their guilt to fade? What if I feel their apology feels less than genuine? What if I just don't want to forgive them? Why should we accept apologies?

The answer is of course....'cause we're Jews. We accept the act, even when we suspect the motive to be less than sincere. Maimonides states, "The offended person is prohibited from being cruel in not offering mechilah (forgiveness) for this is not the way of the seed of Israel. Rather, if the offender has [resolved all material claims and has] asked and begged for forgiveness once, even twice, and if the offended person knows that the other has done repentance for sin and feels remorse for what was done, the offended person should offer the sinner mechilah." (Mishne Torah, "Hilchot Chovel u-Mazzik," 5:10).

The truth is thought that can never truly know what someone feels, so we accept the apology even if we believe it might not be sincere. If the person has apologized and made restitution, he's fulfilled his duty. However, we may forgive but we don't always need to forget or excuse. I forgive you, even though you still may need to pay the consequences for your actions. I forgive you, but that doesn't mean I will enter into a business deal with you again if you cheated me the first time.

Moses forgives the people of Israel when they sin as they try and understand a new concept called ethical monotheism, even though he must realize they will sin again. Religion can be upsetting to those of us that want to hold onto the anger and continue to feel the need for vengeance, can't it? Forgiveness though helps the forgiver throw off the yoke of anger and move on with life. It gives people the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and grow. It helps us feel we deserve forgiveness when we inevitably sin.

It ain't easy, but if it were easy it wouldn't be Jewish. I know forgiveness is an area in which I struggle sometimes. That's why it sits at the top of my Moral Bucket List this year. With Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur coming up, what's on your list?

Wishing the Savannah Jewish Community A Happy and Healthy New Year Cookie & Barry Gale	Melvin L. Haysman Roberta Kamine-Haysman Michelle, Kevin, Avi & Eli Heyman Rachelle, Brian, Sophie & Evie Carmel Herchelle, Adam, Elyssa & Joey Cohen Wish Friends and Family A Happy New Year!	Mrs. Bernice Elman Patrick & Brenda Salter Wish all Their Friends and Family A Happy and Prosperous New Year	Kathy Levitt Wishes all my Friends A Happy and Prosperous New Year
		Happy New Year to Everyone From Marilyn & Jim Farley	Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year Margie & B.H. Levy, Jr.
A Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year to All Doris & Martin Greenberg The Kovenskys of Savannah and Greenbergs of California	Wishing All a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year Toby Hollenberg Jeff, Melissa, Jessa & Ellie Neil	Elaine & Bill Fox Wish You All A Healthy and Fit New Year!	Wishing Friends and Family A Happy New Year Linda & Steve, Adam & Lauren, Evan & Lizzie, Craig, Gus Novack
		Happy Holidays AM Goldkrand, Judith Goldkrand Lucy & Joy Goldkrand Cheskin Howard Goldkrand, Beth Coleman & BZW	Wishing my Family and the Jewish Community A Healthy, Peaceful Year! Shana Tova! Carol Offenbach
Wishing Our Friends and Family A Year Filled with Happiness and Good Health The Levys Dayle & Aaron Chaya & Shraga, Michelle & Rich and our Grandchildren	Wishing Everyone Shana Tovah u'Metukah Sharon & Moises Paz David & Aliza Raanon, Erica, Judah, Maayan, Leora Leah, Adena Alia, Sivan, Yehoshua, Moshe Tovia, Tehillah, Rena, Tamar, Daniel, Meir, Naftali & Avigayil	Wishing Family and Friends A Sweet New Year Filled with Health and Happiness Doris & Arnie Goldstein	Arlene & Allan Ratner; Jami, Scott, Skylar & Madelyn Ducker; Jennifer & Brett Ratner Wish all our Family and Friends L'Shana Tova
		Wishing You a Year Filled with Happiness and Shalom Dr. & Mrs. Joel A. Greenberg	Wishing Friends, Family and the Entire Community A Happy and Healthy New Year Scott, Jared & Allison Samuels
May the New Year Be Filled with Health, Happiness, Success and Peace Throughout the World L'Shana Tova Sarah Denmark & Adam Solender	Dr. & Mrs. Murray Arkin and Family Wish You a Happy, Healthy New Year	Wishing all Our Family and Friends A Year Filled with Happiness, Health and Peace! Sally & Steve, Greg & Susan, Matt & Karina Greenberg	Wishing all of our Friends and Family A Happy New Year Victor, Elise, Heather, Jason, Kristina & Reed Shernoff
	May the Year Ahead Be Filled with the Blessings of Health, Happiness and Peace Marcia & Sandy Berens and Family	Wishing all Our Family and Friends A Most Happy and Prosperous New Year! Janis & Lee Javetz	Wishing All a Happy and Healthy New Year From the Silbermanns — Larry, Sally & Hattie
Wishing Everyone A Happy and Healthy New Year! Sue, John, Ben & Gabe Adler	Wishing Our Family and Friends A Happy, Healthy and Fruitful New Year Dr. Eugene & Joan Bloom	Harriet Konter Wishes all my Relatives and Friends A Happy and Prosperous New Year	Lena Solomon & Family Send Shana Tova Wishes To all our Savannah Friends Still Kicking at 99!
Ina & Art Altman Wish Our Family and Friends A Happy New Year	May the New Year Bring You Only Health, Wealth and Happiness! Fred & Nancie Clark Jonathan & Robert Clark Alison & David Sturm	Wishing Family and Friends A Happy and Healthy New Year Suzanne & Michael Konter	A Healthy and Happy New Year to All Arnold Tillingier

Jean & Julian Weitz Wish All their Friends and Family A Year Filled with Happiness, Health and Peace	Wishing Family and Friends A Happy New Year Howard & Pat Cooper	The Kulbersh and Bernath Families Wish Everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year	We Wish Our Family and Friends A Healthy and Happy New Year Sally & Herb Sanders
Wishing Friends and Family A Happy, Healthy New Year Jane Winter	We Wish You All A Healthy, Happy New Year The Friedman & Mosheim Family	Wishing Everyone A Happy and Healthy New Year Cathy & Irvin Levine	Wishing Friends and Family A Happy New Year Marilyn & Bob Slagel
Wishing all a Year of Health, Happiness, Compassion and Tolerance Sheree & Larry Zaslavsky	Wishing Family & Friends A Healthy and Happy New Year Jay & Courtney Goldstein	Best Wishes to All For a Sweet & Healthy New Year Lynn Levine	Wishing Family and Friends A Happy New Year Sarabel & Ross Stemer
Linda, Michael & Jonathan Zoller Becca, Eric & Adeline Stone Wish Everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year	A Happy and Healthy New Year To Family and Friends Margie Gordon	Shana Tova To All Roni & Harvey Libow and Family	Shanah Tovah And Peace on Earth Stoltzman Family
Wishing Our "Southern" Friends A Happy, Healthy New Year Barbara & Ellis Abrams	A Happy, Healthy New Year To Family and Friends Louise and Freddie Harkavy	Wishing Family and Friends A Happy, Healthy New Year Elaine Radetsky	Wishing Family and Friends A Happy New Year Tami & Lenny Tishberg
Wishing Friends and Family A Happy New Year Eileen & Milt Brenner	Wishing Friends and Family A Happy New Year Martin L. Karp	Wishing Family and Friends A Happy and Healthy New Year Jodi & Kenneth Sadler and Family	



New Consul General Named



Ambassador Judith Varnai Shorer

Ambassador Judith Varnai Shorer began her term as Consul General of Israel to the Southeast on July 24th, replacing Ambassador Opher Aviran who completed his five years in the position.

