



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, April 4	7:28pm
Friday, April 11	7:33pm
Monday, April 14	7:35pm
Tuesday, April 15	8:32pm
Friday, April 18	7:37pm
Sunday, April 20	7:39pm
Monday, April 21	8:36pm
Friday, April 25	7:42pm

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Sue Solomon gives Torah as Legacy: With generations of family in mind, Sue Solomon makes a gift of a beautiful new Torah to Congregation Mickve Israel; p5

Shabbaton to Lead off Yom HaShoah Observances

Savannah's observance of Yom HaShoah will begin this year with a community Shabbaton on Friday evening, April 25th, at 7 pm at the JEA. The theme for the evening is "Honoring the Traditions and Memories of our European Ancestors." The evening will open with a photographic presentation celebrating images of Ashkenazi Jewry in their Eastern European communities prior to World War II. Dinner will be a traditional, kosher Ashkenazi Shabbat meal featuring recipes from the *Holocaust Survivor Cookbook*.

Shabbat services will take place at our respective synagogues, prior to the Shabbaton. The cost for the Shabbaton is \$18 per person. Reservations are required by April 21st. Supervised kosher meals are available upon request at the time you make your reservation.

The observances continue on Sunday, April 27th, first with a Women's

Brunch "Commemorating the Women of the Holocaust" to be held at 10:30 am at the JEA. The program will include a brief talk by local survivor Vera Hoffman and then a short film on the life of Alice Herz-Sommer, who when she died in February was the oldest known Holocaust survivor. Alice was a concert pianist when the Nazis deported her and her family to Theresienstadt. She and her son survived by playing nearly 100 concerts while in the camps and by embodying the philosophy that "music saved my life then and music saves me still."

The cost for the brunch is \$12 per person; \$10 JEA Member Value Price. Reservations are required by April 24th.

Also on Sunday, at 12 pm (noon), there will be a screening at the JEA of the film *50 Children: The Rescue Mission of Mr. and Mrs. Kraus*. In the spring of 1939, Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus, two most unlikely heroes, embarked on a

risky and doubtful mission. Traveling into the heart of Nazi Germany, they rescued 50 children from Vienna and brought them to the United States. This one-hour documentary, in English, tells their daring story. Admission is free.

On Monday, April 28th, Yom HaShoah, we will observe this solemn Day of Remembrance with a number of tributes both to those who perished in the Holocaust and to those who survived. Throughout the day names of those who died in the Shoah will be read aloud in the lobby of the JEA. (If you would like to volunteer to be a reader, please contact Nancy Rosenthal, 912-598-0411.) Also, displays of Savannah students' writing and art projects will be available for viewing.

The formal Yom HaShoah Observance program begins at 7 pm Monday.

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Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Savannah Steps up for Ukraine

The Savannah Jewish Federation Executive Committee recently released an emergency allocation of \$1,800 from the Federation's reserves for assistance for Jews caught up in the strife in Ukraine. Emergency relief is being provided on the ground by the Federation's overseas partners, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and World ORT. The Federation's emergency allocation was added to generous donations made by concerned community members and already is at work providing food and medical supplies to people isolated by the hostility in Ukraine.

Adam Solender, Executive Director of the SJF, said that the Federation will continue to closely monitor the conditions of Ukraine's Jewish community to determine if additional allocations are necessary. "I can think of no bet-

continued on page 6

Johnny Becker Honored

Laura and Larry Blumberg made a generous donation to the JEA in memory of Laura's father, Johnny Becker, which allowed the JEA to make significant upgrades to its Health and Fitness Center. Johnny was a long-time supporter of the JEA and an accomplished athlete, having won the title of US National Racquetball Champion. Most importantly, the donation enabled the JEA to install all new cardio equipment in the Fitness Center.

In addition to the donation in memory of Laura's father, the Blumbergs also established a fund in memory of Laura's mother, Kay Becker. This fund awards scholarships to teens, whose families are JEA members, to help pay for travel to Israel.

The JEA is extremely grateful to the Blumbergs for their generous gifts that have made it possible to make substantial improvements to the JEA Fitness Center as well as to help deserving children experience Israel.



JEA President Bill Sand with the newly dedicated plaque honoring Johnny Becker outside the Fitness Center



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Proclamation of the State of Israel

14 May 1948

[Translation from *The Palestine Post*, 16 May 1948]

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here, their spiritual, religious, and national identity was formed. Here, they achieved independence and created a culture of national and universal significance. Here, they wrote and gave the Bible to the world.

Exiled from Palestine, the Jewish people remained faithful to it in all the countries of their dispersion, never ceasing to pray and hope for their return and the restoration of their national freedom.

Impelled by this historic association, Jews strove throughout the centuries to go back to the land of their fathers and regain their Statehood. In recent decades, they returned in their masses. They reclaimed the wilderness, revived their language, built cities and villages, and established a vigorous and ever-growing community, with its own economic and cultural life. They sought peace yet were prepared to defend themselves. They brought the blessings of progress to all inhabitants of the country.

In the year 1897, the First Zionist Congress, inspired by Theodor Herzl's vision of the Jewish State, proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national revival in their own country.

This right was acknowledged by the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, and reaffirmed by the Mandate of the League of Nations, which gave explicit international recognition to the historic connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and their right to reconstitute their national home.

The Nazi holocaust, which engulfed millions of Jews in Europe, proved anew the urgency of the reestablishment of the Jewish state, which would solve the problem of Jewish homelessness by opening the gate to all Jews and lifting the Jewish people to equality in the family of nations.

The survivors of the European catastrophe, as well as Jews from other lands, proclaiming their right to a life of dignity, freedom and labor, and undeterred by hazards, hardships, and obstacles, have tried unceasingly to enter Palestine.

In the Second World War, the Jewish people in Palestine made a full contribution in the struggle of the freedom-loving nations against the Nazi evil. The sacrifices of their soldiers and the efforts of their workers gained them title to rank with the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On November 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Resolution for the establishment of an independent Jewish State in Palestine, and called upon inhabitants of the country to take such steps as may be necessary on their part to put the plan into effect.

This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their independent state may not be revoked. It is, moreover, the self-evident right of the Jewish people to be a nation, like all other nations, in its own sovereign state.

Accordingly, we, the members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the

Zionist movement of the world, met together in solemn assembly today, the day of the termination of the British Mandate for Palestine, and by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of the Jewish State in Palestine, to be called Israel.

We hereby declare that as from the termination of the Mandate at midnight, this night of the fourteenth to the fifteenth of May 1948, and until the setting up of the duly elected bodies of the State in accordance with a Constitution, to be drawn up by a Constituent Assembly not later than the first day of October 1948, the present National Council shall act as the Provisional State Council, and its executive organ, the National Administration, shall constitute the Provisional Government of the State of Israel.

The State of Israel will be open to the immigration of Jews from all countries of their dispersion; will promote the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; will be based on the precepts of liberty, justice, and peace taught by the Hebrew Prophets; will uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of race, creed, or sex; will guarantee full freedom of conscience, worship, education, and culture; will safeguard the sanctity and inviolability of the shrines and Holy Places of all religions; and will dedicate itself to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The State of Israel will be ready to cooperate with the organs and representatives of the United Nations in the implementation of the resolution of the assembly of November 29, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the Economic Union over the whole of Palestine.

We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building of its State and to admit Israel into the family of nations.

In the midst of wanton aggression, we yet call upon the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to return to the ways of peace and play their part in the development of the State, with full and equal citizenship and the representation in all its bodies and institutions, provisional or permanent.

We offer peace and amity to all the neighboring states and their peoples, and invite them to cooperate with the independent Jewish nation for the common good of all. The State of Israel is ready to contribute its full share to the peaceful progress and development of the Middle East.

Our call goes out to the Jewish people all over the world to rally to our side in the task of immigration and development and to stand by us in the great struggle for the fulfillment of the dream of generations -- the redemption of Israel.

With trust in the Rock of Israel, we set our hand to this Declaration, at this Session of the Provisional State Council, in the city of Tel Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the fifth of Iyar 5708, the fourteenth day of May 1948.





