



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 4, 2019	5:15 p.m.
Saturday, January 5, 2019	6:14 p.m.
Friday, January 11, 2019	5:21 p.m.
Saturday, January 12, 2019	6:19 p.m.
Friday, January 18, 2019	5:27 p.m.
Saturday, January 19, 2019	6:25 p.m.
Friday, January 25, 2019	5:34 p.m.
Saturday, January 26, 2019	6:31 p.m.
Friday, February 1, 2019	5:40 p.m.
Saturday, February 2, 2019	6:37 p.m.
Friday, February 8, 2019	5:46 p.m.
Saturday, February 9, 2019	6:43 p.m.
Friday, February 15, 2019	5:53p.m.
Saturday, February 16, 2019	6:48 p.m.
Friday, February 22, 2019	5:58 p.m.
Saturday, February 23, 2019	6:54 p.m.

2019 Jewish Film Festival

The 14th Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial Savannah Jewish Film Festival will open on Wednesday, January 23, with the multi award-winning tragicomedy, *Longing*. The film is centered on a middle-aged bachelor whose world is upended when he learns he has lost a son he didn't know existed. He belatedly discovers fatherly love and devotion in this Israeli film. The screening will be preceded by an Opening Night Champagne Reception starting at 6pm.

The Festival continues through February 2 and includes some of the most highly praised Jewish films. Join us Thursday, January 14 for lunch at 12:30 pm followed by *93Queeb*, a documentary that tells the story of a group of tenacious Hasidic women who are shattering the glass ceiling in their Hasidic Brooklyn neighborhood by creating the first all-female volunteer ambulance corps in NYC. Lunch will have New York flair.

The evening film on Thursday,

January 24, is the acclaimed romantic comedy *Keep the Change*. Two adults with autism strike up an unlikely and transformative relationship, in this heartfelt, surprising reinvention of the New York romantic comedy. This film will be followed by a discussion of inclusion & advocacy with a representative from the Matthew Reardon Center for Autism of Savannah.

Saturday evenings at the Festival will start with complimentary dessert receptions followed by outstanding films. January 26 features the German film, *1945*. This film has stunned audiences at dozens of film festivals throughout the country. Director Ferenc Török paints a complex picture of a society trying to come to terms with the recent horrors they've experienced, perpetrated, or just tolerated for personal gain. A superb ensemble cast, lustrous black and white cinematography, and historically detailed art direction contribute to an eloquent drama that reiterates Thomas Wolfe's famed

sentiment: you can't go home again.

In recent years the Savannah Jewish Federation and the JEA have seen so much growth in the with young families. This year the SJFF committee wanted to include a Sunday family matinee to get all ages interested in film and wanting to come back to the festival year after year. This year for the first time we will have a \$5 Sunday lunch, centered around kid's favorites, followed by the classic animated film *An American Tail*. We all remember Steven Spielberg's first animated production about the Mousekewitz family emigrating from Russia to the United States. Now is a perfect time to share the story of immigration & inclusion to young people.

Keeping with the theme of immigration and belonging, Sunday evening, January 27, will feature *This is Home*. This film follows four families sent to resettle in Baltimore in 2016. They have just eight months to find

continued on page 7

Arnold Tillinger Creates Shabbat Across Fund for the Future Savannah

It was not my idea to write this article, but when I chose to establish the Arnold Tillinger Family Fund, Adam strongly suggested that I write something for publication in the Savannah Jewish News. He had an ulterior motive – that being that others reading this might contribute to it or to create a fund of their own. So here goes:

I have forever been a part of the Savannah Jewish Com-

munity. My grandparents were born here. One great-grandfather was one of the ten original founders of Congregation Agudath Achim in 1902. My early childhood was spent on Price Street, living above our grocery store with grandparents, parents, an aunt and uncle and little brother. My grandmother maintained a strictly Kosher



Arnold Tillinger with his Dad, Jerome Tillinger 1940 in front of the family grocery store, Brown's Green Grocer

By Alison Konter

For the third year in a row, families across Savannah are participating in the PJ Library "Shabbat Across Savannah" program. This program organizes several Shabbat celebrations that take place in people's homes around our community. Each Shabbat "group" will meet three times this year for a Shabbat celebration. This celebration includes the appropriate Shabbat accoutrements (Challah, grape juice, and candles) along with an age appropriate activity for the children.

Three years ago, family groups were created with

geography and the children's age and in mind, so each home Shabbat experience is meaningful, relevant, and more convenient. On average, our Shabbat celebration includes 6 families, with 10-13 children, with ages ranging from 2 to 7 years olds. While these nights may sound crazy to some, they are a wonderful and exciting event for our families. Most importantly, this program allows for families to celebrate Shabbat together, which has helped parents and children to form lasting relationships. PJ



Shabbat Celebration

continued on page 11

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THE JEA AND SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION PRESENT
THE JOAN AND MURRAY GEFEN MEMORIAL

SAVANNAH JEWISH

FILM FESTIVAL

2019

JAN 23
FEB 3

JANUARY 23



6:00pm - Opening Night Party Drinks & Hors d'oeuvres Reception
7:00pm - Film: "Longing"

JANUARY 26



7:30pm - Dessert Reception
8:15pm - Film: "1945"

JANUARY 29



6:00pm - Dinner
7:00pm - Film: "A Bag of Marbles"

JANUARY 24



12:30pm - Lunch
1:30pm - Film: "93Queen"

JANUARY 27



12:30pm - Lunch
1:30pm - Film: "An American Tail" (Kids Film)

JANUARY 31



12:30pm - Lunch
1:30pm - Film: "Challah Rising in the Dessert: The Jews of New Mexico"

FEBRUARY 2



7:30pm - Closing Night Dessert Reception
8:15pm - Film: "The Boy Downstairs"

JANUARY 24



6:00pm - Dinner
7:00pm - Film: "Keep the Change"

JANUARY 27



6:00pm - Dinner
7:00pm - Film: "This Is Home"

JANUARY 31



6:00pm - Dinner
7:00pm - Film: "The Invisibles"

FESTIVAL TICKET INFO

SINGLE MOVIE TICKETS

Community Members: \$12.00
JEA Members: \$10.00

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

MEAL & MOVIE TICKETS

Lunch \$17 for Community Members & \$15 for JEA Members
Dinner: \$25 for Community Members & \$20 for JEA Members

Paid meal reservations must be made at least two (2) days in advance of the movie screening.

(No meal walk-ins can be accommodated)

FULL FESTIVAL PASS

Admits one person to all films & opening night party
Community Members: \$120.00
JEA Members: \$100.00

PURCHASE FULL FESTIVAL PASSES ONLINE AT

For more details on Films, Tickets, Meals & Sponsorship information visit SavannahJEA.org

Please contact Jacqui Drazen at programming@savj.org for any questions or to get information about sponsorships

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Full Festival Pass is for MOVIES ONLY. Payments for Dinner reservations are made separately.

All movies are screened at the Jewish Educational Alliance at: 5111 Abercorn St, Savannah, GA 31405

All food served by the JEA is under Kosher Supervision, sealed kosher meals available upon request.





