

December 2016 | Kislev-Tevet 5777, Vol. LXXI, No. 10

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 2	5:02pm
Friday, December 9	5:02pm
Friday, December 16	5:04pm
Friday, December 23	5:08pm
Friday, December 30	5:12pm
Friday, January 6	5:17pm
Friday, January 13	5:23pm

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Community Chanukah Challenge Dec. 11

Chanukah, like all Jewish holidays, is steeped in tradition. Over the years, the Torch Relay in various forms has been part of our Chanukah tradition in Savannah — we want to continue to honor the traditions that have kept us thriving for so many years, as well as create new traditions we can celebrate for years to come. This Chanukah we look to the Torch Relay of the past for inspiration in creating the new **2016 Chanukah Challenge** — an event that is athletic, educational and fun! The Chanukah Challenge will keep the meaning and spirit of the Torch Relay while adding a new twist of bringing it home to light up the JEA campus.

The festival of Chanukah is a time to celebrate our identity as Jews, an identity forged as our ancestors defended against the mighty Syrian/Greek army more than 2,000 years

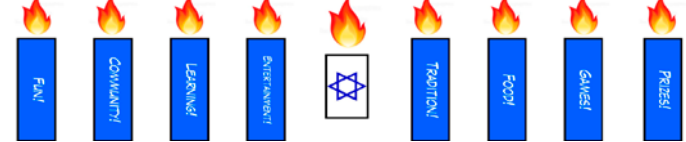
ago in a war that ended with the finding a small vessel of oil that should have lit a menorah for only one night.

So for this year's Chanukah celebration, the Chanukah Challenge, we invite the Savannah Jewish community together with all our friends and neighbors to celebrate as a family at the JEA on **December 11** from 2 – 5pm.

In the spirit of the Torch Relay that visited eight locations through the city, each Chanukah Challenge participant will receive a menorah "passport" they can light up with points as they engage in eight activities. There will be a variety of challenges appropriate for all ages, including athletic competitions like the *Judah Maccabee Hammer Toss*, brain



Chanukah Challenge



games like *Chanukah Jeopardy*, and some that are just plain fun like the *Second Temple Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course*. Each challenge will also teach something about the holiday itself. Everyone will have an opportunity to participate as individuals and in team competitions and we'll have lots of prizes at the end. And, for those who just want to come, hang out and watch, we'll also have crafts throughout the day.

And do we have to say it? Of course there will be food! A delicious Israeli-style dinner, including chicken,

continued on page 7

Konter-Weiland Comedy Night Returns

Hard to believe it's been almost a year since the last Konter-Weiland Comedy Night, but time flies. On Saturday, January 14th, 2017, the *Lawrence Konter and Bertram Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund* is pleased to once again sponsor an evening of laughter featuring three popular comics in a comedy club-like setting at the JEA.

The stars of the show this year are **Sam Morril**, a rising stand-up comic and joke writer; **Robyn Schall**, a regular in the New York comedy clubs and one of CBS.com's Top 5 comics; and **Dennis Regan**, a seasoned comedian with multiple appearances on the *Late Show with David Letterman* and the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.

The Konter-Weiland Comedy Night is free and open to anyone who either is a member in good standing of the Jewish Educational Alliance or has made a minimum contribution of \$50 (individually) to the 2016 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Seating is limited; tickets will

be available beginning December 12th. The evening includes refreshments – open bar and desserts. See the ad in this issue for complete details.

Marcy and Jerry Konter, founders of the sponsoring fund named for their fathers, stated: "It is a joy for us to again be able to bring everyone together for an evening of humor and fun, and to have a chance to thank everyone who supports the Savannah Jewish community by being a member of the JEA, a donor to the Federation, or both. Our fathers both loved a good laugh and we love that we can remember them this way."

Sam Morril won The Laughing Skull Comedy Festival in Atlanta in 2011 and was named one of Comedy Central's "Comics to Watch." He has appeared on *Conan* on TBS, is a regular on *Red Eye* on Fox News Channel and has appeared on *Inside Amy Schumer*. He

also has had his own Comedy Central Special. Sam can be seen regularly at The Comedy Cellar in New

York.

Robyn Schall says her life was a path leading her to stand up comedy. After "wearing leg braces like Forest Gump" as a child, being overweight and not learning to read until the age of 16, she emerged with lots of really funny stories and hit the stand up circuit and said she knew immediately that this was where she belonged. Along with her stand up career, Robyn has two comedic web series and a health and fitness podcast.

"I was on track to fulfill my dream of becoming an NFL quarterback," Dennis Regan says. "Unfortunately I blew my knee out when I was in kindergarten..." Regan says he tried his hand at a number of jobs before becoming successful at comedy, but he's been at it for a while now and he says "some people think I'm pretty good at it. I don't like to argue with these people. They have a right to their opinion."

What: Konter-Weiland Comedy Night
When: Saturday, January 14, 2017;
8:00pm

Where: JEA, 5111 Abercorn St.

Cost: Free to JEA members or donors to 2016 SJF Campaign (\$50 min.)



Sam Morril



Robyn Schall



Dennis Regan

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candle glow the miracle of the oil *spin*
Family. Friends so close they have become family.
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latkes RECIPE
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Have a Happy Chanukah. And share what it means to you.
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at www.savj.org

PJ Library Savannah was recently chosen to receive a large engagement grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. This grant is being used to fund Shabbat programming for PJ Library families. The program includes one Shabbat that was held in September, four home-housed Shabbats held by PJ Library families, three community holiday celebrations, and one PJ Library Havdalah that will be held in May.

Over the course of the year, these nine programs will help connect PJ Library families to one another and to the wider Jewish community. Our goal is to bring the feeling of home to each PJ family as they celebrate Shabbat with new and old friends in their homes.

Our next community celebration will be the Chanukah Challenge on Sunday, December 11 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Jewish Educational Alliance. We hope to see you there in your Chanukah gear!

What does PJ stand for?

Pajamas! We know those special times of reading, dancing and singing together happen when your children are wearing their pajamas.

Who is eligible to register?

Families with children 6 months to 8 years old and at least one Jewish parent in the household, currently residing in the Savannah area.

What's the cost?

Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library® is free when your child is enrolled in the program. One subscription per child.



Families coming together to celebrate Shabbat



PJ children doing an activity about Shabbat.



Check out PJ Our Way™ the Newest Chapter of PJ Library®

PJ Our Way offers the gift of exceptional books with Jewish themes to kids ages 9-11 – Books that they choose themselves!

Sign up TODAY
at www.PJOurWay.org

What does PJ Our Way offer?

- Choose your FREE book each month
- Reviews and synopsis of authors and books
- Leadership with creating kids quizzes, polls, and video blogs

The Savannah PJ Library is made possible through generous support from the Savannah Jewish Federation, Jane Slotin, Nancy & Leon Slotin, and the Cecele Richman JEA Fund.

For more information about PJ Library, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at pjlibrary@savj.org or 912-355-8111.



MISSION: To create a pluralistic community of Jewish high school teens.
More Jewish Teens, More Meaningful Jewish Experiences.

 Savannah Jewish Federation Beneficiary Agency
Your Campaign Dollars at Work

In November Savannah BBYO attended Southern Region Convention with Atlanta Council. Over 200 teens attended from Georgia and South Carolina, making it one of the largest conventions Dixie Council will attend this school year. At SRC, teens competed in spirited challenges including dance competitions, chapter song, skit, and video challenges, and apparel design. Over this 'California Dreaming' weekend, teens enjoyed programs about Hollywood trivia, game shows, and beach relaxation!

