



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 4	5:01pm
Friday, December 11	5:02pm
Friday, December 18	5:05pm
Friday, December 25	5:08pm
Friday, January 1	5:13pm

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5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, Georgia 31405
www.savj.org
Address Service Requested



Jewish Family Services - There for Us All

“Good afternoon, I am calling you from out of state looking for some assistance.”

We responded, *“How can we help you?”*

“Yes,” he went on, *“I’m looking for Jewish Family Services to help me with my daughter. Does Savannah have a Jewish Family Services?”*

We explained to the voice on the phone that Savannah is a small Jewish community, but a caring one. We don’t have the ‘typical’ standalone agency that many people think of when they hear Jewish Family Services. We don’t have staff social workers or case managers. We don’t have adoption services. We don’t have on-site counseling, accept Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement, or even have a physical Kosher Food Pantry. *“What we have is a caring community who provides support far beyond most communities of our size. What can we help you with?”*

The voice on the phone started to



tell me about his daughter...a middle age, single woman, with no local support, who had been in one of our hospitals having sustained a head injury. She didn’t know how she had got to the hospital in Savannah and had lost her memory as a result of the injury.

What he was looking for was support, advocacy, information, and referrals.

We spoke to him on three different occasions over two days in an attempt to get all the information and

to provide assurance that we were here to help.

As you might have suspected, we picked up the phone and called members of the medical community who immediately were able to provide the guidance that was needed.

“Hi, I need help,” came the female voice on the phone. With little prompting, the voice launched into her challenge which included a grown up child who had a drug dependency problem, an ex-husband who did not pay his alimony, and rent that was almost two months overdue. She was deathly afraid of being evicted from her modest rental home.

JFS was able to make a referral for her child for drug dependence treatment, make her overdue rental payments, and introduced her to an attorney in the community (who volunteered their time).

continued on page 5

Local Instances of Anti-Semitism have Deep Roots

By Cathy Skidmore-Hess and Michelle Solomon

A 12-year-old boy was found murdered in Norwich, England in 1144. Rumors began to circulate that Jews had tortured and killed him. The rumors morphed into a story that Jewish leaders annually selected a Christian child to kidnap and ritually murder.

Over the next 100 years, Christians throughout England blamed Jews for multiple child murders and disappearances. In retribution, they massacred Jews in London, York and Norwich and finally expelled all Jews from England in 1290.

The conspiracy theories spread to the rest of Europe, where many believed that Jews poisoned wells and drank the blood of Christian children. This gave rise to the “blood libel” -- the belief



Cathy Skidmore-Hess



Michelle Solomon

that Christian blood was used to bake matzah and hamantaschen, Jewish holiday foods.

This belief fueled riots in which thousands of Jews were murdered, eventually prompting a wave of Jewish refugees to flee Europe. Eight hundred years after its origin, the Nazis used the blood libel to justify the slaughter of 6 million Jews during the Holocaust.

And still the blood libel is with us, and along with it the idea that satanic Jewish cabals control the world.

Today, anti-Semitism thrives on the internet,

where it maintains plausible deniability by using terms like bankers, Hollywood, globalists, Zionists, and the New World Order or by pointing to individuals like George Soros, rather than just using the

word Jew. If you follow this chain into the deeper recesses of the internet you will find virulent white supremacists who are far less circumspect.

The blood libel now takes the form of a QAnon conspiracy theory that celebrities are harvesting a magical youth serum called adrenochrome from the blood of trafficked children. White supremacists also believe that Jews are trying to weaken and destroy America by replacing its white population with people of color, whom they consider inferior.

This is “Replacement Theory” and it’s what the tiki torch wavers in Charlottesville, VA. meant when they chanted “Jews will not replace us.” It’s why a white supremacist murdered 11 Pittsburgh Jews because their synagogue had supported HIAS, a non-profit that provides social services to refugees.

continued on page 2

Local Instances of Anti-Semitism

continued from page 1

Their internet-driven fever dream twisted support for refugees into the falsehood that Soros and the Jews were financing a caravan of immigrants descending upon the border in a plot to blot out America's whiteness. Conspiracists have also accused Soros of paying Black Lives Matter protesters in a bid to turn America's cities into lawless wastelands.

In each case a grain of truth (Jeffrey Epstein's very real child sexual abuse; Soros's philanthropy in support of refugees and criminal justice reform) becomes fodder for conspiracy theories.

This poison is now bubbling to the surface in Savannah. Last November, a Georgia Southern student gave a classroom presentation promoting Replacement Theory. This was after a campus incident where students burned a book that explored the

Cuban immigrant experience. This fall, a white supremacist group distributed recruitment flyers on campus.

In August, our local QAnon supporters hosted a #SaveTheChildren rally, complete with signs decrying adrenochrome harvesting. And most recently, discussion of George Soros's support for Shalena Cook Jones, a candidate for district attorney who supports criminal justice reform, has blatantly played upon white supremacist fears that he is secretly plotting America's violent destruction.

Savannah Jewish Federation Executive Director Adam Solender has taken note of what's afoot in our country and warned that it be taken seriously.

"QAnon is a real thing," he wrote. "Adherents have been linked to acts of murder, violence, kidnapping and

public disturbances. What began as anti-Semitic undertones has become a full blown threat to the Jewish community and our democracy."

Jews often avoid talking about these issues in public because we are afraid that bringing attention to them will spread them further. We also don't want to co-opt the conversation around systemic racism and mass incarceration, which are the far more pressing matters. But ignoring something does not make it go away.

Instead we can only hope that education will allow people to understand what they are seeing when they catch the edges of these theories, and know them for what they are. *This Opinion piece was originally published in the Savannah Morning News, October 26, 2020 and is republished with the permission of the authors.*

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation

Thank you for helping the Food Bank prepare to nourish our neighbors in need for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday when too many will not have food to share with their families. Your gift along with support from our community, helped provide more than 19.5 million pounds of food last year for local hunger relief.