"I am honored to begin working at the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast," said Ambassador Varnai Shorer. "The culture, diversity and warmth of this region of the U.S. is well-known, and I'm looking forward to learning more about each state, their communities and officials."

Ambassador Varnai Shorer is a nearly 40-year veteran of the Israeli diplomatic corps. She is a former ambassador to Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as a former minister of congressional affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC. Her most recent post was desk director at the Center for Policy Research. Ambassador Varnai Shorer has substantial experience in the U.S. and the Middle East. She speaks Hebrew, French, English and Hungarian and was born in Beer Sheva, Israel.

Ambassador Varnai Shorer is joined at her post in Atlanta by her husband, Oded, and daughter, Rony.

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A Sincere *Todah Rabah*

To the Contributors to the 2015

Jewish Family Services Friends Campaign

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It's never too late to help. To make a
donation to Jewish Family Services
or the Tikvah Fund, please go to
www.savj.org or call (912) 355-8111.
Thank You!



I on Israel

Melanoma Trigger Found



Dr. Carmit Levy

A team of Israeli researchers believes it has found the precise trigger that causes melanoma cancer cells to transform from non-invasive cells to in-

vasive killer agents, pinpointing the precise place in the process where “traveling” cancer turns lethal.

Led by Dr. Carmit Levy of the Department of Human Genetics and Biochemistry at Tel Aviv University’s Sackler School of Medicine and including others from TAU, the Technion Institute of Technology, the Sheba Medical Center, the Institut Gustave Roussy and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the group just published their findings in the research journal *Molecular Cell*.

Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers, and melanoma, though it accounts for only 2% of skin cancer cases, is responsible for nearly all skin cancer deaths. Melanoma rates in the U.S. have been rising rapidly over the last 30 years, and although scientists have managed to identify key risk factors, melanoma’s *modus operandi* has eluded the world of medical research.

If melanoma is caught in time, it can be removed and the patient’s life saved. But once melanoma invades the bloodstream and turns metastatic, aggressive treatment is required. When and how the transformation into aggressive invasion took place was a mystery until now.

Understanding the Skin

“To understand melanoma, I had to obtain a deep understanding about the structure and function of normal skin,” said Dr. Levy, “Melanoma is a cancer that originates in the epidermis, and in its aggressive form it will invade the dermis, a lower layer, where it eventually invades the bloodstream or lymph vessels, causing metastasis in other organs of the body. But before invading the dermis, melanoma cells surprisingly extend upward, then switch directions to invade.

“It occurred to me that there had to be a trigger in the microenvironment of the skin that made the melanoma cells ‘invasive,’” Dr. Levy continued. “Using the evolutionary logic of the tumor, why spend the energy going up when you can just use your energy to go down and become malignant?”

For the project, which took about four years, the team collected samples of normal skin cells and melanoma cells from patients at hospitals around Israel, mixed normal and cancerous cells and performed gene analysis expression to study the traveling cancer’s behavior. They found that, completely independently of any mutation acquisition, the microenvironment alone drove melanoma metastasis.

“Normal skin cells are not supposed to ‘travel,’” said Dr. Levy. “We found that when melanoma is situated at the top layer, a trigger sends it down to the dermis and then further down to invade blood vessels. If we could stop it at the top layer, block it from invading the bloodstream, we could stop the progression of the cancer.”

New Way of Saving Lives

The researchers found that the direct contact of melanoma cells with the remote epidermal layer triggered an invasion via the activation of “Notch signaling,” which turns on a set of genes that promotes changes in melanoma cells, rendering them invasive. According to the study, when a molecule expressed on a cell membrane — a spike on the surface of a cell called a ligand — comes into contact with a melanoma cell, it triggers the transformation of melanoma into an invasive, lethal agent.

“When I saw the results, I jumped out of the room and shouted, ‘We got it!’” Dr. Levy said. “Now that we know the triggers of melanoma transformation and the kind of signaling that leads to that transformation, we know what to block. There are many drugs in existence that can block the Notch signaling responsible for that transformation. Maybe, in the future, people will be able to rub some substance on their skin as a prevention measure.”

Dr. Levy is continuing the research

with the goal of providing medical professionals with another tool of analysis of different stages of melanoma. “Melanoma is a cancer with a very long gestation period,” said Dr.

Levy. “If you can provide a simple kit with precise answers, you can catch it at the beginning stage and hopefully save lives.”

Fixing a Glaring Issue

In a related and relevant vein, the search for shade in Israel’s public spaces is the focus of a current exhibit at the Holon Design Museum. *Urban Shade in Israel* examines how modern Israeli cities were modeled on European designs without thought for the Middle Eastern climate and its often dazzling sunshine.

“We observed there are fewer and fewer people in the streets, and one of the reasons is there is less and less shade,” said Galit Gaon, the museum’s chief curator. The museum considers the exhibit not just a documentation of current trends but a call to action; an appeal to acknowledge shade once again and create “shaded areas” throughout the urban environment.

Urban Shade in Israel is the culmination of a three-year project involving the museum, the town of Holon (just south of Tel Aviv) and the philanthropic Beracha Foundation in Jerusalem. As part of the project, an international contest was held inviting designers to model shade structures for five sites around Holon, but the organizers say the ideas are relevant globally.

Maya Dvash, a museum curator, told *The Times of Israel*, “Design is not only making objects, but trying to look at the environment and see what’s needed. Today, designers are playing a more social role than they did in the past.”

Rachely Rotem is an Israeli now

with MODU Architecture of New York who helped design *Cloud Seeding*, one of the winning structures. It contains 20,000 hollow plastic balls that create soft, natural shade that moves with the wind. “It’s a shading structure that attempts to challenge the notion of shade,” she said, “that it can be dynamic not only by sun movement but also by wind conditions.”

The organizers hope the exhibit will plant a seed for change in the fu-



Cloud Seeding, MODU Architecture



Serpentina, Point Supreme in conjunction with Reineke Otten & Robert Ungar

ture. To start, they simply would like to see tour guides make more umbrellas available to visitors; eventually they would like a change in the laws in Israel requiring more shade in public spaces.

Urban Shade in Israel runs through October 31st at the Holon Design Museum.



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:

CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

September 2015



Health & Wellness

MEET THE JEA'S NEW AQUATICS DIRECTOR: KIRBY SOUTHERLAND



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

The Officers, Board and Staff of the Jewish Educational Alliance are happy to welcome new Aquatics Director, Kirby Southerland! *Our previous Aquatics Director, Kaylee Grue, has been promoted to Health & Wellness Director!*

A graduate of Appalachian State University, Kirby holds a degree in Recreation Management with a specialty in Aquatics Management. Kirby has

certifications in Emergency Response Planning, Aquatics Risk Management, Water Safety Instruction, Lifeguard Instruction, CPR/First Aid, and is a Certified Pool Operator.

She is outgoing and is a customer-focused individual who is committed to enhancing existing programs and creating new initiatives to further benefit membership. She is very excited to be a part of the JEA and hopes to continue to grow the swim lesson program as well as the year-round swim team.

Swim Team to Start Again this October!

The year-round developmental swim team will be picking back up on October 13th! Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:15-6:15pm.

Swim Team is available for children ages 6-16. We will offer two different 8-week sessions this year; October 13th-December 3rd and January 12th-March 3rd.

Registration begins on September 1st and forms are available online at www.savannahjea.com or at our front desk.



Group Swimming Lessons Children Ages 4 and Up

The JEA is proud to now offer Group Swimming Lessons. There will be 4 different sessions of swimming lessons for all levels and ages. Session I (Level 1 & 2) & Session II (Level 3 & 4) will begin August 31st.

Level I is water Exploration. Level II is Primary Skills. Level III is Stroke Readiness and Level IV is Stroke Development.