This month, Savannah BBYO will participate in Global Shabbat, an evening focused on celebrating Shabbat throughout the international order. Our teens have taken it upon themselves to host their own Global Shabbat and invite the incoming members of 8th grade. They will use this Shabbat as an opportunity to give the 8th graders a "taste of BBYO" and see what fun they will have once they join BBYO!

Parents are also invited to an info session during Global Shabbat so they can learn how BBYO makes for a great Jewish teen experience. For questions regarding Global Shabbat or to RSVP, please contact Devra Silverman at engagement@savj.org or 912-355-8111.



Savannah and Charleston teens at Southern Region Convention

AZA BBG

GLOBAL SHABBAT

DECEMBER 2-3, 2016 | 2-3 כסלו 5777

5:30 P.M. | JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

Open to all Jewish teens in grades 8-12!

Services ✨ Dinner ✨ Games ✨ Learn about BBYO

RSVP by Wednesday, November 30 to Devra Silverman at engagement@savj.org or 912.355.8111.

For more information about BBYO or BBYO Connect, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at engagement@savj.org or 912-355-8111.

Four Questions

for the rest of the year



Steven Arkin

As the year draws to a close, we thought it would be helpful to talk with Steven Arkin about end-of-the-year charitable giving and tax implications. Steven,

who oversees the public accounting firm of Arkin & Associates P.C., has been a CPA for 36 years and also offers wealth management services through Arkin Financial Advisors LLC.

Can you please explain the benefits of donating to education scholarship programs like the Alef Fund and Apogee that came out of the Georgia Education Expense Credit Law?

The good news is you actually make a profit when you donate to one of those funds because you get to get a full credit in Georgia which means that whatever you put in you're allowed to get back 100% on your taxes, as long as you had Georgia income tax. You also get an itemized charitable deduction on your Federal income taxes. So you actually make more than you contribute.

The bad news is the state has an annual ceiling on the amount of mon-

ey they will allow for tax credits for donations to these funds and as they become more and more popular, the credits are reaching their caps and donors sometimes aren't getting the full benefit of their contributions. For example, you might apply for \$2,500, but only be allowed a \$1,500 credit.

The real key to it is to have your application filled out early and sent to one of the programs. That way on January 2nd they'll submit them all and see what happens. If you wait much later than that, the cap will be reached and you won't get any credit for it. It's one of the few things I know where you give a thousand dollars and get more than a thousand dollars back but you have to get that application in early – before December 31st!

Who is eligible to make a charitable donation from an IRA (Individual Retirement Account) and what are the advantages of doing so?

You must be over 70-1/2 years old and you are limited to donating \$100,000 a year this way. The major advantage is that it reduces your adjusted gross income (AGI). The higher your income bracket, there are a number of limitations and phase outs on deductions available to you,

so lowering your AGI would mean the less likely you are to be impacted by those limitations and phase outs.

Donations are made directly from your IRA to a charity – you don't have to claim the income, but neither do you claim the deduction. It's almost like an ignored transaction, but by doing so, your AGI is lowered. There is no downside to doing this and for some people, lowering their AGI may have some real tax advantages.

What are the procedures and advantages for gifting stock for charitable contributions?

Gifting stock allows you a double deduction for the appreciation in value of the stock. If you sell the stock and gift the money, you might pay long-term capital gains taxes of up to 20% before taking a deduction on the gift. But you could gift shares of stock directly to a charity without picking up the 20% tax while maintaining the deduction for whatever income bracket you are in. So if you have a long-term portfolio, it's double in the sense that you get to omit the capital gains portion and maintain the deduction.

What other end-of-the-year charitable giving advice do you have for our readers?

You may have noticed we have a new President-elect and he has proposed some massive tax changes. One that looks like it may be on the way out is deductions for charita-

ble donations of non-cash items like clothing and household goods. I'd say there's a better than equal chance that those will be gone next year or the year after, so this year may be a good time for those kind of deductions.

He's also talking about changes to itemized and standardized deductions. They're talking about possibly leaving only mortgage interest and charitable contributions as the only itemized deductions. It could be that if you don't have mortgage debt, charitable contributions may not be as beneficial in the future. I also think the rate is probably higher now than it will be in the future, so you're probably going to get more 'bang for the buck' on your charitable contributions now.

Savannah Jewish News

Published by the
Savannah Jewish Federation
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 355-8111
www.savj.org

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SJF Vice President: **Harvey Lebos**
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Matthew Allan**
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

Neither the publisher nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this paper. If you have questions regarding kashrut, please consult your rabbi.

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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 Arava Institute

As part of the 2016 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation reapproved the Overseas Investment Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 Overseas Investment Grants, with up to 20 being approved. Eighteen submissions were made this year and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES) is a leading environmental studies and research program in the Middle East. It houses academic programs in partnership with Ben Gurion University, research centers, and international cooperation initiatives focusing on a range of environmental concerns and challenges.

The Arava Institute was founded in 1996 in the wake of the Oslo agreements as an academic and research center for environmental leadership

in the Middle East. The initial Arava Program, a two-semester academic program, offered undergraduate or graduate credit through the Overseas Study Program of Tel Aviv University. Today, the Arava Program is in partnership with Ben Gurion University. The Arava Institute began its Masters track with Ben Gurion University in 2002 in order to give students the opportunity to study at two leading environmental institutions and build upon the skills they developed at the Arava Institute. In 2012, AIES launched a Minor in Environmental Studies through Ben Gurion University. This one-year program is available for Israeli undergraduates and can be combined with a major in humanities to complete their undergraduate degree.

With a student body comprised of Israelis, Jordanians, Palestinians and students from around the world, the Arava Institute offers students an opportunity to learn from leading professionals while forming friendships and developing skills that enable them to lead the region and the



The major components of a greywater treatment and reuse system being installed on the Arava Institute campus to serve some of the dormitories.

world in solving today's most pressing environmental challenges.

Since 2002, Jewish National Fund has had an official partnership with the Arava Institute. JNF raises funds for student scholarships as well as for a capital campaign to build the campus. Past support has funded the construction of dormitories, academic and research offices, and a new laboratory, and has provided one million dollars for scholarships.

Veteran's Corner

by A.J. Haysman

Thanksgiving is over and we are well into planning for Chanukah. I hope that everyone is looking forward to eating latkes. After this election season, the biggest decision I am looking forward to making is: sour cream or applesauce on the latkes.

Unfortunately, we were unable to place flags in Bonaventure Cemetery last month as the cemetery was closed due to damage caused by Hurricane Matthew; however, we are going to try again on January 22, 2017, please save the date. Any and all are welcome — we need the help!

We want to thank the veterans and veteran supporters who marched or rode with us in the Savannah Veterans Day Parade this year. Next year we would like to rent a trolley, so please make your plans to be with us next November 11th. This year we were proud to have Alderman Van Johnson join us during the parade as an "honorary" member of our Post for the day.

In conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War, the State of Georgia wants to honor every one of its 234,000 Vietnam War veterans. To accomplish this goal, the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, in partnership with the Office of Governor Nathan Deal, has created the Vietnam War Certificate of Honor program. Every Georgia veteran with honorable service during the Vietnam War is eligible to receive this certificate.

With the help of veteran's service organizations, word of mouth, and local media support, these Certificates of Honor will be ceremonially presented to every Vietnam War veteran in Georgia. JWV Post 320 is planning a ceremony in March 2017 to award certificates to those who served from our area.

Each certificate is personalized with the Vietnam War veteran's name, rank, branch of service, and dates of service printed over the Seal

of the State of Georgia and includes the official U.S. Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemorative Partner logo.