Thank you again for your support and please know that we are honored to have you as a valued partner in our mission-Leading the effort to end hunger and improve lives. With sincere appreciation,
Mary Jane Crouch
Executive Director
America's Second Harvest

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation

Thank you for your generous donation to the Jewish Educational Loan Fund's (JELF) 2020 Annual Campaign.

Since 1961, JELF has been providing Jewish students with interest free loans for their higher education. In 2020, we have seen the largest surge of student requests in JELF's history-with more than \$1.5 million already

awarded to 378 students this year alone. JELF's mission has never been more critical. Whether online or on campus, Jewish students are relying on these essential funds.

Again, thank you for your support. We are confident that the deserving Jewish students in Savannah and throughout the Southeast who benefit from your donation will, by their achievements in the years to come, create a lasting tribute to your generosity.

Sincerely,
Jane Aronoff
President
Jenna Leopold Shulman
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation

Mere words on a paper cannot express my appreciation for the support your recently provided to me and my family. When the pandemic hit, we were doing OK, hanging on. We (my husband and I) were both working and we were able to pay our bills...then work dried up. First my husband was laid off and then my hours were cut. We were able to get by for the first three months with the

help of family, the government grant and the fact that our student loans were put on hold. Each month over the summer we could feel ourselves falling further behind. When I called you, we had a shut off notice for our electricity, had not paid our car insurance (we took one of our cars off the road since we couldn't afford the insurance), and owed our landlord two months rent.

Thanks to you, we were able to access some money from the city (through the United Way) for our rent, and the Federation took care of our electricity and insurance bills. It was a God send.

I am writing to thank you and let you know that my husband has been called back to work, and while I'm still 'underemployed,' we are OK. I hope that we don't need to come to the Federation again, but I know that if we are in need-you are there.

Please thank those who made it possible to help us. Hopefully, one day, we will be in the position to give to Jewish Family Services to help others in need in our community. Name withheld upon request.



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

SJF President: **Kenneth Sadler**
SJF Vice President: **David Eichholz**
SJF Treasurer: **Frank Slotin**
SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**

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

The Savannah Jewish News is published monthly 10 times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 6th of the month before publication. For example, for a March issue, the deadline would be February 6. January-February and July-August are combined issues. Submission deadlines for these winter and summer issues are December 15 and June 15, respectively.

Editorial/articles submissions should be in Microsoft Word format (.docx or .rtf). For best results, photos should be high resolution (300 dpi) with width and height dimensions as large as possible, as .jpg, .tif, or .psd (Adobe Photoshop) files. Artwork, drawings, line art, and other graphics are best sent as "vector" files, e.g. .eps or .ai (Adobe Illustrator). We will accept .jpg, .tif, or .psd files, if necessary.

Advertising submissions must be in a high-resolution, "press" quality PDF format with fonts embedded. For best results, photos and other artwork within advertisements should also be high resolution (300 dpi), .jpg, .tif, or .psd files. All color must be in the CMYK color format; "true" black preferred.

Please send all Savannah Jewish News materials to:
sjnews@savj.org

Please send eNews newsletter submissions to:
adam@savj.org

Neither the publisher nor the editor assumes 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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Letters to the Editor

The Savannah Jewish News is a community paper. Letters should be civil and considerate in tone and not contain personal attacks, random attacks on businesses, or defamation. All statements of facts must be verifiable (state the original source of the information).

Letters should be no more than 250 words and may be edited for length, clarity, or factual content. The opinions expressed are always the writer's.

All letters must include the author's full name, address, and phone number (only your name, and if appropriate, job title and organization or business name, will be published).

No more than two letters from the same author will be published within 12 consecutive months.

Submit letters to sjnews@savj.org. The Savannah Jewish News retains full and sole discretion about which letters to publish.

Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

Charged with raising, collecting and distributing funds, the Savannah Jewish Federation 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.



Adam Solender
Executive Director
JEA/SJF

No Zoom Allowed

Another day, another Zoom call and another and another and another. There are Zoom fundraisers, Zoom concerts, Zoom cooking classes, Zoom Shabbats and dozens of other. It's not like I'm complaining (who would listen?), but I

think we are all feeling the fatigue as we are now in the second (or is it the third) wave of COVID.

Yes, Zoom has been a miracle in keeping us all connected (as well as Google Meet, BlueJeans Meetings, Microsoft Teams, Adobe Connect, Cisco Webex, etc). Who'd have thought that we'd be using all these platforms? I don't think I had even heard of most of them a year ago. We are all looking for connection.

We've heard from some of the Food for Thought meal recipients how much they look forward to sharing a few words (from a distance) and a wave with the delivery person... it's familiar and a break in the day. We are all looking for connection.

For some others, it is a friendly phone call from staff members checking up on people. The design of the phone call(s) is to make a 3-5 minute connection, a distant 'welfare check'.... Those brief conversations often last 25-30 minutes.

We are all looking for connection.

I had the opportunity to greet one of our swimmers at the JEA last week. I asked her what time her reservation was and she responded that it was not for 45 more minutes.

"What are you doing here so early?" I asked.

"I didn't have anything of particular importance to do, so I came early hoping to run into some people I know." We are all looking for connection.

Last month, Federation's Director of Community Impact, Jamie Richman, came to a meeting and told us about an idea. She said that everyone is looking for a connection and with Chanukah coming up we needed to do something different. *"We can't bring everyone together for a Chanukah Bash and the OyVey 5K is 'off the table' with the Mayor's decree that there will be no road races until the 2nd quarter of 2021 (at the earliest)."*

And then she held up a piece of paper with the graphic of "Chanukah CARNIVAL" and



proceeded to share her ideas about bringing people together, albeit in their cars with eight different stations (to represent the 8 nights) going around a path all around the JEA parking lot.