\$100 for Members
\$125 for Non-Members
Limit of 10 children per session

For more information or for registration forms, please check our website at www.savannahjea.org.

Fall Fitness Classes

Sunday

9:15 am - Power Pilates
10:30 am - Total Body Blast

Monday

8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Tuesday

9:15 am - Power Pilates
10:00 am - SilverSneakers Splash
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:45 pm - Zumba
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Wednesday

8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic

Thursday

9:30 am - Barre Blend
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
6:30 pm - Yoga Flow
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Friday

8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga
10:00 am - Aquasize

JEA Donations

(June 16, 2015-August 5, 2015)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In honor of Marilyn Seeman
Sara Jospin
In memory of Stanley Weiss
Marilyn Seeman

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Stanley Weiss
Susan Timna
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Arlene & Allan Ratner
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In memory of Stanley Weiss
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Philip & Cathy Solomons, Jr.
In honor of Kaye Kole
Beanie & Bubba Horovitz
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ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In honor of Harriet Ullman
Zelda & Sheldon Tenenbaum

Donations continued on pg. 4



Adult Programming



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



Community Garden

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



Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

September 3rd - "The Impact of the Savannah River Deepening Project," with Tonya Bonitatibus, Executive Director, Savannah Riverkeeper
September 10th - "A History of Jews in the Movies," with Ben Rogerson, SCAD Film Professor
September 17th - "The Magic of Water Exercise," with Kirby Southerland, JEA Aquatics Director
September 24th - "Moves with a Purpose - Giving Back & Renovating Savannah," with Matthew Allan, Moves with a Purpose Real Estate Team



Are you young (22-40), Jewish and living in the Savannah area? We hope you'll participate in one of Young Jewish Savannah's Judaic, social or community service programs. **Contact Jamie Cahn, (912) 355-8111 or yjs@savj.org for more information.**

Join Young Jewish Savannah for PB&J (Pizza, Beer and Judaism)! On the third Monday of each month, 7-8:30 pm, you are invited to hang out at the JEA and talk about Jewish topics with a modern twist! Of course, pizza and beer will be provided!

**Jewish Arts**
JACC

**Culture Center**
JACC

Save the Dates:

Deadline for Story or Song Submissions
October 1, 2015

Writing Stories for Stage Workshop
Thursday, October 29 — 3:15 to 5PM

The *Schpiel*— an evening of stories, song and sustenance!
Thursday, November 5 — 7 PM to 9PM

To learn more contact Jamie Cahn 912-355-8111

Promoting live theater and performance:
Acting, directing, stage craft & theater design with a Jewish flair!



JEA Garden Club

Come help us grow!

Next Dinner & Dirt Monthly Workshop
Thursday, September 10*5:15 to 7 PM*JEA Lounge

5:15 Dinner
5:45 "Dirt" Talk Topic— Successful Fall Garden Planning
6:45 Pack-up your harvest, produce & herb donations for Kids Café
or donate canned items for Operation Isaiah!

Event free; Membership not required
Another Green Group Initiative of your
JEA Building & Grounds Committee
RSVP "Garden Club" to JEA 912-355-8111
Or email MStarArts@gmail.com

Building & Grounds: a better building & greener grounds for all to enjoy!

Building & Grounds

Work Around the JEA



Justin Robertshaw
Facilities Director

It has been a busy time for the maintenance department with many projects around the "J." From cleaning up the back property so that camp could use the old basketball court, to making new picnic tables, fixing the indoor pool heater and keeping up with the Building and Grounds committee.



Lyn Stacie Getz Musical Garden

For many months I have been working with ECE on adding the Lyn Stacie Getz Musical Garden to the playground. We were able to install the music items ourselves and keep costs down. It looks fantastic and is ready for our preschoolers!

In the mens' locker room steam room, there was leaking water, tile coming up and grout missing. I used new white tile to do repairs as we no longer had any of the original tile. The walls and floor received new grout mixed with sealer to help stop water seepage. The steam mister machine was cleaned, too.

The boys' locker room needed a deep cleaning and a few things to help make it more family friendly including the addition of a baby changing area.

The sink area had an old wooden platform for children to stand on to wash their hands. It was removed and replaced with two heavy duty steps that can be pulled out and pushed back under the counter.

The girls' locker room also received some TLC. The floor tile was pulled up and the floor got a good scrubbing. Two toilet seats were replaced and low-energy lighting was installed. It also received a new baby changing area. It's been a big help for the moms that come in with the little ones.

We have many more projects about to be put into production to beautify the JEA.



Steam Room



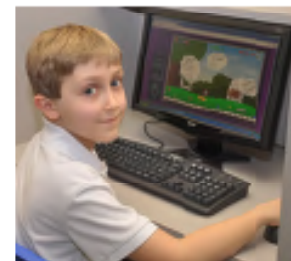
Girls' locker room



Children's Programming

Jewish Educational Alliance's AFTER SCHOOL Enrichment Program

- At the Savannah JEA, we believe that your child should have happy memories every day. We provide a foundation for their future, help shape their lives, and take part as your children grow and change.
- At the JEA's After School program, your pre-k through 6th graders will participate in activities such as swimming, sports, homework help, daily snacks, cooking, fitness fun, art, and much more!
- After School hours are Monday-Thursday, 3-6 pm, Fridays 3-5 pm. We pick up from Garrison, Charles Ellis Elementary and Jacob G. Smith Schools.



**Aftercare Prices: \$18/day plus transportation
\$75/week plus transportation**

**Member Value Prices: \$12/day plus transportation
\$50/week plus transportation**

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

Join Young Jewish Savannah to celebrate the New Year with

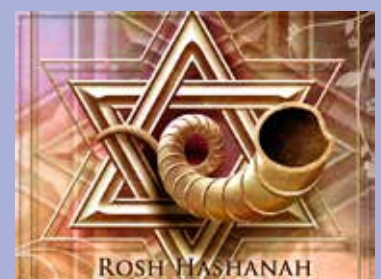
a spoonful of
honey

Rosh Hashanah
Gourmet Honey Tasting
& Mead Tasting

Thursday,
September 10, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Savannah Bee
Company



The Officers, Board & Staff of the Jewish Educational Alliance wish you a joyous New Year filled with peace, happiness and love





JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now for 2015-16

- Fall openings 16 months-4-years old
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for the toddlers and two-year-olds
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

Contact Jodi Sadler, Director, at
Jodi@savj.org or 912-355-8111

Scholastic Book Fair October 19th-23rd

This fall our Scholastic Book Fair theme is "A Monster Book Fair." It will be held October 19th through the 23rd and will feature books appropriate for preschool age children.

Bring your child, buy a book and support JEA Preschool Savannah!

Needed: Substitute Teachers

Have some extra time on your hands?

Interested in working with the very young child who gives unconditional love, makes you laugh and brings you joy?

JEA Preschool Savannah is looking for substitute teachers to share their love of children.



Flexible working hours and must be available to work at a moment's notice.

Please contact Jodi Sadler, Director, at 912-355-8111 or email jodi@savj.org.

Providing for the social, emotional and cognitive growth of young children in a Judaic setting.



JEA Art Gallery



September Artist:
Joseph Ebberwein



Joe Ebberwein has always had an appreciation of beautiful art and relished his time at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Chicago Art Institute, or the Uffizi in Florence, standing in awe of masterpieces by Van Gogh, Monet, Renoir, Degas, Cezanne or Rembrandt, as well as the American Impressionists like Twachtman, Friesseke and Hassam.

Painting began as a hobby for him and soon became a passion when he began lessons in the home of a friend who had graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design. He discovered the satisfaction of taking a blank, harsh white canvas and filling it with shapes and shades of color, capturing the emotion of a beautiful ocean sunset, marsh landscape or a field of flowers.