To be eligible, a veteran must have served in the military in some capacity during the Vietnam era – June 1954 to May 1975. They do not have to have been stationed in Vietnam.

We would like to include as many people from our area as possible in our ceremony. If you or your loved one served in the armed forces during the Vietnam era, please send us an email at jwv320@savj.org with your contact information and Ed Wexler or I will call you back and get the details. The certificate is suitable for framing.

Thank you for supporting our veterans!



Ed Wexler, Colonel, USAF (Ret), in front of the Preamble to the Constitution of the Jewish War Veterans in the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, DC



JWV Post 320 prepares to set out on the 2016 Savannah Veterans Day Parade

It's Personal



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Recently, I had an innocent enough email from a member of the community: "I have an idea I want to talk to you about. Can we get together?" As a Jewish professional working with the Savannah Jewish Federation and JEA, I often receive ideas and suggestions for programs that we should do and services we should provide. Many times they are recommendations of "what we should do," not something that the "recommender" wants to help make happen. But this email had a different feel.

"Sure, when do you want to meet," and one week later we were seated across from each other for lunch. As oft happens when you get together, the initial talk centered on work, then morphed to family and friends, and then finally to the subject of the meeting.

"I had this idea to provide meals to members of the community who are homebound or just need some meals for whatever reason. I've had some friends cooking, a few of us have delivered, and I wanted to pick your brain on the idea."

He went on to tell me that he was looking for some project that he could work on that would make a difference in people's lives... to address a need that might not be so obvious to others, and THIS was it.

From his description of the past few weeks, it sounded like it was really working: there were people who were willing to cook and package meals and there were some individuals who he had identified who were happy to have them brought to their homes.

When he was talking, I kept thinking, "What would I want if he were talking about my mother or father? Would they appreciate the gesture? Would they even let anyone know that they'd be pleased to get a short

visit and a prepared meal or two?" The questions were rhetorical, "Of course they'd like it!"

I shared some of my experiences in the community: dealings with people who are too proud to ask for or accept help, those in denial that they have a need, those who we just don't know about. Members of our community in their 80s and 90s come from a generation who always did for themselves — they are used to being independent and determined, and with age did not come change... these are attributes that have served them well throughout their lives. So, it will be a challenge to identify people who would avail themselves of this service.

He was not swayed, "They are in our community and I've seen some of them." He went on to tell me about visiting with a person who just was grateful for the company, a change in their day, a little antidote for loneliness.

I told him that our Jewish Family Services social workers had prepared a training session in the past for those who are doing home visits, what to look for, ideas for engaging, and a process of documenting needs. The "mere" act of bringing a meal is wonderful, but often there is an opportunity to discover another need.

I offered to have our staff prepare and package additional meals on Thursdays when they are preparing for *Food for Thought* luncheons... we are now part of this impromptu program.

We know that one of the challenges is to identify those who could use a few meals in the freezer, who would like a friendly face to stop by, who might be having other difficulties that are unaddressed.

Now we turn to you... the members of the community. Do you know someone who might need a meal? Give us a call at the Federation and we'll make sure it happens.

I said to my lunch mate, "Let's do an article, advertise, make a statement." He responded, "Let's take it slow, make sure that we do it right, identify the people by talking to others... after all, it's personal."

I walked to my car reflecting on what a special community with such caring people we have, reflecting on the classic quote by Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; it's the only thing that ever has."

I had just had lunch with one of those people.

The next issue of the *Savannah Jewish News* will be our combined January/February issue. The deadline for all submissions is December 19th. Please send all materials to sjnews@savj.org.



Looking for something to do?

Check the Community Calendar at
www.savj.org

Exciting programs are added regularly,
check for new events each week!

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

SJF GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Pam Eichholz
In honor of Aaron Levy
In honor of Jim Montag
Muriel Bono

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FRIENDS CAMPAIGN

Betsy & Larry Lehner

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FUND

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In honor of Joanie & Marty Pritzker
Arlene & Allan Ratner
In memory of Pam Eichholz
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Sara Jospin
In honor of Jim Montag
In honor of Merry & Richard Bodziner
Carollee & Alan Getz

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Doris & Arnie Goldstein
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Toby Hollenberg & Michael Bonder
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Jerilyn Fisher
Bambi Fisher
Richard Haffner

CECEILE RICHMAN JEA FUND

In memory of Pam Eichholz
Arlene & Allan Ratner

DAYLE & AARON LEVY FUND

In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy
Arlene & Allan Ratner
In honor of Aaron Levy
Janis & Lee Javetz
Suzanne & Michael Konter
Sharon & Murray Galin
Harriet & Paul Kulbersh

DENA YASCHIK & LAWRENCE S. BODZINER FOUNDATION

In honor of Merry & Richard Bodziner
Arlene & Allan Ratner
Ellen & Jeffrey Gendelman

CAROL & JOEL GREENBERG HEALTH RESOURCE FUND

In honor of Carol & Joel Greenberg
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IRVING WEINSTEIN PACE FUND

In honor of Harvey Rosenzweig
Beverly Alpern



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St. Johns Town Center, Jacksonville 904.527.2643
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Digitizing the JEA Scrapbooks

By Jeremy Katz

In March, the Cuba Family Archives at the Breman Museum began digitizing the over 100 scrapbooks located in the Jewish Educational Alliance (JEA) Records. We are proud to announce that we have completed digitizing all the scrapbooks.

The reason we decided to digitize the scrapbooks were two-fold: 1) Preservation — the scrapbooks were created on highly acidic black construction paper and consisted mostly of newspaper clippings, which are also highly acidic; and 2) Space — the oversized scrapbooks were taking up a lot of shelf space. It was only a matter of time before they deteriorated beyond recognition so our staff decided to take action. Using our Fujitsu SV600 digital book scanner (pictured), we meticulously scanned every page of the scrapbooks. After completing one full scrapbook, we created both a hard copy on acid free paper and a digital copy that could be circulated and backed up electronically and indexed for optimal search capabilities.

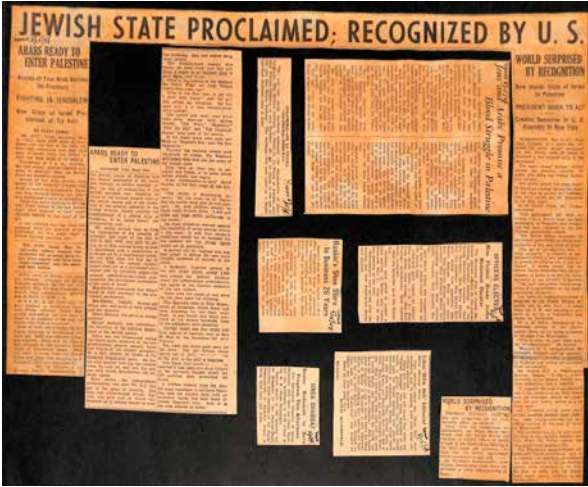


The collection of scrapbooks, which ranges in date from 1920 to about 1986, includes newspaper clippings from the *Savannah Jewish News*, the *Morning News* and *Evening Press*, the *Southern Israelite*, and the *New York Times*.

The articles located within the scrapbooks are local, national, and international in scope, with clippings relating to Jewish individuals and organizations in the Savannah area, as well as news of Jewish interest nationally, covering Israel, the status of Jewish Americans, and the separation of church and state. They contain clippings from local editorials as well as letters to the editor relating to Israel, discrimination, and religion.

This collection is a look into the mindset of Savannah’s Jewish population as well as its accomplishments and events, all placed within the context of American and world Jewry.

