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Israeli Ambassador to Speak

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Local Author to Read

from her novels. Diane Michael Cantor will read from her debut novel, *The Poisoned Table*, as well as from her soon-to-be-released book, Thursday, April 14th; p6.

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In Savannah's days of yore there were those who were considered *Alliance people* and others who were considered *Federation people* and "never the twain shall meet." (We don't really think Rudyard Kipling was thinking about the Federation and JEA.)

The two community organizations have very distinct Mission Statements (*read both mission statements to the right*).

Some of the "old-timers" told me that the way they looked at things was "the Federation raised and allocated the money and the JEA did the programs for the community." As recently as a decade ago, there were individual administrators for each organization. Some people called the Small Board Room the JEA Board Room and the Large Board Room was the Federation's. In looking at some of the records of the organizations there were not a lot of people who were on both boards... their constituencies were different.

Yet, over the past decade the lines have blurred. What was the Federation Jewish Film Festival has now become a joint program of both organizations... and there are dozens of other examples. At the same time, some programs are distinctly one organization's: Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance, PJ Library, Food for Thought are all Federation programs, yet, they all take place (for the most part) at the JEA with support of JEA staff. And then there are signature JEA programs like the Chanukah Party and Shabbatons... yet, they have significant Federation tie-in.

And, of course, there is the staff. So many of our employees are "shared employees." One day they are running a JEA program, the next, a Federation program. You have to have a "split personality" to work for the Savannah Jewish community.

The "blurring of the lines" probably has a lot to do with the many people who have led the individual organizations. In reviewing the roster of presidents, it's amazing to see the names of those who have guided both organizations: Harry Friedman, Raymond Rosen, William Wexler,

Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

- To coordinate, facilitate and make more effective the functioning of all Savannah Jewish Communal life; to encourage and support social, recreational, religious, benevolent, philanthropic, educational and cultural activities among organizations, the individual members thereof; and to be constituted and governed in a manner that will exemplify, foster and preserve the principles of the Jewish heritage and American democracy.
- To raise, collect and distribute funds to local, national and overseas causes, for the purpose of advancing the welfare of the total Jewish community, either directly or through presently existing or subsequently established agencies.
- To preserve the civil, political, economic and religious rights of all Jews wherever they may be, whenever and wherever such rights may be in jeopardy, either directly or through presently existing or subsequently established agencies.
- To further the development of an articulate, intelligent and constructive Jewish community.
- To promote mutual understanding with the community at large and, to that end, use means that are democratic and representative of the wishes of the Jewish community.
- To encourage the amicable adjustment of differences between individuals and organizations by providing the appropriate machinery for conciliation and arbitration.

Jewish Educational Alliance Mission Statement

The mission of Jewish Educational Alliance shall be to promote the mental, moral and physical welfare of its members, to preserve cultural and spiritual values and to work for the best interest of the Jewish and general community by:

- Developing and conducting a comprehensive program of guided leisure time activities utilizing the skills and method of group work, informal education and recreation, and aimed at helping individuals to achieve an affirmative identification with Jewish life and a deep appreciation of their responsibilities as citizens of the United States.
- Serving as the meeting place for the entire Jewish and general Savannah Community and cooperating with all groups concerned with enriching community life.
- Cooperating with other civic bodies in advancing the welfare of the entire community and in furthering the democratic way of life.

100 Days of ImpACT

2016 ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Savannah Jewish Federation

2016 SJF Community Campaign Update

\$1,036,031

As of March 9th, 2016 from 640 donors

continued on page 04



Have a joyous Passover. And share what it means to you.
#PassoverPublix

Jewish War Veterans 120th Anniversary Dinner March 13, 2016



(l-r) Command Sergeant Major Mike Dove of the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, Morris Lamhut, Frank Katz, Colonel Jeffrey Becker



Marvin Rappaport, still snappy in his dress whites, with his wife, Norma



Herman Cranman, an airman shot down and held as a POW by the Germans in WWII; with his daughter, Lynn Reeves



Keynote speaker
Colonel Jeffrey Becker
Commander,
3rd Combat Aviation
Brigade



Volunteers who served dinner to those who served



(l-r) Frank Katz, Commander of JWV Post 320; Jamie Cahn, Post Adjutant; AJ Haysman, Post Vice Commander; Ed Wexler, Colonel, USAF (Ret.), JWV steering committee

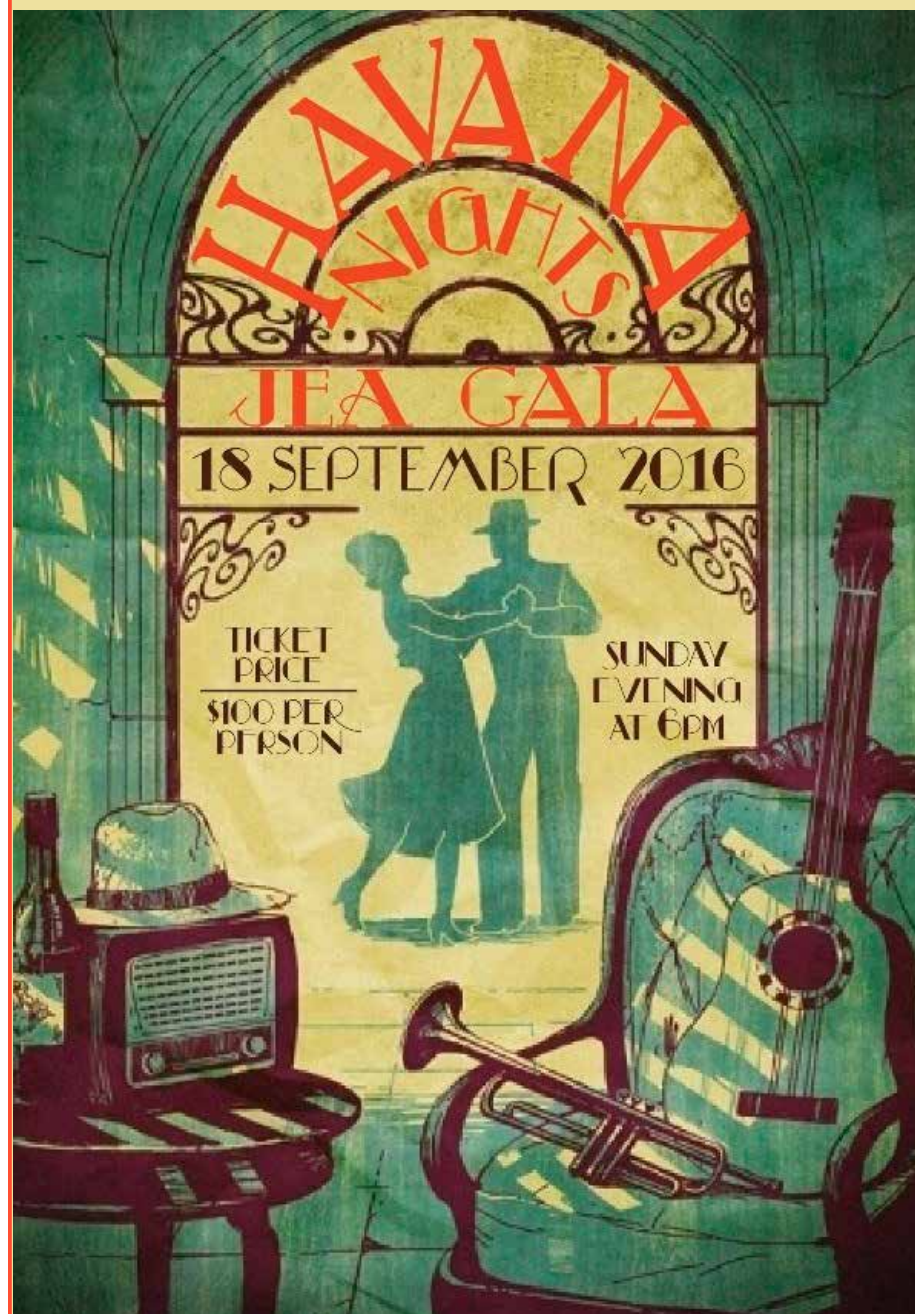
Jewish War Veterans 120th Anniversary Dinner March 13, 2016

More than 130 people, veterans and their guests, attended the dinner held at the JEA on March 13th to honor the 120th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish War Veterans. Jewish veterans of every war since World War II, including the Korean, Vietnam and recent Gulf wars, along with members of the military on active duty, were in attendance.

The Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish Educational Alliance are proud to partner with local Post 320 to honor the Jewish War Veterans on this momentous occasion and to help raise awareness of the local Post and its activities.