Adam Solender
Executive Director
JEA/SJF

Executive Director's Message Thank You, Murray

As I sat down to write my column for the "Winter" edition of the paper I reflected... should I write about the dis-

cord in our country (what more could I add to the 24 hour talking heads, the editorials and flooded internet?), the security challenges to Israel (and there are plenty), issues with fundamentalism and anti-Semitism? (another issue of the Savannah Jewish News) and I realized, I wanted to share a little about Murray Arkin.

I could talk about his commitment to the Jewish community; after all, he was the President of the JEA and Federation, and a lifetime supporter of Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob. I could talk about his service to the community; after all, he was "everyone's doctor," was the Chief of Medicine at Memorial Hospital, and mentored generations of physicians.

But I want to talk about the kind, thoughtful man who used to walk in

to the JEA and sit down in my office to share his memories, his experiences, and his life. Even at 90+ years of age, his memory was sharp, his caring unrelenting, and his smile endearing.

Like many of you, I adored Murray Arkin and feel a loss that he is no longer in Savannah. He no longer walks in and asks, "Do you have a few minutes?" (which typically lasted 45). He was one of those community members whose legacy will be enduring. His experiences

and memories will live on through all of those with whom he shared...and there were many.

A few months ago, Murray moved to the Atlanta area to be closer to his family, his three boys

and their wives, grandchildren and a great grandchild. It's the right place.

But when Murray left, it felt like we never had the opportunity to say "Thank You." So, at the November Savannah Jewish Federation Board of Governors meeting, a resolution was adopted. In lieu of a "real column" we share that resolution with the rest of you...those that knew Murray and those who never had the opportunity:



Murray Arkin and family



Edwin Byck
President
Savannah Jewish
Federation

President's Message The Month of December

December is a busy time for my family. As we rushed to attend events and to schedule family milestones, I started click-

ing off the obligations: The 8 nights of Chanukah, the oy'Vey 5k, the JEA Chanukah candle lighting, my wife's birthday on the 12th, my firm holiday party, a school jazz concert, 3 client parties, my oldest son returning from his first semester on the 15th, my youngest son's sixteenth birthday on the 24 th which

required shopping for a vehicle. This is without including my business obligations and all the festivities celebrating the year-end season. After crossing the finish line, I reflected on the month.

My favorite sights of the season are the lights. Lighting the candles of Chanukah every night keeps us mindful of what is important and gives us a welcome moment of solitude. Gazing at the candles shows us how the light is pervasive and powerful, but as the wax dwindles, the flames die.

"My hope is that we can each find something that we are passionate about and get involved with during 2019"

No matter how large or how small, the fire needs a constant supply of fuel to stay strong. As the fire needs fuel, each person struggles to keep a strong soul, and my family is my fuel. Their happiness and needs dictates how strong the flame burns, and with each generation, the light continues to burn.

My other favorite is the food.

With the colder temperatures, our souls long for warm hearty food. As I recall my mother's chicken soup or Mrs. Kurh's matzah soup, we create a pot of chicken noodle soup or hearty smoked turkey stew to keep the generations constant and to refresh my soul. All the stews fuel our system, while the steady supply

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Murray C. Arkin was born in Savannah, Georgia on January 26, 1928, the son of Yetta and Ben Arkin;

WHEREAS, Murray C. Arkin has been a life-long resident of Savannah, Georgia and has made significant contributions to the well-being and future of the Jewish community, the medical community, and the general community;

WHEREAS, Murray C. Arkin served his county in the United States Army and was part of the occupation forces in Japan following World War II;

WHEREAS, the military experience of Murray C. Arkin led him into medicine and he graduated from the University of Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia, as well as from post-graduate internship, residency and fellowship in internal medicine;

WHEREAS, Murray C. Arkin commenced the practice of medicine in Savannah in 1958 and retired in 2005, having earned the respect and admiration of generations of patients as well as his peers within the profession;

WHEREAS, Murray C. Arkin has devoted his time to leadership within the medical community by serving on the Board of Directors of Memorial Hospital (13 years), Chief of Staff, Chair of Graduate Medical Education, Chief of Internal Medicine and a member of the Credentials Committee, as well as being an early and constant supporter of medical education;

WHEREAS, Murray C. Arkin, along with his spouse, June (married 1956), contributed their time and financial support to the Savannah Jewish community, Israel and to Jewish causes throughout the world;

WHEREAS, Murray C. Arkin was president of the Savannah Jewish Federation from 1971-1973 and the Jewish Educational Alliance from 1981-1983;

WHEREAS, in 1998, Murray C. Arkin received the Jack Malitz Levy Leadership Award, the highest honor of the Savannah Jewish community, in recognition of his accomplishments;

WHEREAS, upon his relocation to Atlanta, Georgia, the Savannah Jewish Federation wishes to express to Murray C. Arkin, its acknowledgment and deep appreciation for his leadership, dedication and contributions to the past, present and future of the Savannah Jewish community

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION, ASSEMBLED ON THE 14th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2018, BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, THAT THE SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF MURRAY C. ARKIN, RECOGNIZES HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CITY AND SOCIETY, AND PASSES THIS RESOLUTION SO THAT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MURRAY C. ARKIN WILL BE FOREVER PART OF THE MINUTES AND HISTORY OF THE SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO MURRAY C. ARKIN, DULY SIGNED BY THE OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION, ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL JEWISH COMMUNITY.

Thank you, Murray

of latkes and doughnuts give me a quick burst of comfort and sweet thoughts. The oil rich food is a lovely reminder of how pervasive and powerful the season can be.

During the month, not only is it important to reflect on the current events, I believe it is important for us all to reflect on the upcoming events of the year. The Jewish Federation will begin 2019 with a new slate of affairs. As Chanukah dictated, it is important to find your lights. What fills your lamp and allows your passion to shine. My hope is that we can each find something that we are passionate about and get involved with during 2019 but I hope we all look at 2019 as a time to remember the blessings we all have in our lives.



Four Questions

for the rest of the year

With
Dr. Barry
Schlafstein



FQ: You and Stacey have participated in a number of Jewish community missions to be a part of the Jewish experience. What is your most memorable trip? What did you see? Experience?

Stacey and I have been on Jewish Federation mission trips to Israel (2007), Ethiopia (2012) and Cuba (2014). Indeed, they were all quite memorable. The 2007 trip to Israel was a whirlwind, first ever visit with special meaning for me, as my father had recently died. Before entering Jerusalem, we stopped on Mount Scopus to view the city, and I recited Kaddish with our tour group. Looking out over the city for the first time, I uttered the sacred words; at that moment I felt the physical presence of my father.

The missions to Ethiopia and Cuba were both for the purpose of goodwill. In Ethiopia we were with Micha Feldman, known as 'Abba Mika', the father of the Ethiopian Jews. We accompanied a group of the last remaining Felasha, as they transitioned from their final days living in the mountains of Gondor in northern Ethiopia, and then flew with them on 747 jets to Israel. In Gondor I ate popcorn and drank fresh brewed coffee in the one room, one light bulb, mud/straw hut of our hostess; she brewed the coffee over an open flame for over 20 minutes, best cup I've ever had.