Steve Greenberg,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

40 Years. 60 Miles.

Within all our collective Jewish history, there are so many terms that resonate without requiring a definition. 40 Years. There is no need for Webster's or Wikipedia. We all know the meaning. It is part of our DNA. As *Pesach* approaches, any reference to 40 years carries a message to each and every Jewish person. It is a period of time that will literally outlast time. It will never grow old or not relevant. Yes, we renew our connection every year during the Seders. But, in a way, we do not need to be reminded for those memories for us were created long ago and have never faded.

At the same time, what is our responsibility in terms of making memories for future generations? Do we just rely on the past to teach our young people or do we really endeavor to create our own mini-histories for our children and grandchildren?

In our house, we always wanted to create memories for our sons. Those remembrances and stories will carry them a lifetime. Yes, in this day and time everything can be preserved on social media of every shape, form or fashion. But call me old fashioned, I still believe the memories we carry around in our heads remain the most potent force. Social media is subject to the delete button. Our brains are not.

60 miles. The distance from Waycross, Georgia, to St. Simons Island, Georgia (Brunswick). Every *Pesach* my family traveled there for Seder at my Aunt, Uncle and cousin's house. (Cousin Rozzie Isenberg-she would have appreciated being mentioned). My parents closed the store at 6, came home and made sure my sister and myself were dressed properly, and off we went. By the time we arrived, Seder started about 8. There

were seven of us. I still have vivid memories of those years. I can remember where everyone sat. I can remember the smell of the foods coming from the kitchen. I can remember my Uncle conducting the service. I can remember being relieved after I had finished the Four Questions. I can remember getting silver dollars for finding the afikomen. Then, at the end of the evening, and knowing we would be home late, my sister and I changed into our pajamas and went to sleep in the back seat as we rode back to Waycross (pre-seat belt era).

Each year all of us have the opportunity to create these moments for our family, friends and ourselves. The haggadah and siddur we read always stand as a monuments for what we are, how we arrived at today and what we should be for tomorrow. They are the continuum of our Jewish beliefs, thoughts, traditions and observances. As you look around the Seder table this year, think about just how important these words are. Think about how they can impress the mind of a child – like the young man described above. And, lest we think that only children can create a memory of *Pesach*, think of adults who come to the Seder table and find that whatever their personal history, for that evening they are one with everyone in the room. For that evening, we are all transported back in time to when 40 years became what we know today.

40 years. In some ways, a spot of time, in other ways forever. 60 miles. In some ways, a short distance and in other ways, a distance that is still traveled in the mind.

Whatever distance and time you travel this *Pesach*, whether a long trip or around the corner, the Officers and Board of Governors of the Savannah Jewish Federation wish you, your family and friends a Seder and *Pesach* that will take its place in memories to come.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

An Honor to be Part of It

Earlier this month I attended the Jewish Council for Public Affairs National Plenum held in Atlanta. With a mission of serving “as the representative voice of the organized American Jewish community in addressing the principal mandate of the Jewish community relations field, JCPA’s goals are Safeguarding the rights of Jews here and around the world; Dedicating ourselves to the safety and security of the state of Israel; and To protect, preserve and promote a just American society, one that is democratic and pluralistic, one that furthers harmonious interreligious, interethnic, interracial, and other intergroup relations. The Plenum was “wall to wall” movers and shakers in the “Jewish relations world.”

I was honored to be a part of the audience where Abraham Foxman (who has been a part of the Anti Defamation League for fifty years) was honored for his long service to the Jewish people. He shared his concern about the United States’ waning influence throughout the world and its effect on Israel’s security. “If the U.S. retreats on the world stage, the world will pay a price, and so will Jews everywhere.”

An afternoon plenary featured David Makovsky, from John Kerry’s team, a special envoy for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. It was his first public appearance since joining the peace process team. He told the audience that “you’d be amazed” at the level of commitment of all sides to the peace process and the amount of work that is ongoing every day.

I was at rapt attention listening to Rabbi Melissa Weintraub who spearheads the JCPA’s national Civility Campaign, working with synagogues, communal organizations, and whole communities. Over and over again she referred to the importance of “having everyone at the table,” and that there is great value in “being partners in conflict.” She reminded us that throughout Jewish history, discourse and disagreement has been part of our DNA; that you need this tension to make the best possible decision, but to re-

solve the tension all of the stakeholders must be part of the conversation.

We heard from national pollster, Mark Mellman. He reminded us that polls give us an accurate snapshot in time, but life changes so quickly. By way of example he stated that in 1967, 90% of Americans had a living memory of the Holocaust. In 2014, 80% could not have a living memory of the Holocaust. In less than 50 years there was a wholesale change in experience.

One of the most memorable parts of the Plenum was when Dr. Kenneth Stein clearly admonished a packed room that “history matters.” He spoke passionately about the importance of learning about Israel’s history for yourself so that you can transmit it to your children and others. “Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up.” Deuteronomy.

If you need any information to combat the BDS movement, it is in the 989 words of the Proclamation of the State of Israel that clearly lay out Israel’s claims to existence... [see facing page]

Stein challenged every person in the room to go back and read the Proclamation of the State of Israel from May 1948. If you need any clarity about Israel, what it means and why it was created, the words resonate today as they did more than 65 years ago.

If you need any information to combat the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, it is in the 989 words of the proclamation that clearly lay out Israel’s claims to existence as the birthplace of the Jewish people, its rebirth with the founding of Zionism and its re-establishment as a homeland for every Jew seeking refuge from a hostile world.

The Plenum adopted resolutions on inclusion and disabilities, threats on European communities, LGBT discrimination, minimum wage legislation, human rights, the environment and civility. There was debate, discussion, and great consensus built among the leadership. Much of the ongoing agenda of the Jewish community was formed and constructed at this gathering. It was an honor to be a part of it.



Save the Date

102nd JEA Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 21st @ 7:00 pm

Installations, Awards, Recognitions

Discover **your** community

UKRAINE ASSISTANCE FUND

The Jewish Federations of North America are mobilizing a communal response to the situation in Ukraine, home to one of the largest Jewish populations, including some of the poorest Jews in the world. If you would like to provide urgent support for Jews in Ukraine, go to www.jewishfederations.org to make a secure donation.

Erwin “Ernie” Friedman, 1931-2014



Erwin Aaron Friedman, President of the Savannah Jewish Federation from 1965-1967, died March 5, 2014. Known by all as Ernie, he was born February 11, 1931 in Savannah to Harry and Rose Friedman. Ernie was an Eagle Scout as part of a JEA Boy Scout troop. He attended Armstrong Jr. College, the school he regularly claimed provided the best education he ever received and where he played college basketball. He subsequently attended the University of Pennsylvania. He attended Emory University School of Law where he graduated first in his class and New York University for additional training in tax law.

In 1951, he married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Weitz. With two other young attorneys, he founded the law firm, Friedman, Haslam & Weiner. After a long and successful law career, he began a second career in real estate development which included the development of Georgetown.

Ernie strongly believed in community involvement and was involved in numerous civic organizations, often in a leadership role. In addition to the Federation, he was President of Congregation Agudath Achim for three years, where he spearheaded the fundraising for and construction of the current building and later the Congregation's Centennial anniversary celebration. He also served on the Board of the Jewish Educational Alliance. Appointed by Governor George Busbee to Georgia's Board of Regents,

he served as Chairman of the Board during his term. One of his proudest accomplishments was serving on the Southern Education Foundation for 18 years.

Aaron Levy, who served on the Board of the Savannah Jewish Federation with Ernie, remembered: "He had a knack of being able to listen to people's disagreements, whether they were contentious or not, and find and vocalize the common ground. It was unlike anybody I've ever seen, before or since." Ken Stein, the William E. Schatten Professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern History, Political Science and Israeli Studies at Emory University, remarked that "Savannah has lost a pillar of its community."

Ernie considered his greatest "accomplishments" his 62 years of marriage to his beloved Mary, his two children, Stephen and Abby, and their spouses, Annette and Harry, and his five grandchildren, Isaac, Eli, Alexandra, Aaron, and Halle, all of whom survive him. He was preceded in death by his brother, Karl. Ernie will be remembered by the many people whose lives he touched for his love of life, particularly his passion for Tybee Island, the Back River, fishing, looking for buried treasures in the sand dunes, body surfing in the ocean, and organizing the 10th Street Tybee Jam-boree Parade for the 4th of July.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405, or Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah 31416, or a charity of the donor's choice.