If you are a veteran of any branch of service and would like to join JWV Post 320, please fill out an application at www.savj.org or contact Post Commander Frank Katz at fhkatz@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE



Join us September 18, 2016, for a sultry summer night of romance and intrigue, dining and dancing at the annual JEA Gala, "Havana Nights." Enjoy Mojitos and tapas followed by a family-style, Cuban-themed dinner and dessert bar.

For more information or to get involved, contact Anna Berwitz, anna@savj.org.

Israeli Ambassador to Speak

Jewish National Fund (JNF) and the Savannah Jewish Federation will host Israeli Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York, on Sunday, April 17, at 10am at the JEA. Ambassador Aharoni will present a briefing on "Israel's global position and its impact on the local scene."

Aharoni's address is part of a 90-minute session that will begin with an informal breakfast. The breakfast is free but reservations are required. Call the JEA at (912) 355-8111 to RSVP *no later than Thursday, April 14*.

Ambassador Ido Aharoni is arguably the most dynamic and influential Israeli leader in the United States. He is known for his passionate story-telling, insightful commentary and frank view of the world. Aharoni is a frequent speaker in his home base of the New York tri-state area as well as communities around the country. He is an ardent supporter of JNF's vision for Israel and is especially proud to partner with the organization's Positively Israel marketing and strategic positioning.

Ido Aharoni has served as Consul General of Israel in New York since February 2011 where he represents the State of Israel in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Aharoni has

held numerous governmental positions and has been a member of Israel's Foreign Service since 1991, holding overseas positions in Los Angeles and New York. He served in the Israel Defense Forces during the first Lebanon war and recently retired from military reserves as a Major (Ret) at the age of 48. He is married to Julie Goodman-Aharoni, a native of Los Angeles; they have three children.

JNF began in 1901 as a dream and vision to reestablish a homeland in

Israel for Jewish people everywhere. Jews the world over collected coins in iconic JNF Blue Boxes, purchasing land and planting trees until ultimately, their dream of a Jewish homeland was a reality. JNF strives to bring an enhanced quality of life to all of Israel's residents, and

to translate these advancements to the world beyond. JNF is greening the desert with millions of trees, building thousands of parks, creating new communities and cities for generations of Israelis to call home, bolstering Israel's water supply, helping develop innovative arid-agriculture techniques, and educating both young and old about the founding and importance of Israel and Zionism.



Ambassador Ido Aharoni

Unique Bond.....from pg 1

Don Kole, Norton Melaver, Murray Arkin, Aaron Levy, Paul Kulbersh, Jeffrey Lasky, Steve Greenberg, and Joel Greenberg: eleven men who stepped up for the good of the community. Each of them brought another organization's challenges and sensibilities to the other.

In addition to this special group who has presided over both organizations, the men and women who serve as presidents of the Federation and JEA also commit to serve on each other's Board during their terms of leadership. It is a tremendous service to our community that furthers the special relationship.

And the result of all of this "cross pollination" is that there is a very

unique event on our community calendar. Each year, the Boards of the JEA and Federation convene for an annual Joint Board Meeting. Everything is *on the table*: minutes, financials, committee reports. Everything is shared. It is part of our communal structure that each board recognizes the unique work done by the other and intimately learns about each other's challenges, successes, and vision.

We will be meeting all together this month for our annual review and look to the future. While others might go their separate ways, it's pretty special that we maintain this unique bond.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

We gratefully acknowledge your generous contribution to the Friends of Israel Scouts Inc. – Tzofim.

As a result of your generosity, we will continue to touch the lives of more Israeli youth, help the less fortunate, and continue to link the Diaspora to the land of Israel.

On behalf of the Tzofim Organization, both in the United States and Israel, we thank you for your generous support and commitment. We appreciate your support and cherish your friendship.

B'shalom,

Elad Sanderovich, Executive Director
Friends of Israel Scouts, Inc. – Tzofim

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

Thank you for your gift to American Jewish World Service in honor of Ruth Messinger.

As you may know, the Hebrew word commonly translated as "charity" — *tzedakah* — actually has a much deeper meaning. The root of *tzedakah* is *tzedek*, which means justice and reflects the Jewish tradition's view of right and wrong, fairness, and social responsibility. Inspired by Judaism's commitment to justice, American Jewish World Service works to realize human rights and end poverty in the developing world. What an appropriate way to honor Ruth!

With warm wishes,

Rona Peligal, V.P., Development
American Jewish World Service

Savannah Jewish News

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SJF President: **Sherry Dolgoff**
SJF President-elect: **Allan Ratner**
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SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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



**SUNDAY
APRIL 17th
10am — JEA**

Ambassador Ido Aharoni

**Consul General of Israel
New York**

**Complementary breakfast served
RSVP to (912) 355-8111 by April 14**



Celebrating a Simcha?

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, engagements, weddings, births

We want to know!

**Share your good news
with the Savannah Jewish News**

Send the vital statistics to sjnews@savj.org

You've Got to Be Carefully Taught

The 1949 Oscar Hammerstein lyrics to a melody Richard Rogers composed for the stage play, *South Pacific*, bring to light how prejudice is passed from generation to generation. The words to that song still resonate today, perhaps even more so now because the world seems smaller and more interconnected on so many levels.

When I was a child, it was not possible to immediately learn what was happening in places in other parts of the country, let alone on the other side of the world. That might have been a good thing as some of the news today is quite disturbing and we hear about it quickly or instantaneously and oftentimes with extensive details and graphic images.

Despite that, I believe it is important that parents and teachers discuss with their children some of the real world problems. Of course, this must be done with care and sensitivity and with age-appropriate language and information. Yes, some kids are too young and we don't want to make them afraid, while others may already suffer from anxiety issues and we certainly don't want to add to their stress or exacerbate it! So, occasionally there are good reasons not to mention these things or to try to conceal them, but generally I would not recommend that. As kids get older they are likely to hear about things troubling things in the world, whether they are discussed in school or elsewhere, even if just amongst their peers. Or, sadly, in some cases, there may be no awareness of the issues and little to no mainstream media attention provided.

What I have on my mind are the deadly stabbing attacks that have taken place against Jews in Israel over the last year, and the rise of anti-Semitism and violence against Jews in Europe. These very complex topics, along with those of Israeli security and the Middle East Conflict, are entrenched in history, politics and religion.

These are issues which many adults, too, are struggling with, grappling to understand why they are happening (again) and how best to resolve things. The stabbings in Israel and the rise of anti-Semitism are real concerns that are rarely addressed in a classroom. Truthfully, I wouldn't want just anyone to dis-

cuss these tenuous situations with my children if they were still young. But as Jews we need to be honest not only about what is happening, but what these actions say about injustice that is unprovoked and unconscionable. We know too well that silence only encourages this horrific behavior.

The media choose what to report and with what emphasis. Very little has been said about how young children are encouraged to take knives and kill Jews wherever they can find them. One of the questions I have about these incidents is where is the outcry from the people of the world? How can we be comfortable teaching our children to stand up for others but not to do so when Israelis are under attack? When Jews are attacked on the streets of Israel because they are Jews, it is as if Jewish people everywhere are under attack. Same for the streets of Paris or elsewhere in Europe.

Children simply do not intrinsically hate other children. Put a group of children on a playground and even if they don't know one another, they happily play together. I have seen it happen for years. It is primarily when adults come into the picture that there may be a change in attitude. Please talk to your children about respecting others, appreciating diversity and standing up for what is right. Knowledge is power.

During my teaching career I was always making a point of teachable moments. This is one of "those" moments.

"You've Got To Be Carefully Taught"

You've got to be taught
To hate and fear,
You've got to be taught from year to year.
It's got to be drummed in your dear little ear
You've got to be carefully taught.
You've got to be taught to be afraid,
Of people whose eyes are oddly made,
And people whose skin is a different shade
You've got to be carefully taught.
You've got to be taught before it's too late,
Before you are six or seven or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives hate,
You've got to be carefully taught.
You've got to be taught before it's too late,
Before you are six or seven or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives hate,
You've got to be carefully taught.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

I recently read an article online, "Welcoming More Families into Jewish Life through Early Childhood Education Programs," about a "new research program exploring how Jewish early childhood education can serve as a gateway for greater and long-term involvement in Jewish life." A three-year research program "will focus especially on better understanding opportunities around interfaith families and families that are not currently involved in a synagogue or other Jewish institution."

Lisa Farber Miller of Denver's Rose Community Foundation stated, "We know that these are formative years of a child's development of cognition, personality, and identity—including religious identity—and that this is an opportunity to engage parents and siblings in Jewish life."