In Cuba we went to Friday night services at a synagogue in the eastern city of Santiago and Saturday morning services at a tiny makeshift home/synagogue in Guantánamo. I delighted in seeing how much the young children in Guantánamo appreciated the small, token gifts that we brought them. We

then flew west to Havana, continuing our Cuban Jewish education, enjoying the beautiful city, old cars, great rum, even better cigars.

FQ: You have just concluded two years as Chief of Staff and as Trustee at St Joseph's/Candler Hospital Board of Directors. What did you learn from your leadership?

On December 31, 2018 I will have concluded two years as Chief of Staff/President of the Candler Hospital medical staff, and served as a de facto member of the St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital Board of Trustees. What has impressed me most with regard to being on the Board of Trustees is how well-run the hospital system is at the administrative level. As a faith-based medical system, patient care is always the first consideration. And, in these somewhat difficult economic times in medicine, SJC has been able to maintain profitability, and stability in order to serve our Savannah community.

Specifically, as Chief of Staff/President my duties were to ensure that the highest standards were maintained during the credentialing, privileging, and peer review of my fellow physicians. This is done to ensure the safety of our patients. I hope that time will prove that I have served my colleagues, community, and hospital well.

FQ: The practice of medicine has changed dramatically, what do you see in the future? What can Savannahians expect in service delivery in the coming decade(s)?

Overall I feel the quality of medicine in Savannah is excellent. While the practice of medicine certainly has changed over the past generation, the caliber of medicine is only getting better with specialization and technological advances. I expect my fellow Savannahians to continue to be the beneficiary these advance-

ments. The downside of this, is that in many cases, medicine may no longer have the 'Marcus Welby' quality of generations past. Therefore in this new age of medicine, we as physicians must never forget the importance of maintaining a personal touch with our patients.

Over the past several years, I have had the good fortune to proctor over 25 medical students from the medical College of Georgia during their clinical Gyn/Ob rotations in Savannah; overall I could not be more impressed with the caring nature of this young generation of physicians. If they are any indication of the future, I am confident that medicine in Savannah will be in very caring hands in the coming decades.

FQ: We can never ask the four questions without giving you the opportunity to talk about your three daughters. Where are they, what are they doing?

My oldest daughter, Ashley, is a physician; having graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in 2017, she is currently in the process of a five year residency in radiation oncology at Emory University in Atlanta. My middle daughter Sarah graduated this past May from Duke Law school, passed the New York State law bar, and is practicing corporate/sports and entertainment law, for the Manhattan law firm, Proskauer Rose LLP. My youngest daughter Jessica earned her chemical engineering degree from Georgia Tech in 2016. Until recently she has been working in the research division at Simmons/Serta Corporation in Atlanta. Beginning March 2019, she will be volunteering for 2 1/2 years with the United States Peace Corps; she will be stationed in Peru, working on their freshwater problems.

Needless to say I'm very proud of all three!



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SJF President: Edwin Byck
SJF Treasurer: Matthew Allan

SJF Executive Director: Adam Solender

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

The Savannah Jewish News is published monthly 10 times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 6th of the month before publication. For example, for a March issue, the deadline would be February 6. January-February and July-August are combined issues. Submission deadlines for these winter and summer issues are December 20 and June 20, respectively.

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

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

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

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

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

Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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

Ages 6 months
to 8 years

PJ Library

PJ OurWay™
Find Yourself in a good storyAges 9-11
years

In December, JEA Preschoolers learned the many faces of Judaism through traditions and diversity around the globe with PJ Library author, **Debra Darvick**. They even learned to say the title of her book, **We are Jewish Faces**, in Hebrew!



Who is eligible?
Families with a 6 months to 8 years old and at least one Jewish parent in the household, currently residing in the Savannah area can register at **PJLibrary.org**

...and PJ Our Way?
Families with children ages 9 to 11 years old and at least one Jewish parent in the household, currently residing in the Savannah area can register at **PJOurWay.org**

What does it cost?
Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library® is **free** for those who qualify for the program. One subscription per child.

Celebrate Tu B'shvat and MLK Day by Giving Back

January 20, 2019

Georgia Coastal Botanical Gardens

Join PJ Library Savannah in the garden for Community Mitzvah Day to dig into a Tu B'shvat project!

****This project is in collaboration with the Savannah Jewish Federation Community Mitzvah Day. For details on other projects going on in the community visit savj.org.**

For more information on programs and registration, contact Caitlin Gardner, Community Engagement Coordinator
pjlibrary@savj.org or 912.355.8111

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



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Stay up to date! Follow us on Facebook @ PJ Library Savannah

Savannah bbyo
Upcoming events...

AZA Chapter Dinner • January 17 • 6:30 PM • Moe's • Abercorn St
International Convention • February 14- 18 • Denver, Colorado

Winter Kickoff!
Bowl in the New Year!

January 12 • 7:00 PM
AMF Savannah Lanes

Mitzvah Day 2019!
Tu B'shvat Project
January 20
10:00 AM
Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens



Not a member?
Stop missing out!
Visit us @

www.savj.org/savannah-bbyo • Facebook: Savannah BBYO

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

Super Bowl Party
Sunday, February 3
6:00 PM

bbyo

Joint event! RSVP for details

Beneficiary Agency
Your Campaign dollars at work!



Savannah Jewish Federation

March 1-3,
2019



Savannah
Teen Weekend

Make New Jewish Friends from Across the Southeast • Community Shabbaton • Organized Home Hospitality • Fun & Transformative Jewish Programming • Exciting Saturday Evening Dance & Program • All Meals Included!

Cost is \$50 per teen.

Register by February 15 at
www.savj.org.

QUESTIONS?

Contact
Caitlin Gardner,
Community Engagement
Coordinator,
at engagement@savj.org
or 912.355.8111.

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

Tillinger Fund continued from page 1

home, but on occasion she would have a shrimp salad sandwich at the Crystal Beer Parlor. I would often find silverware stuck in the dirt out back. (How does dirt make something pure again?) In addition to English, she spoke fluent Yiddish, but with a 'geechee accent.'

I had the usual worse than mediocre education at the afternoon Hebrew School, had my Bar Mitzvah, and that was followed by a long, slow drift into the secular world: Benedictine, college, medical school, specialty training, Navy, inter-faith marriage.

Two events rekindled my awakening to Jewish life. The first was attending conversion classes with my wife while in Washington, D.C. I heard, for the first time, on an adult level, what Judaism was all about, and it made good, rational sense to me.

The second event occurred when I entered the Navy in 1967, just a few weeks after the Six Day War, when Israel in spectacular fashion, defeated the combined armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Navy doctors, corpsmen and others would come up to me, pat me on the back, congratulating me on the victory. 'What had I done?' Nothing. But receiving credit for what others did for me made me stand a little taller and be more proud of belonging to the new Jewish people, people who would no longer take attacks and persecution passively.

After my stint in service, I returned to Savannah, opened my practice of psychiatry, and had more children. Re-connecting with my Jewish heritage, I got involved with synagogue and the JEA and Federation. I sent my kids to Camp Ramah, read extensively about World War II, the Holocaust and Israel, and began making multiple visits to Israel.