Because of the generosity of the Savannah Jewish Federation, the Breman Museum has not only been able to safeguard the history of Savannah’s Jewish community, we have also been able to begin making the collections accessible through digitization. The digitized scrapbook files are available to researchers upon request and the finding aid to the JEA Records can be found on the Breman Museum’s website. If interested, please contact Jeremy Katz, jrkatz@thebreman.org, or 404-870-1862.



Chanukah Challenge..... from pg 1

hummus, falafel and more will be served at the end of the Challenge. Yes, there will be latkes – you don't want to miss our *Iron Chef Latke* competition! (All food served at the JEA is kosher, not under supervision.) Thanks to our predecessors, current members, friends and neighbors; we are strong, proud and growing.

This Chanukah let's come together once again and celebrate the miracle of Chanukah and the miracle our amazing community. We look forward to celebrating Chanukah with you on December 11 at 2pm! *There is no charge to attend the 2016 Chanukah Challenge.*



Supports Local Jewish Education Scholarship Funding

You can help create scholarships for local Jewish education programs and receive a dollar-for-dollar Georgia income tax credit and a Federal tax deduction

To benefit JEA Preschool Savannah:



ALEF Fund

For more information: www.aleffund.org or call Jodi Sadler or Adam Solender at (912) 355-8111

To benefit Rambam Day School:



Apogee

Georgia School Choice Scholarship Fund

For more information: www.rambamdayschool.org/georgia-tax-credit.html or call Freddie Rabhan at (912) 352-7994

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(behind Portman's Music and Mall Blvd. Kroger)

Woof!

KONTER-WEILAND COMEDY NIGHT

Saturday, January 14 • 8:00 p.m. • JEA
Doors open 30 minutes before show time
Open Bar & Dessert Reception



SAM MORRIL



ROBYN SCHALL



DENNIS REGAN

Limited Seating!
Reserve Now by picking up your ticket at the JEA!

Tickets are FREE to:
JEA members in good standing (limit of (1) ticket for individual memberships or (2) tickets for family memberships)
OR
Contributors to the 2016 Savannah Jewish Federation campaign (minimum gift of \$50 per person)

Tickets are available for pick up at the JEA from 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. ONLY (beginning Monday, December 12)
We are unable to mail tickets or accept telephone RSVPs
Tickets MUST be picked up in advance. There will be NO tickets available the night of the performance.
Ticket holders must be 18 years of age or older.

This comedy event is made possible by the Lawrence Konter & Bertram Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund.







I on Israel

Breakthrough in AIDS Cure

A new drug, Gammora, developed at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and currently being tested at the Kaplan Medical Center in Rehovot, may offer new hope to AIDS and HIV patients. The drug was inserted into test tubes containing the blood of ten AIDS patients being treated at Kaplan Medical Center and was found to decrease the HIV virus count in the blood samples by as much as 97 percent in just eight days.

Gammora's active ingredient, a peptide (a smaller version of a protein), causes several copies of the virus's DNA to enter the infected cell, instead of just one copy, causing the cell to self-destruct.

Current treatments for HIV/AIDS patients are focused on the use of a 'cocktail' of drugs that slows the progression of the infection in the body but never rids the patient of the virus entirely. These drugs have allowed



Professors Abraham Loyter (l) and Assaf Friedler in their lab at Hebrew University

doctors to treat AIDS as a chronic illness rather than a fatal one.

Professors Abraham Loyter and Assaf Friedler developed the new drug. Loyter told Channel 2 News in Israel: "With our approach, we are destroying the cells, so there is no chance that the virus will awaken one day; because there are no cells, there will be no cells that contain the virus." He went on to explain that "the drug enhances certain processes in the body during the spreading of the virus and that enhancement kills certain cells."

Daimler Opening R&D

The German multinational automotive corporation Daimler AG, Mercedes-Benz's parent company, announced plans to set up a new research and development center in Israel.

The center will be built in Tel Aviv, and joins a growing number of other auto industry concerns also locating R&D centers in Israel. General Motors already has a large R&D center in Israel, which has been undergoing expansion, and Renault recently opened a R&D center in cooperation with Tel Aviv University. Other car manufacturers are said to be exploring opportunities in Israel, as well.

Adi Ofek, a longtime executive with Daimler, will head the Israeli center. The Tel Aviv center will focus on "car mobility and information services, in addition to the development and testing of various projects and user interfaces," the company said.

Daimler board member Thomas Weber, who also heads the conglomerate's research and development ventures for cars, said the new technology center "seeks to boost the



global R&D outline with the help of Israel, the high-tech nation... so that we will continue to be the automotive industry's technological leader in terms of efficient, technologically advanced, safe cars."

The announcement comes on the heels of a high tech competition held this past summer in Stuttgart, Germany, during which the Israeli startup Gauzy announced that it had been collaborating for the past three years with Mercedes-Benz Cars Daimler AG. Gauzy, which has created technology using unique liquid crystal film that can be embedded into raw materials—including glass—to perform a vast array of functions, was one of the top ten finalists in the competition, co-sponsored by Plug and Play tech center in Silicon Val-

continued on page 10

Teens' Tragedy to be Filmed

Israeli television powerhouse Keshet International is partnering with American cable television programming giant HBO to co-produce a drama about the tragic events involving the disappearance of three teens that unfolded in Israel two years ago. HBO has given a ten-episode order for the untitled series, which will be filmed on location in Israel next summer.

Based on actual events, the series dramatizes the violence that followed the disappearance of, and intensive search for, three Israeli teens during the summer of 2014. Eyal Yifrach, Gil-Ad Shaer and Naf-tali Frenkel were kidnapped on June 12th, 2014, in the West Bank area of Gush Etzion. The three teens were presumed kidnapped and thought to be missing for 18 days, during which the Israeli armed forces conducted a search operation named *Brother's Keeper*. On June 30th, their bodies were found in a field near Hebron.

It eventually became clear that while trying to hitchhike home the three were kidnapped by Marwan Kawasmeh and Amar Abu-Eisha, and were murdered that night. On September 23rd that same year, Kawasmeh and Abu-Eisha were killed in a shootout with the IDF. The TV series



will follow an idealistic investigator for the Shin Bet (the Israeli equivalent of the FBI) as he deals with the ramifications of violent reactions on both sides of the escalating conflict. A new command position thrusts him into a confrontation that undermines his faith and worldview, leading to a dramatic conflict between his values and the actions of those closest to him.

The series is created by Hagai Levi (writer and executive producer of HBO's *In Treatment*; creator of Showtime's *The Affair*) and Noah Stollman (writer of the hit Israeli film, *The Human Resources Manager*) and will be directed by Joseph Cedar, director of the Academy Award-nominated Israeli films *Footnote* and *Beaufort*. Casey Bloys, president of HBO Programming, commented, "We're excited to work with Keshet and this extremely talented and creative group led by Hagai Levi. We look forward to sharing this important story with our subscribers."

Buffett Invests in Israel Bonds

(JTA) American business magnate Warren Buffett made a \$5 million investment in Israel bonds at an event that raised \$60 million.

Buffett, whom *Forbes* ranked as the third richest person in the world with a net worth of \$60.8 billion, praised the Jewish state at a State of Israel Bonds event November 6th in Omaha, Nebraska. Forty-three attendees invested a minimum of \$1 million each to spend the evening with Buffett, who serves as CEO for the American conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway.

"If you are looking for brains, energy and dynamism in the Middle East, Israel is the only place you need to go," Buffett said. He added: "You can tell prospective investors that I



Warren Buffet during one of his visits to Iscar in Israel

would have taken a perpetual bond if you had offered one. I believe Israel is going to be around forever."