He is a native of Savannah who loves the coast of Georgia and South Carolina.

Primarily, he paints landscapes of the beautiful coastal marshland where he lives, but has not limited himself to any one focus. Joe says he is continuing to explore his style through various mediums.

Artwork available for viewing September 1-30, 2015
Art Gallery Reception September 3rd, 6-8 pm

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 6/16/15-8/7/15)

Dominic Alvarado
Jon Alvord & Keely Taylor
Kevin & Stephanie Anderson
Sudarshan & Ravita Bhimbra
Lana Boren
Jeff Burcham
Neal & Kim Chamberlain

Christopher Gruden & Pui Yin Chevna
Annette Johnston
Zachary & Linh Hay
Ashley Miller-Helmholdt
Priscilla Lester & Tuijwana Lester
Chase & Jamie Reiss
Barbara Rogers
Don Schoettle
Grant & Alyssa Schoonover
Stephanie Walker
Gina Williams & Rhonda Miller-Williams
Shane & Elise Williams

JEA Donations

cont. from pg. 2

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH FUND

In memory of Sam Jospin
Shirley Sagawa
In memory of Stanley Weiss
Susan Moray
Sharon & Murray Galin
In honor of Bill Sand
Marcy & Jerry Konter
In honor of Marcy & Jerry Konter
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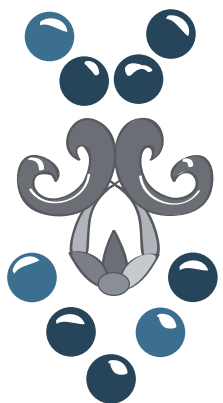
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Rabhans to be Honored

by Michele Raskin

Rambam Day School welcomes and invites the entire Savannah Jewish community to a special event, an "Evening of Gratitude." The Host Committee for Rambam Day School's event is actively planning details for the gala evening scheduled for Sunday, January 10, 2016. The evening will honor Dr. Fred E. and Ester Rabhan and will include a reception to commence at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 7:00 pm in the social hall of Congregation B'nai B'rith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn Street in Savannah.

Both Ester and Freddie are role models inasmuch as they wholeheartedly promote Jewish education of Jewish children in our community. The couple's involvement with Rambam predates its inception and continues to this day.

Freddie was not only on the committee charged with the formation of Rambam in 1990, but also served as Board President from 1993 -1995. In addition, he continues to demonstrate his dedication by remaining actively involved having served as chairman for several acting committees.

Ester equally reveals her tireless

dedication having served as a Judaic studies teacher since the school's inception and having taken the helm as Rambam's Principal in 1999, sixteen years ago. In recognition of her outstanding leadership qualities, Ester was honored as a 2015 nominee for the National Distinguished Principal award by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Along the way, Ester and Freddie oversaw tremendous endeavors including SACS accreditation with distinction of the school a decade ago, and the insurmountable test of relocation after having been housed in the same location for over 22 years.

The community takes pride in supporting the school primarily through the generosity of our local benefactors. This dinner is neither intended as a fund-raising campaign nor as an annual event. Rather, this dinner will solely offer a public platform to demonstrate to Ester and Freddie our appreciation for their years of devotion.

Additional details will be available soon. For more information, e-mail Michele Raskin at computerditz@comcast.net.

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Honorees

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Morah Ester Rabhan**

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In Lyn's Name

by Carolyn Zalesne

In an interview on National Public Radio, author Mitch Albom talked about his book, *Have a Little Faith*, and described how the rabbi of his youth, Rabbi (Reb) Albert Lewis, at the age of 82, asked him to deliver his funeral eulogy, whenever the time came. Eight years later, when the rabbi died, Albom was prepared. So was Rabbi Lewis. After Albom's eulogy, the rabbi's grandson came forward with a tape recording Rabbi Lewis had made to address the mourners.

"Hello my friends," the rabbi's lyrical voice came through the speakers. "This is your past rabbi speaking."

Albom explained that the rabbi's voice on the tape recording went on to reveal and answer the two questions he was asked most often in his 60 years of being a rabbi: (1) "Do you believe in God?," to which he responded, "Yes"; and (2) "What happens when you die?," to which he responded, "The good news is, by the time you hear this, I'll know. The bad news is, now that I know, I can't tell you. You are going to have to figure it out for yourselves."

Fair enough. But what we do know, thanks in part to Albom's book, is how Rabbi Lewis lived and how he motivated others. Even in death, the rabbi continues to inspire the living.

So it is with Lyn Stacie Getz, who died on November 15th, 1999, at the age of 32. It is over fifteen years, and she continues to guide the direction of her family's life. She continues to be an inspiration.

In the years since Lyn's death, her parents, Carollee and Alan, and her brother, Randy and his wife Stacey, and brother Joel, have dedicated themselves to the idea that tzedakah in Lyn's name helps elevate her soul. The charitable work the Getzes have undertaken is an ongoing eulogy to her.

To understand the mission of the Lyn Stacie Getz Foundation (LSG), as well as the specific projects the Getzes themselves have sponsored in Lyn's name, is to understand Lyn herself. Born in Bel Air, Maryland, a town in which her family lived since 1895, Lyn attended Harford Day School from kindergarten through the 8th grade, where her passion was the performing arts. She loved to laugh and found pleasure in making others, especially children, laugh along with her. She performed in many plays while in school and earned a degree in dramatic literature from New York University.

After college, Lyn secured an internship at a talent agency in New York, where her job was to recruit

and help manage comedians. A career in comedy management for a woman with a beautiful smile who loved to laugh and make others laugh — perfect.

But it wasn't all funny. In the late '80s and early '90s, AIDS, then a relatively new and very real killer, sickened many of Lyn's entertainment industry friends. She sat with them for hours in the hospital, caring for them when no one else would. Even in Israel, where she spent her junior year of college, Lyn had taken to heart the plight of children less fortunate than she. She longed to bring laughter, or even just some comfort, to their lives.

Sadly, in 1999, all the laughter stopped. How does one lose a child and keep going? The untimely death of this loved and loving daughter could have devastated this family. Instead, it inspired them in distinct ways to embrace causes Lyn would have embraced: the dramatic arts, children, medical needs, and Israel.

In 2000, the Getz family founded the Lyn Stacie Getz Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the health, education, and welfare of disadvantaged children. Monies from this fund must go to recipients directly, not to administrative costs, director salaries, overhead expenses, nor to bricks and mortar.

For more than fifteen years, Alan and Carollee have nurtured the Foundation, raising money and, along with the Board of Directors, choosing worthy causes that fit the mission.

Among grant recipients are Flashes of Hope, professional photographs of cancer-stricken children enjoying a week at summer camp; Jewish Community Center of Baltimore's Autism Program; Chatham County Foster Parents Association; "Let's Have Some Fun" program at Memorial Hospital's Children's Cancer Center; and PACT Israel, Parents and Children Together, a national initiative that narrows the educational gap between Ethiopian-Israeli children and their Israeli-born peers.

Separate and apart from the LSG Foundation, Alan and Carollee themselves have found ways to perpetuate Lyn's ideals and give purpose and meaning to their daughter's short time on earth. In Lyn's name, the Getzes built a classroom at a Jewish Day School in Baltimore and a computer lab at the Harford Jewish Center, Lyn's former Sunday School, in Havre de Grace, Maryland.

There are also plays and playgrounds.

When Alan and Carollee learned that budget cuts meant the drama de-



Alan and Carollee Getz cut the ribbon on the Lyn Stacie Getz Musical Garden at JEA Preschool Savannah, August 14th, 2015

partment at the Harford Day School in Bel Air could no longer afford to produce their annual musical, the Getzes stepped up. They created a gift in perpetuity to fund one musical production every year. In recent years, the middle school students have performed *Guys and Dolls*, *The King and I*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Annie*.