And that's when the ideas just began.

She made the connections with other Savannah organizations who are on board: the JEA, Congregation Agudath Achim, Hadassah, Shalom School, Congregation

Mickve Israel, Chabad of Savannah, Federation and JEA Preschool Savannah....all will have their own tables and connections as cars drive through with families getting to stop at each station for an activity. While I don't know all the details, I know there will be Menorah kits, Chanukah Ginger Bread Houses, Balloons, Dreidels, Gelt galore, a Toy Drive for those in need, music, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), latkes, and more.

We are all connecting to make the Chanukah CARNIVAL a special event for children and families in Savannah....No Zoom allowed!



Kenneth Sadler
SJF President

Change Is Coming

Change is coming ... As we move past the elections of 2020 and the start of 2021, my hope is that we move forward together

as a Community. What better

way to express your support for your Community than through a generous donation to the Savannah Jewish Community Annual Campaign?

With a vaccine on the way, we can hope for things getting back to normal. It will be a new normal, but none of the things we have accomplished over the last 10 months could not have been done without your support.

We learned a lot about our community, ourselves and even those we may disagree with, but now we need to take a look at how we can make the necessary changes

to move forward and face the future together.

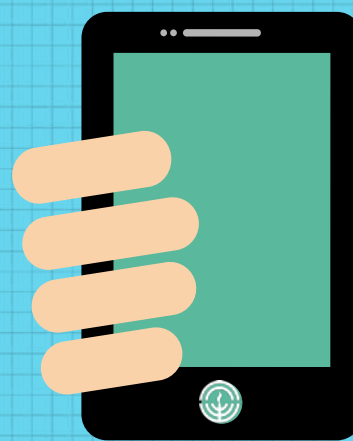
Long range planning needs to become part of our everyday language so we can provide a bridge to the future for our children. We are a small Jewish Community with limited resources. How will the JEA and

I hope that we can begin thinking about 1-year, 5-year and 10-year goals that will set our Community up for success.

The Savannah Jewish Federation governance model be changed, adapted, or even combined. I hope that we can begin thinking about 1-year, 5-year and 10-year goals that will set our Community up for success.

So, what is all this change that I speak of? It is happening everyday right before our very eyes. Slowly but surely. Things are changing. The one thing that must endure and hopefully will never change is your unwavering support for our Savannah Jewish Community. If you continue this, our future is bright.

**It's Time to Give Back...
Make the Call**



**Savannah Jewish Federation
2021 Annual Community Campaign**

**Giving
Tuesday**

Tuesday, December 1
Sign up at savj.org



JOY AT THE J - LEARNING TOGETHER





HADASSAH
Savannah Chapter



Like us on
Facebook
Hadassah Savannah Chapter



You want to **do more**
than just talk about
today's problems.

DO.

Empower women advocates.
Build bridges to peace.
Transform lives with
medical breakthroughs.
Make Zionism relevant.
**DO SOMETHING.
JOIN US.**

Give the gift of membership this Hanukkah

Annual Membership just \$36 or become a Life Member for only \$250

Join at Hadassah.org or call Kathy at (404)210-3463

Study and Grow with us.

CONGREGATION
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Shabbos and Daily Services
Ongoing Educational Initiatives
Weekly Online Classes
Kosher Daily Take-Out Specials
Full-Service Judaica Shoppe

Jewish Family Services

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Recently one of our meal delivery volunteers mentioned that they thought one of the meal recipients might need more than “just meals.” JFS called the recipient asking how their meal delivery was, how they were feeling, and in just a few minutes, ‘out it came.’ They were very appreciative of the meals, but it “wasn’t enough.” They did not have the funds for enough food during the week, weren’t able to purchase their prescriptions, and were behind on their water and electricity bills (both had ‘turn-off’ notices).

“Why didn’t you ask for help?”

“I have given modestly to the Annual Campaign for years and I never looked at myself as someone in need. I didn’t want to ask and I don’t want anyone to know.”

JFS spent some time to understand their ongoing challenges, found community resources to help with some of the need, and directly helped out with others.

These are but a few of the ‘situations’ that JFS, thanks to your support, was able to assist with.

For many decades, Jewish Family Services has been an outstretched, helping hand in our local community. Essential services, advocacy, referral, and direct financial assistance is delivered with compassion and respect to assist community members with the tools to build healthier, more stable lives.

Last year, Jewish Family Services, a committee of the Savannah Jewish Federation, provided over \$180,000 of assistance to the most vulnerable people in our community—an amazing statement on the community’s generosity and caring.

Our Jewish history and values compel us to provide these services whether it be intergenerational poverty, mental health disease, domestic violence, or illness. Our long experience has taught us that a just society is only truly possible when the sacred values we live out as individuals extend to the most vulnerable in our community. JFS is doing just that.