In 2013, Buffett made Iscar his first foreign acquisition, buying the remaining 20% percent of the Israeli metalworking company after having acquired 80 percent in 2006. Later in the same year it was announced that he would donate \$10 million to the Rambam Hospital in Haifa.



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

December 2016



Children's Programming

Saturday Night Out

Parents enjoy a night out, kids 4 years to 5th grade, have a night of fun! 6th-8th graders may volunteer for service hours.

December 3rd, 6:00-10:00
"Polar Bears & Penguins"

- Take a dip in our warm indoor pool complete with games and prizes
- Warm up with some delicious hot chocolate and a dessert
- Watch a movie on our big screen



When: 6:00-10:00 pm
Who: 4y-5th grade
Cost: \$30/child and \$55/family
JEA Member Value
Price: \$25/child and \$45/family
Where: JEA



RSVP and advanced payment must be made by Thursday, December 1st
Check www.SavannahJEA.org for more details

Upcoming Saturday Night Outs:

- December 17th
- January 7th
- January 21st
- February 4th
- February 18th
- March 11th

Winter Days @ the JEA 2016-2017

December 19th – January 3rd

Activities include:

- Ice Skating
- Pajama/Pancake Party
- Trip to See the Movie "Sing"
- And Much, Much More!!

Member Value Price: \$35.00 per day for first child, \$33.00 per day for additional children

Non-Member Price: \$45.00 per day for first child, \$43.00 per day for additional children

Sign up today, space is limited
Ages 4 years-8th Grade

Call 355-8111 or email Mary Mazza at kids@savj.org for more info



JEA Youth Basketball

December 2016- March 2017

Ages: 5 years through 5th grade

For more information:
Contact: Kirby Southerland
912.355.8111
aquatics@savj.org

Registration begins in November!



JEA Donations

(October 8, 2016-November 9, 2016)

TREE OF LIFE LEAF

In memory of Harriet P. Eichholz
Seeman Families
Odrezin Families

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Pam Eichholz
Lynn & Billy Light
Liz & Steven Arkin
Ginger & Claude Shore
Patti & Rick Glendye
Julie, Asher, Ari & Remy Royal

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In honor of Harriet Ullman
Marilyn Seeman
In memory of Pam Eichholz
June & Murray Arkin
In honor of Faye Kirschner
In memory of Pam Eichholz
Nancie & Fred Clark

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Aaron Levy
Marilyn Cranman
In honor of Sylvia Slotin
Arlene & Allan Ratner

BERTHA & HYMIE KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Pam Eichholz
In memory of Harold "Papa Heshey" Faust
Sally & Steve Greenberg

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Abram Rubin
Elaine & Dave Kirschner
In memory of Madeline Rubin
Elise & Victor Shernoff

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Pam Eichholz
In memory of Dave Goldman
Tony Center
In memory of Dave Goldman
Miriam Center



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 2:00 pm to 4:00 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.

Food For Thought

Join us on each Thursday at 12:30 p.m.



December 1	<i>Foot and Ankle Health and Care</i>	Dr. Ido Friedman
December 8	<i>Healthy Eating for the Holidays</i>	Whitney Shingler
December 15	<i>Florence Nightingale's Influence on Nursing Today</i>	Syliva K. Fields
December 22	<i>Chinese Food & a Movie</i> Savannah Jewish Film Festival Preview	
December 29	<i>State of the JEA</i>	Adam Solender

Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy a delicious lunch for only \$5, followed by an educational speaker or performer.

Don't forget to make your reservation at the JEA desk or by calling 912-355-8111.

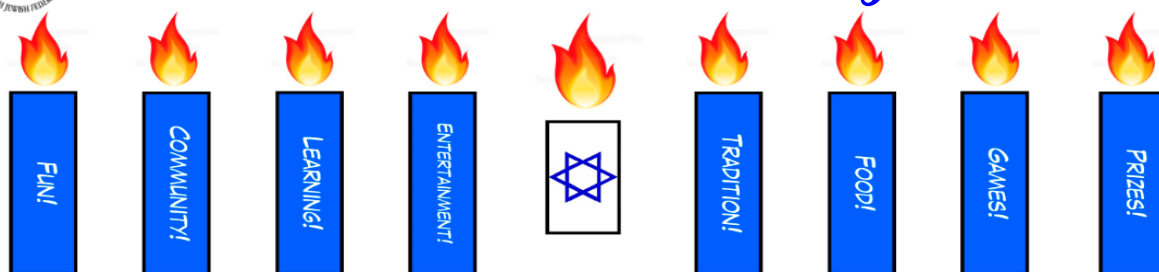
New JEA Members

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 10/8/2016-11/11/2016)

Bruce Adams
Minh & Thu Bui
Neal & Elizabeth Guri
Michele Heilbrun
Thomas Henry & Daniel Plessis
Jessica Hoppe & Eileen Garcia
John Severance
Stephen Sutlive



Chanukah Challenge



First, complete eight individual challenges to light up your menorah "passport!"

Then, compete in the team challenges with friends and family!

Latke Iron Chef!
Maccabee Hammer Toss!

All the while, participate in fun crafts!

Finish the day all together with a Chanukah feast!

Chanukah Trivia!
Antiochus Improv!

**FREE
EVENT**

December 11, 2-5 pm

Questions?
912.355.8111
programming@savj.org



Health & Wellness

A New Look for the Gym



Kat Ackerman
Health & Wellness
Director

If you haven't had a chance to check out the new Fitness Center, you are missing out! It looks fantastic! We chose two different fitness lines when we purchased the new equipment. Both are global leaders in the fitness industry.

First, we chose Matrix for the leg machines for a few different reasons:

- They are safe and easy to use, keeping in mind stability for the lower back, knees and hips
- They are ergonomically comfortable for better performance
- They have electronic rep counters:
 - It tracks repetitions (if you get the full range of motion)
 - It tracks activity time and rest time
- Each machine offers a conveniently located accessory pad for bottles, keys or towels

We also have a new Pull-up/Dip Machine that is as smooth as melted coconut oil on toast. The last two Matrix machines are the Functional Trainers that are the centerpieces of our new gym. The movements on these two pieces are endless - from slow controlled to high-speed. There is a swiveling accessory station for more handles and attachments. We do ask members to please put accessories back after they are finished to keep our gym looking clean and organized.

Secondly, we chose FreeMotion for the upper body machines for several simple reasons:

- Balanced Muscle Development – The cable system helps recruit more muscles with the progressive movements. You can't cheat!
- Control – It forces you to control the movements using joint stabilization
- Rhythm/Flow – With few sessions your body will start to flow smoothly, creating more functional movements
- Whole body movement – Ultimately you will develop flowing full body movements, developing torso mobility and core strength, integrating the mind and body to create a life of balance

If you are interested in setting up some personal training sessions please contact Kat Ackerman at (912) 355-8111, ext. 223 or at fitness@savj.org.



Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

8:45 am - Firm It Up
9:45 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:45 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:00 pm - Fast & Fit
6:00 pm - AquaDance
6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

8:45 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Step
6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

Thursday

9:30 am - Barre Blend
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:00 pm - Fast & Fit
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Friday

8:45 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Yoga Stretch

The Benefits of Youth Sports



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

From the basketball court to the soccer field, the tennis court to the swimming pool, youth sports are the ultimate classroom. Through participation in youth sports, children can learn the importance of what it means to be on a team, develop a sense of sportsmanship, teach themselves how to persevere

and gain a sense of respect for authority and rules. Most importantly, children are taught to lose with dignity and how to win with class.