A lesson learned from all was that only Jews will take care of other Jews. Just look at what America and France didn't do to help us before and during WWII. Israel is important, if for no other reason, that it is an island where persecuted Jews can flee and be instant citizens. Many French and British Jews are now moving there as anti-Semitism rises again in Europe.

So, my commitment(s) to and financial support of Jewish life and Israel will continue even after I am gone, by the establishment of this Endowed Fund. The bulk of the proceeds are earmarked for Federation; the rest to organizations that support Jewish education; specifically, Camp Ramah, the United States Holocaust Museum and JBS – the Jewish Broadcasting System.

I invite my family, friends and like-minded people to consider contributing to this fund (or create one of your own). Though it bears my name, in reality, it is for all of us and more importantly, for those yet to come.



Arnold Tillinger with his children, Jerry, Ben and Aaron (missing Laura)

Like to read Jewish-related books?

The Savannah Jewish News is compiling a list of people to read and write reviews of Jewish-themed books that we receive.

Your substantive review would be about 250 words and include your name and affiliation to any organization, if useful to the reader.

You'll return the book to us with your review so that we may repurpose it.

If interested, please email
sjn@savj.org



Savannah BBYO's Global Shahanukkah

By Jordan Jaffie

Every year, at the beginning of December, thousands of Jewish teens around the world celebrate Global Shabbat- BBYO's biggest Shabbat experience yet. This year, it happened to fall during Hanukkah. Naturally, we knew we had to include this into our planning, so we chose to combine the names into "Global Shahanukkah".

This year, we gathered at a fellow BBYO member's house and enjoyed a delicious, home-cooked Shabbat meal, which even included latkes. It was so nice getting to spend such a special night of the week with some of my closest friends. I was able to have meaningful and fun conversations with both people that I have known for almost my entire life and also teens that I had just met.

After dinner, we all lit the menorah together. We all recited the blessings together and watched as

the candles glowed. Then, we went outside and sat around a fire to roast marshmallows for our s'mores. This ties in perfectly with the theme of this year's Global Shabbat, "Let There Be Light," which draws inspiration from the quote by the celebrated Jewish author and Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel: "Even in darkness it is possible to create light." Let's bring light and love to all people everywhere through Global Shabbat and beyond.



Savannah's BBYO Global Shabbat

Global Shabbat is one of my favorite programs that BBYO has to offer. It elevates an already special night and allows us to have a meaningful Jewish experience surrounded by other teens. I look forward to it every year and already cannot wait for next year. We hope that this night was a time for our chapters to reflect on this year and to get ready to spread more light into the world in the year to come.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

George G. Staimer

Who died Thursday, November 15, 2018.

He is survived by his wife, Carole Staimer and children, Marcia (Elliot Dalberg) Staimer, Mark (Alisa Blum) Staimer and their grandchildren Julia and Gina.

Remembrance donations may be made to St Jude Children's Hospital or Hospice Savannah.

Bertha Grunin Lamhut

Who died Sunday, December 2, 2018.

She is survived by her husband Morris Hyman Lamhut, daughters Faye Bill and Sherry L (Michael) Spevack, and son Lester Lamhut; three grandchildren, Louis Jacob Spevack, Janine Spevack (Michael) Kaiser, and Mark David Brill, and two great-grandchildren, Naliyah Eve Kaiser and Lincoln Azrael Kaiser.

Remembrance donations may be made to Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31405.

Lawrence "Larry" Gutstein

Who died Tuesday, December 25, 2018

He is survived by his wife Nancy Susan Gutstein, daughters Sarah (Brett)

Rome and Abigail Gutstein, sons Adam (Denise) Gutstein, Jonathan "Jono," and Daniel "Pancho" (Kay) Gutstein and six grandchildren, Grant Gutstein, Trent Gutstein, Henry Rome, Morgan Rome, Olivia Rome and Isla Gutstein.

Remembrance donations may be made to Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Road S.W., Lilburn, Georgia 30047-3110 and Congregation Mickve Israel, Post Office Box 816, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0816

Sheri Ulman Portman

Who died Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

She is survived by her husband Michael Alan Portman, daughter, Dr. Dori Elana Portman, one brother, Michael (Sherry) Ulman and many other beloved relatives

Remembrance donations may be made to Coastal Pet Rescue, PO Box 30462, Savannah, GA 31410.



Film Fest continued from page 1

jobs, learn English, and become self-sufficient. The film reveals the inherent decency of a displaced community desperate for help within a country increasingly hostile to principles of inclusion and opportunity. This *Is Home* is the winner of the 2018 Sundance Audience Award: World Cinema Documentary. This film will also be followed by a discussion on refugees that settle in Savannah.

Tuesday, January 29 will feature *A Bag of Marbles*, the heartwarming story of the Nazi occupation through the eyes of two young Jewish boys struggling to survive on their own.

Our last matinee on Thursday, January 31, will be *Challah Rising in the Dessert: The Jews of New Mexico*. The revelatory mosaic of faith and cultural pride set amidst a magnificent remote landscape, vibrantly celebrates the history, influences and people of New Mexico's unique and highly diverse Jewish community. Be sure to join us for lunch before the film.

The final Thursday evening film is *The Invisibles*. This little-known story of Jewish teens and young adults who outlasted the Third Reich while hiding in Berlin, comes emo-

tionally and vividly to life through an unusual hybrid docu-drama technique, to offer a powerful, uplifting message of resilience and courage.

We close out this year's Festival on Saturday, February 2, with the young, witty, romantic comedy *The Boy Downstairs*. This feel good film stars Zosia Mamet (*Girls*) as a conflicted millennial who revisits a failed romance when she unknowingly moves into her ex-boyfriend's Brooklyn brownstone, in this easygoing love story that contemplates modern relationships and the price of independence and freedom. We invite all of Young Jewish Savannah & SCAD Hillel students to join the community for this feel-good film to close out our 2019 festival.

Watch your mail for complete details on the Festival schedule & meals. Full Festival Passes and meal reservations may be purchased on our secure website, www.savj.org. Meal reservations must be made at least 48 hours in advance. Tickets for individual films will be available at the door, 30 minutes prior to each screening.

See you at the movies!

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks our Contributors

TIKVAH FUND

In memory of Brett Sawyer

In honor of Barbara & Leon Aronson

Arlene & Alan Ratner

In honor of Betty Lasky

Robin Perlberg

In memory of Bucky Bloom

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A donation was made by

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SJF GENERAL DONATION

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In memory of John Goldkrand

Toby Hollenberg

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


Savannah Jewish Federation

Savannah Jewish Community

SHABBATON!

Friday, March 1

Jewish Educational Alliance

Join us as we sing, pray and celebrate Shabbat together!

5:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat
Get in the Shabbat Spirit with Shabbat Music & a family friendly reception

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Services

- Community Shabbat Services - Led by Rabbi Haas & Rabbi Henkin with acoustical music accompaniment
- Young Family Service — for families & kids up to 4th grade
- Teen Weekend Service — Teen led services for kids & teens in grades 5 and up

7:15 p.m. Community Shabbat Dinner

Cost for Dinner:
\$18 per adult • \$10 per child

RSVP:
by Friday, Feb 22 to
912-355-8111
or online at savj.org

All meals served at the JEA are under Kosher supervision.
Sealed Kosher meals available upon request.