Paul Kulbersh to Receive Levy Award on July 20th



At press time, Steve Greenberg, President of the Savannah Jewish Federation, announced that Dr. Paul Kulbersh will receive the Jack Malitz Levy Leadership Award, the highest award given by the Federation. Greenberg remarked: "Paul Kulbersh has always been the highest example of commitment and service. Whether it be to his family, his friends, his profession, the Savannah Jewish community or the general community, Paul will always strive to give his time and energies. The Savannah Jewish Federation is thrilled to honor him with this most deserved tribute. He joins an exclusive list of recipients who have truly made a difference in this community."

The award was established in 1988 upon the death of Jack Malitz Levy, the second-generation owner of Levy Jewelers. This award is not given annually, but only when it is determined that there is a deserving recipient. Kulbersh is the sixth person to receive this award. In addition to having the leadership qualities required

Steve Greenberg remarked: "Paul Kulbersh has always been the highest example of commitment and service."

to merit this award, the recipient must have served the community for a minimum of 20 years. The previous recipients of the award are Doris Lukin A"H, Norton Melaver z"L, Don Kole, Aaron Levy and Murray Arkin. Kulbersh and all of the other recipients are known not only for their commitment to the Savannah Jewish community, but also for their service to a variety of organizations and causes throughout Savannah.

Jack Levy, for whom the award is named, was an outstanding citizen of Savannah who exemplified the standards for the type of leaders selected to receive this award. Levy, who died in 1988, and his late wife, Miriam, were known for their philanthropy and for their willingness to give of both their time and money.

A complete acknowledgement of Paul Kulbersh's accomplishments and the details of the gala dinner to be held in his honor on July 20th will appear in an upcoming issue of the Savannah Jewish News.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Friends:

We are deeply grateful to have received the Savannah Jewish Federation's 2013-2014 allocation to JTA, the global Jewish news source.

JTA remains committed to creating and reinforcing Jewish community and Jewish identity through our quality news product. JTA is also working to promote a new brand of Internet-based journalism weaving together news, information, advice, analysis and user participation with the goal of expanding readership, especially among Jews under 40. Your support is critical to the success of the mission.

Thank you so much for your continued recognition of the vital work JTA does each day to deep the global Jewish community informed.

With warmest wishes,
Ami Eden, CEO & Editor in Chief JTA

Savannah Jewish News

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SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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APARTMENT
SAVANNAH

CMI Receives Torah as Legacy

by Jane Kahn

For the moment, at least, Congregation Mickve Israel is in possession of the oldest documented Torah in the United States, and also, the newest (as of February 22nd) dedicated Torah in the country.

In July 1733, the Jewish settlers arriving in Savannah from London on the *William and Sarah* brought with them a Torah, scribed during the 1400s in Sephardic-Hebrew letters, a gift from the sponsoring Bevis-Marks Congregation. Four years later, the congregation received another sacred scroll, also written in the 1400s, from London. Both, on deerskin, are prized possessions on display at Mickve Israel and are used at least once a year, on the anniversary of the settlers' arrival. Both of the historic scrolls are in excellent condition, clear and legible and of tremendous interest to visitors to the Mickve Israel Museum.

Last month, through the generosity of long-time Mickve Israel member Sue Solomon, the congregation dedicated a brand-new Torah scroll, which, along with the newly restored Slany (Czech) Torah, will be the Torahs of choice for weekly services. It was written on a light-weight and finer parchment than the other five

Torah scrolls in the Mickve Israel collection.

A procession of Sue's family and Congregation leaders carried all of the scrolls into the sanctuary and walked with them so that all congregation members had the opportunity to greet them—new and old—and to accept them as their own.

In Sue's presentation of this newest Torah, she remarked that direct descendants of the Solomon and Ehrlich families in Savannah, several generations of them, will end with her. (Her sons all have moved away.) Sue wanted to leave a material legacy of Jewish history here, honoring those who came before and those who follow. "What better way than with a Torah?"

Sue said, "I thought one could walk down the street in a very religious neighborhood in Brooklyn or Jerusalem and purchase one off the shelf. OH, NO! First you pick the parchment, then the script (several Congregation members including Rabbi Haas, Jules Kerness and John Kohn offered their expertise.)

While the *sofer* [Torah scribe] worked, other decisions had to be



All of Mickve Israel's Torahs were honored on the occasion of the dedication of the new Torah. (l-r) Mires "Bubba" Rosenthal, CMI Treasurer; Sue Solomon's sisters Anne Clavel and Jan VandenBulck; Sue's sons Allen, Arthur & Richard Herman; Toby Hollenberg, CMI Parnasit (President)

made, including choosing the *Eitz Chayim* (Torah poles). In her genealogical research, Sue discovered that her family in this country originated in 1654, in New York. The first of her Savannah forbears came after the Civil War. Their names are on the top of the Torah poles. The girdle that holds the scroll together is dedicated to Sue's sons, Arthur, Allen and Richard Herman.

In her research, Sue discovered that a great, great grandfather also had given a *sefer Torah* to his synagogue in Austin, Texas. That scroll is still there.

Shortly before the completion and dedication of Mickve Israel's new

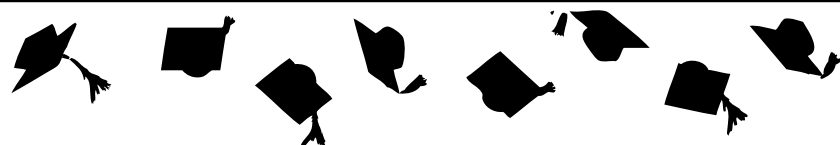


Sue Solomon enters Mickve Israel carrying the new Torah she dedicated, followed by her son, Richard Herman.

Photos credit: Becky Smith, Photos by Becky)

Torah scroll, community members had an opportunity to scribe a handwritten Hebrew letter of their own, to participate in the 613th commandment, "that every person shall write a scroll of the Torah for himself."

"And now, write for yourselves this song, and teach it to the Children of Israel. Place it into their mouths, in order that this song will be for Me as a witness for the children of Israel." (Deuteronomy)



Mazel Tov to all High School & College Graduates and Your Families!

You are invited to submit your pictures and records of achievement for publication in our special graduation section of the June issue of the Savannah Jewish News.

To be included, please download the submission form from www.savj.org or pick one up at the JEA.

All submissions must be received by the absolute deadline of **May 10th, 2013.**

Listings will be published only in the June issue.

Return forms & pictures to: sjnews@savj.org or
Savannah Jewish News
5111 Abercorn St. Savannah, GA 31405



Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and healthy Pesach.



*From the Boards and Staff of the
Savannah Jewish Federation
Jewish Educational Alliance*

Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

This column is Four Questions for the Rest of the Year, but because it is Passover, we decided to take a look back at the *original* Four Questions that inspired this series:

Although they are called “The Four Questions,” really this part of the Passover Seder is one question with four answers. The central question is: “Why is this night different from all other nights?” (In Hebrew: *Ma nishtanah ha-laylah ha-ze mi kol ha-leylot?*) Each of the four answers explains why something is done differently during Passover.

The Four Questions begin when the youngest person in attendance asks: “Why is this night different from all other nights?” The Seder leader may reply by asking what differences they notice. The youngest person then replies that there are four ways in which they notice a difference about Passover:

1. On all other nights we eat bread or matzo, while on this night we eat only matzo.
2. On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables and herbs, but on this night we have to eat bitter herbs.
3. On all other nights we don't dip our vegetables in salt water, but on this night we dip them twice.

4. On all other nights we eat while sitting upright, but on this night we eat reclining.

Each of the “questions” refers to an aspect of the Passover Seder. Leavened bread is forbidden throughout the holiday, bitter herbs are eaten to remind us of the bitterness of slavery, and vegetables are dipped in salt water to remind us of the tears of slavery.

The fourth “question” refers to the ancient custom of eating while reclining on one elbow. It symbolizes the concept of freedom, that Jews would be able to have a celebratory meal while relaxing together and enjoying each other's company. This question became part of The Four Questions only after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 C.E. Originally the fourth question, mentioned in the Talmud (Mishnah Pesachim 10:4) was: “On all other nights we eat meat which has been roasted, stewed, or boiled, but on this night we eat only roasted meat.” This original question referred to the practice of sacrificing the Paschal lamb at the Temple, a practice that ceased after the Temple's destruction. The rabbis then replaced the fourth question with one about reclining during the Passover Seder.