One year, a father approached Alan and Carollee after a performance in which his daughter starred and, with tears in his eyes, thanked them for making this possible. This parent explained that his daughter hated school and felt like an outcast until she got involved in the musical. Acting gave her self-confidence, which engendered success in her schoolwork and in making friends. No doubt Lyn would have been touched by this.

In early 2001, an article in a Baltimore newspaper announced that lack of funding would delay plans for a much-needed playground in Bel Air. Alan and Carollee offered to underwrite the cost of the playground if the township agreed to name the playground after Lyn. Later that year, the Lyn Stacie Getz Creative Playground, complete with interactive learning stations, games, swings, slides, and a 12' tall giraffe named Milo (ask Alan the heartwarming story behind this name), opened in Bel Air, and has been called by one who enjoys it, "the best playground in Harford County."

And one playground in Lyn's name begat another. In 2007, The Associated, the Jewish Federation in Baltimore, began discussing plans for a six-acre community park in Ashkelon, its sister city in Israel. One acre of this park was to be a playground. The Federation asked Alan and Carollee if they would like to fund the playground and name it after their daughter. Over the Christmas holiday in December 2007, the families of Ashkelon, together with those on a family mission from Baltimore, gath-

ered at the playground site and, under the guidance of the playground design/build company, built the playground themselves. As a surprise to Alan and Carollee, their sons, Joel and Randy (along with Randy's wife, Stacey, and their children Sophie, Eli, Hannah and Noah) flew to Ashkelon to participate in the giant "Build Day" for the playground created in Lyn's name.

And a third playground followed. In 2015, the Getzes were approached by the JEA Preschool Savannah to consider funding a special project in Lyn's name. The Lyn Stacie Getz Musical Garden, dedicated on August 14, 2015, is a shaded playground for outdoor musical experience where preschoolers develop fine motor skills, auditory acuity, and hand/eye coordination playing bongos, a xylophone, a sound wave, and a whale drum. Lyn visited Savannah often; her family thinks this is a playground she would have enthusiastically embraced for preschoolers — and probably also for herself.

For those of us who know Carollee and Alan, it comes as no surprise that their considerable fifteen-year effort, both personally and through their foundation, has been so meaningful. Their work is as they are: quiet, professional, ethical, and family-oriented. Their loss is unimaginable; their ability to turn their ever-present grief into so much for so many is inspirational.

Mitch Albom's work leaves even those who did not know Reb Lewis thinking and laughing and inspired by his life. The Reb was right: we don't know what happens when we die; we will have to figure that out for ourselves. But we do know what happens when we live: we can choose to remember our loved ones by providing comfort, and especially laughter, to others in their honor. We are fortunate to "know" Lyn Stacie Getz because we are fortunate to know her family.

Arts Center Formed

A musical staged at the JEA last July by the late author Ja JaHannes about the civil rights movement in Savannah proved it could be done—the JEA stage could accommodate a quality theatrical production with lighting, sound and specialty projections to a packed house.

That was inspiring to Joan Silver, the Committee Chair of the newest department to join the JEA team—the Jewish Arts and Culture Center (JACC). With their first successful lecture and organizational meeting under their belt this past August, the steering committee is excited to announce plans for several offerings this year starting with a personal storytelling evening on Thursday, November 5th at 7PM. *The Shpiel*, (a Yiddish word for play) will be an intimate evening of performed read-

ings and music complete with desserts!

All are invited to participate in this event by submitting a story or song that has a Jewish connection that you want to perform or by volunteering as stage, site or publicity crew by October 1. If you are a little shy about putting your story on paper and want to learn how to write a piece for performance, why not join our stories for stage writer's workshop on Thursday, October 29 from 3:15 to 5 PM at the JEA.

You can also keep your skills and talents on file with the JACC database for future workshops and show opportunities. Send *Shpiel* materials and other inquiries to Carol Greenberg at MStarArts@gmail.com with JACC in the subject line or call 912-352-1238.

Youth Outreach Dir. Arrives



Devra Silverman

Devra Silverman joined the staff of the Savannah Jewish Federation on August 17th as Outreach Coordinator. In this newly created position, Devra primarily is responsible for outreach to teens and very young adults. These populations were targeted in the last round of allocations as community priorities, deserving of increased attention and improved services.

Devra will begin an outreach effort aimed at these groups similar to the successful one being conducted by Jamie Cahn for Young Jewish Savannah. Among other things, she will oversee BBYO and a new 'ambassador' program for SCAD Hillel. Federation President-elect Sherry Dolgoff said: "Devra impressed me with her interest in young people and her sincere hope that she could reach out and make a positive connection with those she meets, connecting them with the Jewish community and each other."

Devra grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, in the northeastern part of the

state, where she was very involved in the Jewish community. She had her Bat Mitzvah and was confirmed at Temple El Emeth, and served as president of Dodi Li BBG. Devra graduated this past May from the University of Cincinnati with a major in Communication and a minor in Judaic Studies. While at UC, she was an engagement intern at Hillel, an advisor for the children's "Jewish Stars" group at Adath Israel Congregation, and was an advisor for Ner Tamid BBG in Cincinnati. She also spent two summers as an event intern at the Mayerson Foundation and Mayerson JCC in Cincinnati.

Devra is the daughter of Harry and Elyse Silverman; she has two older brothers, Jonathan and Phillip and his wife Laura, and their twin daughters Addison and Cameron. She is looking forward to joining the Savannah Jewish community and is confident her past experiences in the Youngstown and Cincinnati Jewish communities will be beneficial to her in her new position.

After the last few brutal winters in Ohio, Devra is excited to be moving to the warm weather of Savannah. She hopes you will introduce yourself when you see her.

LASTING LEGACIES

Veteran newsman Tom Brokaw has been quoted as saying, "It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."

Jacob Bluestein, or "Yank" as everyone knew him, made a difference with his life and then left a legacy that still makes a difference today and will keep on doing so. ***The Jacob Bluestein Fund*** at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah was created with a testamentary gift to the JEA and annual income from the fund benefits the programs and services of the JEA.

Yank Bluestein died in 1992 at the age of 75. He had been the owner and operator of Yank's Market in Yamacraw Village for many years. Yank was a lifelong member of the JEA where he served on the Board of Directors and was active in the Men's Club and the Kibbitzer's Club. He also served on the Board of the Savannah Jewish Council (predecessor to the Savannah Jewish Federation).

Yank participated in every aspect of

the Savannah Jewish community. A member of Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, he joined the synagogue's Brotherhood and Chevra Kadisha. He was a life-member of the Zionist Organization of America, was a member of the Jewish War Veterans and also was a member of American Legion Post 184.

Jacob "Yank" Bluestein chose to serve and make a difference to the JEA and the Jewish community in his lifetime and thanks to his generosity, that legacy lives on.

Create a Fund

A designated fund can benefit a specific purpose dear to your family or the community at large. Funds can be created and activated now or established with a bequest or other financial instrument. To discuss establishing a Lasting Legacy for your family with a fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, contact Adam Solender at (912) 355-8111 or adam@savj.org.