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks our Contributors

ESTHER & AARON BUCHSBAUM FUND

In memory of Esther Buchsbaum
TJS Deemer Dana LLP

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FUND

A donation was made by:

Vickie & Richard Halperin
In memory of Barbara Abrams
Sally & Herb Sanders
In honor of Rita Asher
Sara Jospin
In honor of food delivery volunteers
In honor of Stanley Rosenberg
Virginia & Gerald Caplan
In honor of Sandy Goodman
Linda & Steve Sacks

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FRIENDS CAMPAIGN

Donations were made by:

Anonymous (1)
Mark Nathan

DAYLE & AARON LEVY FUND

In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy
Carol & Joel Greenberg
In memory of Rebekah Handshu
Louise & Freddie Harkavy

JULIUS RUDIKOFF HEALTH CLUB & ATHLETIC FUND

In honor of Emma & Scott
Joanne & Richard Hochman
Biff & Jerry Montana

TIKVAH FUND

In memory of Barbara Abrams
In memory of Allan Cooper
In memory of Evelyn Gilmer
In memory of Bubba Horovitz
In memory of Valerie & Milton Kassel
In memory of Moses Robbins
In memory of Naomi Rogers
In honor of Roxanne Formey
Arlene & Allan Ratner
In honor of Steven Richman
Robert Haas
In honor of Judy Byck
Sharon & Murray Galin
In honor of Don Kole
Dayle & Aaron Levy
In memory of Barbara Abrams
In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy
In memory of Moses Robbins
Sara Jospin



How to Play Dreidel

Supplies:

Dreidel

At least 10 tokens per player (tokens can be any small item — dried beans, chocolate coins, pennies, etc.)



To set up, distribute the tokens evenly among the players.

Arrange yourselves in a circle. Have each player put one of their tokens into the center — the “pot.”

Now take turns spinning the dreidel. When it lands, the letter facing up will tell the player what to do:



Nun: Nothing. Don't take from or add to the pot.



Gimel: All. Take all of the tokens from the pot.



Hay: Half out. Take half of the tokens from the pot.



Shin: One in. Add one token to the pot.



Anytime the pot is emptied, each player puts one token back in before the next person spins. As players run out of tokens, they're out — and the last person remaining is the winner!

PJ Library is for Children birth to 8 years old being raised in a Jewish home, residing in the Savannah area. Parents can register their children for PJ Library at PJLibrary.org

Families with children ages 9 to 12 years old can register for PJ Our Way at PJOurWay.org.

Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library is free for those who qualify for the program, which grants one subscription per child. The subscription is renewable annually for qualifying Savannah families.

Need more information? Email PJLibrary@savj.org



Savannah Jewish Federation
Your campaign dollars at work!



**Savannah PJ Library
& PJ Our Way**

More latkes. More light. More miracles.

We're here to help with your Chanukah celebration.
Get started with recipe ideas at
publix.com/chanukah.



J



J

The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide

CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

December 2020



Children's Programming

Days at the J Winter Camp Edition

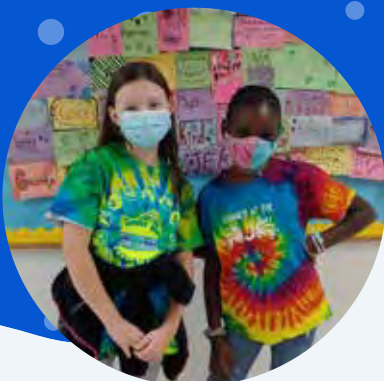


Choose one week or two, we can't wait to see you!

December 21-24 & 28-31

7:30am-5:30pm

****Open to all children in PreK-8th grade****



**JEA MEMBERS: \$180/PER WEEK
JEA GUESTS: \$220/PER WEEK**



WHEN SCHOOL IS CLOSED, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

SPACES ARE LIMITED! CHECK OUT WWW.SAVANNAHJEA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.





Adult Programming



THURSDAYS AT 1:00 PM

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| DECEMBER
3 | "The Apple Stands Accused:
Was It The Forbidden Fruit?"
Dr. Linda Sacks |
| DECEMBER
10 | Chanukah: The Holiday of Hope
Rabbi Steven Henkin |
| DECEMBER
17 | Jewish National Fund 101
Dr. Samuel Richardson
Director of Small Community Outreach |
| DECEMBER
24 | Origins of Origami
Tova Tolman |
| DECEMBER
31 | Understanding the Systems that Govern Our Lives
Jennifer Rich
Executive Director Congregation Mikve Israel |

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 October 10, 2020)

Brent & Katie Beaumont
Joseph Low
Tonatiuh Ocampo & Melaney Crees
Matthew & Tracy Pratt
Sardar Rustayye & Fereba Afzal
Lawrence Schmitz
Kolbe Seff
Nye Warburton & Lisa Miller

JEA Donations

(10/10/2020-11/10/20)

JEA GENERAL DONATION

A donation by:

Zeger Family Foundation

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

In memory of Rebekah Handshu

Linda & Michael Zoller

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Robert Guggenheim

Elise & Victor Shernoff

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Buddy Claude Monett

In memory of Helen Center

Harry Center

Join the JEA

Join the JEA, and you will be glad you did when you take advantage of our special member pricing, FREE classes and events! The JEA provides different types of memberships to accommodate everyone.

Types of Membership include:

Family Plans, Couple Plans
Senior Plans, Young Family Plans
Individual Plans
Basic Plan
Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

Visit us at 5111 Abercorn Street or online at SavannahJEA.org for more information!





Health & Wellness

Dance With Us in Celebration of Chanukah!



Jess Whitacre
Health & Wellness
Director

With Chanukah just around the corner, we are launching a special-ty Zumba Glow class! This class will be held throughout the month of December.

If you enjoy music, dancing or both, then this is the right class for you! This energetic class

will guide you through fun dance moves that anyone can follow no matter how skilled of a dancer you are (or aren't?). There will be lights and glow sticks to add the glow element to the class as the sun goes down.