JEWISH YOUTH

Jewish Youth Summer Experience Grants Available





Grants are provided from the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign and awarded on a non-needs basis

Grants available for:

- Overnight summer camp
- Conventions
- Jewish youth group summer programs
- Leadership development programs

2019 Application Deadline: March 1, 2019
Limited Funds Available

Don't forget to apply for our other college and Israel travel scholarships.
All applications available at www.savj.org

The decision is in your hands!



YOU can nominate an organization to receive a \$500 Overseas Investment Grant.

Did you visit an Ethiopian preschool while you were on Birthright?
What about a synagogue in Mexico when you were on a family vacation?
Or a Jewish community center in Cuba that was affected by the hurricane?
Is your family from the Former Soviet Union and you want to give to an organization helping to revitalize the Jewish community there?

Nominate organizations that you are connected to and they can receive a \$500 grant through the funds raised by the 2019 Savannah Jewish Federation Community Campaign.

All members of the Savannah Jewish Federation are invited to submit nominations. Up to 20 organizations will be approved by the Allocations committee.

Nominations due by May 1 at www.savj.org.

Previous recipients include: American Friends of Magan David Adom, HIAS, IsraAID, Jewish Cuba Connection, Camp Szarvas, Cape Jewish Seniors Association, Ethiopian National Project, Israel Guide Dog Center and many more.

GO RED FOR HEART

Fashion Show & Luncheon

February 20, 2019

The Plantation Club, The Landings
SKIDAWAY ISLAND, SAVANNAH, GA

American Heart Association. 

 **heart.org/savannahgoesred**

\$50 per ticket, \$500 for tables of 10

NATIONAL SPONSORS

PRESENTING CORPORATE SPONSOR:  Audi Hilton Head

PRESENTING HEALTHCARE SPONSOR: 

SPONSOR: 

MEDIA SPONSORS: Savannah   South

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

We have docent-led tours of our museum available from 10:00am - 3:30pm Monday - Friday.

For a complete schedule of services & events, check our website at www.mickveisrael.org

Super MUSEUM SUNDAY

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1-4PM



VISIT OUR MUSEUM AND DISCOVER CENTURIES OF SAVANNAH HISTORY FROM 1733 TO TODAY INCLUDING OUR NEW PRESIDENTIAL WALL

JUDAISM 101

A 12 week course
led by Tim Slivinski

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM
STARTING JANUARY 15

TOPICS INCLUDE:

JEWISH BELIEFS
LIVING IN JEWISH TIME
THE JEWISH STORY
ANTI-SEMITISM
THE HOLOCAUST
LIVING A JEWISH LIFE

Cost: \$45
includes a book and
educational materials

Contact Tim Slivinski at 912-233-1547
ext 313 or tim@mickveisrael.org
for more information or to sign up



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide

CENTERPIECE

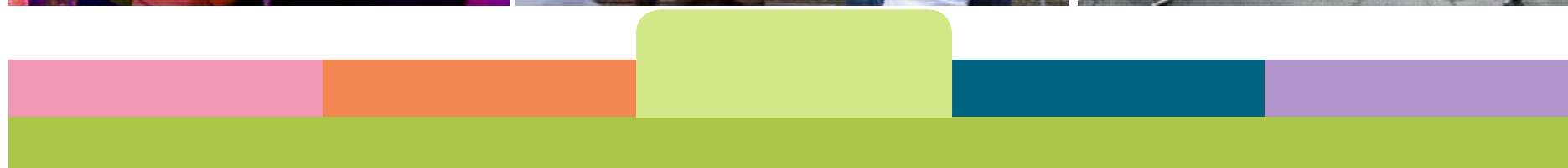
Jewish Educational Alliance January-February 2019



Oy Vey 5K Memories

Oy Vey! What a way to end the year! At the JEA this year, we celebrated the last night of Chanukah with some fun. Over 160 people registered for our first annual Oy Vey 5K, and the rain held off for a fun afternoon run through Savannah's charming midtown neighborhoods. Long-time runners, brand new runners, walkers, and even dogs came flooding across the finish line with smiles on, ready for their finisher medal, a snack and a beer before they joined us inside for a Post-Dash Chanukkah Glow Bash with plenty of delicious latkes and doughnuts!

Go ahead and get this great event on your calendar for next year, the first night of Chanukkah, December 22!





Adult Programming



Scrabble	Wednesdays	6:30-8:30pm
Mah Jongg	Mondays	2-4pm
	Thursdays	2-4pm

Food For Thought

Join Us Each Thursday at 12:30 pm

Jan. 17	Live Music: <i>Storytelling through Song</i> Kenny Munshaw		Jan. 31	SJFF Film Challah Rising in the Dessert: The Jews of New Mexico	
Jan. 24	SJFF Film 93Queen		Feb. 7	Jewish War Veterans Col. Ed Wexler	

Visit with old friends and meet new ones while enjoying a delicious lunch for only \$5 followed by an educational speaker or performer.
Don't forget to make your reservation at the JEA desk or by calling 912-355-8111.
Have a suggestion for a new speaker? Contact Orly Henkin at orlyhenkin@savj.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 Nov. 7, 2018)

Robert Brayman & Rana Wafa
Daniel Bucey & Katherine Sandoz
Aaron Garner
Eric Hanson & Amanda Fanelli
Joseph & Julie Harvey
Karen Honikel
Justin & Alexandra Kasky
Giang Le & Loan Nguyen
Gregory & Catherine Lucas
Kristin Russell
Kristin Mulzer
Jennifer Stewart



Black Heritage Festival Concert February 12, 2019 - 7 pm

The Savannah Black Heritage Festival is celebrating its 30th year under the auspices of Savannah State University and the City of Savannah.

Future of Jazz is a concert of original, American and Jazz standards that showcases a group of young, gifted artists all under 25 years old. These young artists currently attend middle school, high school, college or a graduate school with jazz/music programs and hail from Savannah as well as throughout the region. Trombonist, teacher, composer, lecturer and musicologist, Dr. Teddy Adams will conduct and present this select group of outstanding young instrumentalists and vocalists who are truly "proof positive" that the Future of Jazz is in good hands. This program is annually dedicated to the late Benjamin M. Tucker, a local, national and international Jazz icon who truly personified the art form of Jazz.

JEA Donations (11/7/18-12/20/18)

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS FUND

A donation by
Susan & Martin Cohen
In honor of Betty Lasky
Renie & Ramon Silverman
In honor of Murray Arkin
Jane & Alan Fishman

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH

In memory of Marilyn Seeman
Friends & family of Marilyn Seeman
In honor of Betty Lasky
Sally & Steve Greenberg
Gail Robinson
Anita Schlossberg
In memory of George Staimer
In honor of Jacqui & James McGrail
In honor of Betty Lasky
Harriet & Paul Kulbersh
In honor of Tara Tirey
David Payne

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HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

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Elise & Victor Shernoff

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Tony Center
Heather Langston
In honor of Miriam Center
John Patterson

Join the JEA

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

Types of Membership include:

Family Plans, Couple Plans, Senior Plans, Young Family Plans, Individual Plans

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



Health & Wellness

Film and Fitness Come Together at the JEA



Kathy Ackerman
Fitness Director

December 14, we had a film crew come in from SCAD to film the Fitness Room equipment. Professor Andrew Meyer and three of his graduate students set up cameras and sound systems to film detailed instructions on all the resistance equipment, the lateral elliptical, the X-Ride recumbent bikes, the elliptical, treadmills and the rower.