Dr. Michael Feuer, co-chair of the CASJE (Consortium for Applied Studies in Jewish Education) board and dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development at The George Washington University went on to state, "Improved and enriched ECE may be an important strategy for reinforcing Jewish life in our diverse communities."

Findings of existing Jewish ECE studies show that "when children enjoy Jewish learning and rituals at school, they bring them home, introducing them to the entire family. Studies also show that parents in their 20s, 30s, and 40s who choose Jewish preschools in part do so because they seek a network of other Jewish parents with whom they can build community. And parents who form Jewish peer groups through their child's ECE center are more likely to be actively engaged in Jewish life in the future."

When I sent out a copy of this article to JEA and Federation Board members, one of them wrote back to me, "We see it, we know it, but it sure looks good to read it in print." No truer words could have been shared.

In the 2009 Savannah Jewish Community Strategic Plan Committee recommendations one of the stated goals was that we "must engage 20-45

It Sure Looks Good to Read it in Print

year-old Jews. Preschool/Aftercare is next point of contact with the community..." And with that recommendation, the Jewish Educational Alliance spent a year developing a "premier Early Childhood Center." Our three-year goal was to have 70 children enrolled. We surpassed that number in Year II. Our program is nearly sold out for next year with waiting lists already established in two of the four age groups; each and every family is a supporter and member of the JEA.

And what has been the result? The addition of the families has had an enormous effect on the JEA finances, enrollment, participation, and culture.

Had we only added 65 new family members? *Dayenu*

Had only 10 of those families become Governors/Directors at the Federation/JEA? *Dayenu*

"Studies also show that parents in their 20s, 30s, and 40s who choose Jewish preschools in part do so because they seek a network of other Jewish parents with whom they can build community."

Had swim lessons, Saturday Night Out, and team sports had only a 30% increase in participation? *Dayenu*

Had we engaged dozens of older siblings in Camp, Days at the JEA, and Vaca-

tion Camps? *Dayenu*

Had we had only 14 new PJ Library enrollees in the last year from Preschool families? *Dayenu*

Whether it be the families who celebrate Shabbat each week since experiencing it at the Preschool, the introduction of Havdalah, or bringing home a challah on Friday evening, the Savannah JEA Preschool is transforming a generation of Savannahians.

Over and over again we have heard stories about young families joining area synagogues, new relationships being formed, and lifestyles changing; all through their association and participation in JEA Preschool Savannah.

Sitting around the table six years ago, our "best case scenario" was that we would create a new portal for young families to enter into the Jewish community.

Six years ago our brightest dream looks just like what we have today.



Weekly Shabbat observance at
JEA Preschool Savannah

Author to Share Tales

Local author Diane Michael Cantor will read from *The Poisoned Table*, her debut novel, at the JEA on Thursday, April 14th, at 7pm. Taking place before the Civil War, this work of historical fiction weaves the stories of real-life Georgia plantation owner Pierce Butler and his wife, Shakespearean stage sensation Frances Anne “Fanny” Kemble, with those of the fictional actress Isabel Graves and her circle.

Diane Cantor grew up in Atlanta, but has lived much of her adult life in Savannah. She studied creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College with noted writer Grace Paley and poet Jane Cooper. In the mid-1990s, the *Savannah Morning News* published her serial, *The Teen Side of Town*. Cantor is a former president of the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education. She has been nominated in the First Novel category for the 52nd Georgia Author of the Year Awards to be given by the Georgia Writers’ Association in June, 2016.

The Poisoned Table is a tale of ambition, romance, and betrayal, centered on a passionate rivalry between Isabel Graves and Fanny Kemble. The novel traces their unconnected adventures and acting careers in the Old and New Worlds, as well as their introduction to the horrors of American slavery and to romance with Butler, one of the wealthiest men in America, an owner of cotton and rice plantations and master of more than 800 slaves.

Kemble, an ardent abolitionist, marries Butler before she discovers his wealth derives solely from slave labor. Though glad to be separated from plantation life at her husband’s Philadelphia home, Kemble agrees to accompany him on his annual visit



Diane Michael Cantor

to inspect his Georgia investments. Butler assures his wife her apprehensions about slavery will be assuaged once she sees firsthand its humane daily operation. Instead, she is sickened and chronicles her visit in *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1838–1839*. This account, published in England in 1863, is sometimes credited with dissuading Britain from aiding the Confederacy.

Within the novel is a play written by Graves’ lover. Set on a slave plantation, the plot portrays a dinner at the master’s table and the poisonous conditions which produce its bounty, resulting in an attempted murder. In the controversy following the play’s opening night, Kemble and Graves are again at odds, and their rivalry continues as they change places on the stage of theater and of life.

Cantor also will read, for the first time to an audience, from her upcoming novel *When Nighttime Shadows Fall*, which traces the lives of pregnant teenagers and their families in Appalachian Georgia in the early 1970s when prenatal care was unavailable to the poor and the uninsured.

The Poisoned Table
Mercer University Press | 376pp | \$18 paper;
\$12 e-book

Vital Statistics

WED: Jules Meryl Shelkoff and Max Ryan Rosenberg were married on December 20, 2015, at the Nessmith Lane Conference Center at Georgia Southern University with Rabbi Moshe Silberschein officiating. Jules is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Jeffrey Shelkoff of Statesboro, Georgia, and the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Shelkoff and the late Mr. and Mrs. Norman Shved. Max is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rosenberg of Marietta, Georgia, and the grandson of Mrs. Claire Rosenberg of Orlando, Florida, and the late Mr. Jack Rosenberg and the late Mr. and Mrs. Philip Silver.

The bride chose her sister, Cari Shelkoff Steckel, as her matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Naomi Benveniste, Sarah Cobb, Alexandra Lefitz, friends of the bride and Kayli Rosenberg, sister of the groom.

The groom chose Perry Birbrager, friend of the groom, as his best man. Groomsmen were Justin Blake, Michael Jacobs, Ryan Rosenfeld and Zac Tanenbaum, also friends of the groom.

The flowers girls were Hailey Shaffer and Isabella Shaffer, cousins of

the bride.

After a Caribbean cruise honeymoon, the couple resides in Dunwoody, Georgia.

BIRTH: Mazel tov to Barbara and Ricky Friedenber g on the birth of their grandson, Joshua Berliss Rubinstein, born to Erin and Jordan Rubinstein of Atlanta; and to the grandparents, Karen Rubinstein of Aventura, Florida and Jeffrey Rubinstein of Pinecrest, Florida; to the great-grandparents, Pearl and Louis Friedenberg of Savannah and Elaine Dreizin of Macon, Georgia.

Joshua also is the great grandson of Ike Dreizin of Macon, Diane and Louis Fine, of Miami, and Tina and Frank Rubinstein of Palm Beach, Florida, all of blessed memory.





Do you love to write?

If so we're looking for you! The Savannah Jewish News is seeking **VOLUNTEER WRITERS** to cover stories of interest to the Savannah Jewish community. If interested, send an e-mail to sjnews@savj.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Concert

**Sunday
May 22, 2016
2pm**

*Sponsored by the
Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy
Memorial Fund*







Downtown 912.233.1163 • Oglethorpe Mall 912.238.2120
St. Johns Town Center, Jacksonville 904.527.2643
levyjewelers.com

Four Questions for the rest of the year



Rabbi Matthew Dreffin

Rabbi Matthew Dreffin is Associate Director of Education at the Goldring/Wolden-

berg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) in Jackson, MS. Together with Rabbi Jeremy Simons, Director of Rabbinic Services at ISJL, Rabbi Dreffin conducts an annual Passover Pilgrimage through the rural South, visiting small Jewish communities and leading Seders and services throughout the holiday of Passover.

Rabbi Dreffin is a native of Florida who spent his summers growing up at URJ Camp Coleman in Cleveland, GA. He has a B.A. in Studio Arts from Tulane University and Masters' in Hebrew Letters and Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in California. He is married to Erica Weil of Montgomery, AL.

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL.org) promotes Judaism and heritage through innovative programs and shared resources. The ISJL's six departments — Community Engagement, Education, History, Museum, Programming, and Rabbinic Services — serve thirteen states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. It promotes itself as "transformational, trans-denominational, and committed to serving Jewish communities of all sizes."

We spoke with Rabbi Dreffin as he was preparing for his third Passover Pilgrimage:

Please give us a brief history and outline of ISJL's Passover Pilgrimage.