Yom HaShoah.....from pg 1

day evening at the JEA, featuring students of Rambam Day School performing the play, *I Remember*, a presentation of memories, comments, and quotes from survivors of many different places and experiences during the Holocaust. Events, depictions, poems, and emotions are expressed by the actors, providing a Shoah kaleidoscope of powerful dramatic impact. In addition to the play, the program will include recognition of Holocaust survivors and their families who settled in Savannah, a children's program and the announcement of the winners of the student Writing and Art contests.

Throughout the month of April, the interactive exhibit, *When Humanity Fails*, will be on display at the JEA. While very educational about all aspects of the Holocaust, the exhibit, a project of the Afikim Foundation, is



highly regarded for its emphasis on the liberators and the liberated. The exhibit is free and open to the public during the JEA's regular hours.

Ukraine.....from pg 1

ter example of why the Savannah Jewish Federation exists than to be ready — on a moment's notice — to support our fellow Jews in crisis and in need somewhere in the world.”

In addition, the Large Cities network of the Jewish Federations of North America has pledged more than \$1 million dollars to the Ukrainian relief efforts of JDC, JAFI and World ORT.

JDC operates 32 Hesed welfare and community centers in Ukraine that provide support to an estimated 300,000 – 350,000 Jews there. The current crisis has caused food shortages, the suspension of public transportation, and growing fear, especially among the elderly. In response to the ongoing turmoil, JDC has activated its emergency response network. JDC ensures that the most vulnerable elderly receive services at home so they do not have to risk their lives to get basic necessities; is deploying emergency mobile units that deliver food, medicine, and other critical supplies; is increasing security, as needed, at the local Hesed and other locations following the fire-bombing of a synagogue in Zaporozhye, 250 miles southeast of Kiev; and is providing uninterrupted daily home care services for the most frail elderly, with some home care workers spending nights with them in their apartments.

Natan Sharansky, chairman of the



A JDC home care worker (l) checks on a Ukrainian Jewish family shut in during the recent turmoil.

Jewish Agency for Israel, said immediate assistance for Ukrainian Jews would come from the Emergency Assistance Fund for Jewish Communities, established after the 2012 terror attack on a Jewish school in Toulouse, France. The fund helps global Jewish communities handle security concerns. Additionally, JAFI is launching a fundraising campaign to boost the Ukrainian Jewish community's security. “We have a moral responsibility to ensure the safety and security of Ukraine's Jews,” Sharansky said.

World ORT operates a significant number of ORT schools and vocational training centers in Ukraine. The outbreak of the clashes has required the organization to greatly increase security at its facilities. ORT has had to rely on increased support from the Federation system and JAFI to help pay for the additional security.

JEA CAMP SAVANNAH IS NOW HIRING SUMMER CAMP STAFF!

We are now accepting applications for the following positions:

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

Junior Group Counselors - High School Juniors & Seniors.

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

Specialty Counselors - Sports & Recreation, WSI-Certified Swimming Instructors, & Cultural Enrichment.



Counselor Application available online at www.SavannahJEA.org.

For more information, please contact JEA Camp Director, DJ Horton at 355-8111 x 225 or JEA Camp Registrar Anna Berwitz at 355-8111 x 211

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

RAIN-Uganda



As part of the 2013 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation approved a new Mini-Grant program whereby community members could recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 mini-grants, with up to 20 being approved. Sixteen submissions were made in 2013 and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

RAIN-Uganda provides education and screening for HIV and other specific public health concerns to the most vulnerable populations in Uganda. The organization was started in 2006 when a young Ugandan doctor, Samson Wamani, and an American volunteer, Hedy Cohen, sat together brainstorming about the serious needs of the local people, especially concerning HIV in the local villages surrounding Mbale where Ugandan Jews live. They agreed there was an immediate need for access to HIV testing and information.

Since its inception, RAIN-Uganda has formed a team of HIV counselors,

lab technicians and mobilizers. They have conducted thousands of HIV tests in more than 30 rural Ugandan communities and are conducting ongoing conversations in the villages with men, women and youth about their choices covering topics such as testing, family planning, infidelity and condom use.

But the organization faces many challenges because of the rural, agricultural nature of the people who are its constituents. The medical care they require is available free, but only in government facilities in Mbale, and travel there is expensive and requires patients to give up a day's work in the fields, which most are reluctant to do. Also, those who have tested positive for HIV often see the label only as a death sentence as there are few role models in their rural communities who are living healthy lives with HIV.

RAIN-Uganda is working to expand the support and counseling it can offer the people it serves.

Catching Up with BBYO

More than 35 teens from BBYO's Dixie Council convened in Savannah the weekend of Feb. 28-March 2 for the annual Sweetheart/Beau Dance. Dixie Council consists of Savannah, Augusta, Charleston, Columbia and the newly formed chapter of Greenville/Spartanburg/Orangeburg. Outgoing sweetheart Hadley Gordon and beau Max Strauss planned the weekend events.

The dance theme was a Hawaiian luau which gave everyone a much-needed break from the harsh weather this winter. Other programs over the weekend included a session on 'Bullying' and a volunteer project with the Ronald McDonald House of the Coastal Empire. The teens also held a Council business meeting and wrapped up with a friendship circle on Sunday morning.

Sophie Guggenheim and Gabe Adler were selected the new sweetheart and beau. Both are sophomores at Savannah Country Day School.

The next Council-wide event will be held in Columbia, SC, March 14-16. Events that weekend include Columbia's Sweetheart/Beau dance, Council Board elections and senior life membership.

BBYO currently is recruiting 8th - 11th graders. For more information, please contact Wexler Clark BBG #39 President Hadley Gordon (912-660-8319), or David Finn AZA #206 President Max Strauss (912-346-



Outgoing Savannah BBYO Sweetheart and Beau
Hadley Gordon and Max Strauss



Incoming Beau and Sweetheart
Gabe Adler and Sophie Guggenheim

7804).

BBYO Connect is a relatively new branch of BBYO targeting 6th - 8th graders. For more information, please contact Michelle Ourhaan (805-501-7056).

In addition, both chapters are looking for local advisors. For additional information, please contact Jill Strauss (912-844-5588).

LASTING LEGACIES

Savannah is a city steeped in history. Everywhere you go people are proud to tell the stories of their families, their homes, their businesses. Our Jewish community is deep-seated in that history. We are fortunate to have families here who trace their roots back to the original 42 Jewish settlers who arrived in 1733 as well as "newcomers" who have arrived throughout the years and embraced our community. One thing almost all have in common is a desire to be part of the heritage of this community, to leave something behind that those who follow will remember and look up to.

A beautiful way to leave a "lasting legacy" is with a designated fund that serves a need in the Jewish community. This series will look at some of the different funds established over the years that bear the names of the community's beloved members — some old families, some new; many now of blessed memory but others, thank-

fully, here and still shining examples of philanthropy and service.

At the JEA, the *Ethel Cohen Meddin Memorial Fund* was created not long after she died in June 1994. Ethel's three children — Aron Charles ("Chuck") Palefsky, Sherry Palefsky Meddin Macchia and Louis Richard Meddin — established the fund with the hopes that it could be used to revive and support the JEA Variety Shows that Ethel loved and "got complete happiness from" as an active participant in every year. If the variety shows were not to be, the fund could be used to support other entertainment or dance performances.

On the occasion of the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Ethel Cohen Meddin Memorial Fund, we spoke with Chuck Palefsky, who still lovingly remembers how important the JEA and his mother's involvement in the variety shows were to her. He and his family continue to make contributions to the fund to honor friends

and loved ones, with the intention that the fund always will be used to provide entertainment at the JEA that will honor their mother. They hope others will do the same.

Leon Deich lived in Savannah almost his entire life. He served his country during World War II, worked with his brother, Mickey, at Mickey's Beverage Center and cared for his widowed mother and older sister. He was known as a sweet, gentle man who mostly kept to himself, fishing on the beach at Tybee and riding his bicycle around the island. Leon also had a concern for the welfare of Savannah's Jewish community, as he demonstrated with one of his final acts, a testamentary gift to the Savannah Jewish Federation that was used to establish the *Leon Deich PACE Fund*.