This class will be held outside and all participants will be distanced at least six (6) feet apart. In the case of inclement or cold weather, the class will be moved indoors and

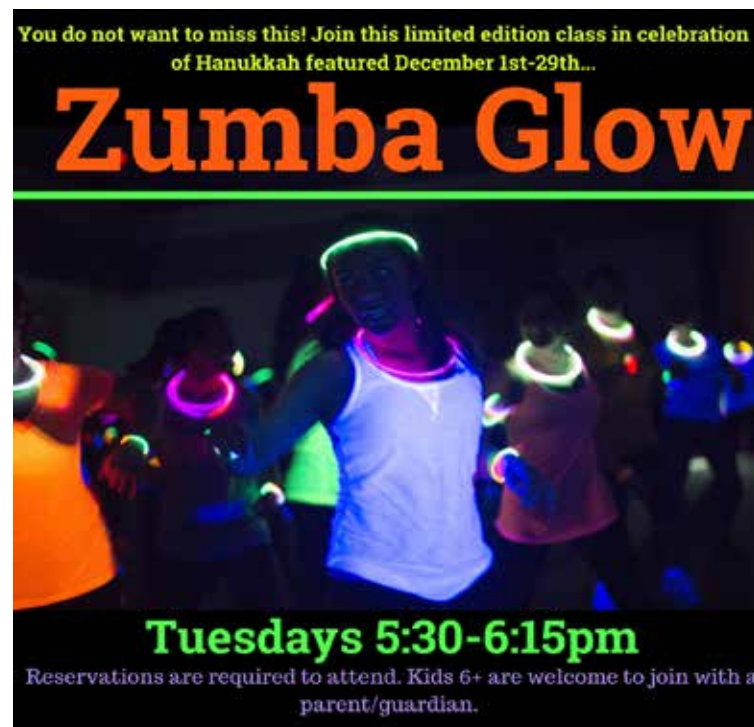
participants will be required to wear masks and socially distance.

All you need is yourself, a positive attitude and a water bottle to attend.

Kids ages 6+ are more than welcome to join the class as long as they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. All music and dance moves will be family friendly.

We look forward to having you join this class! Spots are limited so reserve your spot on our website, SavannahJEA.org.

**This is available to active JEA Members only (Silver Sneakers are allowed to attend classes between Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm).*



Ready to Start Achieving New Fitness Goals?

As 2020 comes to an end, it is time to start thinking about your new goals for 2021. When it comes to your health and fitness goals, we are here to help! We have multiple personal trainers at the JEA available Sunday-Friday.

Whether your goals include weight loss, muscle building, mobility training, or are specific to a certain sport or upcoming event, we have the right trainer for you! All you need is the motivation to get started and the trainer will worry about the rest.

You might ask, "Why should I hire a personal trainer?"

You might have an idea of the results you want but may not know the best way to get there. Hiring a personal trainer can take the guessing game out of it. Additionally, a personal trainer can help you improve your technique and create personalized workouts to reduce the chances of injuring yourself. On top of that, your trainer can help you stay motivated and offer guidance on healthy lifestyle changes to supplement your exercise

regimen. Don't hesitate to work towards your new fitness goals; our JEA trainers cannot wait to work with you!

Check out our rates for personal training below:

Single Person

One Hour Session, One Session
\$50 Member, \$60 Non-Member

One Hour Session, 4-Pack
\$180 (\$45/session) Member
\$220 Non-Member

30-Min Session, One Session
\$35 Member, \$45 Non-Member

30-Min Session, 4-Pack
\$140 Member, \$180 Non-Member

Small Group (2 or more)

4-Session Pack
\$140 Member, \$180 Non-Member

For additional information or to sign-up for personal training, email our Health & Wellness Director, Jess Whitacre at fitness@savj.org.





JEA Preschool Savannah News

Open Enrollment
Currently enrolling 3-yr olds for half-day and full-day program.

New operating hours: 8am-5:30pm

Limited spaces available.

Contact Jodi Sadler, Director, at Jodi@savj.org or 912-355-8111 to set up a tour

Hot Tea & Hot Topics

Hot Tea and Hot Topics is a new concept brought about by the pandemic and the need for social distancing. It is held with the individual classroom parents and provides an opportunity to connect.

Parents are invited to attend a physically distanced meeting to meet each other face to face and talk about their young children's growth and development.



Jodi Sadler & Joel Allen

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

The Fiber Guild of the Savannahs - December 2020

The Fiber Guild of the Savannahs is a group of fiber artists who meet regularly (via Zoom meetings at the moment) 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 1-31, 2020
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception December 6, 2-4pm



Cotton Shawl - Treesa Germany

Camille Hulbert - January 2021

Camille Hulbert is an advocate for the arts and a self-taught textile artist who creates wearable art. Although she was born and raised in Northern California, her family roots are here in Georgia. She attended elementary school both in California and Georgia. Since relocating to Georgia to pursue a career in Education and Fiber arts, Camille has been inspired to explore the concept of Children's Objects of Art. Camille created an art program that engages youth in after school arts and encourages learning about textiles and textile art techniques. This program is called Seed to Fiber Textile Art Program. She has worked with youth in Atlanta and Savannah over the last ten years.

This is the second year that Camille has showcased the work of the youth that participate in the Seed to Fiber Textile Art Program at the Jewish Education Alliance. This year they are showcasing art in the form of assemblage, mixed media, collage and craft. Each form of art has a touch of textile art or involves a textile technique that creates a unique object of art. The Children's Objects of Art Show will also exhibit a community service project that represents a collaboration of art and advocacy. The exhibit will highlight a contemporary look at the worlds need to create a "safe space" in light of the global pandemic.



Artwork available for viewing January 1-31, 2021
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception January 13, 4-6pm

JEA Art Shows

Are you an artist? Would you like to show your work in the JEA Art Gallery?

We feature artists from different fields: oil painters, water colorists, sculptors, photographers, potters, quilters, textiles, mixed media, wood sculpture, mosaics and more!

Each show is one month, and you may choose to have an opening reception. There's no charge to use our space, but we do ask for a small percentage of anything sold.

