



JEA & SJF to Keep You Warm & Busy

You're not thinking that it's going to be a gloomy winter spent huddled in front of your TV, are you? The JEA and Savannah Jewish Federation have programs planned one-after-another to keep you entertained and enlightened (and the parking is free).

We're also happy to announce the rebranding of the Thursday lunch series at the JEA. Look for lots of great new programs and delicious lunches every week at *Food for Thought* (see story elsewhere in this issue).

Jan. 27th-Feb. 6th, *Film*

We begin later this month with one of our 'crown jewels,' the annual **Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial Savannah Jewish Film Festival**. You should have received a Festival brochure in the mail and a full summary of the program can be found on page 9 of this issue. Full Festival Passes and meal reservations may be purchased online at www.SavannahJEA.org or at the JEA. Please don't forget that meal reservations must be made at least two days in advance.

February 10th, *Jazz*

Once again the JEA will host the annual **Future of Jazz Concert**, a Savannah tradition sponsored by the Savannah Black Heritage Festival. Jazz educator and trombonist Teddy Adams gathers some of the most promising young jazz musicians from middle school to college, from Florida to South Carolina, to present what always is an outstanding concert. The JEA is proud of its long collaboration with Teddy and the SBHF for this always popular event. The concert begins at 7pm.

February 16th, *Photography*

A large bell hangs in the clock tower overlooking the now quiet campus of Morris Brown College. Its inscription reads, in part, *Dedicated to the Education of Youth, Without Regard to Sex, Race or Color*. Founded by African Americans in 1881, Morris Brown

lost its accreditation to financial pressures and scandal in 2002. Today its campus is largely abandoned.

Andrew Feiler was granted unique access to Morris Brown's hauntingly silent campus. His documentary artistic photography portrays a proud past, a challenging present and an uncertain future, not only for this one institution but for all of America's historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). More broadly, this work offers a new way into the debate raging in our society about the essential role education has played as the foundation of the American Dream. That tradition and legacy are now at risk. Too many Americans cannot afford to go to college. Too many Americans are being crushed by college debt. Too many of these American dreams cannot be fully realized.

A book of this work, *Without Regard to Sex, Race, or Color: The Past, Present, and Future of One Historically Black College*, has just been published by the University of Georgia Press in association with the Georgia Humanities Council. Andrew Feiler will discuss his photography, his book and share his experience with the photo book publishing process at the JEA on Tuesday, February 16th at 7pm.

Andrew is a fifth-generation Georgian. Having grown up Jewish in Savannah, he and his art have been shaped by the rich complexities of the American South and of being a minority in the South: history and culture, geography and race, tradition and conflict, injustice and progress. Andrew's photographs have won numerous awards. His work has been featured in museums, galleries, and magazines and is in a number of private collections. He earned his master's in American history from Oxford University and his master's in business administration from Stanford University. More of his photography can be seen at andrewfeiler.com.

February 18th, *Israel*

The Savannah Jewish Federation is proud to

be hosting Israel Bonds at the JEA on Thursday, February 18th at 7pm. The program will feature Rabbi/Lt. Colonel Avinoam Sharon, a retired IDF officer, rabbi, and military attorney who will be discussing, *The US and Middle East Cultural Divide, How cultural norms and assumptions affect our relationships and assumptions—even between Israeli and American Jews*.

Lt. Colonel Avinoam Sharon held senior staff and command positions in the Military Advocate General's Unit of the Israel Defense Forces. As Military Attorney for Judea, Samaria & Gaza, he was involved in the apprehension and prosecution of terrorists and the related legal and policy issues of counter-terrorism. He also served as liaison to Israel's General Security Service, the Terrorism and Violent Crime Section of the United States Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and has represented the IDF before a variety of international fact-finding commissions and civil rights organizations, as well as in interviews with the Israeli and foreign press.

Sharon earned his undergraduate degree in linguistics and Semitic languages at Columbia University, and studied law at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He was ordained by the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem, and holds an MA in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he is currently a doctoral fellow.

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Rabbi Lt. Col. Avinoam Sharon

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 15	5:24pm
Friday, January 22	5:31pm
Friday, January 29	5:37pm
Friday, February 5	5:44pm
Friday, February 12	5:50pm
Friday, February 19	5:56pm
Friday, February 26	6:02pm

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Also Featured

Thursday Lunch Series gets a new name and a new look, all with the help of our new Community Program Director. Read about them all on p2.

Vernon Mosheim shares highlights of his latest trip to Israel, taking us off the beaten path; p8.

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PERMIT NO. 2840

A Publication of Savannah Jewish Federation
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, Georgia 31405
www.savj.org



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2016 ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Savannah Jewish Federation

2016 SJF Community Campaign Update

\$910,063

As of December 30th from 520 donors



Revamped Lunch Program

One of the longest running programs of Jewish Family Services, through the Savannah Jewish Federation, is the weekly Lunch and Learn... or Thursday Lunch... or Senior Lunch... or Lunch Bunch... There seem to have been many different names for the weekly gathering. Until now. The Savannah Jewish Federation is excited to ring in the New Year with... **Food for Thought**.

We are rebranding and re-envisioning what these Thursday lunches are all about. With a new Community Program Director, Alyssa Schoonover, a new logo, and a new chef,

Doug Knight, we are eager to bring the newest version of the Thursday lunch gatherings at the JEA — *Food For Thought* — to you.

Alfred Mercier wrote: "What we learn with pleasure, we never forget." *Food for Thought* will be a series just for that — a pleasurable learning and socialization experience for the Savannah Jewish community. The weekly meals and programs provide opportunities for our members, friends and families to gather regularly and enjoy delicious meals while

enhancing their cultural, intellectual and emotional quality of life.

Our menus vary from lemon chicken to meatloaf to baked ziti to brisket. Some weeks we have 30 people, other weeks, 80, depending on the menu or the speaker. But whatever the menu or speaker, *Food for Thought* always is an opportunity to see old friends, make new ones, and to socialize and learn together. Alyssa will be around the community asking you what you like to eat, what you want to learn and who you want to hear from.

We happily invite you all to join us every *Thursday at 12:30pm* to have lunch with friends, meet new community members and learn with expert speakers. Topics will range from health to arts & culture to Judaic studies and everywhere in between. Past JEA President Arlene Ratner says, "*It is the best deal and best meal around town!*" And it is, at just \$5 a person!

For more information, contact Alyssa Schoonover, Community Program Director, at programming@savj.org or 912-355-8111. You can always find the *Food for Thought* schedule at www.savj.org.

Upcoming *Food for Thought* Sessions:

February 4
Savannah Jewish Film Festival
Presents

February 11
"Preserving Your Jewish Recipes" with Valerie Frey

February 18
"Art and Love"
with Dr. Charles McCracken

February 25
Martin Greenberg

March 3
"People in the Paint"
with JEA Artist of the Month,
Alan Stecker

Savannah Jewish News

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

SJF President: **Sherry Dolgoff**
SJF President-elect: **Allan Ratner**
SJF Vice President: **Harvey Lebos**
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Matthew Allan**
SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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

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Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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

To the Editor:

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

We are deeply grateful to have received your allocation to JTA.

As you know, JTA has recently merged with MyJewishLearning (MJL) and Kveller. The parent name of the organization is 70 Faces Media, a not-for-profit digital media company that aspires to connect people to all sides of the unfolding Jewish story.

Even with the merger, JTA, MJL and Kveller will continue to exist as standalone brands dedicated to serving the core news needs of your Federation and the wider Jewish community. Your support is critical to the success of our mission.

Thank you so much for your continued recognition of the vital work 70 Faces Media does each day to keep the global Jewish community informed.

With warmest wishes,
Ami Eden, CEO & Executive Editor
70 Faces Media

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

Thank you so much for your generous gift. Your support helps ARZA grow the community of American Reform Jews that support Israel and the Israel Reform Movement. Strong movements here and in Israel help build an Israeli society that is pluralistic, democratic, and respects the rights of all, ensuring that Israel will

be a home for all Jews in the years to come.

For 36 years, ARZA has provided meaningful opportunities for individuals and congregations to strengthen and deepen their relationships with Israel. We look forward to continuing to work with you. Together we can fulfill the call to realize that לזה זה כל ישראל ערבים זה, all of the People Israel are responsible for each other. Each of our achievements is a reflection of the power of the Zionist dream.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Bennett F. Miller, Chair
Rabbi Joshua R. Weinberg, President
Association of Reform Zionists
Reform Israel Fund

New Program Director Starts



Alyssa Schoonover

Community Program Director.