A PACE fund is a Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment fund. Using the bequest from Leon's will, an endowed fund was created that, every year in perpetuity, will make a gift to the Savannah Jewish Federation's annual campaign in Leon Deich's name. His generosity helps to insure the future of Jewish education,



Ethel Cohen Meddin in a 1962 JEA Variety Show
(JVM 003 Savannah Jewish Archives, item 1070)

social services, Holocaust education, Israel advocacy and so much more for our community — for all time — and Leon Deich's name lives on.

As seen by these two examples, a designated fund can benefit a specific purpose dear to your family or the community at large and is a lovely way to honor someone's memory or assure the perpetuity of your family name in the community. Funds can be created and activated now or established with a bequest or other financial instrument. To discuss establishing a Lasting Legacy for your family with a fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, contact Adam Solender at (912) 355-8111 or adam@savj.org.

A Special Birthday



Rafi Allan with the gift bag full of grocery and merchandise cards he brought to Jewish Family Services.

When we think of a birthday party for a two-year old we usually imagine children arriving laden with gifts wrapped in bright paper and bows and a toddler eager to get at the treasured toys in

the boxes. However, Rafi Allan celebrated his second birthday a little differently.

Rafi's party started off like most. He and his friends went to Savannah Sharks where they enjoyed gymnastics and tumbling and then birthday cake. But Rafi and his big sister Lila have a different tradition when it comes time for the gifts at their birthday parties. This year, Rafi (and his parents, Michelle and Matthew Allan) asked guests to bring, instead of a toy, a food or merchandise card that could buy necessities for someone in need.

"Between cousins handing down their toys and books, and the stream of gifts from aunts, uncles, and grandparents, the kids have more than

enough. Our friends know what it is like to be swamped with toys, so they were happy to oblige us by providing gift cards for grocery stores," explained Rafi's father, Matthew. After his party, Rafi put all of the cards, more than \$200 worth, into a gift bag and brought them to Jewish Family Services where they will be put to very good use.

In the past, instead of receiving gifts for their birthdays, Rafi and Lila also have collected for other causes such as the Humane Society and Second Harvest Food Bank. "Rafi may still be a little young for the concept, but Lila, at age four, absolutely understands that there are others less fortunate who need a little help. Last year for her birthday, she collected bags of dog food, which she brought to the Humane Society. It's fun to come up with somewhere new to contribute and it has opened our eyes, as well, to just how many organizations can use the help," said their mother, Michelle. "And we hope the kids will grow up to think of sharing with others as a natural part of their lives."

Michelle Allan is a member of the Board of the JEA and Matthew Allan is a member of the Board of the Savannah Jewish Federation. Their family is a beautiful example of service to the community.

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TERMITOLOGY:

The art of controlling termites

Termite Factoid #130
Homes built on a concrete slab are just as susceptible to termite damage since termites are actually closer to the wood source. Slabs are vulnerable because of cracks, plumbing, and expansion joints which provide entrance ways.

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The Higher Ground

Why grow daffodils to memorialize children?

Why grow produce to feed children?

Because...we remember

As Yom HaShoah approaches, we on the JEA Building and Grounds Committee, a sponsor of the JEA Garden Club and a supporter of Midtown Miracle Community Garden, are painfully aware of why we try so hard to work together to find the higher ground to save all the children.



River's Edge is the newest sponsor of the Jewish Educational Alliance!

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The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

April 2014



Children's Programming



Jewish Educational Alliance's DAYS @ THE JEA



■ Do you find it difficult to take days off of work when your child is out of school? The JEA offers year-round vacation programming for children Pre K – 8th grade. Your child will enjoy **Days at the JEA**, as they are packed with activities such as field trips, swimming, cooking, sports and crafts!

■ What to bring:

- Swimsuit
- Towel (marked with name)
- Sack lunch (dairy or parve)
- Change of clothes
- Plastic bag for wet clothing
- Positive attitude

■ What not to bring:

- Toys
- Electronics (cell phones, game systems, ipod)
- Microwaveable lunches



discover **your** community



Upcoming Spring Days at the JEA!

Friday, April 18th
Matzo Engineering

Wednesday, April 23rd
I Heart Nature

Thursday, April 24th
Seaquarium

Friday, April 25th
The Amazing Race: Destination Israel

\$40.00 per day / \$30.00 per day (Member Value Price)

\$180 per week / \$135 per week (Member Value Price)

Questions: **Call** 355-8111 or **E-mail** DJ Horton at kids@savj.org

Mark Your Calendar

April - *When Humanity Fails*, a Holocaust educational exhibit will run the entire month of April

April 3

JEA Preschool Fundraiser. 6 pm

April 6

Art Gallery Reception. Mary Ellen McLaughlin. 2 pm

April 14

Erev Passover. JEA closes @ 5 pm

April 15-16

Passover, first 2 days. JEA Closed

April 18

Days at the JEA. 8 am-6 pm

April 20

Erev Passover (2nd). JEA closes @ 5 pm

April 21-22

Passover, 2nd. JEA Closed

April 23-25

Days at the JEA. 8 am-6 pm

April 25

Community Shabbaton. 7 pm

April 27

Holocaust Education Day
Women's Brunch - 10:30 am
Film - 12 pm
Holocaust Exhibit Tours - 2-5 pm

April 28

Yom HaShoah Commemoration Program.
7 pm

May 6

Community Yom Ha'atzma'ut Program. 7 pm



Adult Programming



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



Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.



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 new 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.

April Lunch Bunch Programming

April 3rd - Multi-generational fun with the JEA Preschool kids.

April 10th - *My experience of Cuba* with Dr. Stavie Kreh. Stavie will share photos, stories and perspectives from his recent Cuba Mission Trip with the Savannah Jewish Federation.

April 17th - No lunch due to Passover.

April 24th - *Activity for the Soul* with Liz Graves of River's Edge Independent Retirement Living. Liz will share the mood and life enhancing benefits of doing activities in the great outdoors.

Lunch Bunch meets each Thursday at 12:30 pm for a delicious lunch, followed by a program at 1:30 pm. Please call 355-8111 to make your reservations. Lunch and program are just \$5!

Holocaust Education Day

Sunday, April 27th

Women's Brunch (10:30 am)

Commemorate the courageousness of women who survived the Holocaust during this special brunch. RSVP: 355-8111 by 4/24

50 Children: The Rescue Mission of Mr. And Mrs. Kraus (12:00 pm)

In the spring of 1939, Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus embarked on a risky and unlikely mission. Traveling into the heart of Nazi Germany, they rescued 50 Jewish children from Vienna and brought them to the United States. (Documentary, 62 min)

2:00 – 5:00 pm - When Humanity Fails Exhibit Tours (2:00 - 5:00 pm)

This interactive exhibition on display at the JEA from April 1st-30th, introduces events that led to the creation and eventual liberation of the concentration camps of WWII.

JEA Donations

(February 5, 2014-March 6, 2015)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Beatrice Goodman
In memory of Allen Shapiro
Nancie & Fred Clark

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Paul Schneider
In memory of Leonard Lorberbaum
In memory of Ashley Samuels
Sally Krissman
In memory of Ashley Samuels
Barbara & Ricky Friedenberg

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

Donations by Abei Irowa
In memory of Ashley Samuels
Lynn & Steven Plotkin
In memory of Ashley Samuels
Marilyn & Perry Brown

JEA CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

In memory of Ashley Samuels
Susan & John Adler

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS – AQUATICS

In memory of Lucinda Harty
The Justus Family
Lisa & Scott Joselove

JEA FITNESS FUND

In honor of Ira Ruby
In memory of Ashley Samuels
Jean & Julian Weitz

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Issie Rubin
In memory of Barbara Rubin
Elise & Victor Shernoff
In memory of Patricia Ellen Reed
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein
Rabbi Gary Perras
Emma & Ralph Sprouse
In honor of Julie & Buddy Metzger
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Bernice Ellman
In honor of Adina Weber & Rabbi Barkan
Brenda & Patrick Salter
In memory of Beatrice Goodman
In memory of Harvey Pam
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Bernice Elman

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Alec Cann
In memory of Thelma Scott
In memory of Mayor Floyd Adams
Tony Center



Health & Wellness

Find your Inner Peace: One Pose at a Time



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Activities such as Pilates and Yoga are called mind/body fitness because they emphasize physical and mental strength. The poses strengthen your body and improve your flexibility by teaching you how to move your body and focus your mind. Although they both are mind/body exercises,

Pilates and Yoga are very different practices - and there are a number of styles within each.