Having a show at the JEA is a great way to have your work seen, and to help your community. Please contact Marlene Seidman-Robinowich at marleneseidman@yahoo.com to inquire about available months for your show!



"BOOKS WERE HER MAJOR LOVE"

Ceceile Richman left a generous bequest to the Jewish Educational Alliance that was used to establish the Ceceile Richman Fund. As a professional librarian for all of her career, books were her major love. She also had a deep concern for the connection between the mind and the body as relates to overall wellness. Her family felt that her fund should be designated to PJ Library and JEA Health & Wellness Center as those reflect both of her passions. Ceceile Richman's generosity to the community will be felt and her name will be remembered for generations to come.

WHAT WILL *YOUR* LEGACY BE?

For information about creating a legacy with the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, contact Adam@savj.org.



DON'T RUN OUT OF TIME

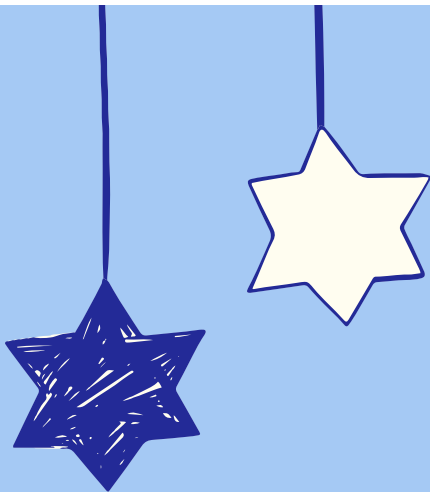
THE CLOCK FOR 2021 IS TICKING AWAY

The rush to meet the upcoming December 31, 2020 charitable donation deadline is coming.



Make your campaign gift today!
www.savj.org

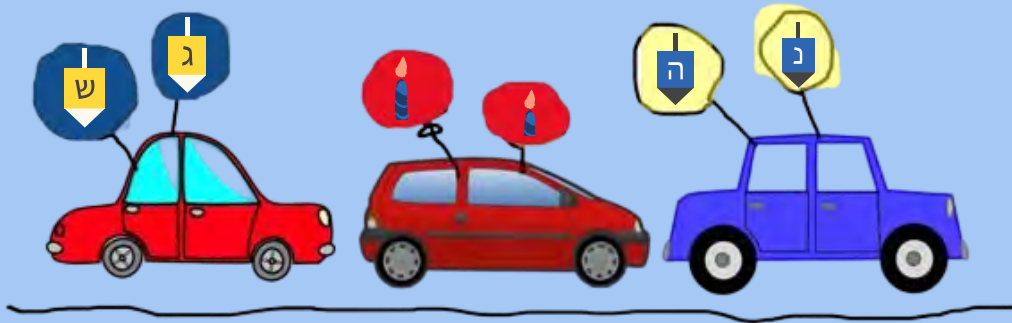
Or contact the **Savannah Jewish Community Foundation** to learn of other ways to receive possible benefits on your 2020 returns.



Chanukah CARNIVAL

Sunday, December 13 | 4:00-5:30 PM | Jewish Educational Alliance

Celebrate Chanukah as a community in a safe & socially-distanced way.
Featuring music, giveaways and more! Bring a toy to donate.



**Robin Rackoff**

Mah Jongg and More

Thank you, Coronavirus, for interfering with yet another occasion. I've been keeping

score! First, it was Passover, then Mother's Day, Father's Day, Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, Halloween and Thanksgiving, among many others. And how about my niece's Bat Mitzvah and my cousin's wedding? Despite all that, I'm hoping that we can make Hanukkah a joyous occasion, but it will require some work. We are accustomed to lighting the menorah together long-distance since our kids live out-of-town, but preparing and eating latkes with our friends will have to be put on the back burner. Mr. Potato Head gets to live another year!

Also different will be the gifts we give to the family. They won't be getting any of the usual wallets, sweaters, or toys. This year, everyone gets PPE! They will be so excited when they open their

masks and gloves, wipes, antibacterial lotion, and plastic shields. A little harder to wrap will be the paper towels and the "bathroom tissue," which is what fancy people call toilet paper. I know the grandkids will love it all! To keep the frenzy to a minimum, we will

have them open just one each night of Hanukkah.

No PPE for me, though. I've had my eye on something special, and I'll be really disappointed if it's not next to my menorah on the first night of Hanukkah.

It's a hand-crafted Mah Jongg set which was eight months in the making, carved from solid blocks of ruby with gold and diamond trim. You might think that the selling price of \$800,000 is a little steep, but when you realize that it comes in a custom-made case of mahogany and ebony, you understand that it's quite reasonable. Note to husband: Don't bother wrapping it.

Whatever holidays you celebrate, be safe, be well, and maj on!

*HaPPE Chanukah!*

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Harris C. Dinerman

Who died Thursday, October 8, 2020

He is survived by his brother Craig M. Dinerman and his partner Paul Downing, Jr.

Remembrance donations may be made to Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob – 5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia 31405 or Congregation Mickve Israel – Post Office Box 816, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0816.

Abram Morris Applebaum

Who died, Thursday, October 29, 2020

He is survived by his son Gary D. Applebaum; nephews Alan Asher, Howard Schulman, and Mark Halperin; niece Sharon Applebaum Hess, and many other great-nieces and nephews.

Remembrance donations may be made to Hospice Savannah-Post Office Box #13190, Savannah, GA 31416-0190.

Anchel Saul Samuels

Who died Tuesday, November 10, 2020

He is survived by his daughter Jill Samuels Strauss and her husband,

Brad; his son, Scott M. Samuels; his four grandchildren, Jared Samuels and his fiancée, Danielle Grinzaid, Max Strauss, Allison Samuels and Blake Strauss; his brother-in-law, Bill Rokoff, and his nieces and nephews.