Alyssa has been a music educator

The Savannah Jewish Federation is pleased to announce that Alyssa Schoonover joined its staff on December 9th as

(at Georgia Southern University and Heard Elementary) and professional violinist for years, performing in multiple orchestras and at weddings across the Savannah and Hilton Head areas since 2002. She is the mother of three preschoolers (two currently at JEA Preschool Savannah and one entering there this summer), and also is the PTO President of the JEA Preschool. Her husband, Grant, is a Flight Test Engineer at Gulfst-

ream Aerospace. They are members of Congregation Mickve Israel.

Alyssa is both creative and organized, bringing to the Federation a true spirit of collaboration and partnership. She will take over the programming position full-time next fall; until then she will be working part-time. She can be reached at programming@savj.org or (912) 355-8111. Please be sure to say hello when you see her around the JEA.

Pursuing Dreams

Recently, I went to Houston for the funeral of my Uncle Sam Feldt. He was buried next to his wife, Sara, my father's youngest sister. Uncle Sam was the last of that generation in our family. He was looking forward to celebrating his 96th birthday on November 30th.

He was strong in mind and spirit right until the end. In fact, he never let any "grass grow under his feet" and spent two days the week before in classes to renew his Realtor's license. Although he was retired, people called him often to ask his advice or opinion on a property so it was important to him to have the most pertinent, accurate information and stay abreast of the market.

Losing our remaining and beloved patriarch was hard on our whole family. On top of that, suddenly my brother and I and our first cousins have been thrust into the oldest generation spot (which, of course, beats the alternative)! Uncle Sam's death gave us clear notification that his journey was complete and ours was continuing at a pace that seemed to be speeding up.

Transitions like this always make me think about life lessons, things that I might have learned along the way, things I should have learned, but pushed to the back of my mind. Certainly, one can reflect back at any point, or contemplate the days ahead whenever the mood strikes, especially, perhaps, at the beginning of a new year. Uncle Sam was a great example of living life at full-tilt no matter your age. He was "game" for anything. And he really wanted to do everything! The lesson he showed by example? It's what you CAN do that should be the focus. Focusing on what you cannot do will get you nowhere.

Philosopher Gabriel Garcia Marquez reminded us, "It is not true that people stop pursuing dreams because they grow old, they grow old because they stop pursuing dreams." That philosophy was very clear to me as a kindergarten teacher. Children dream of everything: what they can do, how they dare to do new things, the many ways they push boundaries naturally and find such joy when they succeed. It is part of growing up.

I think as adults we often doubt not

only what we can do, but what we *should* do. We have no desire to test ourselves publicly because we might look foolish or worse, fail. We rarely give ourselves a second opportunity to perhaps look foolish. But who knows what we could accomplish, how we could enhance our own lives and the lives of those around us, with more unfettered gusto? "Our body does get old, but our spirit, never," said A.A. Patawaran. Uncle Sam was proof of that.

"It's what you CAN do that should be the focus. Focusing on what you cannot do will get you nowhere."

"There is a real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment," Norman Vincent Peale stated. That is so true. We have all seen that quality in individuals that always seem to get things done. I believe that having these characteristics kept Uncle Sam young at heart and young in ideas. Certainly a job can be completed by working steadily to completion. Working with a personal interest in a project, a positive attitude and a readiness to include others in the work makes for fun and a satisfaction that you would never have if you worked alone. (I know because of the terrific women who helped decorate for the Federation installation! Thank you again, to everyone.)

Life sometimes seems tricky because the future is unknown. Uncle Sam had that indefinable spark that carried him into the unknown with a positive attitude. He tried many jobs before becoming a realtor. He served in the Navy, enlisting after Pearl Harbor. He opened a grocery store. He was willing to try anything to make ends meet. Becoming a realtor suited his personality. Uncle Sam never met a stranger. He could work with and help people by finding a home for their family. There was great satisfaction in that for him. I think many of us in the family had summer jobs at his office through the years. We all laughed comparing memories about "working" for him during the summers. How he put up with all of our "help" I don't know, but I believe he got a kick out of having us there.

Uncle Sam loved life. It was tough to reconcile that fact at his funeral. Aldous Huxley wrote: "The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm." Uncle Sam never lost his. His spirit will live within his children and grandchildren and all those who knew and loved him. I hope what we learned from his example will live on, too.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Thank YOU

The letter typically starts out with, "On behalf of the people we serve..." moves on to a "thank you" and a description about what the gift provides for and how meaningful the gift is. Most of the time the letter has a signature inserted in a different color ink, and once in a while the organization does a "mail merge" inserting your name in the body of the letter to make it feel more familiar.

It would be, and is, easy to glance at the letter and then put it in a pile or file it in the "circular file cabinet." I've done it, you've done it, we've all done it. But you'd be missing something.

When we write a Thank You letter it is an opportunity to reengage with our supporters. It is a chance to remind people of the good their gift does. It is an occasion to talk about how the gift is being used.

For example, in our case, we would talk about what Jewish Family Services does for members of the community. This past month we assisted a family dealing with an abuse situation, consulted with a client coping with grief issues, assisted a family with financial challenges and lack of food, and worked with an isolated senior who has no family or support system while facing end of life issues. And that is in addition to the "normal and usual" issues that come up on a monthly basis. For all of them, thank YOU for your generous support of the Annual Campaign.

If I was writing you a letter I would talk about the engagement programs funded by your gift to the Annual Campaign. Our Savannah Teen Weekend now has teens attending from Brunswick, Greenville, Charleston, Lincolnton, and other places within three hours of Savannah. The weekend will begin with the teens joining the entire community for Shabbat dinner at the JEA; they will spend Saturday with learning and leadership programs, concluding the day with Havdalah and then a traditional BBYO dance. It is a bold initiative to infuse the teen social program with programs of meaning... and thanks to YOU, we are able to provide this entire weekend to the teens for less than a quarter of what "typical weekends" cost. Many members of the community stood

up to say that "money should never be an impediment to participation." Thank YOU for your support.

Our Young Jewish Savannah initiative continues to recognize and engage young Jews who have chosen to live in Savannah for many different reasons... lifestyle, job opportunity, or adventure. We more than doubled our original goal of engaging 50 young adults in the first year. Programs like PB & J (Pizza, Beer, and Judaism) continue to probe the many questions that create a Jewish identity. Last week I stuck my head in a session expecting to "say hello" and go home. The conversation was so good, the "back and forth," so meaningful; I didn't leave until they did, 90 minutes later. Thank YOU for making it happen.

The Chanukah Torch Relay had more than 300 people participate in some part of it: the race, support, the Chanukiah lighting, and community party. Our FederationX program featuring local FBI head, Gene Kowel provided a great opportunity for newcomers to meet more "seasoned" members of the community. It happened thanks to YOU.

We were able to assist 17 children to have a Jewish summer camp experiences, provided JELF interest-free college loans to six young adults, sent seven Savannah-area young adults on Birthright Israel trips, and funded overseas grants to 18 different organizations in seven different countries to enhance and define Jewish life. Thank YOU for making that all possible.

Yet you see, even though we try, a simple thank you letter could not possibly express what a difference your gift makes to so many. And while the Federation is providing the scholarship, the hand up, the food on the table, the funding for children with special needs, the programming that defines our Jewish lives, the assistance to Israel, to Ukraine, to Argentina, and 56 other countries around the world, it is YOU who they all thank. It is YOU that provides the essential funds that has sustained our Savannah Jewish community for close to three centuries. It is YOU that helped create forests from the desert in Israel. It is YOU who answered the call from the weak and the needy.

Next time YOU receive that letter, read beyond the words, see all the good YOU have done to create and sustain our vibrant Jewish world. Thank YOU.

"Yet you see, even though we try, a simple thank you letter could not possibly express what a difference your gift makes to so many."

JEA & SJFfrom pg 1

From its launching in 1951 and continuing through the present day, Israel Bonds has played a unique role in Israel's rapid progression from struggling agrarian nation to global economic powerhouse. Proceeds realized through the sale of Israel Bonds have helped cultivate the desert, build transportation networks, create new industries, resettle immigrants, and increase export capability. Today, investing in Israel Bonds supports a nation of extraordinary innovation that continues to push the boundaries of modern technology.

February 25th, *Schpiel*

What does food have to do with theater? Come find out when the Jewish Arts & Culture Center (JACC) presents its second offering: *the Schpiel: Jewish Food*, Thursday, February 25 (7-9pm). Better yet, like almost two dozen of your neighbors and friends did last November, come prepared to tell your story or sing a song that connects you in some way to Jewish food.

Though there is no proof to the adage "you are what you eat," as a Jewish people the old joke about how one defines Jewish history ("they tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat!") sadly has some validity. Food permeates Jewish life so much that even the absence of it in our calendar is significant: the prayers for it, the laws about it, the preparation of it and the order of serving it are as important as the appearance, smell and taste of the meal.