When I began my journey with the JEA, I was excited to volunteer with youth sports when I

could, and that turned into a passion. I looked forward to the days that I could help coach soccer or basketball, and when the spring came, I headed up the t-ball program. Since I joined the JEA, the youth sports program has grown exponentially. Each day I get to work with children of all ages to help them develop individual skills that will help them have better attitudes. This carries into all aspects of their lives.

Athletes view competitions on and off the field as opportunities to learn from their successes and failures. Learning to have a positive outlook on an experience, win or lose, is an important skill that children can apply to all areas of their lives.

"These are characteristics we want our children to develop and carry with them the rest of

their lives," says Greg Bach, Vice President of Communications for the National Alliance for Youth Sports. "Having a good attitude is something we look for in people that we choose to be friends with or hire to work with us. And it all springs from sports."

I am very lucky to be able to work with the athletes that participate in youth sports programming at the JEA. It is such a treat to watch our future athletes develop confidence and a sense of pride for a team.

If you are interested in learning more about youth sports programs offered at the JEA, please contact Youth Sports Director, Kirby Southerland at 912-355-8111.



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now 2016-17 School Year

- Openings for 2-year old & 4-year old classes
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for 2-year olds
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

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



JEA Preschool Savannah will host an open house for prospective families on

Wednesday
January 25th, 2017
10:00 – 11:00am

Don't miss this opportunity to tour our dynamic learning spaces and meet our wonderful staff! Come and get a peek at Savannah's premier early childhood education program!

Kindly RSVP by calling or emailing us at 912-355-8111 ext. 216 or preschool@savj.org

JEA Preschool Savannah admits students of any race, color, national, racial or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

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



in the JEA Art Gallery

December 2016 Artists The Fiber Guild of the Savannahs

The Fiber Guild of the Savannahs is a group of fiber artists who meet regularly to share inspiration and techniques using a wide variety of fiber-related arts. Spinning, weaving, dyeing, quilting, knitting, basketry, rug making, paper manipulation, needle felting, and crocheting are just some of the crafts our members explore. We have a strong sense of community service and volunteerism. Our members demonstrate traditional pioneer crafts to children and families at the annual festivals at Oatland Island Wildlife Center. All persons—beginners, amateurs and professional fiber artists, are all welcome to join the guild.



Artwork available for viewing December 1-30, 2016
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception December 4th, 2:00-4:00 pm

January 2017 Artist Debra Malschick

Debra has lived in Savannah and been a professor at SCAD in the School of Foundation Studies since 2005. Debra was born in Philadelphia where she attended the Tyler School of Art, Temple University. She received her Master's of Fine Arts degree from California State University Long Beach.

Debra's paintings and drawings are in collections internationally. She is affiliated with Fresh Paint Art in Los Angeles.

Debra says of her work, "The forms and patterns of nature have continually fascinated me and been my vehicle for expression. "Drawing from observation or using my camera is my visual note takers. Both situations are true. Drawing is the entryway and key to all of my work. As I work the inherent geometric structure of natural form is a constant reminder of how interconnected all of life is."

My pen and ink drawings record the intricacies and changes of form and are the documentation of bloom and decay. I work with the plants in the studio. The drawings are layered on both sides of a Mylar surface. A composition evolves where space is condensed and line takes on a life in addition to, and separate from the form it describes. Independent linear paths occur intuitively and add another dimension to the drawing. There is no specific plan when the work is started and I find meaning as I continue to draw. The scale enables a viewer to become lost in the line work, as the narrative is lost there is another dimension to be seen."



Artwork available for viewing January 8-31, 2017
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception January 8th, 2:00-4:00 pm



You are invited to spend the day at the JEA!

PLAY
BASKETBALL

WORK OUT IN THE NEW
FITNESS CENTER

FREE SWIM AT
THE POOL



SAVANNAH JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL
FAMILY MOVIE

LUNCH AT THE
JEA CAFÉ FOR
ONLY \$5!

MITZVAH
PROJECTS FOR
ALL AGES





Savannah Jewish FILM FESTIVAL 2017

January 25 - February 4

WED JAN 25 6:00 PM OPENING NIGHT Hors D'oeuvres & Cocktails 7:00 PM FILM THE GRÜNINGER FILE The largely unknown story of Paul Grüniger, the Swiss police captain who risked everything to save those fleeing the Nazi onslaught. (Drama, 90 min German)	THURS JAN 26 12:30 PM LUNCH 1:30 PM FILM INDIGNATION A working-class Jewish college student struggles with sexual repression and cultural disaffection amid the Korean War. Based on a novel by Philip Roth. (Drama, 110 min English)	THURS JAN 26 6:00 PM DINNER 7:00 PM FILM BAD FAITH Clara, who is a Jew, and Ismael, an Arab, are a seemingly happy couple. Clara becomes pregnant and everything's fine... until they realize they have to tell their parents. (Drama, 84 min French)	SAT JAN 28 7:30 PM DESSERT RECEPTION 8:15 PM FILM THEODORE BIKEL: IN THE SHOES OF SHOLOM ALEICHEM Portraits of two beloved icons, Sholom Aleichem and Theodore Bikel are woven together in this new and enchanting documentary. (Documentary, 75 min English)	SUN JAN 29 6:00 PM DINNER 7:00 PM FILM THERE ARE JEWS HERE "There Are Jews Here" follows the untold stories of four once thriving Jewish communities that are now barely holding on. (Documentary, 90 min English)
TUES JAN 31 2:00 PM FILM CENSORED VOICES Following the 'Six-Day' war, a group of young kibbutzniks recorded interviews with soldiers returning from battle. At first censored, they are now revealed. (Documentary, 84 min Hebrew)	TUES JAN 31 6:00 PM DINNER 7:00 PM FILM THE BEST OF MEN A factually-based film describing the work of Dr. Ludwig Guttman, a refugee from Nazi Germany, which led to the foundation of the Paralympic Games. (Drama, 90 min English)	THURS FEB 2 12:30 PM LUNCH 1:30 PM FILM MIXED SHORTS Featuring "The Chop" and "Munich 72 and Beyond," we give you one hilarious comedy and one serious drama, plus a selection of other great short films. (Various lengths and languages)	THURS FEB 2 6:15 PM DINNER 7:30 PM FILM FOR THE LOVE OF SPOCK Biopic film of Leonard Nimoy as the beloved Spock, the character who wisely reminded us, "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few." (Documentary, 111 min English)	SAT FEB 4 7:30 PM DESSERT RECEPTION 8:00 PM FILM TIME TO SAY GOODBYE Say goodbye to our festival as a lovesick boy potentially says goodbye to a "slice" of manhood in this laugh-out-loud coming-of-age comedy. (Comedy, 84 min German)

Savannah Jewish Film Festival Ticket Info

FULL FESTIVAL MOVIE ONLY PASS Includes Opening Finale Receptions	SINGLE MOVIE TICKET	SPONSORSHIP LEVELS	
Community Members: \$100 JEA Members: \$80	Community Members: \$10 JEA Members: \$8	Platinum: \$750.00 (4) Full Festival Movie Passes (4) Full Festival Meal Passes (4) Opening/Finale Reception Passes	Gold: \$450.00 (2) Full Festival Movie Passes (2) Full Festival Meal Passes (2) Opening/Finale Reception Passes
OPENING FINALE RECEPTION & MOVIE Community Members: \$22 JEA Members: \$18	DINNER & MOVIE TICKET Community Members: \$24 JEA Members: \$20 LUNCH & MOVIE TICKET Community Members: \$15 JEA Members: \$13	Silver: \$425.00 (4) Full Festival Movie Passes (4) Opening/Finale Reception Passes	Bronze: \$225.00 (2) Full Festival Movie Passes (2) Opening/Finale Reception Passes
Meals must be reserved 2 days in advance.		MEALS MUST BE RESERVED 2 DAYS IN ADVANCE	



Eva Locker,
Principal,
Shalom School

Modern Maccabees

What exactly is Hanukkah? Depending on who you ask, there's a different emphasis on each part of the story. Someone may say it's the military victory of few over many. Another may get excited talking about the timeless symbol of the miracle of light.