Yoga and Pilates: Going for the Burn

If you're interested in burning more calories, some advanced Yoga and Pilates sessions move at a faster pace. For instance, a 155-pound person can burn about 298 calories in a regular one-hour yoga class. Doing Bikram or power yoga will burn even more calories. These classes require students to hold complex poses for longer periods, offering a more intense workout. Beginning classes that teach you how to perfect a plank pose and other mind/body postures provide significant health and fitness benefits beyond a high-calorie burn.

Learning the basics helps prevent injury when you move on to more advanced classes. For example, Pilates' emphasis on movements that strengthen the body's core helps build muscular endurance and flexibility. In general, mind/body practices help control weight, reduce blood pressure, ease stress, and improve sleep. In one study, people doing Yoga lowered both their LDL (bad) cholesterol and their triglycerides more than 12 points during a three-month study.

Yoga for Strength Building

Similar to aerobics classes or weight-lifting workouts, the intensity level within each discipline varies by style and instructor. The specific practice you choose is less important than simply engaging in it. Doing these mind/body exercises consistently will build up strength. Don't worry about making mistakes or getting all of the movements correct. In the beginning, just being there and doing it is enough.

Yoga does more than deliver an intense mind/body workout. It also gives bragging rights to those that participate. You may have a friend that is a marathon runner and s/he might be able to outrun you, but you will be more flexible and have better core strength. Don't listen whenever someone says yoga is just a stretching class.

Getting Started with Mind/Body Exercise

Interested in trying these kind of exercises but not sure how to get started?

Before going to exercise classes for the first time, talk to the instructor. The instructor should know how much experience you have before you start a class. If you need help picking a class that suits your skill level, ask me to help out. Sometimes it even helps if you talk to the instructor directly. Elaine Dembe-Fox and Kathy Ackerman are excellent instructors and have the ability to teach beginners as well as the more advanced all at the same time.

Prepare to go barefoot during your session. Taking off your shoes helps you feel grounded, an important part of the mind/body philosophy. It's also important to wear comfortable clothes - but nothing too baggy. Oversized T-shirts will ride up during inverted (upside-down) poses.



Pilates



Yoga

Winter Fitness Classes

Sunday

9:15 am - Pilates Basic
10:30 am - Total Body Blast
1:00 pm - Extreme Toning

Monday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga Pilates Fusion
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Billy's Boot Camp
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Thursday

8:30 am - Pilates
9:30 am - Pilates Barre
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics
6:30 pm - Yoga Flow
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Friday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga
10:00 am - Aquasize
12:00 pm - Noon Basketball

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 many different types of memberships to accommodate everyone.

Types of Membership include:

Family Plans
Couple Plans
Individual Plans
Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

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

Shower Repairs in the Men's Locker Room



Justin Robertshaw
Facilities Director

The Physical Therapy room is located next to the men's locker room. For several years it has had water coming in from the men's showers. It needed to be fixed once and for all. I examined every aspect of the water problem and concluded that the men's showers had to be reworked. The problems were bad shower handle valves, loose shower head arms and failure of the floor-to-wall protection membrane.

First, I demoed the wall tile and the floor pans of each shower. As I was cleaning up the busted tile mess, I found a lot of water sitting in and around the metal wall studs and sill plate. With the amount of water sitting there, I knew it was going to take a few weeks to dry out the right way.

Once the area was completely dry, it was time

to put concrete backer board on the metal wall studs. I made sure that the joints were sealed with caulking. Then I put new water proof membranes on the wall board and the shower pans. This protects against any water seeping in again. After a few days of dry time, it was time to put the tile back up. This took a few days.

After the grout dried, I put sealer on the tiles three different times. I wanted to make sure that water was not going to be my enemy anymore.

All single handle showers got a new valve stem put in them. This will help to prolong the life of the handle and prevent leaks into the wall. I also tightened all the shower head arms and put Teflon tape on the threads.

With all the tile work done it was time for cleanup. In the past I had tried different ways of cleaning the men's shower walls and floor, but nothing worked to remove the hard water build up. I decided to try fine sand paper and that

worked very well. It worked so well, I tried it on other areas. It was nice to find something that works without chemicals and can help keep the JEA "green."



JEA Art Gallery



April Artist: Mary Ellen McLaughlin

A native of Syracuse, NY, Mary Ellen McLaughlin studied Fine Art at Munson-Williams-Proctor in Utica, New York, and Fine Art and Graphic Arts and Design at the School of Visual Arts, Manhattan. She worked as a graphic artist in New York and as a free-lance graphic artist in Central New York.

A 20+-year moratorium of her study and pursuit of art was ended when she moved to Savannah with her husband. With more personal time she has renewed her long-retired interest in painting and drawing.

She derives her inspiration from the architecture of the Savannah Historic District, the familiar objects that surround her throughout her home, and the array of plants and flowers found in her Wilmington Island garden.

Says Mary Ellen, "Because of my busy work schedule, I find myself working at various hours of the day and night. Therefore, I work mostly from photographs, but sketch from the "moment" whenever possible. I find that the sketching process helps me to truly explore my subject matter and better understand it. To infuse my pieces with a glow of light, I apply several layers of transparent watercolors. It is a process that takes a great deal of thought and time, but I find it to be very calming and deeply satisfying to my creative urge."

Mary Ellen has won many prizes for her artwork including several from the Georgia Watercolor Society, the Southern Watercolor Society and The Artist's Magazine. In addition, her works are in numerous private collections throughout the United States.

Artwork available for viewing April 1-30, 2014
Art Gallery Reception April 6th, 2-4 pm

New JEA Members

The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset!
(New Members as of 2/5/14-3/7/14)

Christopher Chatham
Daniel & Jennifer Cox
Robert Chvatal & Ross Bolton
Michael & Paulette Faber
Ryan Freeburn
Gregory & Patricia Mitchell
Markus & Liza Niederwanger



JEA Tornadoes Swim Team!

- Registration for the JEA Tornadoes Swim Team begins April 1st
- Practices begin May 19th

To register, visit www.SavannahJEA.org or visit us at the JEA front desk.

Contact Stephanie at stephanie@savj.org or 912-355-8111 for more information.



JEA Preschool Savannah News

April 2014

Enrollment Now Open for Fall 2014!

Early Bird Registration - Register by March 31st and receive \$100 off tuition fees.

Watch for Details about JEA Preschool Savannah Summer Program

To schedule your introductory appointment, contact Jodi Sadler at (912) 355-8111, or email preschool@savj.org. Tuition information and registration forms are available for download online at www.SavannahJEA.org.

JEA Preschool Savannah offers convenient Core Program and Extended Hours:

Core Program: 8:30am – 12:30pm
Extended Hours: 7:00am – 8:30am
12:30pm – 6:00pm

Serving children ages 16 months to 4 years old.

Contact us about our 2 & 3 day-a-week Programs!



Children become little engineers as they pour sand through objects they have arranged on the magnetic sand wall at JEA Preschool Savannah!

Engaging children in a nurturing, safe and inclusive environment, based in Jewish values.

A Look at What is Happening at JEA Preschool Savannah!

Our Preschoolers always have fun while developing their important Gross Motor Skills!

Gross motor skills, which include running, dancing or jumping, and manipulation, such as throwing, catching and kicking, are very important for young children's development. These activities help children to build strong muscles and bones to support their growing bodies. Every game and physical activity is a chance to learn concepts and to practice getting along with others. Gross motor competency can help children move more easily and gain confidence in their abilities. The children at JEA Preschool Savannah can be seen riding trikes, playing with a parachute, hula-hoops and swimming (Ayalim group) as they develop their gross motor skills.



CrossFit with Miss Skye is the best!



How many reps did you say that was?