Current fascination with gourmet cooking, fashionable gadgets and foodie selfies contributes even more to making Jews and our focus on food very trendy. So it was natural that the theme chosen for the second storytelling evening of the Jewish Arts & Culture Center season would be Jewish food. The JACC steering committee (Chair Joan Silver, Gail Levites and Carol Greenberg) felt everyone has memories about how food, the people preparing food or the absence of food makes them feel.

Anyone may participate, but original stories, skit ideas or song submissions must be submitted by Mon-

day, Feb. 1, to artsandculture@savj.org to be considered for inclusion. Within two weeks, participants will be selected and then

asked to choose a fifteen minute time slot one week before the show (3:15-6:30pm, Thursday, February 18th) to rehearse with a coach. Entries that run longer than five to ten minutes may require editing and all submissions will be reviewed for appropriateness of content.

Tickets (\$8 JEA members/\$10 non-members) will be on sale in February at the JEA front desk or at the door the evening of the show. Adult beverages, courtesy of *Habersham Beverage* and kosher snacks will be served. For more information on this event, on *Johnny Mercer & Me* (shows March 12 & 13) or to help sponsor the current JACC season, contact Alyssa Schoonover at 912-355-8111.

February 28th, *Genetics*

There are many uncertainties in life so it can be very comforting to have some place to turn to for information to make informed decisions on family planning. The JEA will host a Jewish Genetics Open House from 2-4:30pm on Sunday, February 28th. The afternoon will include panel discussions and there will be available on-site Jewish genetic counseling and genetic screening. The testing, to be conducted by NxGEN MDx, will screen for 19 diseases commonly hereditary in Jewish families.

Costs for genetic screening are typically covered by most insurance plans. Support funding for those without insurance coverage is being provided by the *Carol and Joel Greenberg Health Resource Fund* at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, part of the Savannah Jewish Federation. There is no cost to attend the program.



Judy Odrezin performs at the first Shpiel



ISRAEL BONDS



Savannah Jewish Federation and Israel Bonds Present

Featured Speaker

Lt Colonel Avinoam Sharon

Israeli Judge Advocate and Supreme Court Advisor



Discussing

The US and Middle East Cultural Divide

How cultural norms and assumptions affect our relationships & assumptions - even between Israeli and American Jews

Thursday, February 18th

7:00pm

Jewish Educational Alliance



There are many unknowns in life

Jewish Genetics Open House

**Jewish Genetic Counseling
Onsite Testing
Panel Discussions
including**

**OB/GYN, Dr. Dina Linfoot
Genetic Counselor, Libby Malphrus
Genetic Screening by NxGen MDx***



**Sunday, February 28th
2:00 - 4:30**

Jewish Educational Alliance

*Screening of the 19 common Jewish genetic diseases are typically covered by most insurances. Support funding for those without insurance is provided by the Greenberg Healthcare Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah of the Savannah Jewish Federation

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



On the Personal Side

Mazel tov to...
Noah Luskey, the son of Debby and Barry Luskey, who graduated in December with highest honors from Georgia Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and treasurer of the Georgia Tech chapter of the IEEE engineering society. Noah interned with AT&T, Texas Instruments and Sonos and is a competitive pinball player. His senior design group was awarded "Best Overall Project in Electrical & Computer Engineering" for their MIDI guitar design. Noah plans to pursue a master's degree in Electrical Engineering at Georgia Tech with an internship at Microsoft. He attended Hebrew



Noah Luskey

Community School at Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob.

...Tom Kohler, who was named one of the marshals of the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance. Since 1978, Tom has been coordinator of Chatham Savannah Citizen Advocacy. His first involvement as a volunteer with the disabled was as a Temple Youth Group member at Congregation Mickve Israel. A graduate of Jenkins High School and the University of Georgia, Tom also has been a school teacher, a group home houseparent, a sheltered workshop administrator and part of the first effort to bring people home from state institutions. He shares the marshal duties with the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Dowse of St. John Baptist Church.



Tom Kohler

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

SO Happy at Camp

by Gillian Warmkessel

A happy mother reports on her daughters' experiences at camp last summer:

The Savannah Jewish Federation provided Grace and Lily Warmkessel, members at Congregation Mickve Israel, with generous scholarships towards their tuition for URJ Camp Coleman last summer.

Grace enjoyed a one-month session in Coleman's Nachshonim unit. It was her third summer at Camp Coleman and the best summer yet! Grace says of her experience, "My friendships grew so much this summer. At Camp Coleman, surrounded by my Jewish sisters, I truly feel at home." This is especially important for Grace since she does not know many Jewish girls her age in Savannah, and none at her school. Camp Coleman offers Grace the opportunity to be part of a peer community she cannot get at home.

Grace celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in November 2014, and experienced camp this year as a Jewish adult. Since coming home from camp, she has spent several weekends away attending the Bat Mitzvahs of her Coleman cabin mates.

She really loved getting to know the Israeli staff at Camp Coleman who shared songs and dances that gave the campers a personal connection to Israel. Weekly services, including Shabbat, were always exciting; new music was thrilling to learn and sing. It was Grace's favorite element of camp, aside from the true bonds of friendship. "I'm so happy I chose Camp Coleman. My best friends I will have forever will be my camp friends. I truly cannot wait for summer 2016 when I will be in the Keshet Unit!"

Summer 2015 was the third summer at URJ Camp Coleman for **Lily**. Originally, she did two weeks, and was hesitant to be away from home for an entire month, but her older sister convinced her it was the best decision she would ever make. Now, Lily has spent two summers as a one-month camper. It turns out, older



Lily and Grace Warmkessel on their final Shabbat at Camp Coleman for 2015

sisters are sometimes right! Lily said of her camp life, "Every summer I go back to Coleman, I get to do so many fun outdoor activities and crafts I wouldn't have been able to do at home in Savannah. And my friendships at camp are AWESOME!"

Lily's counselors, Lauren and Lior, welcomed her with open arms. Lior came to Camp Coleman from Tel Aviv! They made every moment fun. The Camp Coleman staff is well trained in seamlessly integrating Judaism with daily activities. Lily learned something new every day!

Lily was chosen by her Solelim unit counselors as a team captain for the Maccabiah Games, which at Camp Coleman is simply called "MAC." This year's MAC theme was "Fairly OddMAC." Lily was a member of the Blue Cosmos Team. Lily was really proud to serve as a captain because she was able to demonstrate leadership skills to her peers for the first time. "I think that going to Camp Coleman was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Grace Warmkessel, 13-1/2, is in eighth grade at Coastal Middle School; Lily Warmkessel, 11, is in sixth grade at Coastal Middle School. They went to URJ Camp Coleman last summer with the assistance of Jewish Youth Summer Experience grants from the Savannah Jewish Federation. They are the children of Gillian and Jeffrey Warmkessel. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org.



PJ Library's first event this year was in partnership with the Savannah Jewish Federation's Community Chanukah Party on Sunday, December 13th. PJ children made arts and crafts, ate delicious latkes, and enjoyed listening to a special Chanukah story!

PJ Library is a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and is free for all families with Jewish children 6 months



PJ Library painting salt-dough figurines!

to 8 years old. Age appropriate books are mailed to children every month that explore the timeless core values of Judaism.

Watch this space for more updates regarding PJ Library events and programs! For more information about PJ Library and registration, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engage-

ment Coordinator at 912-355-8111.

PJ Library in greater Savannah is a gift of the Ceceile Richman JEA Fund, Jane Slotin, Nancy & Leon Slotin, the Savannah Jewish Federation, and The Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Like us on Facebook

PJ Library Savannah



Your Campaign Dollars at Work



Advanced Home Inspections, LLC

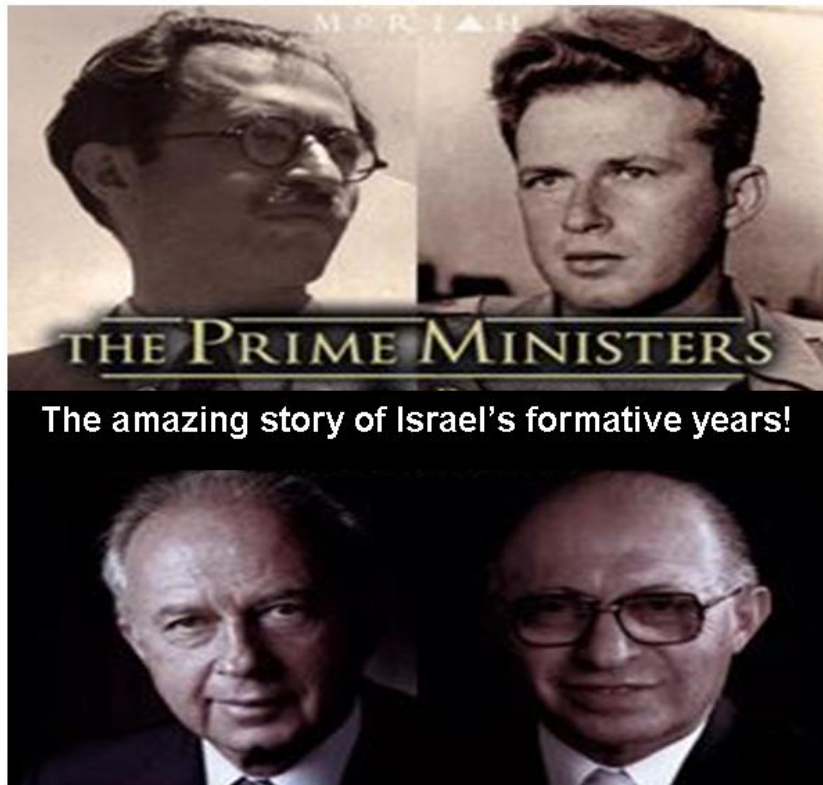
"KNOWING BEFORE BUYING"

The most comprehensive, professional, and client-friendly home inspection service in Savannah.