Ironically the holiday that we celebrate the revolution against assimilation seems at times to be the most assimilated holiday we celebrate. Think about the story of Hanukkah: Jews begin to assimilate to Hellenistic culture under the rule of Alexander the Great. Over 100 years later, Antiochus ruled with a firm hand and the Jews were oppressed, killed and forbidden to practice Judaism. He desecrated the Temple. Times were rough. Loads of Jews revolted under the leadership of Mattathias and his son Judah. The Jews were small in number, but they prevailed in victory — miracle number one. After their victory they went to rededicate the Temple, only finding enough oil for one day; however it burned for 8 days — just enough time to make more — miracle number two. It's a well-known story taught to Jewish children from the time they are old enough to listen.

We give "Gelt" (or gifts) to the children, we eat, we sing and we rejoice in the victory of our people. Hanukkah is about celebration, faith

and family. But what can you say Hanukkah is at its core? Hanukkah is a celebration of our ancestors fighting for the right to keep their Jewish identity and for their refusal to assimilate.

By giving children a Jewish education we transpose that battle into today's world: education, "chinuch", is the modern way to fight for our religious identity. "Educate children in the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not depart from it." - Proverbs 22:6. At Shalom School, our halls are noisy with chatter about lessons, our classrooms are almost shaking as students move around and work together, discussing ways to put into practice a *Gmilut Hassadim* lesson or the meaning of a prayer.

What's it all about? Why is it so important? It goes with the story of Hanukkah. Parents, grandparents, and countless generations before and their refusal to abandon faith, even in the face of adversity: like at the time of Matatyahu, of the Inquisition, of the former USSR and many more. There is so much that occurs under the surface of our classes: the relationships, the memories, and the continuation of our people.

It doesn't matter where our students are in school during the week, come Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, like the Maccabees, they reaffirm again and again their dedication to their Jewish identity. As easy as it is to blend in, I know our students stand out.

Wishing you *Chag Hanukkah Sameach*.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

To Be or Not to Be

That really was the most challenging question for the Jewish people during the time of our history when the story of Chanukah took place. Will I be a Hellenist – a Jew at heart and a non-observing Jew in my public life or will I brazenly face the communal threats of publicly expressing my Jewishness and stand tall and proud of my Jewish heritage?

All these thousands of years later, our children face the same dilemma only worse. How many of today's young Jewish youth even identify with being Jewish? How many of our youth even realize they have a Jewish heritage? Can you imagine a native Indian not knowing their culture?

What is it that makes us afraid? We certainly are not having our very existence threatened as the Jews during the time of the Greeks. Or are we, only in a different manner?

The Greeks threatened our very existence because they wanted us to assimilate and adopt their culture. They accepted us as human beings whereas Hitler did not. However, our "Jewishness" was repulsive to the Greeks; so much so that eventually our very lives were at stake.

We are free in today's world to practice as we please in most places. Certainly in America. Even with anti-Semitism, here in our own Jewish community it is pretty safe to say we are free to practice as we choose and not fear for our lives – philosophical discourse, diversity, intolerance and lack of respect are the greater dangers we face today even close to home.

So are we in a similar state to what the Jews faced with the Greeks? We are because so many Jews remain uneducated about their heritage thus causing us to face the crisis of a dying people. Though we do have as our saving grace a promise from the Almighty that we will not become extinct. Is that enough for my own child's contribution to our people? As has often been said; "We are our own worst enemy". As if we don't have enough challenges facing us as parents just to raise our children normal and stable within a society that challenges every fiber of every young adult's being, we also must consider what do we want for our children Jewishly.

We acknowledge and celebrate our liberation of times when we could not freely be Jewish; Chanu-

kah, Passover, the Holocaust. Yet, here we are today with a volume of freedom and what do we do? I can tell you what we don't do. We don't commit ourselves to the responsibility of appropriately educating our children Jewishly. How many of us can say we made sure or we are making sure that our children are well versed in their heritage? Do we give them the tools to make educated choices about their lives as Jews? Do we encourage them to make good choices about their Jewishness – like actively being a part of preserving our people?

How does one celebrate the victory of Chanukah; how does one stare into the flickering flames of the Chanukah menorah and celebrate what took place thousands of years ago and not feel the void that awaits us at our doorsteps? The void of the very heritage that the Jews of Chanukah gave up their lives for?

Look closely at the flames of your menorah this Chanukah and ask yourself, "What have I done to ensure that the next generation will light a menorah and understand; that they stand on that day before that menorah, as a result of others who were willing to sacrifice their lives for their Jewish beliefs?"

Don't look away – keep staring into those flames and ask yourself, what example have I set for my children to even spark within them a flame for their heritage?

When you do look away, realize that is exactly what so many of us do in the face of Jewish pride. We look away, we disassociate, we deny, we pave the way for the next generation to forget.

"To me, being Jewish means having help in answering life's most fundamental questions, such as, "How did I come to this place?" and "Now that I am here, how should I live." My faith, which has anchored my life, begins with a joyful gratitude that there is a G-d Who created the universe and then, because He continued to care for what He created, gave us laws and values to order and improve our lives." **Senator Joseph I. Lieberman**

"The demand for justice runs through the entirety of the Jewish tradition." **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

On the Personal Side

Mazel tov to... Faye Kirschner, who received the Outstanding Alumni Award at Armstrong State University's third annual Alumni Awards Gala in October.

SAVE THE DATE

SAVANNAH

TEEN WEEKEND

February 10-12, 2017

Open to Jewish Teens Grades 8-12 • Make New Jewish Friends from Across the Southeast
• Community Shabbaton • Organized Home Hospitality • Fun & Transformative Jewish Programming • Exciting Saturday Evening Dance & Program • All Meals Included!
Cost: \$50 • Registration opens November 1 at www.savj.org

For more information, call Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at 912-355-8111 or email at engagement@savj.org.

The Savannah Teen Weekend is made possible through support from the Savannah Jewish Federation

Daimler.....from pg 8

ley, Daimler and the University of Stuttgart.

The Stuttgart competition began with 300 entrants that were winnowed down to 22 finalists, of which

six were Israeli companies. Speaking at the competition, Weber asked: "How can such a small country be so innovative?"



Buy a House to Help Build Our Home: Hadassah Hospital

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Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

Reflections a Week Later

It was a beautiful afternoon about a week after the hurricane when I returned to one of my favorite spots in Savannah, Forsyth Park. I didn't expect the reaction I had: sadness engulfed me during my walk as I saw the devastation from Hurricane Matthew. Grand Oak trees were lying on the ground, debris was piling up on the sides of the walkways, tennis court walls were blown down, and a tree branch hanging across the Savannah Law School sign. Such sad sights I witnessed.

However, there were signs of strength and fortitude which could be noted: my favorite tree, the Majestic Oak in the Savannah Law School parking lot was still standing tall and looked unscathed. There were people going on with their lives. I observed the usual runners and walkers, visitors taking pictures of our beautiful city, students throwing Frisbees on the lawn, and, of course, children playing on the playground!