Professor Meyer has an extensive and very impressive resume in the film industry. He produced *The Breakfast Club* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*, which was nominated for two Oscars and two Golden Globe Awards. Andy

also produced *Birdy* which won the Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and *Bring on the Night* starring Sting, which won a Grammy.

Kristen Noel Osborne is an MFA film and television graduate student at SCAD with her focus on producing. Her goal after graduation is to work her way to the top of the industry in producing films and/or television, wherever life may take her.

Jon Stewart, also a MFA film and television graduate student loves to write and direct. Jon's hope, after graduating, is to become an Assistant Director.

Savannah Kloeden just graduated. She is interested in photo journalism. Savannah has started applying for jobs across the country but would love to stay in the beautiful state of Georgia, where she said there are a lot of opportunities.

We had a fun afternoon filming each piece of equipment. We gave articulate, detailed descriptions on how to set all the pins on the resistance machines for different body size and for different ailments in the body, such as bad knees and shoulders. We filmed how to start the cardio equipment, set the levels and use some of the different programs.

Once the crew finishes the editing we will be creating a YouTube



Proper positioning for the leg curl machine.

page for JEA members. You will be able to watch the video right on your phone in the gym! I know nothing can replace a one-on-one training session, which is always available by appointment! This is just one more way we can assist our members on your health journey here at the J.



Kristen Osborne, Savannah Kloeden, Kat Ackerman,
Professor Andrew Meyer, Jon Stewart



Demonstrating the proper form and movement of the rowing machine.

Ballet Reboot is Back!

Listen to classical ballet music while working through traditional ballet exercises that are suitable for everyone.

Learn how to execute proper ballet technique with the appearance of ease and elegance - and get a killer leg and glute workout!

Ballet Reboot is held Friday mornings, 10:15-11:30am. This session began January 4 and will continue each Friday until February 15. Other sessions may be offered in the future.

Cost of the six-session class is \$30 for JEA Members, \$50 for Guests.

If you would like to sign up for one or more of the remaining classes, please contact Kat Ackerman at fitness@savj.org for availability.

Ballet Reboot has become the hottest class in JEA Fitness. Don't miss out on your chance to be a ballerina!





JEA Preschool Savannah News

Open House

Wednesday, January 30, 10 am,
Sunday, February 24, 11 am



Wednesday, January 9, 6:30 pm
(Pre-K families only - For
children who will be 4-yrs old by
Sept. 1, 2019)

Choose the date best for you!
Don't miss this opportunity to tour our
dynamic learning spaces and take
a peek at Savannah's premier early
childhood education program!

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



in the JEA Art Gallery

Urban Jupena

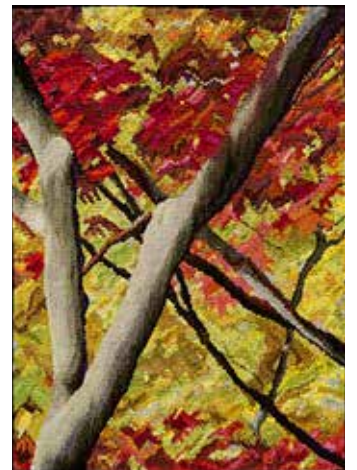
Urban Jupena was born in Pennsylvania, and attended Philadelphia College of Art where he received his BA. At school, he was attracted to weaving and fiber art. He then attended Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where he received his MFA. Working under Robert Kidd, he attained the skills of doing commission fiber art for homes and public spaces.

Jupena is a former professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. He taught weaving and fabric printing and dyeing. His goal with his students was to expose them to the fiber arts and to ignite in them a commitment to their work.

He has always thought that the people of Detroit were fortunate to have Saarinen's architectural wonder, the complex of schools and museums known as "Cranbrook," in the area. Those familiar with Cranbrook and its history understand that at the same time these buildings were being built, Saarinen chose and commissioned artists to design and make the furniture, rugs, wall hangings and other art objects that would complement the architecture.

Jupena has exhibited both nationally and internationally, but prefers working on commission with individuals. Showing at and working through galleries and interior designers has also been a way of meeting many new clients

His home is an example of how one lives with fiber art and art in general. It is his showroom and he enjoys sharing it with people who appreciate a creative environment.



Artwork available for viewing January 3-31, 2019. Join us for the Art Gallery Reception January 16, 3-8 pm

February Artist - Harriet Zabusky-Zand

Harriet Zabusky-Zand attributes her lifelong love of color and interests in drawing and painting to the early influence of her parents. "My art education began as a child accompanying my father on weekly sketching trips around beautiful 'colonial' Savannah and neighboring fishing villages." Harriet has been a professional artist for more than 35 years, initially as a weaver and then as a painter, printmaker, sculptor and, most recently, as a potter.

"After many years of painting, my medium has changed to ceramics as a vehicle for artistic expression. Although my medium has changed, many of my interests have remained the same. Color is extremely important to me. The paintings of Gauguin, Van Gogh, and other abstract expressionists have influenced my paintings and ceramics.

"I like forms that are minimal, with an unbroken fluid line, and are refined and elegant. The drama of forms resting on a small foot that seem to defy gravity excites me. In the bowls, platters and vessels I make, I am searching for what is basic and essential. It is my intention that the work has a sculptural presence.

"Porcelain and white stoneware are the clays I use. I love the silky feel of porcelain on my hands, its pristine quality, and the many challenges it presents in creating geometric and balanced forms. To complement the forms, I want to use glazes which are painterly, vibrant and sensuous. The subtlety and depth of high-fired gas reduction glazes relate to my modernist aesthetic. My current focus is on crystalline glazes."

Ms. Zabusky-Zand received a Diploma in Fine Arts from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Massachusetts College of Art. Her work has been exhibited widely in the United States and in England.



Artwork available for viewing February 1-28, 2019. Join us for the Art Gallery Reception February 10, 3-5 pm



*We want to get to know you!
New to Savannah and want to get connected?
Want to help plan events?
Have ideas you want to share?
Just want to hang out?
Let us take you for coffee!*



We want to hear from you!

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

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

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

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

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



**YJS, Let's get our build on with
Habitat for Humanity of the
Coastal Empire**



**Sunday, Jan 20,
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Please wear closed toed shoes
Lunch & hard hats will be provided

RSVP to Jacqui at programming@savj.org or by text
to get location details.

****This program is in collaboration with the Savannah Jewish
Federation Community Mitzvah Day. For details on other projects
going on in the community visit savj.org**

Young Jewish Savannah

Shabbat

Dinner

Join us on Friday, February 15 • 7:00 pm
at the Home of Caitlin & Zach Gardner



RSVP to programming@savj.org
and we will give you the address

History of Activism: Jewish Women Changing the World

THE 2019 SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION'S WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY EVENT

Wednesday, February 20 ★ 7:00 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance

cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception

Featuring Special Guest

Judith Rosenbaum ★

Judith Rosenbaum is Executive Director of the Jewish Women's Archive, a pioneering national organization that documents Jewish women's stories, elevates their voices, and inspires them to be agents of change.