Brett Ratner - Owner ahisavannah.com
912-660-5501 brett@ahisavannah.com

Hadassah Presents: **HADASSAH** 
Sunday, March 20
3:30 PM
Carmike Theater



Corporate Sponsorships Available

Tickets, & Sponsor Info: Jean Weitz
(912) 354-2409 or **jweitz@hadassah.org**

Youth Scholarships Available from the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish Educational Alliance for 2016



Jacob & Ida Ulman College Scholarship Fund
Offered through the Federation, this scholarship is given based on need, availability and the applicant's participation in the Jewish community.

Henry W. Center College Scholarship Fund
Offered through the JEA 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
Available to a high school teen who has shown exceptional athletic ability and leadership in the community.

Savannah Jewish Federation Camp and Teen Experience Scholarships
Planning on going/sending your children to a Jewish overnight camp? Expanding your Jewish IQ at a teen leadership program? Do you want to make a difference? The SJF Camp & Teen Experience Scholarships are for you! Available to SJF members and their families.

Kay Becker Israel Scholarship
Available to teens for travel to Israel for peer group travel, gap year programs, Yeshiva study or college abroad programs.

*Applications available for download at savj.org.
Confidential applications & nominations
must be submitted by March 15, 2016.*

Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES



HERBERT TRAUB, JR.

3 April 2002
Interviewed by Harriet Meyerhoff

I was born in this house, I've lived here all of my life, never lived anywhere else. My mother and dad built the house in 1915, 1916 when they were married. In fact, when they got back from their honeymoon, the house was not completed yet and they had to stay in what was then the old, or at that time, the new Savannah Hotel down on Congress and Bull. They had to stay there several months until they could get in the house. As I said, I've never lived anywhere else in my life. My brother Steve Traub was raised here, as certainly I was. We spent our formative years here. He went on to other things away from Savannah and I stayed in Savannah.

BETTY (BLUMENTHAL) CANTOR

21 June 2001
Interviewed by David Rosenzweig

I can remember going to Hebrew School. The teachers were not like the nice cute rabbis we've got today. They were older, with beards. I remember boys jumping out the window and stuff like that there, so you know how much I learned.





We are halfway through the school year and our BBYO chapters have been very busy! In December, Savannah BBYO celebrated the Festival of Lights with a Chanukah party. They played Chanukah madlibs, decorated cookies, had a white elephant gift exchange, and ate some delicious latkes. It was so much fun for everyone!

In January Savannah's 8th graders joined BBYO and got to experience their first chapter programs. We had a "kidnap" program for new members, which is a BBYO tradition across the



Members of David Finn AZA writing their Chanukah madlibs!

country where older teens bring new members to a chapter sleepover. Here they learn more about BBYO, become inducted into the chapters, and bond with their new AZAs and BBGs. Also in January Savannah's teens joined teens from all over southeast Georgia and South Carolina for the Savannah Teen Weekend, January 15-17. The swinging weekend had a Roaring 20s theme and started off on Friday night with a community-wide Shabbaton. Teens created and led services, had dinner with the community, and then did icebreakers so everyone would meet. On Saturday, teens enjoyed some experiential Jewish programming learning ballroom dancing and its relation to Tel Aviv, and made a mural to be hung in the JEA. Saturday night was BBYO's Savannah Dance, where a new beau and sweetheart were crowned, and teens danced the night away! On Sunday our teens took part in a community service project that allowed them to experience what life was like in the Great Depression. It was a fantastic weekend full of Jewish teens and new experiences!

February 11-15 some of our teens will be heading to Baltimore for BBYO's International Convention. Over 4,000 people will be in attendance, including teen leaders, educators, professionals and philanthropists from across the world. They'll hear from and meet inspiring speakers, deepen leadership skills, immerse themselves in and serve the local community, celebrate Shabbat and learn together, have access to exclusive music performances and do their part to ensure a stronger Jewish future. Has your teen registered yet?

Watch this space for more updates regarding Savannah chapter events and Council conventions! For more information about joining BBYO, please contact Jill Strauss, adult board chair (912-844-5588) or Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator (912-355-8111). We can't wait to see you at our next event!



For 6th-8th Grades
Upcoming Dates!

Sunday, January 31
Sunday, February 28



Your
Campaign
Dollars
at Work

We couldn't do it without them!

Help us thank our advertisers

Please support their businesses!



Downtown 912.233.1163 • Oglethorpe Mall 912.238.2120
St. Johns Town Center, Jacksonville 904.527.2643
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Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Netzer Olami Campers

As part of the 2015 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation reapproved the Overseas Investment Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 mini-grants, with up to 20 being approved. Eighteen submissions were made this year and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

Netzer, which stands for Noar Tzioni Reformi (Reform Zionist Youth), is the International Zionist youth movement of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Netzer Olami (worldwide Netzer) is based in Jerusalem and is the central headquarters for all the branches of Netzer.

The various *sniffim* (branches) run weekly meetings, summer and winter camps, residential Shabbatot, leadership training events, activism days, study events and seminars. Netzer Olami works to bring the young people together in ideological and practical ways, with Israel being a central focal point. Members are encouraged to visit Israel on short-term summer tours, on a long-term leadership program, *Shnat Netzer*, and on various other seminars and conferences. *Shlichim* (educational emissaries) are sent to several of the branches to help the young people run their movement in their countries.

Netzer developed many years after the traditional *chalutz* (pioneering) Zionist youth movements of Eastern Europe in the first half of the 20th century but the Rabbis, *shlichim* and young people who established Netzer were inspired by these early Zionist youth movements. They

founded a youth movement that would empower young people to lead others, make decisions for them-



Children at Netzer Olami's Ivria Camp in Odessa, Ukraine

selves and run their own movement.

A central feature of its program is that young people take responsibility for the major decisions affecting the movement. Each year in Israel there is an International Conference where policy for the whole movement is set by the young people who constitute its leadership.

Netzer *sniffim* embraced Progressive Judaism's beliefs and values. They also embraced Zionism, as had the traditional youth movements, creating a unique synthesis between these two different belief systems. The Reform movement had traditionally struggled with the idea of Zionism in its early years, but from the 1930's onwards, the movement re-evaluated its position and the State of Israel became a stronger focus.

Netzer aligned itself with the ideology of Reform Zionism believing in a particular vision for Judaism, Israel and the world. The Netzer *sniffim* often share a different vision of the world as compared to the adult Progressive communities they are a part of. Netzer believes that this is a healthy and vital element of a Youth Movement even if it means sometimes being at odds with their elders.

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ALHAMBRA
2200 East Victory Dr.
Savannah, GA 31401
912.354.1968

EDGEWATER TRACE
10714 Abercorn Ext.
Savannah, GA 31419
912.925.5519

KESSLER POINT
901 Kessler Ct.
Garden City, GA 31408
912.964.4452

THE ARBORS
4035 Kessler Ave.
Garden City, GA 31408
912.964.8787

TIMBERLAND
10612 Abercorn Ext.
Savannah, GA 31419
912.925.5475

RIDGEWOOD
12008 Middleground Rd.
Savannah, GA 31419
912.925.9108

WINDSOR ARMS
12409 Largo Dr.
Savannah, GA 31419
912.925.4811

WYNDMERE
1326 Highway 80 West
Garden City, GA 31408
912.964.9211



I on Israel

Destruction and Rebirth

Five years after Israel's most deadly forest fire, the devastated Carmel Mountain area is coming back to life. The fire began on December 2, 2010, took five days to extinguish, claimed 44 lives and destroyed about 6,300 acres of forest.

The rejuvenation of the forest is being overseen by Israel's Nature and Parks Authority, the Environmental Protection Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry working with the Jewish National Fund (JNF), famous for spearheading the 'greening' of Israel. While the strategy for the forest's renewal certainly includes planting new trees, much of the focus actually is on thinning out the surviving forest.