The genesis of it starts where all good Jewish things do, in Israel. Some of the Hebrew Union College rabbinic students there for their first year do a program called the FSU (Former Soviet Union) Pesach Project. You are buddied up and head off to small communities in the FSU to conduct Seders. For many people, it becomes the highlight of the year or even their entire student experience. So Rabbi Klaven [the previous director of Rabbinic Services at ISJL] wanted to start something like

that here. The holidays, especially Passover, are when we are most requested as Rabbis. Part of the reason I was hired for my position was that I would participate in the Passover Pilgrimage every year. So in a sense, we are mimicking the wandering in the desert (not that the South is a desert) by conducting this pilgrimage on one of the pilgrimage holidays. Sometimes a rabbi on sabbatical or who is retired will join us, too. It began in 2010 with a single person. This year we are scheduled to travel just shy of a total 4,000 miles. I believe Rabbi Simons stops in eight communities and I will stop in nine from April 22-April 30. Every night each of us will be in a different city. We will have a debriefing shortly after we return, take a breath and then start planning next year's calendar in July and August.

Tell us about the communities you visit.

We only visit communities without full-time rabbinic leadership. Some may have a part-time rabbi who is not available to them during the holiday. One of my favorite places is the Upper Cumberland Jewish Community in Crossville, Tennessee. They're a community of retirees, a lot of them 'half-backers,' people who moved to Florida but it was too hot or too expensive so they came halfway-back to their kids in Chicago. There are only about 20-22 in the Jewish community so they don't have their own building and cooperate with the local Presbyterian church. They end up with a Seder for over 120 people because they allow the church members to opt in; they are interested in learning about the holiday. We find that in many of the communities we serve the Seders become popular interfaith programs. But not every community will have a Seder; some have text studies and some have other types of services.

What was one of your most memorable Pilgrimage experiences?

It's one of my favorite times of the year and one of the most stressful. I usually get sick before or after the pilgrimage. I'm always glad and relieved when it's over, but then I find myself looking forward to the next one. I think one of the best moments may have been in Fayetteville, Georgia, last year. They fully embraced



Scheduling map for Rabbi Dreffin and Rabbi Simons for the 2016 ISJL Passover Pilgrimage

making it kid-friendly and dressing up — almost like Purim but without the wackiness. The redemption is a serious thing, but it's not meant to be dull and boring. I rewrote some popular songs with alternative lyrics and everyone was into singing them. It was a great evening; we were all caught up in the emotion and fervor.

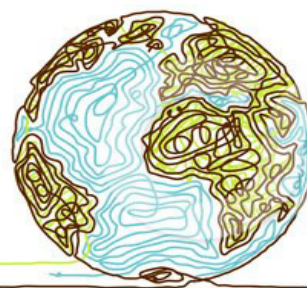
Tell us something about yourself, how does an artist become a rabbi?

I went to Jewish summer camp for a long time and as a youth I was very involved in my synagogue and people kept telling me I should become a rabbi. So of course I tended to look for something in a totally different direction and went to school to become an artist. I got a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in glass blowing. But living in New Orleans post-Katrina I became very dissatisfied because even though I loved working with the materials and loved New Orleans, I just felt like I was using

natural resources to make a buck making tchotchkes for tourists.

I realized I didn't need a doctorate to be an artist, but if I ever was going to be a rabbi, I needed to go to school. So I did, and like one of my heroes, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., grounded my faith in texts. When it came time for me to be ordained, this position became available where I can be involved in not just one Southern synagogue, but many. I haven't given up on art — I used it in my thesis and I have a studio for metal fabrication and woodworking in the back of my house in Jackson.

Note: ISJL would like to expand the coverage area of the Passover Pilgrimage (especially in Texas, Oklahoma, South Carolina & Virginia), but Rabbis Dreffin and Simons can visit only so many communities. If you know of rabbinic interns, retired rabbis or rabbis on sabbatical who might be interested in joining them on the Pilgrimage, have them contact Rabbi Jeremy Simons at ISJL, jsimons@isjl.org or (601) 362-6357.



Time to Recommend Overseas Investment Grants

Previous recipients include: American Friends of Magan David Adom; American Jewish World Service; Atlit Ma'apalim Detention Camp; HIAS; IsraAID; Jewish Cuba Connection; Mir Yeshiva; and many more.

As part of its Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation instituted the Overseas Investment Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 mini-grants, with up to 20 being approved each year.

All members of the Savannah Jewish Federation are invited to submit recommendations for the agencies to receive grants next year.

Recommendations may be made online at www.savj.org.

Deadline is May 15, 2016!



I on Israel

Passover in Israel

Pesach, or Passover, is considered one of the three 'pilgrimage' holidays, along with *Sukkot* and *Shavuot*, so called because these are the holidays that during ancient times all the Jewish people would go to Jerusalem to offer animal and grain sacrifices at the Holy Temple. Of course, since the destruction of the Temple, the traditions of the pilgrimage and sacrifices have been lost, but others remain or have taken their places.

Pesach lasts for seven days in Israel and is observed with only one Seder on the first night. The first and last days of the holiday are holy days when most Israeli businesses are closed; during the intermediate days (*chol ha-mo'ed*) many businesses open only in the morning. Israeli schools also use the holiday as a vacation period.

It had been that most Israeli restaurants observed the kosher food

laws of Passover, either offering 'kosher for *Pesach*' alternatives to 'regular' foods or simply closing for annual vacations during the holiday to avoid having to make their premises kosher for *Pesach*. But recently, restaurants in Tel Aviv and other communities with less observant populations have begun to relax their standards and one can find establishments that serve bread, cakes and pasta.

Israel remains a popular destination during Passover, despite the facts that hotels are unusually expensive during this time — they say they need to raise prices to cover the costs of additional staff and koshering their kitchens for Passover — and tourist sites are extremely crowded as many Israelis are vacationing then, also.

Mimouna

An increasingly popular obser-

vance in Israel (and even starting to catch on some places here in the U.S.) is *Mimouna*, a celebration on the evening of the last day of Passover. A tradition of Jews of North African, particularly Moroccan descent, the origin of *Mimouna* is not clear, but it is usually associated with the anniversary of the death of Rabbi Maimon ben Abraham, the father of Rabbi Moses Maimonides (Rambam).

On that night, in neighborhoods where there is a large concentration of Moroccan Jews, people go from house-to-house visiting friends and relatives. The celebrations often last into the wee hours and continue the next day with picnics and large gatherings. They are highlighted by festive meals featuring couscous, jams, nuts, seeds and lots of sweets.

The star of the *Mimouna* food table is the traditional *Mufleta* (not to



Prime Minister Benjamin & Sara Netanyahu accept a plate of mufleta at a Mimouna celebration

be confused with the New Orleans muffuletta). The mufleta is a tasty treat prepared with flour and yeast that the celebrants rush out to buy the minute Passover ends — the women then prepare a dough that is spread in flat circles, fried in butter and served with honey.

Mimouna now is so popular in Israel that politicians use the festivities to curry favor with constituents and businesses are required to grant unpaid leave to anyone wishing to observe the holiday.

Farm Phresh

An Israeli technologist, working with a Chinese-based company, has developed Kitchen Heroes, a new way to keep fruits and vegetables from spoiling. Amit Gal-Or, CEO of Phresh Organics, says that their new product, made from all-natural essential oils, can keep produce fresh, with vitamins preserved, for as long as one month.

Kitchen Heroes use sachets filled with organic powder made using patented microencapsulation of natural volatile compounds and botanical oils. The powder does not have to be applied directly onto food nor is there any residue. Gal-Or told *The Times of Israel*, "The powders can work in any vessel, even a plastic bag, but we did a lot of research and we found that consumers are interested in an experience, not just results — so we decided to market the powders together with our decorative containers." The containers have LED indicators showing when the sachets need to be replaced.

The Kitchen Heroes are being manufactured in China, but all of the research and development is being done in Israel. The process has tak-



Kitchen Heroes

en 12 years thus far, using extracts of plants which act as natural preservatives — oregano, spearmint, mustard, and others. Cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants, apples, lemons, lettuce, grapes, mushrooms, strawberries and peppers currently benefit from the product; protection for more fruits and vegetables should be added soon. The company also is planning to develop products to keep other things fresh, such as flowers and cosmetics.

Initially, Phresh is marketing the system through a Kickstarter campaign; a single Kitchen Hero with 12 sachets (enough for one year) is valued at \$30; various packaging options were available. The items are scheduled to begin shipping in August. As of this writing, the company was just shy of its \$20,000 goal with 20 days to go.

Ice Broken on Organ Banking

After decades of studies, scientists believe a breakthrough in preserving body organs to save lives is close at hand.