This event is open to all Women who have made a pledge to the 2019 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Community Campaign.

**Call 912-355-8111 or email campaign@savj.org to reserve your seat
by Wednesday, February 13.**

Event Chairs
*Lauren Fins
& Jean Weitz*



SCAD Hillel

By Sophie Leopold

Members of the Savannah College of Art and Design Hillel chapter connected through a lively calendar of activities this past Fall. Hillel provides a way for Jewish students to stay grounded, establish meaningful connections and embrace their Jewish roots amidst the challenges of college. A majority of students are not from Savannah, which makes Hillel an imperative part of the students' "Jewish home away from home."

"Hillel is an accepting, fun, and growing community with talented students from all over the world," said SCAD Hillel President Esther Schiffman. "We enjoy being together and celebrating life and taking a break from our school work."

Just after moving into housing for the Fall quarter, students took a pause from unpacking to gather for dinner on Erev Rosh Hashanah. Ten days later, the growing club broke the fast together on Yom Kippur. This year's increased turnout during the High Holy Days set a positive tone for the quarter ahead.

On September 28, Rabbi Henkin, Bunny & Jim Montag and the whole Congregation Agudath Achim community welcomed SCAD Hillel students to celebrate Sukkot with services and dinner at the synagogue. The evening was an opportunity for students to engage with members of the greater Savannah Jewish community.

In mid-October, the students blended fun with tradition by hosting "Havdalahween," a Saturday night that wrapped up Shabbat with Halloween festivities. Students lit a Havdalah candle,

sang the blessings, decorated pumpkins, and snacked on seasonal treats.

Socializing continued at the Jewish Food Festival, where Hillel students, their advisor Professor Heather Szatmary, and the new Engagement Director, Caitlin Gardner, relished in the classic comforts of latkes and matzo ball soup.

When tragedy struck in Pittsburgh, the club was brought closer together at vigils held by Chabad of Savannah and the Savannah Jewish Federation, and later at a #ShowUpForShabbat dinner. In those somber moments, members reflected on those who were lost, and bonded over honoring a united heritage.

"The people are the most important part of Hillel, without our people we wouldn't be anything" said Schiffman. "It is so important to find a community who is not only Jewish, but welcoming. I make sure new members are welcomed as a part of the family."

The last occasion before students headed home at the end of the term is always "bagel break," a way to refuel and refresh during the throes of finals week.

Students are looking forward to a belated Hanukkah celebration when they return for the Winter Quarter. The event will embrace a long standing stereotype by featuring Chinese food, a movie, and white elephant gift exchange.

"We have a lot in store for the next 2 quarters," said Schiffman. "We are having [a Chinese style Hanukkah party], a Valentine's Day Hot Chocolate Arts and Crafts event and much more! We are switching it up this year and we are all really excited."



After Countless Trips

By Shani Locker

After countless trips exploring my Jewish homeland, traveling Israel, experiencing the diverse culture and language of the country, it was not hard to decide I wanted to spend the year after high school in Israel, our homeland. Naturally I drifted to the Masa website to see what my options were.

Masa is an organization that focuses on providing a variety of different opportunities for young adults like myself to experience Israel and help you grow as a person, a professional, and a leader. One can find an internship possibility before or after college that enables you to choose your field of interest. Through the Masa program you can volunteer in the Israeli army, as a firefighter, or as an English teacher. You can devote your time to studying in one of the universities, yeshivot, and many small institutes, from Eilat in the south to Nahariya in the north.

Many programs give college credit and the experience is amazing! So, the real question is not why go on a Masa program, but why not go?

One who walks through the mahane yehuda market on Friday morning will immediately sense that she is not the only young adult who chooses to spend a year in Israel. Hundreds of young Jewish students from all over the world are filling the streets of Jerusalem. You notice them traveling on the light rail, and if you close your eyes for a moment and just listen, you will hear the sound of Hebrew,

English, Arabic, Russian and French at the same time. There is nothing that explains the diversity and richness of the Israeli culture better.

As my personal choice I decided to spend the year studying at Midreshet Tehillah, a seminary located in Jerusalem that focuses on in-depth Torah studies and Jewish education. My experience

so far has been amazing. From sitting in class and learning about the history and practices of the Jewish people, to walking the streets of the old city of Jerusalem and hiking through the desert which our ancestors trekked through thousands of years ago, I have gained a greater appreciation and understanding of the roots which I come from.

I love my Savannah life, my community, my school, and my involvement in NCSY. Yet, I am so happy to be in Israel this year. This is one of the best opportunities I have been given and I am forever grateful to all those who helped make this year possible.

Shani Locker is the daughter of Moti and Eva Locker of Savannah. Masa Israel Journey is a "natural extension" of the Birthright Israel program providing the widest variety of internships, study, and volunteer opportunities lasting between five and twelve months. Many of those who experience Israel want more and Masa provides a further bridge to Israel. Funding for the program comes half from the government of Israel and half from the Jewish Agency which is supported by Keren Hayesod and your gift to the Savannah Jewish Federation.



Shani Locker on a hike outside of Jerusalem

LETTERS

T O T H E E D I T O R

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation

On behalf of the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) and the Ethiopian-Israeli community in Israel, please accept our deep appreciation for the Savannah Jewish Federation's donation.

I am delighted to let you know that the State of Israel will match, dollar-for-dollar, your generous donation. Friends of ENP donations help fund ENP social and educational programs designed to help Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers realize their full potential. ENP programs include after-school scholastic assistance,

neighborhood outreach centers for youth-at-risk and workshops designed to empower parents and community leadership.

With financial assistance from people like us, we hope that ENP can expand their reach to help more of the 12,000 Ethiopian-Israeli youth. Again, thank you for your generous donation.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Goldberg
Chairman

Friends of the Ethiopian National Project

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation

Thank you for your recent gift and continued support, you are making a difference! All of our clients are amazing people with compelling stories-but few are as special as Achiya Klein. Achiya was a young officer in the IDF when an explosion robbed him of his vision and the life he had planned. What makes Achiya so exceptional was his attitude following the incident. While he was still in the hospital, he made the decision to get on with his life.

About three years ago, Achiya was partnered with Night, a beautiful Black Labrador, and together they have conquered many obstacles. Achiya is studying International Relations, with the hope of one day serving in the Foreign Service. Night leads him to every class and earns very high marks from the

professors for how polite and quite he is. Achiya has also achieved greatness as part of an Israeli rowing team where he competes internationally.

Achiya credits his four-legged companion and best friend for his achievements. "I was very frustrated by my blindness," said Achiya, "but Night gives me the freedom and independence to do whatever I want, whenever I want."

Your gift will help people like Achiya to resume a productive and fulfilling life with the assistance of an expertly trained guide dog. Thank you again for your kindness.