"The forest has renewed itself in all of the areas that were burned," Klil Adar, head of the Forests Department for JNF's Northern District, told the *Times of Israel*. "It's a five-year-old forest... Dozens of years still need to pass before the situation returns to what it was."

The Parks Authority and JNF have taken advantage of the opportunity to introduce greater biodiversity into the forest. New plantings have included Jerusalem pines, oaks, carob, almond and olive trees. All are native to Israel and the hope is that, in addition to helping to keep the



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu places a wreath at the memorial to those who died in the 2010 Carmel Forest Fire

forest 'thinner,' the wider variety of trees also will attract a wider variety of wildlife.

JNF has been researching the optimal density for the forest to allow the wider varieties of species to

continued on page 15

Umm-el-Fahm An(other) I on Israel

by Vernon Mosheim

This past June, fellow Savannahian, Bob Friedman, and I undertook one of our obligatory, bi-annual trips to Israel. Although both of us have visited the country on numerous occasions (Bob traveled there for the first time in '52 and also lived there for a year with his sons in '72-'73) and know our way around as well as we know our own *medina*, we are always amazed and delighted to discover new facets, new sights, new attractions, such as the Rothschild Gardens (see below).

We were especially intrigued when we learned from friends about Umm-el-Fahm, an Israeli Arab town in the heart of the Wadi Ara valley, some 12 miles southwest of Afula. Umm-el-Fahm is a town where Islamic fundamentalism and anti-Israeli sentiment simmer just below the surface. A town where traditional *hijab* and *jil-hab* share space with tight jeans and the latest version of smartphones. A town where Hebrew is the intruder and Arabic the *mamaloshen*.

Our purpose? Our goal in driving there? To visit the art gallery found-



Vernon Mosheim (r) and Bob Friedman on their most recent trip to Israel

ed and managed by one Said Abu Shakra, an Israeli Arab, a retired Israeli Police detective and an artist in his own right. With an avid interest in the art scene wherever we travel (Bob is an accomplished sculptor and painter, whose work has been exhibited, among other venues, at the JEA; I a mere dilettante with an appreciation of all manner of artwork), we had heard about this controversial but burgeoning gallery and the grand vision of its founder: not only to ex-

continued on page 15

The Hill of the Benefactor

Half-way between Haifa and Tel Aviv, near the town of Zichron Yaakov, the unanticipating, accidental tourist will stumble upon one of Israel's best-kept secrets: *Ramat Hanadiv*, the Hill of the Benefactor, also known as The Rothschild Gardens. Bob Friedman and I visited the area in the company of Israeli friends who live nearby and promised us an oasis of beauty, peace and tranquility, hidden away, in the words of the late Baron Edward de Rothschild, "among the rocks of the Carmel range." They could not have been more on target. (On our own, quite frankly, not only had we not heard about it, but, even if we had, we should have never found it by ourselves.)

A living tribute to the Israeli public, it is the burial ground for the Bar-

on and his wife, who asked to be buried here and are entombed in a crypt carved from the rock. To reach it, you wander among a number of rustic trails and graceful pathways, past beautifully designed gardens abloom – at any season of the year – with an array of common and exotic colorful flowers. Grounds for the gardens and the crypt were begun in 1938, but were not completed until 1954, primarily because of wartime activities.

One can spend an hour or a day in this secret retreat, but, if, as a tourist, you are looking for activities, you have come to the wrong place. It is for contemplation, for communing with nature, for leaving the hurly-burly of the outside world for a spell. Yes, there is the occasional lecture, a film on the gardens, as well as workshops

for Israelis of all ages.

The output of one such workshop left an indelible impression on the two of us: Individual, hand-made ceramic flowers. This workshop is conducted for Israeli seniors at multiple locations throughout the country, as well as in the Gardens proper. As you enter the premises through the tall gate with the Rothschild coat of arms emblazoned above, their handiwork greets you: row upon row, bed upon bed, filled with ceramic roses, lilies, daffodils, bluebells, pansies and other colorful flowers.

The ceramic flowers also are for sale in a gift shop, along with potted plants and seeds of the natural flowers that flourish here and throughout Israel. A kosher dairy restaurant offers light meals, sandwiches and snacks.

Vernon Mosheim



Ceramic flower beds at the Rothschild Gardens



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

Jan.-Feb. 2016



Children's Programming



**100 Days Till Summer Fun
Celebration & Open House!**

**JEA Camp Savannah &
Preschool Savannah**

Monday February 15, 2016

**Pick up registration packets &
brochures**

**Purchase the latest Camp
Savannah SWAG**

Meet Camp Leadership

Reunite with camp buddies

**Enjoy Camp Savannah
Inflatable Carnival, snacks and
more!**



OPEN HOUSE from 3pm-6pm

For a full-day of fun, sign up for Days @ the JEA. Visit
www.savannahjea.org or call 355-8111 for more
information.

**Building a stronger community,
one camper at a time.**

Saturday Night Out

January 30th - Down in the Swamp

- Play a JEA Staple - Swampball
- Enjoy a Swamp-Inspired Drink
- Watch a Movie on Our Big Screen

February 6th - Glow in the Dark Party

- Glow in the Dark Games
- Dance Party
- Watch a Movie on Our Big Screen

February 20th - Candyland

- Participate in Our Live-Action Version of the Board Game, Candyland
- Make Your Own Pizza Bagels
- Watch a Movie on Our Big Screen

March 5th - Polar Pool Party - 7:15-10:00 pm

- Compete for Prizes in a Variety of Pool Games
- Enjoy Delicious Strawberry Shortcake
- Watch a Movie on Our Big Screen

When: 7:00-10:00 pm (7:15-10:00 pm on March 5th)

Who: 4y-6th grade

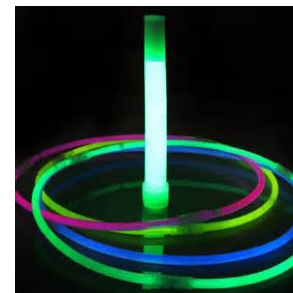
Cost: \$25/child or \$50/family

JEA Member Value Price: \$20/child or \$40/family

Where: JEA

RSVP and advanced payment must be made by Thursday, January 28th for Down in the Swamp, by Thursday, February 4th for Glow in the Dark Party, by Thursday, February 18th for Candyland and by Thursday, March 3rd for Polar Pool Party. Limited to the first 40 children

Check www.SavannahJEA.org for more details



JEA Donations

(November 13, 2015-December 18, 2015)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Frances Goldberg
In memory of Marcia Lebos
In memory of Annette Karp
Nancie & Fred Clark
In honor of Murray Arkin
Eva Odrezin
In memory of Annette Karp
Geraldine Greenberg
In honor of Eva Odrezin
Sharon & Bill Sand
Barbara & David Gottlieb

JEA GENERAL DONATION

Donations by
Susan & Martin Cohen
Joanna & Lawrence Tavares
In honor of Kaye Kole
Lori & Paul Robinson
In memory of Larry Lasky
Barbara & Ricky Friedenberg
In memory of Naomi Strear
Jean Birnbaum

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH FUND

In memory of Larry Lasky
Carol & Joel Greenberg
In memory of Naomi Strear
In honor of Adam Solender
Betty Lasky

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy's grandson
In honor of Sally & Steve Greenberg's granddaughter
Muriel Bono

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Sheryl Collison's mother
Steffi & Sol Zerden

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Louis Syret
In memory of Annette Karp
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Bernice Elman

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Miriam Center
John Patterson

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.



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.



Food for Thought - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Join us on Thursdays for Food for Thought! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

Jan. 21st - Rambam's Prayer for the Physician with Linda Sacks

Jan. 28th - Savannah Jewish Film Festival - "Deli Man"

Feb. 4th - Savannah Jewish Film Festival - The Last Mentsch"

Feb. 11th - Preserving Your Jewish Recipes with Valerie Frey

Feb. 18th - Art and Love with Dr. Charles McCracken

Feb. 25th - Dr. Martin Greenberg

Mar. 3rd - Jewish Themes in Painting with artist Alan Stecker

Black Heritage Festival Future of Jazz Concert

Wednesday, February 10th - 7:00 pm

featuring

Local and regional young jazz vocalists
and instrumentalists

Free and Open to the Public



For more information, visit
www.savannahblackheritagefestival.com

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 11/11/15-12/18/15)

Daniel & Molly Crook
Kate Dunnagan
Anwaar Hood
Charles Hurndon
Thomas Hurndon & Emily Lyons
Barri Marshall
Jeff Ofgang & Nora McFarland
Craig & Gina McKay
Pratik Patel
Joshua Rommer
Tinika Taylor
Russell Zittrauer

Days @ the JEA

Monday, February 15th

Member Prices: \$30.00 per day

Non-Member Prices: \$40.00 per day

Sign up today, space is limited
Ages 4 years-8th Grade
Call 355-8111 or email DJ Horton at kids@savj.org
for more info



Health & Wellness

Shower Before You Swim



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

You see signs in the locker rooms and on the pool deck that read, "Swimmers must shower before entering the pool." You might ask yourself, "why would I shower before I work out?" You should think twice about skipping that shower next time.