A heart or lung is viable for transplantation for only six hours before deterioration begins. A pancreas or liver goes to waste after 12 hours in storage, and a kidney can be kept outside the body for less than 30 hours. These time constraints pose tremendous logistical challenges when transplanting donated organs. Transplantation stands the best chance to succeed when performed as quickly as possible after donor surgery, and given these time frames, many organs end up wasted.

One of the main problems for storing organs for more than a few hours is ice growth. When organs are frozen, expanding ice crystals can damage them to the point they no longer are viable. Therefore, once removed from a donor, an organ is only kept cooled but not frozen, and its lifespan is not longer than several hours.

"The ability to freeze organs and then thaw them without causing damage to the organ itself would



Professor Ido Braslavsky

be revolutionary in terms of our chances to save lives," says Prof. Ido Braslavsky of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Perfecting cryopreservation — the process of preserving cells, tissues and organs in sub-zero temperatures — would enable long-term banking of tissues and organs and efficient matching between donor and patient, eventually saving lives of millions of lives around the world.

Braslavsky and his team, and in collaboration with Prof. Peter Davies from Queens University in Canada, study antifreeze proteins — ice-binding proteins that help organisms resist or withstand freezing in sea and on land.

Ice-binding proteins were dis-

continued on page 09



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

April 2016



Children's Programming



JEA Camp Savannah June 6 - July 29, 2016

	Week 1	Giborim Academy June 6th – June 10th	Highlights: Inflatable Israeli Boot Camp Dress-Up Days: Superhero SWAG, G.I. Joe/Jane Dress Up Shabbat: Giborim Grub-Fest
	Week 2	Harry Potter June 14th – June 17th (* Closed Monday for Shavuot)	Highlights: All Camp Sleepover Dress-Up Days: Show Off Your Shades, Fantastic Beasts Shabbat: Hogwarts Chanukah Feast
	Week 3	Jurassic Island June 20th – June 24th	Highlights: Archeology Exploration Exhibit Dress-Up Days: Bookworm Beauty Pageant, Caveman Costume Contest Shabbat: Bedrock Brunch
	Week 4	Color War: The Glacier Games June 27th – July 1st	Highlights: Inflatable Water Park & Color War Performance Dress-Up Days: Crazy Hat/Crazy Socks, Tutus and Ties, Team Spirit Tie Dye Shabbat: The Snow Ball Dance Party
	Week 5	Party in the USA July 5th – July 8th (*Closed Monday for the 4th of July)	Highlights: Clubhouse Field Trip, Late Night "Lock-In" and Dinner Buffet Dress-Up Days: Red, White & Blue Pride Shabbat: All American BBQ and Apple Pie Bake Off
	Week 6	Anchors Away - The Magic of Disney July 11th – July 15th	Highlights: Magic Mark Dress-Up Days: Tacky Tourist Day, Tutus and Ties, Disney Character/PJ Dress Up Shabbat: Disney "Character" Breakfast and PJ Party
	Week 7	Camp Ruach July 18th – July 22nd	Highlights: Ninja Training Course, Extreme Obstacles, LIT/CIT Sleepover Dress-Up Days: Bandana & Boa Bonanza, Fan Wear Shabbat: Military Appreciation Cook-Out
	Week 8	The Summer Sizzle July 25th – July 29th	Highlights: Movie Field Trip & Glee Performance Dress-Up Days: Beach Bum & Celebrity Look-Alike Shabbat: Pizza Party & Ice Cream Social

Visit www.SavannahJEA.org to download camp brochure and registration paperwork.

Days @ the JEA

April 1st - "All Things Delicious"
Make your own gourmet pizza, make S'mores, outdoor ultimate Capture-the-Flag

April 22nd - "Space Invasion"
Field trip to Georgia Southern Planetarium, make glow-in-the-dark goo, enjoy swimming with your friends

Age: Children Pre-K to 8th grade
Cost: \$35 - JEA Member
\$45 - Non-Member

** A \$5 late fee will be charged for all those signing up the day of the event.*

JEA CAMP SAVANNAH IS NOW HIRING SUMMER CAMP STAFF!



We are currently 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
- **Specialty Counselors:** Themed Program Counselors, WSI-Certified Swimming Instructors, Middle School Counselors (Counselors who specialize in working with middle school children)

Counselor Application available online at www.SavannahJEA.org.

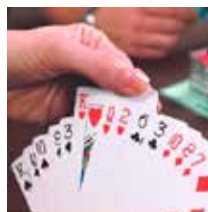
New JEA Members

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 2/6/16-3/5/16)

Aseem & Naomi Bhandari
Christopher & Abby Bruno
Davis & Nastazia Butler
Steven Hardy
William Johnston & Deirdre Weiss
Louisa Laird
Sloane Mayberry
Neil & Jennifer Reagan
Anna Sacks



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
 Tuesdays 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 Thursdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



Community Garden

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

Jewish Educational Alliance's AFTER SCHOOL Enrichment Program



Join us on each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. for Food For Thought!
Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy a delicious lunch for only \$5, followed by an educational speaker or performer.

April 7	<i>Sharing the Planet</i> with Eleanor Stecker, JEA Artist of the Month
April 14	<i>Life of Martin Luther King Jr.</i> with Carolyn Blackshear, MLK Observance Day Committee President
April 21	<i>Future of Jazz</i> , A Live Performance
April 28	<i>NO LUNCH, Passover</i>
May 5	<i>A Survivor's Story</i> , Alan Kniph
May 12	<i>Israel Update</i> , Motti Locker

Don't forget to call and make your reservation at the JEA Front Desk or call 912-355-8111.

Looking for Some Personal Training?

Our new Health & Wellness Director, Kat Ackerman, is looking for Personal Training clients. The first five clients to sign up for Personal Training with her will receive 20% off a 30-minute 4-pack (four sessions). Originally \$120 for this package, the sale price is \$96!

Please contact Kat to schedule your training sessions - (912) 355-8111 or fitness@savj.org.

Benefits of Personal Training

- Sessions tailored to your needs and goals
- Increase strength and endurance
- Discover how much fun you can have while improving your overall health
- Increase energy levels
- Boost your self-confidence
- Lower your body fat composition
- Receive nutritional guidance
- And so much more!

Young Jewish Savannah

Young Jewish Savannah is about creating relationships and getting to know the community.

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?

Join Jamie for coffee! yjs@savj.org.



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
Single Parent/Family Plans
Senior Plans
Individual Plans
Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

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



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

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

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



Health & Wellness

Coming Full Circle



Kat Ackerman
Health & Wellness
Director

For those of you who have been a part of the JEA community for a long time you may remember me. For those of you who are new JEA family members, I was the Fitness & Aquatics Director 20 years ago.

After leaving the JEA I helped open the Chatham County Aquatic Center, where I designed all the programs and trained all the lifeguards and instructors.

I moved on to The Ford Plantation, a private sporting community, as Spa and Fitness Director. I spent seven years there crafting my skills in the Fitness Industry and learning how to run a Day Spa, which was totally foreign to me. I spent eight years traveling to New York training in the Pilates Method under Elyse McNergney to become a Master Trainer with IM=X Pilates.

Next, I opened my own Health Club and Day Spa, "Energy Oasis," in Richmond Hill. We had a state-of-the-art fitness room, a beautiful group exercise room with a floating floor, Pro

shop, Private Pilates Studio and a Spa with three treatment rooms and a beautiful relaxation room. We had a great run until the market crashed and the YMCA expanded right down the road.

After that, I actually came back to the JEA part-time, training and teaching classes; while I also opened a Pilates Studio at SCAD. I have also been traveling to California over the past few years training with Nora St. John at Balanced Body. Balanced Body is a Pilates company exploding into the fitness industry across the world, bringing Pilates to mainstream health and wellness. I am now a Master Trainer with Balanced Body.

Being in the Fitness industry for over 30 years has given me the opportunity to learn many disciplines and meet some amazing people from all over the world. I can train in aquatics, the gym, and the yoga studio and on the reformer upstairs. My love of fitness has only grown over the years. I am very passionate when it comes to helping my clients reach their goals.

Please stop by the Fitness Department to say hello. I look forward to meeting you all and working to make JEA Fitness the best it can be!

JEA Tornadoes Swim Team to Begin Practice - Register Now!



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

Summer is upon us, which means the JEA Tornadoes Swim Team will be back and hungry to win City Meet this year! After an awesome three sessions of junior swim here at the JEA, we are more ready than ever to jump in the water and show Savannah Coastal Swim League what

we are made of! Swimmers from ages 5-18 that are comfortable swimming the length of the pool with a defined stroke are welcome to join in a fun, competitive league of swimmers from all over Savannah. If you're not sure if your child meets these requirements, call Kirby Southerland and arrange for an assessment. Registration begins in April and practices will begin in May. For more information, please email Kirby Southerland at aquatics@savj.org or call the JEA at 912-355-8111.