Calendar of Events (subject to change)

BBYO — 9th—12th Grades

Sept. 5	Charleston Labor Day Dance
Sat., Oct 3 rd	Sukkah Hop
Oct. 16-18	Council AIT/MIT Convention
Sun., Oct. 25 th	Jewish Food Festival
Nov. 6-8	Southern Region Convention
Nov. 20-22	Jr/Sr Weekend w/Eastern Reg.
Sun., Dec. 6 th	Chanukah Program
Dec. 18-20	Eastern Region Convention
Jan. 9 th	Savannah's Dance
Feb. 7	Annual Super Bowl Party
Feb. 11-15	International Convention (IC) –
March 11-13	Dixie Council Spring Convention
April 15-17	Kallah with Atlanta and CSR

For more information contact:

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Melanie Ourhaan, BBG N'siah
805-501-7054
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BBYO Connect— 6th—8th Grades

Sun., Oct. 11 th	Bowling-Tibet	1:30-3:30 pm
Sun., Nov. 15 th	Laser Tag-Pooler	1:30-3:30 pm
Sun., Dec. 20 th	Chanukah Scavenger Hunt	tbd
Sun., Jan. 31 st	tbd	tbd
Sun., Feb. 21 st	tbd	tbd
Sun., March 6 th	'Iron Chef'	tbd
Sun., April 10 th	tbd	tbd
Sun., May 15 th	tbd	tbd

For more information contact:

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Melinda Stein

It’s a Funny Thing

An Israeli policeman stops a lady and asks for her li-
cense. He says, “G’veret (lady), it says here that you should
be wearing glasses.”
The woman answers, “Well, I guess you don’t realize
that I have contacts.”
The policeman replies, “I don’t care who you know!
You’re getting a ticket!”

Yetta brought her husband David to see Dr. Clayman. David was not feeling
well at all.
After Dr. Clayman examined the patient, he said to Yetta, “Your husband is
extremely fatigued and needs a lot of peace and quiet.”
“Oh my goodness,,” Yetta said. “Is there any medication you can prescribe?”
“Yes,” replied Dr. Clayman confidently. “If you want to help him recover,
please take one of these tranquilizers, three times a day.”

The Army sergeant faced a row of new recruits and announced that when he
calls a name, each must state their religion.
He yells out, “Jones, Christopher,” and the response comes, “Lutheran Prot-
estant.”
Next, “O’Connell, Patrick,” and another response, “Roman Catholic.”
Then the officer bellows, “Schwartz, Joel, “ and the recruit replies, “Well,
sir, my family never considered themselves very religious, but we did attend
services once or twice a year, though actually we’re more cultural than –” and
the sergeant interrupts, “Okay, got it, Jewish!”

Sadie rushes into the kosher butcher store just hours before Rosh Hashanah.
She blurts out, “I need some chicken for the holiday, and hurry!”
The butcher finds the very last chicken in the back, a scrawny specimen.
“Here you go,” he says.
Sadie responds, “You call that a chicken? That wouldn’t even feed my cat!”
So the butcher returns to the back of the store, pumps some air into the
chicken, stretches the skin over the meat, and brings it back.

“How about this one, it’s nice and plump?”
And Sadie answers, “Fine. I’ll take both of the chickens.”

After the morning Rosh Hashanah service was over, Sarah greets Rabbi Co-
hen with her young son Sammy.
“Rabbi,” says Sarah, “I’m sorry my little Sammy was so noisy during your ser-
mon.”
“That’s OK, Sarah,” says Rabbi Cohen. “We Rabbis are used to that. But
please tell me how you got him to keep quiet at the end.”
“It was easy, Rabbi,” replies Sarah. “Twenty minutes into your sermon, I
whispered in his ear, ‘Sammy, listen to me carefully. If you don’t stop making
so much noise, Rabbi Cohen is going to lose his place in his sermon, and if he
loses his place, he will start his sermon all over again!’ And, Rabbi, he instantly
stopped making noise.”

God created the world in six days. On the seventh day He rested. On the
eighth day He began getting complaints.



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High Holiday Schedule Highlights

Sunday, September 13th, Erev Rosh Hashanah
6:00 pm - Mincha/Maariv

Monday, September 14th, Rosh Hashanah
9:00 am - Services
10:45 am - Shofar Blowing
10:45 am - K’Toni & Jr. Congregation
11:00 am - Sermon

Tuesday, September 15th, Rosh Hashanah
9:00 am - Shacharit
10:45 am - Shofar Blowing
10:45 am - K’Toni & Jr. Congregation
11:00 am - Sermon

Tuesday, September 22nd, Kol Nidre
7:04 pm - Candle Lighting
7:08 pm - Mincha
7:15 pm - Kol Nidre

Wednesday, September 23rd, Yom Kippur Yizkor
9:00 am - Shacharit
10:45 am - K’Toni & Jr. Congregation
12:00 pm - Sermon/Yizkor
4:30 pm - Study with our Chazzan, Rabbi Silberschein
5:15 pm - Mincha
6:15 pm - Neilah
7:45 pm - Maariv
7:56 pm - Shofar/Havdalah

Monday, October 5th, Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor
9:30 am - Shacharit & Yizkor
6:00 pm - Simchat Torah Celebration

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We wish you all a
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Vital Statistics



Cari and Michael Steckel

WED: Cari Lei Shelkoff and Michael Eric Steckel were married on June 28, 2015 at Congregation Agudath Achim with Rabbi Ruven Barkan officiating. Cari is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Jeffrey Shelkoff of Statesboro, GA, and the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Shelkoff and the late Mr. and Mrs. Norman Shved. Michael is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Alan Steckel, and the grandson of Ms. Marlene Josowitz and the late Mr. Jack Josowitz and Mr. Isadore Steckel and the late Mrs. Miriam Steckel, all of Pittsburgh, PA.

The bride chose her sister, Jules Shelkoff, as her maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Arielle Fine, Jennifer Kosoy, Holly Rigsby, and Amy Strauss, friends of the bride.

The groom chose his brothers, Adam Steckel and Scott Steckel, as his best men. Groomsmen were Eric Caplan, Brad DeHart, and Doug Robertson, friends of the groom.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Bessie Hirsch Freeman
Who died August 14, 2015

She is survived by her sisters, Sonya H. Diamond of Savannah and Irene H. Baker of Charleston; one brother, Julian Hirsch of Mt. Pleasant, SC; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Louis “Lou” Freeman, and her sister, Dora Rosenberg, and three brothers, Raymond Hirsch, Dave Hirsch and Harold Hirsch.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405; or THA Island Group Hospice, 3 W. Perry St., Savannah 31401.

Clara Bosso Fodor
Who died August 14, 2015

She is survived by her sister-in-law, Pauline Fox of Venice, FL, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lester G. Fodor, and her sons, Gary Fodor and Mark Fodor.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or the Gary Fodor Scholarship Fund at Armstrong State University, 11935 Abercorn St., Savannah 31419.

Sara Levinsohn Heyman
Who died August 11, 2015

She is survived by her son, Harold

Heyman, of Savannah; her daughter, Jane (Bruce) Newman of Dunwoody, GA; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alex Heyman.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.

Gussie Weisberg Whittier
Who died July 29, 2015

She is survived by her daughter, Tina Whittier of Richmond Hill; one sister, Tillie James of Largo, FL; and a number of nieces. She was preceded in death by two daughters, Cherie Whittier and Denise Lynn Whittier.

Remembrances: David Ronald Wall Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Rambam Day School, 111 Atlas St., Savannah 31405-5461.

Timothy “Tim” Joseph Rubnitz
Who died July 13, 2015

He is survived by his parents, David and René Rubnitz; his sister, Heather Rubnitz (Robbie) Willingham; his grandparents, Jean Mincey Rubnitz and Tommy and Betty Thomson; and his aunts and uncle. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Irvin “Sonny” Rubnitz.

Remembrances: A charity of the donor’s choice.

The flower girls were Heather Lips, Hailey Shaffer, and Isabella Shaffer, cousins of the bride. The ring bearer was Martin Lips also cousin of the bride.

After a honeymoon in Hawaii, the couple resides in Atlanta.