Most importantly, showering before swimming cuts down on waterborne illnesses that can affect everyone. Sure, there is chlorine in the pool to sanitize the water, but it doesn't kill everything. Cryptosporidium, which is a common waterborne illness that has extremely harmful effects, can live for days in chlorine. Crypto is found in small traces of feces and is rapidly spread in aquatic environments. By rinsing off before jumping in the pool, the chance of contracting waterborne illnesses like Crypto is lessened exponentially.

It is estimated that showering before swim-

ming can reduce chemical costs up to 50%. By rinsing off before swimming, organic compounds, such as sweat, soap, perfume, shampoo, conditioner, aftershave, deodorant, urine and feces, don't make their way into the pool or hot tub and disturb the chemical balance.

When organic compounds are introduced into a chlorinated environment, like a swimming pool or hot tub, disinfected by-products are produced. The chlorine reacts with the organics and creates gases that make the pool area smell strongly of chlorine. The more organics brought into the pool, the worse the health situation. A greater chlorine smell at a pool means that the chemical balance in the pool is off, and does not mean cleaner water. A strong chlorine smell can also have long-term effects for those with conditions such as asthma.

A quick rinse before swimming can get rid of all of the substances on your skin that you may not even know are affecting everyone. Do your part to help us all stay healthy and clean!

Andrew Feiler to Speak at the JEA February 16th - 7:00 PM

Join us on Tuesday, February 16th as we welcome Andrew Feiler!

Andrew will be discussing his book, *Without Regard to Sex, Race, or Color: The Past, Present, and Future of One Historically Black College*. The title refers to Morris Brown College, an historically black college that lost its accreditation and today, is largely abandoned.

Andrew will also be discussing his photography, and share his experience with the photo book publishing process.



T-Ball Registration Begins in February

Ages: 4-6

This program is designed to introduce children to the game of baseball. Games are played in a relaxed manner, where everyone hits and everyone scores.

Season Runs March-May (Registration Begins in February).

Cost:

\$35 - JEA Members

\$45 - Non Members



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

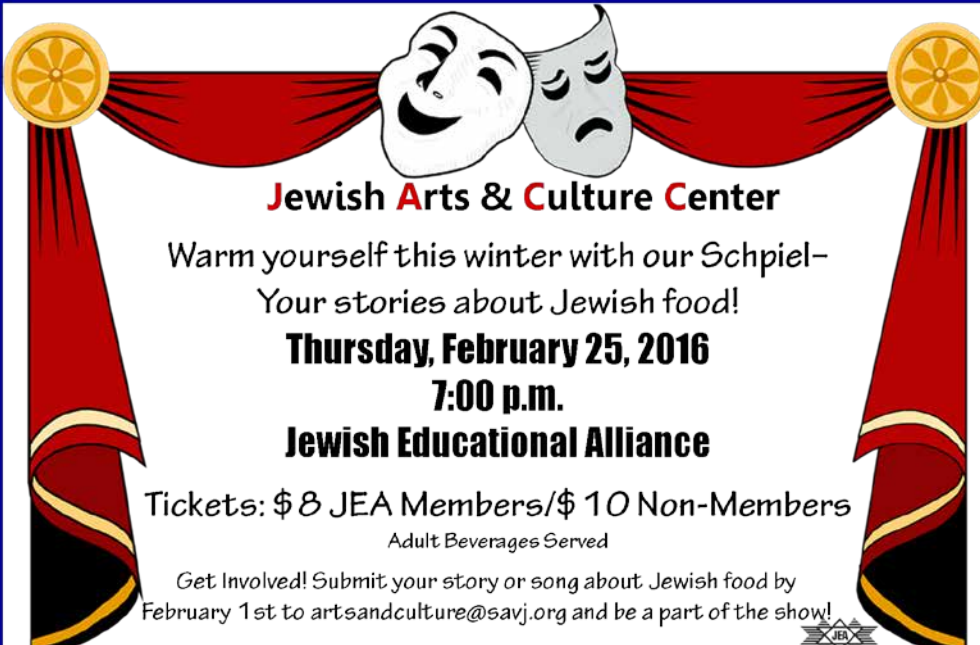
8:45 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

Thursday

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

Friday

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



Jewish Arts & Culture Center

Warm yourself this winter with our Schpiel—
Your stories about Jewish food!

Thursday, February 25, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance

Tickets: \$8 JEA Members/\$10 Non-Members
Adult Beverages Served

Get Involved! Submit your story or song about Jewish food by
February 1st to artsandculture@savj.org and be a part of the show!





JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now

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

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

Art Bash

Thurs., Feb. 25th - 7:00 PM

On display and available for sale
-- beautiful art pieces and classroom
projects produced by JEA Preschool
Savannah children.

Silent auction items will also be
available to help raise funds for the
program.



Open House

Wednesday, January 20th
10:00 am

Jea Preschool Savannah is holding an Open
House for the 2016-2017 School Year.

All interested families of children 16 months
to four years old are welcome to attend!
Come and see why everyone is talking about
the dynamic JEA Preschool Savannah!

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



JEA Art Gallery

January 2016 Artist John Alexander

Originally from Columbia, MD, John has been a photographer in Savannah since 2005. His formal training is from UMBC where he received a BA in photography & graphic design in 1998. John has become a well-known photographer specializing in commercial, portraiture and weddings/special events. John's commercial photography has been featured in many publications including *Sailing World Magazine*, *South Magazine*, *Savannah Magazine*, *Connect*, *Well FED* and many small business publications.

John's portfolio consists of a wide range of photography that demonstrates his ability to create polished images that come alive with unique personality. He is very experienced in directing a scene towards a creative vision, whether working alone or collaborating with the client. John's goal is always the same, to have his images reflect a passion and dedication to his work.

John also enjoys being active within the community and has been involved with many different charities in Savannah, one in particular, the Susan G. Komen Foundation. In October of 2014, John helped launch the first BigWig campaign where he did the photography and graphic design for digital billboards, posters and online media. The success of the campaign lead to foundations nationwide applying the same concept.



Artwork Available for viewing January 1-31, 2016

February Artist Molly Wright

Molly Wright moved to Savannah from Baltimore in 1997. A painter all of her life, she received a BA in fine art from Randolph Macon Women's College.

Molly works in both oil and acrylic, responding to the thick texture and strong pure color offered by both. She enjoys the interplay between representation and abstraction and she strives to paint beauty, describing her subject choices as being dynamic. People in everyday situations, florals, and the landscape of her Savannah home all provide inspiration. She says, "The world has so much to offer a painter. I take advantage of that as much as possible."

Molly's newer works are expressionistic and impressionistic ~ utilizing color as a tool as much as her brush. She achieves distinction with her bright, happy palette and a loose painterly style that allows for the viewers own interpretation to be part of the piece.

In Molly's words, "Art is emotional for the painter as well as the viewer. It can change the lives of both parties. I love being a part of that. The evolution of my work is in my ability to get out of my own way."

Molly shows regularly from her Savannah studio as well as exhibiting in numerous solo and group shows up and down the East Coast. Her work is in many private as well as commercial collections including that of Jay Fishman, CEO of The Travelers, and Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville, Va. Her oil painting, "Lose Yourself In Books" was chosen as the 2012 Savannah Book Festival signature image.