New Parent-n-Tot Swim Class Starting April 3rd

In this class, parents are taught how to safely introduce new swimming and water safety skills that are developmentally appropriate and engaging for infants and young children. Parent and Child Aquatics is not designed to teach children to become good swimmers on their own or even to survive in the water on their own, but teaches basic skills to get parent and child comfortable in the water.

Ages: 6 months to three-years old

Group 30-minute lessons (four-lesson commitment)

Class price: \$75

JEA Member Value Price: \$50

All tots need to be accompanied in the water by an adult. If a child is not yet potty trained, they must wear "swimmers" and not regular diapers when in the pool.

Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

8:45 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - AquaDance
6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Register for T-ball and Coach Pitch!

T-ball - 4-6 years old
Coach Pitch - 6-8 years old

JEA Youth Sports Focus:

- Character Development
- Team Development
- Making Play Enjoyable

Registration Monday, March 14-Monday, April 4.

Cost: JEA Members: \$35, Non-Members: \$45

Practices start Monday, March 21st and games will begin mid-April. regular games will be played at the JEA in partnership with Hunter Army Air Field through May.





JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now

- Openings 12 months & walking-4-years old (limited opportunities available)
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for the toddlers and two-year-olds
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

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

2016 Summer Program

Weeks 1 & 2: Sticky, Slimey, Ooey, Gooley June 6-June 17

Explore everything from volcanoes to blubber! Paint with fingerpaint and pudding; cook with sticky ingredients; participate in fun experiments!

Weeks 3 & 4: Big Thinkers June 20-July 1

Join our search for the Earth's biggest rock, biggest mountain, biggest building and biggest cargo ship! Find our biggest animal friends. Discover all that is big!

Weeks 5 & 6: Movin' and Groovin' July 5-July 15

Engage in music from different genres and cultures. Dance the bunny hop, disco, salsa, Irish, tap and more. Participate in a musical presentation for your family!

Weeks 7 & 8: A Child's Garden July 18-July 29

Get your hands dirty and watch your green thumb grow. We'll do outdoor planting and create indoor gardens such as an art garden, book garden and photo garden!

- Our summer program is open to children 12 months to 4 years.
- Your child will enjoy weekly Shabbat celebrations, swimming lessons for 4-year olds, special guests and activities and hands-on experiences!
- Half-day and full-day options.

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



JEA Art Gallery

April 2016 Artist

Eleanor Dixon Stecker

In her 50-year career, Eleanor Dixon Stecker has worked as a commercial illustrator, art director, teacher, computer graphics designer, painter, portraitist and watercolor painter.

She shares a studio outside of Barnesville, GA, with artist-husband Alan Stecker. She uses a wide variety of media to create paintings and drawings.

Recently she has developed a series of pictures based on horses and the relationships people have with their animals. Her work also includes many commissioned portraits of people in oils or pastels.

For 14 years Eleanor served as Creative Director of ASV, a family video business. Prior to that she worked as a courtroom illustrator for NBC News and others, covering high-profile trials and hearings.

Eleanor completed her undergraduate studies at Rhode Island School of Design and Atlanta College of Art. She attended at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus for Graduate Studies in Fine Art. As a fine arts painter in Chicago, Eleanor operated a studio with six artists. Her paintings have been shown in both Chicago and Atlanta, and she is represented in many collections around the country.

She has served twice as president of Lamar Arts. While there she curated many Fine Art shows with Angela Preston, including a retrospective of renowned abstract artist Herbert Creecy.

"I see the world as a magical place, and my job, as an artist is to make the viewer aware of that magic. I might be painting a portrait, a bowl of flowers or a scene of cowgirls, cowboys and their horses. All are part of this amazing world that exists before our very eyes, and it's my job to uncover and share that magic!"

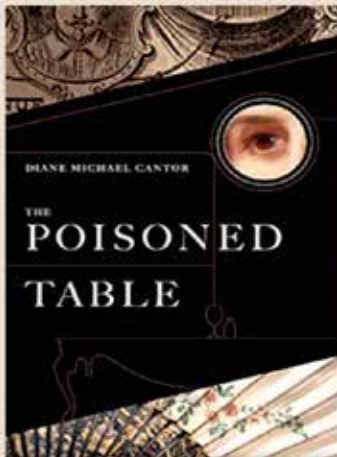
Artwork Available for viewing April 1-28, 2016
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception April 7th, 5-7 pm



Gerald, the Old Confederate



Homage to Remington



DIANE MICHAEL CANTOR

APRIL 14, 2016
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Jewish Educational Alliance

Diane Cantor, acclaimed Savannah author, joins us to discuss *THE POISONED TABLE*, a tale of ambition, romance, and betrayal.

Hear Diane Cantor read an excerpt of her book, answer questions, AND be the first to hear a passage of her new book coming out Fall 2016.

Copies of *THE POISONED TABLE* will be available for purchase and Diane will be on-hand to sign books.



JEA Donations

(February 6, 2016-March 5, 2016)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In honor of Herb Sanders
Marilyn Seeman

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH FUND

In memory of Ruth Sand
Eva Odrezin & family
Barbara & David Gottlieb & family
Gale & David Hirsh

BERTHA & HYMIE KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Zena Kaplan
Sally & Steve Greenberg

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Michael Zoller
Patrick Salter
In memory of Annette Karp
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein
In memory of Julie Metzger
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Bernice Elman
In honor of Anne Scheer
Bernice Elman
Brenda & Patrick Salter
In memory of Isie Rubin
In memory of Barbara Rubin
In honor of Marsha Bernstein
Elise & Victor Shernoff

Banking.....from pg 8

covered 50 years ago in Antarctic fish and are now known to exist in cold-resistant fish, plants, insects and microorganisms. They actively inhibit the formation and growth of crystalline ice, and their superiority over other antifreeze substances is that they are needed in very low amounts to do it effectively.

Braslavsky's study explained how ice-binding proteins stop ice growth, a major mystery that puzzled scientists for decades. The findings, published in 2014 and 2015, could be crucial for the use of these proteins as cryoprotectants.

"Ice growth also poses a major problem in frozen food," says Braslavsky, who also works with his team on the implementation of ice-binding proteins into food. "Many are familiar with ice cream that has lost its texture in home freezers... Ice-binding proteins may allow the control of ice in frozen food and the developments of new frozen treats. Some food manufacturers have already started using ice-binding proteins in their products."

Braslavsky's pioneering work in studying the interaction between antifreeze proteins and ice is now expanding to developing cryopreservation techniques that will allow revival of cells and tissues while restoring their form and function.

Research in cryopreservation has been the focus of the Organ Preservation Alliance (OPA), a U.S. group formed in 2014 to accelerate and coordinate research on the banking of human organs. OPA says that for the first time, the goal is within reach.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and happy Pesach



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

What does PJ stand for?
Pajamas! We know those special times of reading, dancing and singing together happen when your children are wearing their pajamas.

Who is eligible to register?
A family must have children from 6 months to 8 years old with one Jewish parent in the household and must currently reside in the Savannah area.

What's the cost?
The PJ Library® is free when your child is enrolled in the program due to our generous local donors.
One book per child.

Sign up TODAY at www.SAVJ.org

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming PJ Events:

April 17 at 11:15 a.m.
Puppet Party
(in collaboration with Congregation Mickve Israel's Tot Program)

May 29 at 10:00 a.m.
Lag B'Omer Pool Party

Check out PJ Our Way, the Newest Chapter of PJ Library -
PJ Our Way offers the gift of exceptional books with Jewish themes to kids ages 9-11 – books that they choose themselves!

Sign up TODAY at www.PJOurWay.org

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

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

Savannah Jewish Federation
Beneficiary Agency

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

The Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish Educational Alliance offer our best wishes for a lifetime of love and happiness to Rabbi Robert Haas and April Komendat on the occasion of their upcoming marriage.

TERMITES?

WE CONTROL THEM!