We all have our hurricane stories. Evacuation, riding it out, power, no power, trees on our houses, trees in our yards. It made me wonder: What are the children's stories? How did this experience affect them? So I began my investigative work and went and asked the children. Here are

some of the Pre K/four-year-old children's responses about their impressions of Hurricane Matthew:

We evacuated to Atlanta

We went to the mountains and took KoKo (the dog)

We had a sleepover at my aunt's house

My power went out

I evacuated to my grandfather's house and we lived in his neighborhood

We stayed home and carved pumpkins. We heard a big boom at my grandma's house

We evacuated to New York

We took our books, clothes. My mom and dad came with me and we went to Raleigh

We went to a friend's house

Their thoughts and responses came from their personal experiences. I know that the children will each remember their own experience as it was a meaningful and powerful one for them. As early childhood educators, we know that young children learn best when we provide them with meaningful experiences. These opportunities include good and bad experiences and how we listen and respond to children is extremely important.

I am glad that everyone was safe during the hurricane and we are back to a normal routine. As we enter the holiday season, may we celebrate with our family and friends all that we are grateful for in our lives.

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 Send the vital statistics to sjnews@savj.org

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**Congregation Mickve Israel's
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Friday, December 16th
Dinner at 6pm, Service at 7pm

Cost of dinner:

Members - \$6 per person / \$12 per family
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Melinda Stein

It's a Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

There is an Ashkenazic Jewish tradition of telling jokes about a town named Chelm, where the residents were, shall we say, not the brightest candles in the menorah. Here are a couple of typical Chelm jokes:

The leaders of Chelm decided they had a problem when half of the inmates of the prison claimed they had been wrongly convicted.

So they built a second prison. Now they have one for the guilty and one for the innocent.

In Chelm the inhabitants go to the dentist to have wisdom teeth put in.

A young Jewish man and an elderly one are riding on a bus in Jerusalem.

The young guy asks, "Excuse me, sir, what time is it?"

The older fellow doesn't answer.

"Excuse me, sir," he asks again, "what time is it, please?"

Still no answer.

"Sir, forgive me, but I really want to know what time it is. Why won't you answer me?"

The old man says, "Son, the next stop is the last on this route. I don't know you, so you must be a stranger. If I converse with you now, according to my custom, I must invite you to my home. You're handsome and I have a beautiful daughter. You will both fall in love and you'll want to get married. And tell me, why would I want a son-in-law who can't even afford a watch?"

At the funeral of the richest man in town, a stranger noticed a woman crying very loudly. The stranger asked, "Are you a relative of the deceased?"

"No," she whimpered.

"Then why are you crying?"

"That's why!"

Sam Millstein was touring in Israel and was shown the ruins of a very old synagogue. The tour guide translates the ancient inscription: "Begun in 1083, completed in 1102."

Sam calls out, "They must have used the same contractor that remodeled my bathroom!"

Q: What do you get when you cross a Guernsey with a Holstein?

A: A Goldstein that says "Nuuuu!"

An Israeli military official, desperate to buy a new jet fighter that costs \$50 million, comes up with an idea: he will seek out one thousand very wealthy Jewish donors and ask each one to donate \$50,000.

His assistant says, "But the plane will never get off the ground!"

"Why not?" asks the official.

"Do you have any idea how much a thousand plaques weigh?"



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SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday 9:45 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon
Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

DAILY SERVICES:

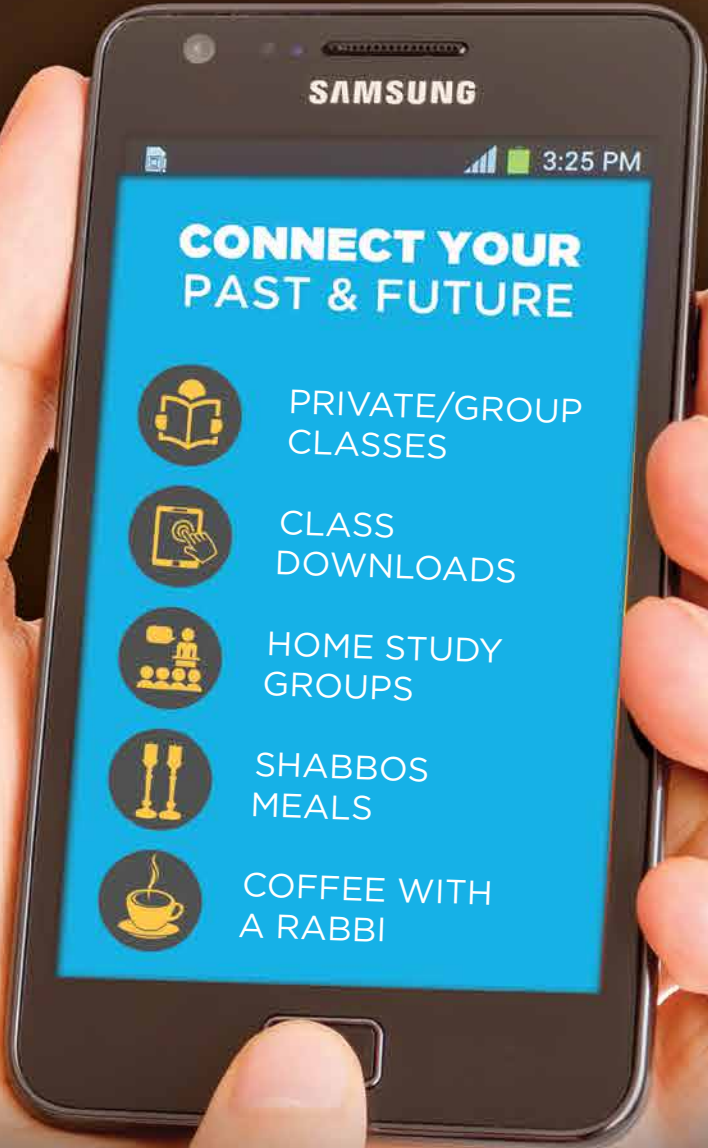
Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm, Monday & Friday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm



**Join us for our Hanukkah Party, Thursday, December 29th at 5:30 pm,
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Savannah Jewish Federation 2017 Annual Community Campaign

SUPER WEEK

It's that time of the year again – but instead of one super day, we're holding Super Week!

The Savannah Jewish Federation's traditional single largest day of community fundraising is so important to ensuring the Jewish future we've expanded it to a week!

When the call comes during Super Week, we hope you'll answer it generously.

AND, join us to help make calls throughout the week!

To sign up to make calls, contact Jamie Richman at 912-355-8111 or campaign@savj.org



Join Us to Make Calls:

Sunday, December 11
10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Monday, December 12
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 13
6:00—8:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 14
6:00—8:00 p.m.

 Savannah Jewish Federation



*We want to get to know you!
New to Savannah and want to get connected?*

*Want to help plan events?
Have ideas you want to share?*

*Just want to hang out?
Let us take you for coffee!*



We want to hear from you!

For more information about Young Jewish Savannah call Jamie Cahn at 912-355-8111 or email yjs@savj.org.

If you are Jewish, in your 20s and 30s and want to meet new people, connect to the community and make a difference - YJS is where you want to be!

Young Jewish Savannah's goal is to provide meaningful opportunities for engagement in the Jewish community through social and professional networking, community service, Judaic and leadership programs for Jewish young adults in their 20s and 30s.

Young Jewish Savannah is made possible through the Savannah Jewish Federation.

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Sunday, February 12
Tu B'Shevat Service Project

Saturday, March 11
3rd Annual Purim Masquerade

Sunday, April 2
Jewish Savannah Tour

Friday, April 21
Later Seder Shabbat

Friday, May 5
Nacho Average Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, May 13
Lag B'Omer Bonfire & Havdalah

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