*The wheels on the bike go round and round;
the pedals on the bike make it go, go, go!*



*Who knew there were so many things to do
with that colorful ring?*

Check it Out!

Children and Pain

None of us like to be in pain – even many adults never get over their fear of needles. We all look for ways of coping when we find ourselves at the doctor's or hospital. Now research has found that distracting children in the doctor's office and ER through music and other techniques are effective ways to help kids deal with pain. (**Link:** <http://wapo.st/1lODhAJ>)

Rambam Happenings



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

As we approach Passover I have taken a moment to reflect and Rambam has accomplished and experienced so much. We had our Ribbon Cutting with over 150 people in attendance on a very cold and dreary day. We had the honor of Rabbi A. Slatos, Rabbi of Bnai Brith Jacob, Rabbi R. Haas, Rabbi of Congregation Mickve Israel, Stephen Greenberg, President of Savannah Jewish Federation, Father Frank, Headmaster of Benedictine Military School, Trey Adams, Assistant Headmaster of St. Andrew's, Amy Pinckney, Assistant Director of Admissions for Savannah Country Day School, all of our students from Pre-K through eighth grade, parents, grandparents and so many friends of Rambam. Everyone warmed up as they joined together in tribute of what this Ribbon Cutting represented. Those present and those who gave of their time, expertise and financial means were all a testimony to the significance and value of Rambam Day School and the Jewish education that it has brought to our community.

Rambam Day School was visited

by Stephen Coleman, Principal of Savannah Country Day School's Upper School, Terri Barfield, Director of Admissions and Amy Pinckney, Assistant Director of Admissions. They came to visit our new campus and converse about all that's happening in both schools.

Loring Wright (Assistant Principal to RDS) and I went to Benedictine Military School upon invitation to visit with multiple individuals on staff; Father Frank, Deborah Antosca, Principal, Stewart Pinkerton, Guidance Counselor and several other faculty members. We conversed about both schools and heard what new and exciting plans BC is looking forward to unfolding. We were invited back to attend the briefings of the RFI and to observe the In-Ranks Inspection. It was an enlightening experience and everyone treated us like we were part of the BC family.

Upon invitation, our eighth grade class (and me) went to visit St. Andrew's to see firsthand what a day in the life of a St. Andrew's student is all about. Their transportation was the St. Andrew's bus with Trey Adams accompanying them. They visited a couple of science classes, ate snacks with the other students, sat in on band practice and string practice (which was amazing) and ate lunch outside with other eighth graders.

Our eighth graders were also given the opportunity to speak with various faculty members and hear about St. Andrew's and ask any questions they might have had.

Rambam has been asked by Melinda Stein and Sherry Dolgoff to present a Holocaust performance at the Savannah Jewish Federation's Yom Hashoah program. Under the direction of Kelly Miley, Director of the Children's Theater (who volunteered to direct the play) our 7th and 8th graders will be presenting the play, "I Remember".

Rambam Day School became licensed by the state of Georgia through Bright from the Start on February 26th. We worked diligently to go through the process and the BFTS representative was most pleased with our facility and all that is occurring in our school.

As I anticipate the Pesach Seder, I am reminded of a story I heard long ago; A young student had been learning in Israel for quite some time and was preparing to leave the Holy Land and return home to the states. Prior to leaving, he very much wanted to receive a blessing from one of the many great Rabbis that reside in Israel. Since many of them speak Yiddish and he was not fluent in the language, he asked one of his teachers to accompany him. While with the great Rabbi, the Rabbi asked the young man in Yiddish, what was he taking with him? The student an-

swered El Al. His teacher realizing he didn't understand what he was being asked translated the Rabbi's question for him. The student then replied, "Two suitcases." The Rabbi still looking at the young man perplexed gave the student cause to rethink what he was being asked. Upon reflection, the young student said, "Everything I have learned." The Rabbi then gave the young man a blessing.

During the period of time when the redemption from slavery took place, we were not there. Our grandparents were not there, not even our great grandparents. Yet, the Haggadah tells us that in every generation, a person must see himself as though he personally went out of Egypt. How can the Haggadah ask this of us? Because those who were there are **our** ancestors. We are their **descendants**. Our ancestors most certainly should be able to trust that we can carry the torch and take all they became when leaving the decadence of Egypt as ours to internalize and make a part of us.

In Rambam Day School, we bring alive for our students all that their ancestors experienced and lived through to shape our people. We impart to our students what an honor and a privilege it is to have the torch passed on to them, and how they in turn must light the way for the generation to follow.

Help Wanted



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

As I am going to host Seder night, I was going through different Hagaddot trying to choose one. A few of those Hagaddot simply started with a long to-do list since celebrating Passover always means "a lot to do and endless steps before getting to the big night."

Obviously, one of the messages of the Passover story is that to gain freedom one must work for it. Adults will clean, shop and cook while getting spiritually ready for those eight days. Children will study about our enslavement in Egypt and Moses leading us through the desert. But is that enough for them to grasp the concept of freedom?

We all want our children to be free: free from worries, free to choose what they'll do in life, etc. But free choices can only be given to a person who acquires enough tools to be able to make those choices.

Passover is another opportunity for our children to gain those tools by involving them as much as we can in the long preparation that precedes the celebration. We all can achieve much more by ourselves than with a young helper, as "children cleaning" is usually an oxymoron, but let's not miss that opportunity.

Whether it is throwing the toys in the bathtub for a good scrub or asking your teen to vacuum the couch, there is always a way to make it work, even with little hands.

As a child, one of my favorite tasks was to check jackets and coat pockets: it was like going on a treasure hunt as I would always find a bracelet or a toy I'd forgotten about.

Cleaning and getting the house ready for Passover is a very meticulous and exhausting process, but it is also another way to demonstrate to our children that to be free one must work at it: sometimes spiritually, sometimes physically and most of the time both.

We all know that children learn by doing: let them do!

When the Seder night finally ar-

rives, children will sit at the table with a bigger sense of accomplishment. Not only did they study about Passover, they also worked with their parents to get ready for it.

Before dinner we'll eat maror (bitter herbs) even though we don't like its bitterness. For eight days we'll swap out bagels and Challah for Matzah, bad trade! But by doing so, we are connecting to our past, a past of 2000 years of work that bought us the freedom and achievements that we are so

proud of. Including our children this way is exactly what the Haggadah means by *vehigateta lebincha*: "you will teach your children," because their learning is their key to freedom!

Wishing you "Pesach Vesameah"

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Growing Gains



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

When one refers to growth at a preschool you immediately think of children and their growth and development. Yes, our children have grown and changed rapidly during these past few months, but that's not all that

is growing and changing.

Due to the steady increase in enrollment the physical environment of JEA Preschool Savannah is expanding so we can accommodate additional children and families. We are expanding our toddler room into two distinct learning spaces and creating a second 2-year old room. We opened in August with twenty six children and currently have thirty eight children enrolled. Not only have we increased in the number of children we are serving but parents have increased the amount of time the children are spending here. What a great vote of confidence for our new, dynamic program.

The children are learning and feel-

ing love and security because of the wonderful experiences our teachers are providing them. They are learning about the world around them through hands on experiences and play. In addition, the beauty and joy of Shabbat and the Jewish holidays are celebrated through songs, stories, and dramatic play!

We also are excited to announce that we will be awarding an \$1800 stipend to Pre K children to offset tuition fees for the 2014-2015 Preschool year. This funding is available through the Alef Fund, the Georgia tax credit program that community members and Preschool families participated in this past year. Please spread the word about this wonderful opportunity for children and families in our community.

I invite each of you to come visit our Preschool or volunteer your time to read, cook or share a personal experience with the children. In addition, you can also join our Ayalim children once a month at the Thursday Lunch Bunch program for songs, arts and crafts, and fun! Come and see for yourself what all of the excitement is about!

Hadassah Presents: OUR THANKS

Thank you for helping our **Hadassah Presents** Campaign.
SINCE 1926,

Savannah Hadassah Chapter has looked to you, our members and community, for support. If you missed your sponsorship or membership opportunity this year, contact Janis Javetz (912-352-4880) to donate.

& Best Wishes for Pesach

Our plate is full of the good works of Hadassah through our Zionist projects, advocacy, education, and our hospital and its cutting edge medical research that impact Israel, American women (and men), and the world.
Join us.