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651-9000
www.yates-astro.com

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

SJF GENERAL DONATION

In memory of Julie Metzger
Connie & Tom Glaser

In honor of Bunny Montag
In memory of Julie Metzger
Joanne & Dick Hochman

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FUND

In memory of Dr. Murray Schonfeld
Beth & Steven Roth
In memory of Ruth Sand
Myra & Jerry Portman
In honor of Anne Scheer
In honor of Ginger & Jerry Caplan
Riette Pollack

ISADORE SCHEER JEA CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Anne Scheer
Marilyn Seeman
Arlene & Allan Ratner
Joan Pam
Sylvia Yellin
Christiana & Bart Turner
Tabitha & Harris Odell
Iris & Julius (Boo) Hornstein
Elaine Radetsky

TIKVAH FUND

In honor of Sharon Galin
Toby Hollenberg
Harriet & Paul Kulbersh
Joanne & Dick Hochman
In honor of Dick Berkowitz
Biff & Jerry Montana
In honor of Aaron Levy
Marla & Morris Geffen
In honor of Jerald Cohen
Harriet & Paul Kulbersh
In honor of Anne Scheer
Sherry & Norman Dolgoff

AM & JOHN W. GOLDKRAND SAVANNAH HEALTHCARE FUND

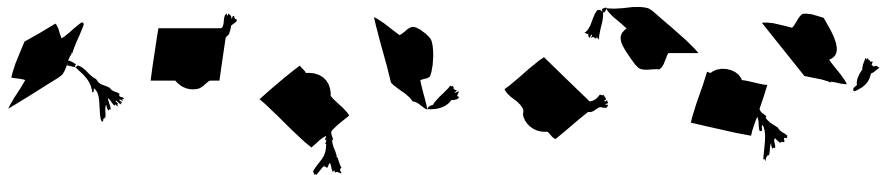
In honor of AM Goldkrand
Toby Hollenberg
In honor of AM Goldkrand
Joan & Joe Iovino

SAVANNAH JEWISH ARCHIVES FUND

In memory of Julie Metzger
Davida & Alan Kashdan



Contributions to the Savannah Jewish Federation
may be made on our secure website at
www.savj.org or by calling 912-355-8111.



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 6th, 2016.
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



Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at the Breman Museum. We are proud
to provide you and members of the Savannah community with this status report on the accom-
plishments made to date.

*Jeremy Katz, Director of the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at
the Breman Museum in Atlanta, recently touched base to let us know how things
are going with the move of the Savannah Jewish Archives to the Breman:*

“Approximately seven months have passed since the
Savannah Jewish Archives was accessioned and moved to

The move from the Georgia Historical Society to the Breman Museum went
extremely smoothly thanks to the expertise and generous help of Lynette
Stoudt, Director of the Research Center at GHS. We hired trained art handlers
to assist in the packing and transportation of the collection to Atlanta. Upon
arrival, Cuba Family Archives staff promptly unloaded the collections onto the new SpaceSaver shelving
unit, which was installed the week prior.



Moving day



Packing up in Savannah

Lindsay Resnick joined the Cuba Family Archives staff on July 1 as a part-time archi-
vist dedicated to the Savannah Jewish Archives collection. Lindsay graduated from Georgia Tech with Highest
Honors in 2013 and continued her studies at Georgia State University where she graduated with a Masters of
Heritage Preservation with an emphasis in Archives and Oral Histories. Lindsay works on the SJA collection
two days a week focusing on processing the collection and integrating each collection into the Cuba Family
Archives software system.



Lindsay Resnick

Previously, the Savannah Jewish Archives collections were processed by numerous people including profes-
sional staff and volunteers. Individual collections were processed to different standards using different numbering systems. We are
reprocessing each collection to ensure professional standards are met and a single numbering system is used. To date, we have
processed and integrated approximately 30 percent of the collection.”

More about the transition next month!



Eva Locker,
Principal,
Shalom School

Passover: Let's Walk the Path...

I've lived it 20, 30, 40 times! Yet I'm not bored and I'm not Pe-sach-ed out.

It's always good to be with family around a great dinner. But more significantly, Passover and the story we read on the first two nights represent one of the core stories of our civilization. The journey from slavery to freedom has been told over the years by rabbis, priests and even Walt Disney: "Go Moses and tell Pharaoh to let my people go."

Even as a young child I knew weeks ahead that Passover was coming: the cleaning, the grocery shopping, the cooking and more cleaning... all this time of preparation, with a hint of slavery work, leading to the first Seder night. This is when, every year, our Exodus is retold as though each one of us was there.

By the first Seder night, my excitement would be overwhelming and the memories still live in my mind: the fancy Passover tableware would be used; each child, as the adults, would get to drink from a silver cup! We would get to stay up way past bedtime, to put elbows on the table and dip pinky fingers in our cups without being reminded about table manners. Everyone's eyes would be on the youngest as he/she asked the four questions; actually, any children's questions that night would be praised. And of course, the first matzah piece and its superpower, like a time travel machine that transported us from being slaves to rebellious and fierce Hebrews!

The festive meal that followed was for me a prelude leading to the unimaginable promise: the afikomen. What awesome power in the hands

of the child who could find the afikomen: To ask for anything you wanted, *anything!*

How lucky I felt to be Jewish on Seder nights! To know that the story had happened for me. The frogs and the lice and the darkness and the fury of God raining down on the Egyptians' heads.

Each Seder, I now reflect on my generation's journey from slavery to freedom, a journey we struggle to complete as the slavery of the modern world grows stronger: our consumerism culture, our "i-addictions," all pushed by fashion trends, economic forces and circumstances.

So on this year's Seder night, let's rebel and complete that journey as a family. The temptation for short cuts is very strong: who has time to polish so many silver cups? Disposable tableware comes in elegant gold and silver color, and that online recipe is so much faster than grandma's. But we must resist so our children can feel, like we did, the excitement of getting ready, getting closer to be freed again on that special night. This year, let's gather and polish all the silverware we own, let's bring out those fancy dishes from the attic and cook together with the kids for a couple of days! Let's resist the last online i-Hagadah and dig out grandpa's.

Let's make our children walk the path, getting ready for days so they can as well, relive the exodus from Egypt and be freed. So they too, can experience "Yetsiat Mitsrayim" (the exodus from Egypt) and God's hand over them and feel how wonderful and lucky they are to be free and part of Am Israel.

Chag Pesach Sameach



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Upon Reflection

As we approach Purim and Passover, it is cause to reflect on another school year that is coming to a close all too soon.

Every year begins and I see a long road ahead giving me plenty of time to accomplish so many goals and then suddenly without warning, the very holidays that signify the year is close to ending are upon me. Have I accomplished what I set out to do? Did I accomplish more than I thought I would? Did I fall short of my goals and if so, why?

It's so much easier to just take each day as it comes and not reflect. However, without reflection there is no growth. Rambam Day School is in the midst of working towards being Quality Rated. It is a process that once accomplished will mean that we have met standards that exceed state licensing requirements. It will mean we wanted to go above and beyond and we did (G-d willing).

In one of the classes I attended, the instructor said, "Take all of your 'old school' approaches and throw them out the door." Imagine taking everything you know about your profession and having to set it aside and learn a whole new methodology. Our staff has embraced the new concepts with enthusiasm but it has taken perseverance. When you thought you were giving your best and you discover your best is obsolete... you have a lot to swallow.

I applaud my staff's commitment and reverence for their roles as educators and care givers to the young and innocent.

Reflection... One cannot grow without it. A Rebbe that taught in Rambam for ten years passed away recently after battling cancer for several years. It has been difficult to wrap our minds around this loss. Over a thousand people attended his funeral in Silver Spring, Maryland; students, young and old; colleagues, friends and family. Rabbi Samberg taught his students that when you take a walk down the street with your mother, it will not just be a walk. You will learn something or you'll see something (even though you have walked this way a million times) that you have never seen before, because you will be seeing it through your mother's eyes. He taught his students to open up their minds and be receptive to new ideas, to challenges they can accomplish. He taught his students to reflect... so they could grow.

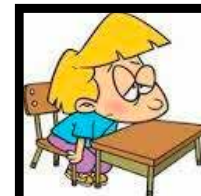
Mrs. Samberg is the kind of individual who gives her all to her family. She stood by her husband's side throughout his entire tribulation. But she didn't just stand; she was actively involved in every ounce of care that was administered to her husband. She researched, she spoke to various physicians, she did everything in her ability to make sure that whatever care Rabbi Samberg received it had purpose and stood a chance of helping him.

And so Mrs. Samberg expressed to her children ranging in ages from 8 to 16: "I did everything in my power to bring your father to this final moment. I did everything I could to keep your father with you until the last possible second. Now it is for you my dear children to do the rest. All the mitzvos you do, all the Torah you learn and every kaddish you say will benefit your father."

One of the most beautiful concepts we find within our heritage is that after an individual has left this physical world; we can still reach out to them, touch them and make a difference. Their precious souls benefit from the mitzvos we do and the prayers we say in their memory. We literally have the ability to move their neshama/soul to greater heights.