Max Rosenberg and Jules Shelkoff

ENGAGED: Mr. and Mrs. Leon Jeffrey Shelkoff of Statesboro announce the engagement of their daughter Jules Meryl Shelkoff to Mr. Max Ryan Rosenberg, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Jack Alfred Rosenberg of Marietta, Georgia.

The future bride is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Shelkoff and the late Mr. and Mrs. Norman Shved. Jules graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia with a B.S. in Family Consumer Science Education and is pursuing a Master of Education in Instructional Technology from the University of West Georgia. She is employed with City of Decatur Schools in Atlanta as a Culinary Arts teacher.

The future groom is the grandson of Mrs. Claire Rosenberg of Orlando, FL, and the late Mr. Jack Rosenberg and the late Mr. and Mrs. Philip Silver. Max graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia with a B.S. in Microbiology. Max is attending South University in Savannah pursuing a Master of Science in Physician Assistant.

A December wedding is planned at the Nessmith Lane Conference Center at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro.

Savannah Jewish News

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SJF President: **Steve Greenberg**
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SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

The *Savannah Jewish News* is published monthly ten times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 3rd of the month before publication. There are no February or August issues. All articles for the Winter and Summer issues should be submitted by December 8th or June 8th, respectively.

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

Charged with raising, collecting and distributing funds, the SJF seeks to "advance the welfare of the total Jewish community." The Federation strongly supports Israel and world Jewry. Additionally, the organization strives to "preserve the civil, political, economic and religious rights of all Jews" to develop an articulate, intelligent and constructive Jewish community and to promote mutual understanding with the community at-large.

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

A Different Summer in Israel

by Shani Locker

It is always fun to go to Israel: amazing food, great weather, and seeing all of my family. But last year was a little tough with the kidnapping of the three Israeli teens and the war that followed so I had mixed feelings about going back for camp this year. The Israel I left last year was a stressed and unhappy place. This year, from the moment that I landed in Ben Gurion airport, I felt the upbeat atmosphere; everywhere I went there were people enjoying themselves and living a relaxed stress free life!

For the past five years I have been going to the same camp, Camp Amichai, a Bnei Akiva camp that incorporates Zionistic ideology with Jewish learning and having lots and lots of fun! Every year we enjoy sports, trips throughout Israel, arts, baking classes and more.

This year was a little different; this year my age group was the oldest of the camp. This year we took on more responsibilities as campers by making sure all of the younger campers were having an amazing time. For me,



Shani and friends at the Sahne Springs at Gan HaShlosha National Park in the north of Israel

this year was extremely special since I was chosen to be color war captain. This meant that I was in charge of half the camp; running camp activities for them, creating cheers and of course making sure my team wins this four day event! This experience taught me a lot about responsibility, how to work well with others, and how to lead a large group of people.

I am really grateful to have had this opportunity to go back to my camp. I learned a lot and came back a changed person. My summer experience gave me strength to continue my year as I know another year of camp is coming!

Better Every Year

by Uri Locker

Every year my family and I go on a two month vacation during the summer to Israel, to home. I am Israeli by birth, French by blood, and American by residency, but in my heart I'm only Israeli.

This yearly summer vacation to Israel consists of spending time with my family, my friends, and three weeks in which I attend a Bnei Akiva camp in the very northern part of Israel. This was my fifth year attending camp and every year it changes and every year I enjoy it more than I had the previous year.

This past year I was in Shevet Zion, (our camp is split into age groups called a shevet, each with its own name) which is the oldest age group of campers at our camp. We had many activities on campus and sometimes we would go on field trips to different parts of the country. One time we even camped out in tents in the north for two days.

I always enjoy camp so much because of all the new friends I make, but more importantly because of all the things that I learn from my counselors. Our counselors are hand-picked from hundreds of applications and it really shows in their character.

I know that all the experiences



Uri Locker with his camp friends on an outing

that I have from camp will stick with me for the rest of my life and I truly feel that I am lucky not only because I get to go to such a great camp, but because I get to go to such a great camp in Israel. It's not easy leaving home but every year I manage to do it by reminding myself that one day I'll go to Israel and stay once and for all.

Shani and Uri Locker, 15, are sophomores at Savannah Arts Academy. They went to Camp Amichai in northern Israel (on the border with Lebanon) this summer with the assistance of Jewish Youth Summer Experience grants from the Savannah Jewish Federation. They are the children of Eva and Motti Locker. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org.



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**JELF Awards \$753,480
in Interest-Free Student Loans
for 2015-2016 Academic Year**

The Jewish Educational Loan Fund announced that it had awarded more than \$750,000 in interest-free student loans to 199 Jewish students throughout Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia for the 2015-16 school year.

JELF loans allow undergraduate, graduate and vocational students to fill the gap between the resources they assemble through grants, loans and scholarships and the real cost of their education.

JELF currently administers more than \$4.2 million in outstanding loans, maintaining an impressive 98% repayment rate. As loans are repaid, the money is used to fund new loans, creating a circle of tzedakah.

Applications for JELF loans for the 2016 spring and summer semesters are available at www.jelf.org from September 1-30, 2015.

Email info@jelf.org or call 770-396-3088 for more information.

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RDS Class of 2015

This year's graduating class of 2015 decided to do something different and unique for their graduation speeches. Rather than focus on what Rambam means to them or focus on what a Jewish education means to them; they chose to focus on each other.

I would like to share with you some of their personal thoughts and feelings about each other:

Everyone in our class has contributed to making our class lots of things: funny, loud, crazy, and enjoyable. If Caroline Garfunkel hadn't been part of our class all these years, we would have been missing an individual who had the means to pull us all together as one. Caroline's easy smile, her eagerness to please us all, and her insistent manner in which she would make us stop arguing (when we thought that was the only way to solve the problem) will be missed. *Thoughts from Michal Gold.*

Each person in our class added a brush stroke to the canvas of our lives. Without even one of them, our lives would be different. Isaac Lichtman is good at taking the initiative when no one else is willing to step up to the plate. We admire Isaac's confidence. He is not ashamed to share his opinions and what is even more important, his love for his parents which is most apparent. Isaac is humorous and loves to tell jokes and bring fun into situations. Isaac has taught us all not only the importance of taking things seriously – most of the time – but also remembering that there is a time and place for humor and fun. *Thoughts from Adina Tova Landon*

I have always felt like Rambam is like a family. We have all learned so much from being together; learning to deal with different personalities and appreciating our differences. Blake Strauss, you are one of the funniest people I know. Your hilarity and crazy ways have contributed greatly to our class. My stomach hasn't stopped hurting from laughing so much. Everyone appreciates how cooperative you are. Whether it's with a project or something easy, you're always there. Blake, you're so fancy... especially at lunchtime; you neatly unwrap your silver-foil covered lunch, open your sandwich, and then put your mustard on the deli. You are sympathetic to others no matter what has upset them. I could go on and on... *Thoughts from Huvie*

Travis

Adina Tova Landon is extremely creative and very artsy. In addition, she comes up with creative solutions to everyone's problems and always finds ways around barriers. Adina Tova is brilliant. In science she made her own contraptions that nobody in our class believed would ever work. And of course they did. Adina Tova never gives up on a problem. She always helps people even if she is in the middle of an assignment or any other personal matter. Finally, she is humble. When other people comment on her personality or her work, she denies it, saying, "It's really not that good," or "You're exaggerating." We have learned from Adina Tova the benefits of being kind, generous and selfless. *Thoughts from Isaac Lichtman*