Artwork available for viewing February 1-29, 2016
Art Gallery Reception February 2, 2016, 5-7 pm



Cultivated



Beach People

The JEA and Savannah Jewish Federation present
the Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial

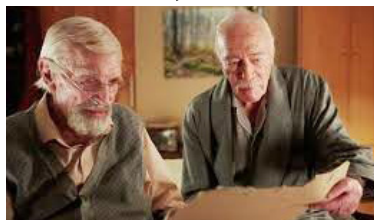


SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

January 27th - February 6th, 2016

Wednesday, Jan. 27th

6:00 pm Opening Night Party
Hors D'oeuvres, Desserts,
Wine and Beer
7:00 pm Film



Remember

A gripping thriller about an Auschwitz survivor struggling with memory loss determined to bring justice to the man who destroyed his life.
(Drama, 95 min)

Thursday, Jan. 28th

12:30 pm Lunch/
1:30 pm Film



In Search of Israeli Cuisine

Restaurateur Michael Solomonov takes us on a mouth-watering tour of Israel—from home kitchens to the finest restaurants—to showcase this global cuisine.
(Documentary, 97 min)

6:00 pm Dinner/
7:00 pm Film



Deli Man

"A love letter written on pastrami" for the culture, food and heart of an ethnic history. The film tells delightful stories of a young Deli Man as well as those of the famous icons.
(Documentary, 91 min)

Saturday, Jan. 30th

7:30 pm Dessert/8:15 pm Film



Dough

Nat's Jewish bakery is on a downward spiral, until he reluctantly hires Ayyash, a smalltime pot dealer. When Ayyash's two professions merge in a batch of cannabis-infused challah, things begin to look up for both men!
(Comedy, 94 min)

Sunday, Jan. 31st

6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Film



100 Voices: A Journey Home

A musical documentary that highlights the resurgence of Jewish culture in Poland by following 72 cantors on a historic trip. Most are sons of Holocaust survivors visiting their families' former towns with no more Jewish presence.
(Documentary, 92 min)

Tuesday, Feb. 2nd

2:00 pm Film



Apples from the Desert

A timeless tale of tradition vs. modernity, Rebecca and her family must come to grips with her choices when she leaves her observant home for a secular kibbutz.
(Drama, 96 min)

6:00 pm Dinner/
7:00 pm Film



The Green Prince

Mosab Hassan Yousef is recruited to spy for Israel. For him, there is no greater shame. For his handler, there is no greater prize than operating the son of a Hamas founder.
(Documentary, 101 min)

Thursday, Feb. 4th

12:30 pm Lunch/
1:30 pm Film



The Last Mentsch

Marcus Schwartz survived Auschwitz only to kill his Jewishness. But to be buried as a Jew, he must prove his ancestry, requiring a trip with a Turkish woman that will change them both.
(Drama, 89 min)

6:15 pm Dinner/
7:30 pm Film



Touchdown Israel

US-style football is big in Israel, thanks to Patriots owner Robert Kraft. The players—Jews, Arabs & Christians—sideline their differences for teamwork and love of the sport.
(Documentary, 85 min)

Saturday, Feb. 6th

7:30 pm Desserts/8:15 pm Film



Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did for Love

Composer, conductor, genius—Marvin Hamlisch did it all. But what struggles did he endure to realize his triumphs? With exclusive access to Marvin's archives, we see a candid, insider portrait of one of the great artists of our time.
(Documentary, 85 min)

SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL TICKET INFO

Full Festival Pass

Admits one person to all films & Opening Night Party

Community Members: \$100.00
JEA Members: \$80.00

Purchase your full festival pass online at www.SavannahJEA.org or at the JEA.

For full details and purchase info go to www.savannahjea.org or stop by the JEA!

Please contact Lynn Levine at 912-355-8111 or filmfest@savj.org for more information about becoming a sponsor.

Single Movie Tickets

Community Members: \$10.00
JEA Members: \$8.00

Purchase your tickets (movie only) at the JEA beginning 30 minutes prior to each screening.

Meal & Movie Tickets

Community Members: \$24.00
JEA Members: \$20.00

Purchase your tickets (meal & movie) online at www.SavannahJEA.org or at the JEA.

Paid meal reservations must be made at least two (2) days in advance of the movie screening. (No meal walk-ins can be accommodated)

Additional Information

- The Full Festival Pass is for MOVIES ONLY. Payments for dinner reservations are made separately.
- All movies are screened at: Jewish Educational Alliance 5111 Abercorn Street Savannah, GA 31405
- All meals are kosher, not under supervision.
- Certified sealed kosher meals available upon request.

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Melinda Stein

It's a Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

Dave and Cyndi were on a trip to Israel and decided to rent a car so that they could drive around and tour. As Dave pulled into a crowded Tel Aviv parking lot, he asked a police officer standing there, "Excuse me, officer, is it all right to park here?"

"No," said the cop. "Can't you see that No Parking sign?"

"But what about all the other cars in here?" Dave asked.

The policeman shrugged. "They didn't ask."

Morris realizes that he needs a hearing aid so he goes to the audiologist Dr. Kaplan to see what his options are.

"How much do they cost?" Morris asks.

"That depends," says Kaplan. "They run from \$2.00 to \$2,000."

"Let's see the \$2.00 model," says Morris.

The doctor puts the device around Morris' neck. "You just stick this button in your ear and run this little string down to your pocket," he instructs.

"How does it work?" asks Morris.

"For \$2.00 it doesn't work," Kaplan replies. "But when people see it on you, they'll talk a lot louder!"

Mary McDonough Goldstein was at the airport in New York, scheduled to board an El Al plane to Israel to visit her husband Saul who was working for the United Nations in Tel Aviv. As she checked in, the El Al security agent pulled her aside to ask a few questions.

"Did you pack this bag yourself?" asked the security agent.

"Yes," replied Mary.

"Has anyone given you any packages to bring along with you?" he asked.

"Only this package my mother-in-law gave me to give to my husband," replied Mary.

"Does she like you?"

At the office of well-known accountants Levinson and Sugarman, there's a

little red box on the wall with a sign saying, "In case of emergency, break glass." Inside are two tickets to Brazil.

Max has been driving trucks for sixty years. One day as he was having coffee in a truck stop diner, three rough-looking, tattooed fellows in black leather walked in. They spotted old Max, began to taunt him, pushed him off his seat onto the floor, and insulted him. Max said nothing, got up, paid his bill and walked out the door.

One of the bikers, unhappy that they hadn't provoked a fight, complained to the waitress, "That old dude sure wasn't much of a man!"

"No, he wasn't," she replied, looking out the window. "And he isn't much of a truck driver either. He just backed his truck over three motorcycles!"

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The Jewish Arts & Culture Committee
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Shalom School's Family Bingo Party

to benefit the Shalom School's Scholarship Fund

Sunday, February 21 at 12pm
in the Mordecai Sheftall Memorial Hall

\$5 per person / \$15 per family
Includes pizza lunch and 3 bingo cards per person
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**Purchase tickets at Shalom School
or email shalomschool@gmail.com**

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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Zelda Mirsky Newman
Who died December 17, 2015

She is survived by her children, Beth (Neil) Shernoff of Scottsdale, AZ; Annette (Albert) Goldwasser of Lake Mary, FL; and Steven (Star) Newman of Atlanta; five grandchildren; and her sister, Sally Kaplan of Atlanta. She was preceded in death by her husband, Solomon Max Newman, and her grandson, Brent Shernoff.

Remembrances: Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.

Annette Harris Karp
Who died December 3, 2015

She is survived by her daughter, Sheryl (Gustave "Stavie") Kreh of Tybee Island; two sons, Sidney Karp of Savannah and Arnold (Chrissie) Karp of Rincon; five grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin Karp; her son, Eric Nathan Karp; her sister, Hilda Weinstein, and her brother, Herschel Harris.

Remembrances: The Eric Nathan Karp Fund at Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405.

Claire Smolen
Who died November 26, 2015

She is survived by her daughter, Samra (Ronald) Robbins; her son, Lee (Janice) Smolen; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Perry; and her sisters, Sylvia Cotler and Joan Kalish.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim Back Pack Buddies, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405.

Marcia Sharon Smith Lebos
Who died November 26, 2015

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Harvey Lebos; her sons, David and Mark (Jessica Leigh Lebos), two grandchildren; her sister, Bobbie (Ken) Horwitz; and a niece and nephew.

Remembrances: Savannah Jewish Federation, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405-5214 or the memorial fund in Marcia's name at Congregation Mickve Israel, P.O. Box 816, Savannah 31402-0816.

Karolyn Solomon Goldich
Who died November 26, 2015

She is survived by her daughters, Barbara (Edward) Rabhan, of Savannah, and Beth (Leo) Burnsed, of Guyton; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Noah Hertz Goldich.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405 or Rambam Day School, 111 Atlas St., Savannah 31405-5461.

Frances Hornstein Goldberg
Who died November 21, 2015

She is survived by her children, Elaine Sissy (Joe) Hoffman, Dr. Steven L. (Eva) Goldberg, and Alan H. Goldberg; two granddaughters; three great-grandchildren; one brother, Neal Hornstein of Atlanta; and numerous cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Goldberg.

Remembrances: Rambam Day School, 111 Atlas St., Savannah 31405 or Island Hospice Foundation, 3 W. Perry St., Savannah 31401.



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News from Shalom School

by Michelle Allan, Shalom School 6th grade teacher

The first half of Shalom School's year wrapped up beautifully. Our students performed a wonderful Chanukah program for our parents, followed by a delicious latke reception, hosted by the Congregation Mickve Israel Sisterhood.

The last few months of the year are always busy, as we work with, and around, our Jewish holiday schedule (not to mention the secular holidays). As always, our teachers are trying to fill our students with not just facts, but also instill a desire to learn more. Walking through the hall, one hears songs, prayer, laughter, and most importantly, questions.