A tremendous responsibility was placed upon the Samberg children because their father led by example. Rabbi Samberg taught his children the importance of people and the importance of Torah. Now these precious children must hold dear their father's legacy and keep it vibrant; they must recognize the intrinsic value of every human being and they must acknowledge through their deeds the vibrancy, objective and worth that our Torah can have on their lives. All the while bringing honor and merit to their beloved father.

Rambam Day School embraces teachers who impart such values to our students. In the Quality Rated Program the value of a child is the very essence of its goals. Upon reflection, the secular world can mirror the values we hold dear in a Jewish day school.



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Second Night Seder: Sat., April 23rd at 6pm

Reservations are required.



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under age 12.

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For more information or to RSVP to
an event: call 912.233.1547 or visit
mickveisrael.org



Melinda Stein

It's a Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?
A nervous wreck.

Sam Sherman had gone to propose to his girlfriend and returned home crying bitterly.

"What happened," his father asked. "Did she not accept?"

"No, she sure didn't," sobbed Sam.

"Did you tell her what I told you to say, what I said to your mother when she accepted my proposal? 'Time stands still when I look in your eyes.' Did you tell her that?"

"No," the sad young man said. "I got confused and said, 'You have a face that would stop a clock!'"

Little Debra excitedly greeted her mother: "Today we learned about Passover in Hebrew School and guess what we made? Unleaded bread!"

In Egypt, the Israelites kept horseradish as a household staple. When they fled during the Exodus, they brought along horseradish roots, but one family discovered that they had no horseradish left. The husband tried to dig up a horseradish root, but in the darkness and confusion, he unearthed a large ginger root by mistake.

After forty years of wandering in the desert, the Israelites finally entered the Promised Land, but it took another year before the family with the ginger arrived.

When asked why they came late, the matriarch of the family shrugged and answered, "My husband insisted on taking an alternate root."

G-d said to Moses, "I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that I'm going to part the Red Sea and you'll all be able to go through on dry land."

"What's the bad news?"

"You're going to have to write the Environmental Impact Statement."

Bob Hope hosted the Academy Awards show 19 times, though he himself never won an Oscar.

On the last show he hosted, he opened the show by saying, "Welcome to the Academy Awards. Or as it's known at my house, Passover."



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חג פסח כשר ושמח



*Happy and
Joyful Passover*

Scholar-in-Residence Saturday, April 9, 2016

Avi Arieli
*Israeli Diplomat,
representing
Israel Security forces
for North America.*
*He will talk about fighting the
new wave of terrorism in
Israel.*

*Friday Night Dinner &
Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon
April 8th
\$18 per person*

Join our Synagogue,

Join our mishpacha!!!

*Tefila/Service
Parashat Hashavua Classes
Backpack Buddies
Shalom School
Hebrew Classes
Midrash Study Groups
Friday Night Young Family Shabbat*

SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday 9:30 am Shabbat Service &
Kiddush Luncheon
Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

DAILY SERVICES:

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

Continuing Education

Professional Development Days are some of my favorite times during the year. These hours are precious as the teachers have the opportunity to learn with and from each other. They also provide necessary time to build a team in a relaxed, working environment.

During the PD day in February, our teachers experienced “solo play” at the *Play it Forward* workshop. Teachers chose an area set up with loose parts like feathers, wooden dowels, sticks, colored fabrics, PVC pipes, and colored stones. In addition, there were various Jewish ritual objects such as Havdallah and Shabbat candles, a challah cover, spice box

and wine cup, which were available to add to the materials. They had a hands-on experience of what it feels like to just play with open-ended materials while relaxing music played in the background.

When ‘playtime’ ended, the teachers reflected on the activity and shared their ideas and thoughts with the group. Most said they enjoyed the time to explore and discover the materials and found themselves relaxing and having fun. Through this experience they realized how important it is to give children enough time to play and that sometimes the children just want to be alone and not have to play with a friend.

The teachers also expressed their appreciation for having had the opportunity themselves for the time and solitude of this play experience. After all, when was the last time

adults “played with objects?”

Next on the day’s agenda was the *Transitions Made Easy* session when teachers learned about the importance of planning for the many transitions that take place during a typical preschool day. Lisa Heusel from A.W.A.R.E. Training Services was our facilitator for this workshop. She shared strategies to use with the children as they transition from the arms of mom or dad at drop-off to the teacher, from outside play to indoor classroom learning, and from lunch time to nap time. I have already seen and heard many of the ideas we discussed being put into practice with the children.

Parents should know that while



Facilitator Lisa Heusel (standing) works the JEA Preschool Savannah staff at their most recent Professional Development Day.

children were home with families or caregivers on this Professional Development Day, the teachers and staff were furthering our education so that when we are with their young children it will continue to be in the creative, loving and safe environment of JEA Preschool Savannah we work hard every day to maintain.

Savannah



bbyo

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

Wexler Clark BBG

April 2 @ 6:00 p.m.
BBG Program

April 11 @ 6:00 p.m.
Board Transitions



BBYO teens at Spring Convention

Members of Wexler Clark BBG at their New Member Kidnap!



Regional Events

April 15 -17
Kallah with Atlanta Council & Cotton States Region

David Finn AZA

April 2 @ 6:00 p.m.
AZA Program

April 6 @ 6:00 p.m.
Chapter Dinner

April 11 @ 6:00 p.m.
Board Transitions



bbyo

Connect

MISSION: To create a community of Jewish 5, 6, 7 and 8 graders through social and meaningful experiences that will serve as a gateway to continued involvement in Jewish life.

April 10 @ 2:00 p.m.
News Flash!

May 15 @ 2:00 p.m.
X Marks The Spot



BBYO Connect learning how to toss pizza in the air!

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS



SHABBATLUCK DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016 7:00 P.M.

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NEXT

YJS Beachfest

Sunday, June 5 Tybee Beach

Also coming up... Escape the Room, HeBrew Happy Hour, Jew Year's Eve Formal, Trip to Charleston and more!

For more information about YJS, call
Jamie Cahn at 355 -8111 or email yjs@savj.org.



Savannah Jewish Federation

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Abram Morris Rubin
Who died March 17, 2016

He is survived by his daughter, Robyn (Bruce) Aston of Marietta, GA; two sons, Steven A. Rubin and Craig B. (Julie) Rubin, all of Roswell, GA; eight grandchildren; one sister, Elise (Victor) Shernoff of Savannah; one sister-in-law, Nina (Lee) Hershon of Charleston, SC; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Haskins Rubin, and his brother, Harvey Rubin.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405; or the Harvey Rubin Fund of the Jewish Educational Alliance, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.

Ruth Sand
Who died February 28, 2016

She is survived by her sons, Bill (Sharon) Sand of Savannah, and Bruce Sand of Phoenix, AZ; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Abraham Sand.

Remembrances: JEA Preschool Savannah, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd, Savannah 31405.

Michael Weinberg
Who died February 22, 2016

He is survived by his wife, Sheila Weinberg of Bluffton, SC; and two daughters, Julie Weinberg of Provincetown, MA, and Barri Weinberg of Bluffton.

Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day



May 5, 2016
27 Nissan 5776

Community Observance Thursday, May 5th

Reading of the names
9am - 7pm, JEA

To volunteer, sign up
online at savj.org or call
Alyssa Schoonover
(912) 355-8111

Commemoration Program 7pm, JEA

Recognition of Survivors, Writing &
Art Awards and a Survivor's Story

Witness to the Holocaust

An exhibit presented by the Georgia
Commission on the Holocaust

April 27 - May 26, 2016
JEA Art Gallery

The exhibit highlights World War II
veteran & civil rights activist,
William Alexander Scott III, whose father
founded one of the first black-owned daily
newspapers in the United States –
The Atlanta Daily World.

As a soldier in an all-black battalion,
Scott and his comrades were fighting for
rights they could not enjoy themselves.
Scott took photographs at
Buchenwald concentration camp.

This exhibit draws parallels between
the Jim Crow Laws and the
Nuremberg Race Laws of 1935-1945
implemented throughout Germany and
Nazi-controlled areas of Europe.



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1

FACT: Every Passover we open the door for Elijah, the Hebrew prophet whose unseen presence is felt helping people Throughout the world.

2

FACT: We invite Elijah in to drink from his cup on our Seder table.

3

FACT: He never drinks. What's up with that?

4

FACT: The cup isn't actually for Elijah. It's for us. To remind us of all the times we've been helped by his unseen hand, and to inspire us to return the favor.

ELIJAH. TEETOTALER. *Fact or fiction?*

PLEASE GIVE TO THE SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION AND EXTEND ELIJAH'S REACH TO YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD THIS PASSOVER. **FACT: ELIJAH WOULD APPROVE.**