Remembrance donations may be made to Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob – 5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia 31405 or the Ashley Samuels Children and Youth Activity Fund – c/o Savannah Jewish Federation – 5111 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia 31405-5214.

David Boley Byck

Who died Thursday, November 19, 2020

He is survived by his wife Peggy Lee Byck, daughters Amanda (Powell) Jones, Jessica (Trent) Hensley, and Elle Byck, grandsons, Clark Jones & David Hensley, granddaughter, Harper Hensley, mother, Ellen R. Byck, brother Edwin (Melinda) Byck, sister, Nancy Burton; along with several nephews.

Remembrance donations may be made to the charity of one's choice.



Wishes you

and your loved ones



savannah  bbyo

Savannah BBYO wants you!

We are going back to in-person programs and we want you to be a part of it!

If you are a Jewish teen or have a Jewish teen in 8th-12th grade and want to learn more about BBYO contact Jackie at JackieL@savj.org



Upcoming Events

December 13 - 4:30 PM -- Wexler Clark BBG Chanukah Gift Exchange Picnic

December 13 - 5:00 PM -- David Finn Chanukah Dinner & Blue Elephant Gift Exchange

THE BEST PLACE TO BE A SAVANNAH JEWISH TEEN
SAVJ.ORG/SAVANNAH-BBYO   SAVANNAH BBYO



Savannah Jewish Federation
Beneficiary Agency: Your Campaign dollars at work



Ester Rabhan,
Principal
Rambam Day
School

Eye on education

The Innocent Questions

In seventh grade, as an assignment, the class was to choose a teacher to interview.

While a student was interviewing me, I was able to get a glimpse of their perspective of my responsibilities as a principal.

Question: How long have you been principal of Rambam? Over twenty years. Question: What time do you arrive to school? Between 6:30-6:45 AM (no reaction from my student). Question: What time do you usually leave to go home? Around 6:00-6:30 PM. Question: What is the best part of your job? The student interjected and asked, is it talking to parents? I said, *“NO! it’s interacting with students.”* Question: What is the least favorite part of your job? Again, the student interjected, is it talking to parents? I said, *“Even it is, you may NOT write that down.”* I continued, *“I don’t like disciplining students.”*

I was humored by my young friend’s insistence that somewhere in my *“job”* there had to be a place where parents played a role. The model parent involves themselves in their child’s school day as soon as they see them after school.

Encouraging positive outlooks on school by asking, *“What was the best part of your day today?”* *“Tell me two things you learned today.”* *“What made you laugh in school today?”*

Of course, parents should be sounding boards for things that

may have happened in school to upset their child, but they should remain respectful of all authority figures of the school. Helping children see the positive and teaching children to give the benefit of the doubt, are priceless lessons that parents can teach their children. These ideals will impact the way your child sees everything.

Parents should assist with homework and for elementary age children, find ways to make homework time fun. Parents should praise good work and give encouragement for work not done well.

Parents should initiate communication with teachers (not at the exclusion of teachers reaching out to parents). Children should hear parents speaking positively about their school and those who work so hard on behalf of their child’s education. This should be conversation not related to discussing school with your child.

When children hear their parents talking to each other or others, they can pick up on words, attitudes, and tones. No matter what concerns parents may have, if their children hear them talking negatively about a teacher or the school itself, it will diminish the child’s respect and admiration for their teachers and their school.

So, the question my student should have asked me was, how big a role do parents play in your job? I would have said, *“A big one.”*



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director
Early Childhood
Education

Eye on education

Bring in the Lights

During most of our Shabbat celebrations, we sing the song “Bring in the Lights”, referring to the Shabbat

candles that we light every Friday night. However, during this time of year, it makes me think of the Chanukah lights on the Chanukiah/menorah.

There has been so much darkness these past months as we maneuver our way through the pandemic. You know what it’s been like. Children at virtual school, parents working from home while taking care of the children, seniors stuck inside their homes, face coverings to prevent the spread, hand washing constantly, dinners alone, and the list goes on and on. Stress levels on steroids, to be sure! We each have our dark moments and experiences. It makes

me wonder how we can bring the light from the Chanukah candles into our lives to brighten our days.

What gives you light in your life? Is it a child’s laughter? Is it a beautiful song? Is it a vivid and bright painting? Is it a photograph that brings back special memories? Is it time spent with loved ones?

When I walk the halls of the preschool and enter the classrooms, it is the children and teachers who bring light into my life. One day, I went to say good morning and entered a three year

old classroom. One little girl with long brown hair, ran up to me and said, “Hi, Ms. Jodi. Can I give you a hug?” Just those nine words filled my heart with love and light.

One afternoon, a three year old boy said, “Ms. Jodi, can I tell you something?” (He always has something to tell me!) He wanted to know where Kofi and his mommy were that day. Kofi is a monkey puppet who visits us every Friday for our Shabbat celebration. I told him that Kofi was sleeping with his mommy in my office. How could that innocence of childhood not bring light into your life?

Just this morning, a teacher said to me, “I give you props, Ms. Jodi”. I notice that you participate in webinars and send us articles about Early Childhood Education.” I said that I value education and want my teachers to always be learning. What a true moment of light for me.

It’s these fleeting moments that I experience in the preschool from the children and teachers that bring light into my life. Think about what brings that light into your life.

I wish for the day when I can invite each of you to visit us at JEA Preschool Savannah so you can experience moments of light, too!

Vayahee Or - Let there be light!

Wishing each of you a Chanukah filled with light in your homes and in your hearts!

“There has been so much darkness these past months as we maneuver our way through the pandemic.”

Donate to the Holocaust Education Funds

Dena Yaschik & Lawrence S. Bodziner Foundation - Income shall be used to perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust and Jewish survival through education.