We strive to engage our students in learning. We all remember from our school experiences that the knowledge that stayed with us the longest were not the facts we were forced to memorize, but the subjects in which we took an active interest, and continued studying outside of the classroom. Our students are diverse in their knowledge and interests, and our classrooms face the same challenges as secular classrooms. We seek to encourage our students as they search for meaning and answers, and to enable them to form their own relationships with G-d and the Jewish people.

This year, many of the class projects are focusing on mitzvot and tzedakah. We held a sock and stuffed animal drive for local children and had excellent participation from our students, who collected over 100 items. The giving will continue in January as we hold a Backpack Buddies school supply restock drive. This has been a great way to connect all grades to the tangible acts of mitzvot, to the Jewish community, and of course, our Savannah larger community.

Tzedakah is often translated as charity, but actually concerns justice and righteousness. Maimonides, one of our greatest sages, described eight levels of tzedakah, and they are worth reviewing with the differentiation between "charity" and "justice" in mind. In increasing order of righteousness, consider the levels of tzedakah:

1. The person who gives reluctantly and with regret.

2. The person who gives graciously, but less than one should.
3. The person who gives what one should, but only after being asked.
4. The person who gives before being asked.
5. The person who gives without knowing to whom he or she gives, although the recipient knows the identity of the donor.
6. The person who gives without making his or her identity known.
7. The person who gives without knowing to whom he or she gives. The recipient does not know from whom he or she receives.
8. The person who helps another to become self-supporting by finding employment for the recipient.



Shalom School Chanukah program

Consider now the Backpack Buddies program. Is it level 3? After all, Shalom School was asked to participate. Is it number 5, since we don't know the individual students who receive their school supplies, but the recipients know that it was provided by Shalom School? Or, perhaps, as I would argue, have our students have reached the eighth and highest level? Providing school supplies to at-risk students (and make no mistake—the child who does not have basic school supplies is an at-risk child), and giving them tools for educational success will lead, we hope, to better jobs, and better opportunities. The reason why this level is the most honorable is because it not only helps one person become self-supporting, but also provides that person a chance to help others. This is one of the many educational lessons we hope to bring to our students and our community.



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

Sharing and Ritual

It was a normal day at JEA Pre-school Savannah and time for the assistant teachers meeting. All of the teachers were present and ready to share and learn together.

The meeting began with each person sharing a story of who their hero is and why. We have a special group of teachers who I learned have been influenced by some amazing people in their lives. One teacher's story was about her stepfather who taught this woman how to persevere and never give up, no matter how tough things may get. Another teacher told about her hero – her father who had taught by example how life's struggles can be overcome with hard work, and how he provided emotional and financial support to his family.

The final story was about a grandmother who was the strongest woman this teacher knew. Her grandmother had cancer in her thigh and ended up having her leg amputated. But through it all, she never wavered in her faith and her positive attitude about life. What lessons we can all learn through these hero stories. The assistant teachers at our school are individuals who care about their families and friends as shared through their stories. That caring and love is what they bring to the children they teach every day.

At that same meeting we also took time to learn the Havdalah ritu-



The Preschool performs Havdalah before lighting the candles on the last day of Chanukah.

al. This is an experience that I have wanted to teach my staff for a while. Together we participated in this rich, sensory ceremony and now the teachers are ready to share it with the children. Given that Havdalah is a ritual that separates the holiness of the Shabbat from the ordinary of the weekdays, we also discussed what "separation" looks like in a preschool classroom. Some thoughts included the children separating from their parents in the mornings, the separation from play time to nap time, and the transitions between different activities and how to do that successfully. Not only do we have staff filled with love but they are individuals who are smart and intentional about their work with children.

I am excited that we will be sharing the beauty of the Havdalah ritual with the children each week. Come join us on Mondays and experience this special moment with us! Come wish our children a *Shavuah Tov*—A Good Week!



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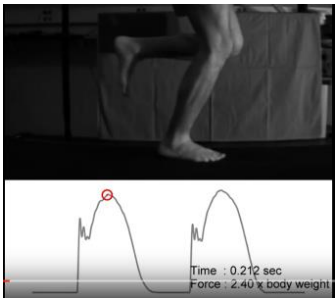
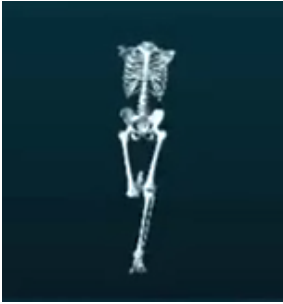


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Rebirth.....from pg 8

thrive. Previously, the unchecked growth of the forest had led to density of as much as 600-700 pine trees per one dunam (approx. one-fourth acre) of land. The dense pine trees, which were particularly dry due to a prolonged period without rain, were ideal fuel for the 2010 fire. JNF is targeting a density of several dozen pine trees per dunam, with additional species filling in the remaining area.

Grazing cattle and sheep also have been introduced into the area to help 'clear' the vegetation that can lead to dense and tangled forests that help spread fires. "One of the main challenges in the Carmel Forest rehabilitation has been the creation of a much thinner forest than what was burned, a forest that will likely be less sensitive to such fires and more resistant to the increasingly arid conditions expected in an era of climate change and global warming," said JNF chief scientist Omri Boneh.

Terraces Restored

Out of the tragedy of the fire came the exposure of some 2,000-year-old agricultural terraces and the discovery of earthenware artifacts dating to the Roman period.

"A golden opportunity was created for us to restore the terraces over the course of rehabilitating the burnt area," said Michael Weinberger, JNF's regional director for the Western Galilee.

The burning of the thick forest, planted after the founding of the State of Israel, revealed the ancient structures. Workers made use of aerial photographs taken in 1944 to assist in the reconstruction of the series of terraces.

Fire Squadron Deployed

Israel's Ministry of Defense joined

forces with Elbit Systems, an Israeli defense electronics systems manufacturer, to complete deployment of a new, national fire squadron this past summer.

Named the Elad Squadron after Elad Riben, a 16-year-old fire scout killed in the Carmel fire, the aerial squad is made up of 14 U.S.-made Air Tractor planes operating from eight bases in Israel. Each aircraft can fly for three hours without refueling and can carry 3,000 tons of water.

Since its first flight in 2011, the Elad Squadron has completed more than 4,600 missions and helped extinguish more than 500 forest fires and wildfires throughout Israel.

Israel was severely unprepared for



The U.S. supertanker Evergreen Boeing 747 helps extinguish the fire as it encroached on the village of Ein Hod south of Haifa

the 2010 fire. A report released in 2012 cited many failures in its handling, including having only 20 tons of fire retardant on hand (about 10% of the minimum required). Before the fire finally was extinguished, 18 foreign countries provided firefighting assistance – planes, helicopters, fire suppressants, experts and/or firefighters – and at least seven others had offered assistance that was not required.

Umm-el-Fahm.....from pg 8

hibit the works of Israeli Arab artists and take greater control of their culture, but to bridge the gap and present a showcase for artists from Israel and other countries, as well.

Opened in 1996, it plays host annually to about 30,000 visitors from all over the world. A fortunate breakthrough came for the gallery three years after its opening, when it hosted a Yoko Ono exhibit and the artist came to the opening. Today, the gallery conducts art classes for children and adults. A women's ceramics workshop, whose handiwork, it is hoped, will become the basis of a museum gift shop, is run by a Jewish ceramic artist. The gallery's director of project planning and development also is a Jewish Israeli.

With a permanent collection of local Jewish and Arab artists, Umm-el-Fahm Museum of Contemporary Art is in the process of being recognized by the Ministry of Culture and the Israel Association of Museums.

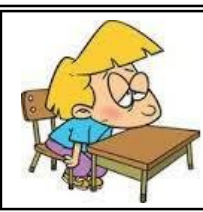
A committee of Americans—Jews and non-Jews—interested in help-



A visitor admires a piece on display at the Umm-el-Fahm Gallery

ing the founder in his vision to broaden the scope of the gallery, has recently been formed. Bob Friedman and I have been invited to join and participate in the eventual realization of the dream. (Both of us would be delighted to elaborate to one and all, who might be as intrigued and motivated as we were after our recent exposure.)

If, like Vernon (and Bob), you are traveling to Israel, we'd love for you to send pictures of yourself at interesting places and/or reports on what you saw that fascinated you. Please send pictures and travel reports to sjnews@savj.org.



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**8th Annual Community Lecture
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Friday, January 22, 2016 at 12 noon
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Ira Byock, MD, FAAHPM
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"I forgive you"
"Thank you"
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Community luncheon is possible through the generosity of Bart, Meyer & Company, LLP and Anthony & Shirley Costrini. We also thank Drs. Martin & Doris Greenberg and family; the Endowment Fund of The Georgia Medical Society; and St. Joseph's/Candler Foundations for their generous support of this year's physician reception and Grand Rounds.

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