Contact: JWeitz@hadassah.com
For more Information about how you can help:

www.hadassah.org/southeastern
Go to **Savannah** Chapter for calendar updates.



Take a look at the youth scholarships offered by your local Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance for 2014!

Jacob & Ida Ulman College Scholarship Fund

Offered through the Savannah Jewish Federation, this scholarship is given based on need, availability and the applicant's participation in the Savannah Jewish community.

Henry W. Center College Scholarship Fund

Offered through the Jewish Educational Alliance to the families of members in good standing, this scholarship is based on need, availability, and the applicant's scholastic achievement.

Harvey Rubin Memorial Award

Do you know a high school teen who has shown exceptional athletic ability and leadership in the community? How about nominating him or her for the Harvey Rubin Memorial Award? JEA members in good standing are eligible to be nominated.

Savannah Jewish Federation Camp and Teen Experience Scholarships

Planning on going/sending your children to a Jewish overnight camp? Expanding your Jewish IQ? Do you want to make a difference... Then the SJF Camp and Teen Experience Scholarships are for you! Available to SJF members and their families.

Kay Becker Israel Scholarship

Offered through the Jewish Educational Alliance to members in good standing, this scholarship is available to teens for travel to Israel and may be used for peer group travel, gap year programs, Yeshiva attendance or college abroad programs.

Applications are available for download at www.savj.org.

*Confidential applications and nominations must be submitted by **April 19, 2014**.*

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



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Sunday, April 6 at 6pm - \$29/Person

Join us this year as we celebrate both Passover and the contributions of women to our lives on Sunday, April 6 at 6pm! Chef Bryan Graves has planned a wonderful menu for us and will cook for us - a welcome change for a seder. Check out the e-news for further details.

SECOND NIGHT PASSOVER SEDER Tuesday, April 15 at 6pm

Menu: Poached salmon, gefilte fish, chicken soup/matzah balls, matzah stuffing, tzimmes, roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, & dessert.



Members:		Non-Members:	
Adult	\$25	Adult	\$40
Children 5-12	\$10	Children 5-12	\$15
Children under 5	Free	Children under 5	\$5

Seating is limited so make your RSVP today! Call 912-233-1547, ext. 301

Everyone is welcome to join us for our services and events! Sign up for our weekly schedule of events e-mail by contacting kayla@mickveisrael.org, or by texting CMI to 42828. For more information or to RSVP to an event: call 912.233.1547 or visit mickveisrael.org

April Services

- Friday, April 4** - Friday Night Fever Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6pm followed an Oneg.
- Saturday, April 5** - Shabbat Morning Service, 11am.
- Friday, April 11** - 6pm Family Dinner followed by 7pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service.
- Saturday, April 12** - Shabbat Morning Service, 11am.
- Friday, April 18** - Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Julie Hirsch & the Mickve Israel Choir, 6pm.
- Saturday, April 19** - Shabbat Morning Service, 11am.
- Friday, April 25** - Federation Community Shabbaton - Yom HaShoah (No Service at CMI)
- Saturday, April 26** - Shabbat Morning Service, 11am.

* We will be closed on Tuesday, April 15 & Monday, April 21 for Passover.

Educational Opportunities

In-Depth Judaism at 9:15am & Torah Study following Kiddush Lunch on April 5, 12, 19, & 26.

It's a Funny Thing



Melinda Stein

A five-year-old daughter excitedly greeted her mother: "Guess what we did in Hebrew school today, Mommy? We got to make unleaded bread!"

Older Brother: "Hooray! G-d has freed us from Egypt!! I'm free, I'm free!"

Younger Brother: "So what? I'm four!"

Four alternative questions at the Seder

1. Can we *eat*?
2. Do we eat *now*?
3. *When* will we eat?
4. Will we *ever* eat?

A boy returns from Hebrew School and tells his father, "Daddy, The Rabbi explained to us how the Jews got out of Egypt."

The father asks, "How?"

Son replies, "Well, Moses was a big strong man and he beat Pharaoh up. Then he got all the people together and they ran towards the sea. When they got there, Moses has the Corps of Engineers build a huge pontoon bridge. Once they got on the other side, they blew up the bridge while the Egyptians were trying to cross."

Father: "The Rabbi told you *that*?"

Son: "No, but you'd never believe the story he DID tell us!"

A youngster is praying when a stranger passes by. The man asks the boy why he is praying. The boy says that he prays because G-d helped the Jews cross the Red Sea.

The man says, "Son, don't you know that the Red Sea was only about 10 inches deep when the Hebrews left Egypt, so there was no miracle at all?"

The boy continues praying. When the man asks the boy why, he replies, "It's a miracle that an army of Egyptians could drown in only 10 inches of water!"

The Israelites are camped in front of the Red Sea. They see the Egyptian chariots approaching. Moses turns to his Public Relations guy.

Moses: "Nu, where are those boats I told you to order?"

PR Guy: "Boats? I don't remember anything about boats. Unleavened flour, yes. Boats, no."

Moses: "So what do you want I should do now? Part the waters and maybe we can all just walk across?"

PR Guy: "If you can swing that, I can guarantee you your own chapter in the Bible!"

Did you hear about the latest form of Jewish observance, called Cardiac Judaism? It's for the individual who says, "Well, in my heart I am a Jew."

A Happy Pesach to All!

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Rabbi Ruven Barkan

For further information contact us at 912-352-4737, or email us at agudatha@aol.com

Join us for Post-Passover Pizza Party



Thursday,
April 24,
2014
at 6 p.m.
following
Minyan

*The Families of
Congregation Agudath Achim
wish you a
Happy and Joyful Passover*

Join us for
Friday Night dinner
celebrating Israel's
Independence Day
May 6th
following
Minyan



SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday 9:15 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon
Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm, Monday & Thursday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm
Tuesday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm
Friday Shacharit 7:00 am & Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 pm

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Edith Gale Schafman
Who died March 7, 2014

She is survived by her daughters
Gail (Bob) Kaplan of Savannah and
Natalie Weinman of Longwood, FL.

Beatrice Heyman Goodman
Who died March 4, 2014

She is survived by her sons, Lloyd
S. (Sandra) Goodman of Savannah
and Michael E. (Audrey) Goodman
of Glenrock, NJ; four grandchildren;

four great-grandchildren; one sister
Lillian (Walter) Lowe of Savannah,
and numerous nieces and nephews.
She was preceded in death by her
husband, Abe, and her sister, Dorothy
Rotkow.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai
Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Sa-
vannah 31405 or the Jewish Educa-
tional Alliance, 5111 Abercorn St., Sa-
vannah 31405.

Claire Laubgross
Who died March 2, 2014

She is survived by her sister, Mari-
lyn (Edwin) Bronstein of Savannah.



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ARCHIVES



JOH 003, ORAL HISTORIES

ETHYL (RICHMAN) ROSENZWEIG

March 1997

“As a child we used to go to the Hodgson Hall, it was called. It was the library which now is the Historical Library, on the corner of Gaston and Whitaker. We used to go there to get out our books. We used to go there all the time, and we walked everywhere we had to go. My parents did not have an automobile and we walked. We used to go on hikes with the girls, I remember, with my friends, on Sundays. We would hike from the JEA (the Jewish Alliance) to Thunderbolt, take lunch with us. We did that all the time. . . . My parents used to go to all those things at the Alliance, too, in the evening because they were interested in lectures. My father particularly. They went to everything that was at the Alliance.”

The archives holds an excellent collection of oral histories. Each month we will showcase an excerpt from one. Other excerpts appear in our publication, *Voices of Savannah*. Questions, comments?

Please contact archivist, Katharine Rapkin at 912-651-2125 or at rapkin@georgiahistory.com

The Savannah Jewish Archives will soon launch a new website. We are very excited to share more broadly the collections and resources of the archives. Thank you for your continued support and readership, and please stay tuned for the upcoming reveal!

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JULY 14th-18th

COLOR WAR (MACABBI GAMES)
JUNE 23rd-27th

GLEE WEEK:DYNASTY OF DANCE
JULY 21st-25th

YOSHI ISLAND
JUNE 30th-JULY 3rd

HOLIDAY BONANZA
JULY 28th-AUGUST 1st