I've only had the pleasure of experiencing this class for the past two years. Richard Epstein has definitely been one to make a great impression on me. Richard really is a funny guy. If ever there was a tense silence, Richard could be depended on to break it. Richard is comfortable wherever he is. He doesn't just blend into the crowd, but instead he stands out as his own person. If Richard puts his mind to something you know it will get done. He is almost always in a good mood and likes to put a smile on people's faces. If someone needs a hand carrying, dragging or lifting, Richard can be depended on to help. Richard is a sweet and understanding guy. *Thoughts from Elianna Rosen.*

Throughout my years in Rambam I have learned many things. From my classmates I have learned the importance of being a cohesive group. Michal Gold has taught our class the importance of putting others before ourselves and she has helped us to realize this special deed makes one's life more meaningful. You can always count on Michal to stop what she is doing to help someone else. Michal is also very humble. She is always telling others their work or project is better than hers and she's not just saying it, it's just that others naturally come first to her. She boosts others' confidence by always showing she believes in you. Michal is a take charge person and a people person. Michal genuinely likes people. *Thoughts from Caroline Garfunkel.*

Thank you Rambam for giving me the chance to go to Savannah Arts Academy with confidence that I have all the tools needed to do well. Huvie Travis is always extremely helpful. Huvie is sincerely sweet. Huvie is bubbly and a friend to all. And she brings the healthiest of all cuisines; pears, apples, yogurt, salads – you

name it. It's fun to make Huvie laugh, especially when she is chugging down one of 500 bottles of water! I hope Huvie will share all these character traits in her next life adventure. Stay classy Huvie! *Thoughts from Blake Strauss*

Philip Boblasky has been a great addition to all of Rambam Day School. Philip was an amazing member of student council and he is a truly amazing friend. Hard to provoke and quick to forgive. Loyal and devoted to his friends. Nobody can deny both his athletic and studious abilities. Philip has set mine and everyone else's standards for a friend at a super high point. Philip is kind, enthusiastic and happy to help with whatever the problem at hand might be. Philip has taught each of us what true loyalty to being a mentch means. *Thoughts from Zachary Kole.*

Zachary Kole has benefitted our class with his wit, his ability to have fun and his serious side that decipher a situation and sees the good to be gained. When opportunity permitted, Zachary's booming personality illuminated a room. Zachary loves to see the fun that a situation can offer while maintaining the ability to gain as much knowledge from a given class. He has a flair for theater and we all admire his flair to take on a character as if he was born to be that person. Zachary has taught us that humor is a great medicine for an otherwise ordinary day. *Thoughts from Philip Boblasky.*



RDS Class of 2015, clockwise from center front: Caroline Garfunkel, Ellianna Rosen, Michal Gold, Huvie Travis, Richard Epstein, Adina Tova Landon, Blake Strauss, Zachary Kole, Philip Boblasky, Isaac Lichtman

Ellianna Rosen has been a part of our class for two years. In the beginning she was shy and not very talkative. But now?! Now she expresses her opinion without giving it any thought. She is probably behind me right now rolling her eyes (she was). Ellianna monitors what we do, and if we are about to do something wrong she lets us know. She's the class mother and we let her. Ellianna is clever, disciplined, mature, kind and humble. It became apparent that as Ellianna got to know us, she not only wanted to be part of this crazy group- she contributed to our craziness. Ellianna has taught us that everyone has something to offer even if they start off very quiet. *Thoughts from Richard Epstein.*

Rambam Day School wishes everyone a very happy, healthy and meaningful New Year!



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News from Shalom School

It is hard to believe another summer is over and we recently welcomed our students back to Shalom School. As we began a new school year and are getting ready to welcome the year 5776, we feel it is time to take stock and plan for the future. The Shalom School staff has spent time looking at what we do and how we can make our program educational and enjoyable for our students.

Kids learn best with a multi-sensory approach; by seeing, saying, hearing, writing and doing. We are tweaking our curriculum and lessons to ensure our students are learning in all of these ways each week. You will hear your children talking about our new hands on learning opportunities. We have a new committee looking at "Hands On Mitzvot" and will be providing updates on this exciting new program for our students.

We are fortunate that Amanda Barker was able to attend the New-CAJE conference in Hartford over the summer. Amanda brought back fresh ideas and shared them with the rest of our staff. We look forward to taking these ideas and incorporating

them in our classes.

As a staff we are committed to providing a solid foundation in Jewish Education. There is much to learn each year. Your children learn Jewish history, holidays and traditions, blessings, Hebrew, about Israel, how to be a responsible citizen of the world and so much more. At Shalom School we introduce all of this in our Pre-K class and build on these concepts each year.

Currently our students are learning about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. For our younger students this means making and blowing a shofar to welcome year 5776 while for the older students are reflecting on the past year and making atonements. We are learning about doing for others and how knowing you are helping brings with it a good feeling.

We have taken stock, made some changes and kept some things the same. This year we would love for our parents and any other interested community members to become involved. Please consider volunteering to assist in the education of this next generation. If you are interested, please contact Eva Locker at theshalomschool@gmail.com.

L' Shanah Tova!



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

What I Learned

A friend of mine taught me, "Man plans and G-d laughs." As I began my travels home after graduating from my Jewish Early Childhood Education Leadership Institute (JECLEI) program, I settled into the seat on the airplane to write this column about the intense two weeks of learning I had just completed.

However, my plans changed very quickly when an adorable three-year-old girl named Charley sat right next to me. She was with her family on her way to visit her nana in South Carolina. As I began to reflect on my JECLEI experience I was taken in by this beautiful child. We immediately began speaking with one another and Charley and I became fast friends. My writing would have to wait.

When I finally did sit down again to write, I tried to summarize all that I had learned through my leadership institute, and these words and phrases that were so much a part of our experience came to mind: building relationships, collaboration, observation documentation, intentionality, text study, openness to learning, and shared values and vision. The methodology of this program was centered on role modeling and how we learn best and then how we could share this knowledge with our teachers. We were given protocols and experiences to pass along to our staff which I have already begun to do in our JEA Preschool Savannah professional development sessions.

People ask me, "What is one big

take away from your program?" I came away understanding that we are both learners and teachers, and we can be both during the same experience. We can learn from children, parents, and colleagues and to be lifelong learners is what we want to instill in young children from the very beginning.

Another "big idea" for me is that learning needs to be brought to a personal level for it to be meaningful and relevant. Teachers, children, and parents learn best when lessons are personal to their individual lives instead of just having their heads filled with information. This is not easy to do and it takes much practice. This reflective way of thinking and learning is one idea that I hope to bring to our program.

We also are working on creating a professional culture with shared vision and values. It is a process that takes time, but the results will benefit our school's children and families.

Thank you to the community for your support in this amazing and meaningful eighteen-month learning experience. I had the opportunity to build relationships with talented and creative colleagues from other Jewish early learning centers from around the country that will help nourish our school. All of my efforts are to provide a loving and safe environment for children and families at JEA Preschool Savannah.

As I think about the Jewish New Year, I reflect upon all that has been accomplished in meeting the needs of children and families in our community. I hope that the new year of 5776 will be one filled with good health, happiness, and peace for everyone. Shana Tova Umetukah!



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INVESTITURE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS
 AWARDS AND HONORS
 PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS
 UPDATE ON THE STATE OF THE FEDERATION
 REPORTS ON THE JEWISH WOMEN'S RENAISSANCE PROJECT
 DESSERT WILL BE SERVED.

THE COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

Happy New Year!

A people who have been around as long as we have know a thing or two about bringing in the new year. We know that it's not only about celebration. It's about reflecting on our past year and resolving to be kinder and more generous in the coming one.

When you give to Federation, you're nurturing and sustaining our people wherever they're in need. Helping thousands to connect to their Jewish identity wherever there's a longing. Sweetening the new year for our entire global Jewish community.

So when the time comes, please give as generously as you can. You'll make 5776 very sweet indeed!

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