Matthew J. Cranman Holocaust Teacher Education Fund - Income will be used to send one Savannah area public school teacher, annually, on the Holocaust & Resistance Teacher Education Program to Poland and Israel.

To make a donation online visit savj.org/foundation.





**CONGREGATION
AGUDATH ACHIM**
SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah GA 31405 912-352-4737
Agudatha@aol.com / Agudath-Achim.com
Rabbi Steven Henkin

Happy Hanukkah

Drive by the synagogue for our Menorah Lighting

December 13, 2020 @ 6pm

We are maintaining Daily Services, via Facebook

To participate, please make sure you follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AgudathAchimSavannah/>

Join us for Friday night and Shabbat morning services via Zoom using the following information...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87032079194?pwd=Zk8yeWg3YWtGaUFkbkdFbDRsdmVHUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 3207 9194

CMI Gift Shop is now online at **shopmickveisrael.com**
or call **912-233-1547** to schedule a private in-person shopping experience.

**SHOP
LOCAL
AT OUR
HANUKKAH
SALE!**



Mickve Israel Gift Shop

shopmickveisrael.com



SAVE THE DATE

SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 6, 2021

Presented VIRTUALLY in collaboration with the Charleston Jewish Film Festival through the College of Charleston





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.

COME & JOIN US

Vodka Latke



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15
7:00-9:00 PM
ROOFTOP BAR**

RSVP TO JACKIEL@SAVJ.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS



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!



912.355.8111

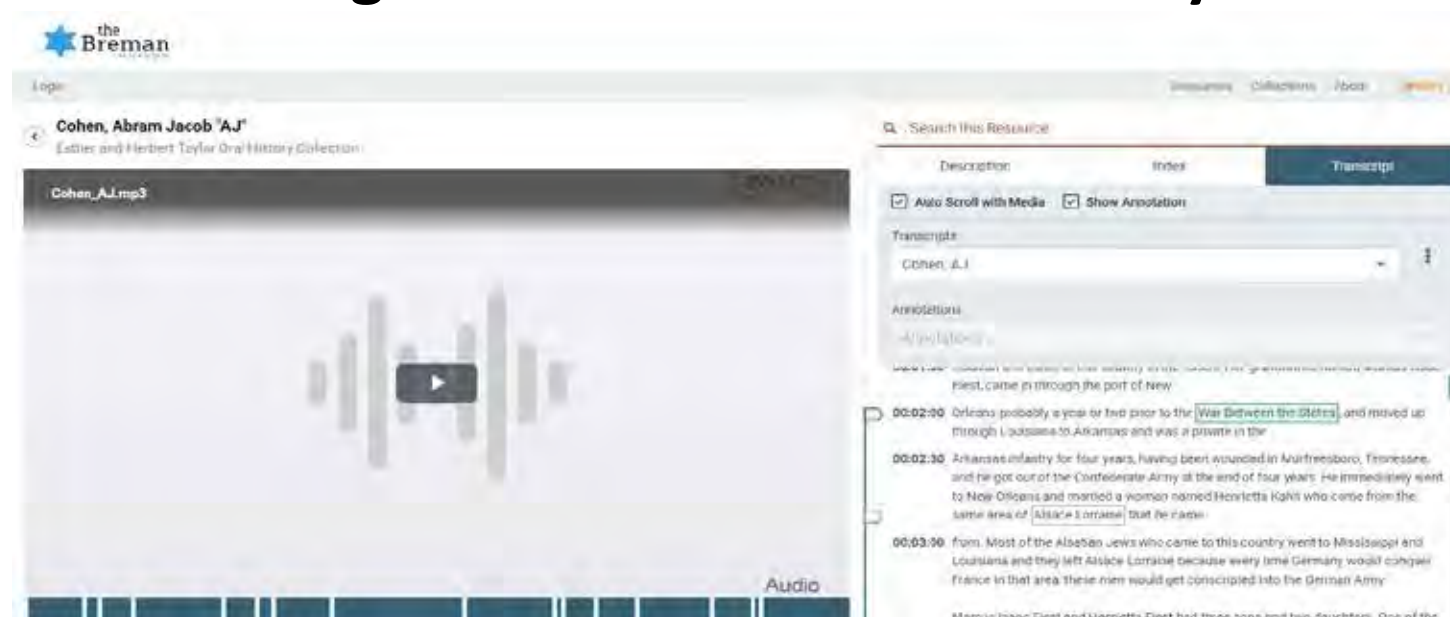


JackieL@savj.org



Young Jewish Savannah

Digitized Oral Histories in Aviary



The Breman Museum logo is visible in the top left corner of the screenshot. The interface shows a search bar, a list of oral histories, and a detailed view of an oral history by Abram Jacob 'AJ' Cohen. The detailed view includes a transcript of the oral history, which discusses the author's experience during the War Between the States and his time in the Confederate Army.

The Breman Museum, which is home to the Savannah Jewish Archives, is proud announce the launch of our Aviary platform. This fantastic technology allows researchers to search our collection of oral histories, listen to them, and follow along with their transcripts in real-time, all in one browser window. Savannahians whose oral histories are currently on the Aviary platform include Leah Adilman, Cecile Arenson, Aaron Buchsbaum, and Kaye Kole, with many more available in the coming months. Please visit <https://thebreman.aviaryplatform.com/> to experience it for yourself!



The Savannah Jewish Archives is generously supported by the Savannah Jewish Federation





Find Your Light

And share it with those who need it most.

Just like the candles you add to the menorah, you can bring light and warmth to the Jewish community in Savannah and around the world.

Find your light.

The Savannah Jewish Federation will help it shine.

2021
Give Today
www.savj.org

Consider endowing your gift to ensure a strong Jewish world for generations to come.