Norman I Leventhal
President
Israel Guide Dog Center



Ester Rabhan,
Principal
Rambam Day
School

Eye on education

Rambam, the Menorah. Both Represent the Same Concept

Rambam students performed their Chanukah Program on December 10th, and it was well attended and very much enjoyed by all. The children love participating

in this annual program. For some of the students it is a great opportunity to show us their talents in acting! They all feel the success of the evening as the show goes through its scenes. It's a momentous event. Our very own Morah Chavi Rabhan, Morah Rena Maccabee and Mrs. Diane Robinson are the creative directors behind the performance.

Pre-school had a wonderful Chanukah program. All the parents attended and couldn't stop smiling. Part of the program were interactive stations that parents/grandparents could do with their children/grandchildren. Everyone went home with a keepsake.

I can't help but reflect on Chanukah and the lighting of the Menorah. We spend so much time in Rambam teaching our students about being respectful to adults, each other and

everyone they meet. We talk about diversity, bullying, tolerance. It fascinates me how much our very own heritage espouses these attitudes in a variety of mitzvos (commandments) and aspects of our rituals.

Our Chanukah program was about Ahavas Yisroel, loving our fellow Jew.

When Moshe was instructed about how the menorah was to be made, he was told it was to be from one solid piece of gold. If you have ever seen pictures of the menorah that was in our Holy Temple, you can't help but notice that it was incredibly detailed. One wouldn't be able to imagine it being formed from one solid piece of gold and yet, it was.

Why was it necessary for the menorah to be made from a solid piece of gold? All the other utensils of the Holy Temple were not given this instruction.

The menorah represents the "light" of the Jewish people. And all Jews are ONE. In the Holy Temple itself thousands of years ago; respect, tolerance and acceptance of everyone was "advocated" every single day.

Shabbat Across Savannah

continued from page 1

in my house.

Families met in small groups in November to have this year's first home-housed Shabbat experience. Our PJ Shabbat group had a unique opportunity to include three generations. We invited grandparents, parents, and children to our November program. While at times, it felt like our playroom was a preschool classroom, and the night went way longer

than expected, we all had a great time. It was a truly meaningful experience to see children celebrating Shabbat with their friends, parents, and grandparents. We tried something new this year, and I hope that this engaging PJ Library program will grow one day to include more than just young families in these intimate Shabbat celebrations!



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director
Early Childhood
Education

Eye on education

All They Need Is.....

There is a well-known song by the famous English songwriter, singer and peace activist, John Lennon titled "All You Need is Love". It's a song that most of us know the lyrics and tune. When working with young children, love is certainly a feeling we strive to give each child every day at JEA Preschool Savannah.

However, I would like to think about a slight change to this song title as I reflect on what else young children need. I would rewrite the words to say "All They Need is Play".

There is a vast amount of research about the importance of play for our youngest population. According to an article published in Huffingtonpost, there are many reasons as to why playing is great for adults and children.

First, play is described as "what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and interests, in their own way, and for their own reasons."

The benefits of children's play are:
PLAY.....

- Is good for mental health
- Can boost children's brain development
- Can improve children's behavior
- Can teach children about other people's feelings
- Can improve organizational abilities
- Helps maintain a strong bond between parents and children
- Improves long-term family well being

Now that we understand some of the benefits of play, here are some hints from Janet Lansbury, a mother, Resource for Infant Educator (RIE), and Early Childhood Education writer. In her article Independent Play: Five Hints to Get the Ball Rolling, she recommends to make time

for play as part of your daily routine, present play positively, learn to foster independent play, beware of over-stimulation and screens, and don't fear the boredom monster.

For a full explanation of these hints, you can go to her article, <https://www.janetlansbury.com/2017/10/independent-play-five-hints-to-get-the-ball-rolling/>

Currently, JEA Preschool Savannah is going through re-assessment for the Quality Rated process. Quality Rated is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs sponsored by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. The philosophy for the one and two year old classrooms is that "if children are not sleeping, eating, or being diapered/toileting, then they should be playing. This means that children should be playing in the block center, in the art center, in the dramatic play center, in the book area, at the table with manipulative toys, with teachers, with other children, and by themselves. Play is the way young children learn and discover the world and should be given the opportunity to do so in an organized setting as well as at home.

So, the next time you give your child some "love", think about giving them some "play" time with you, as well! You both will reap the benefits!

"When we make play the foundation of learning, we teach the whole child."

- Vince Gowmon, speaker, author, registered therapeutic counselor, certified professional co-active coach

"Play is the Highest form of Research"

-Albert Einstein

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."

-Fred Rogers



Looking for something to do?

Check the Community Calendar at
www.savj.org

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

A Friendly Reminder

The next issue of the Savannah Jewish News will be our March issue. The deadline for all submissions is February 6th. Please send all materials to sjnews@savj.org.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

Eye on education

Sibling Relationships

Perhaps one of the greatest joys of Sunday is to not only witness our students' relationships with each other, but we also get a peak into what their relationships with their families look like. I witness the siblings that walk the halls, some sets arriving together and others in a competition to beat each other in the door. It's interesting to reflect upon the relationships of siblings and families that we teach them in the classroom.

We are familiar with the stories of fierce siblings' competition as the book of Bereshit gives us many examples of those complicated relationships.

Jacob and Esau definitely weren't the ideal siblings. They were in constant competition since conception, racing to be born first, eager to be the apple of their parents' eyes their whole lives. Jacob lied and deceived his father and brother with the assistance of his mother, which I can only imagine left a lot of awkwardness upon Jacob's fleeing. While this story is one we associate with sibling rivalry, we also need to take a look at how this is also a story of love and the powerful bond between siblings. After many, many years, when Jacob was so afraid of his brother's wrath that he sent a servant ahead, we learn that Jacob has no need to be

scared because his brother has already forgiven him.

After the death of their father, Joseph's brothers feared that Joseph would avenge himself on them for selling him as a slave when he was young. But quite the opposite happens: when meeting his siblings many years later, Joseph reassures them of his love and concern for them. Even as the prime minister of Egypt, his first concern is the well being and safety of those siblings.

Take a look at Moses and Aaron. Although Moses is raised a stranger, he is still called 'brother'. Aaron is quick to assist his brother when in need of help, serving as his voice. Later there is a direct reference to the stark difference in the appearance of the two brothers. Moses, dressed in plain clothing, stands with his brother who is adorned in gold. There is no mention of hatred or spite, none of jealousy, which perhaps means there wasn't any. This relationship sounds to be one full of support and genuine happiness for the other's success.

The challenges of sibling's relationships are many but most of the times the bible describes relationship built on forgiveness, kindness, compassion and support for one another. The Torah makes little reference to the relationships that siblings SHOULD have, but it definitely gives us some great examples.

Your Campaign Dollars at Work Throughout the World

Susan's House

Susan's House Jerusalem employs youth at-risk ages 15-18 who are disconnected from society, not currently enrolled in school and often unemployed. Susan's House combines classical vocational rehabilitation programming with real-life work experience in order to help their target beneficiaries successfully assimilate back into society.

During their time at Susan's House the youth learn how to manufacture and sell unique glass, jewelry, housewares, and arts & crafts. They also, under the guidance and instruction of adults, social workers and volunteer artists acquire life skills, develop self-esteem & confi-

dence, and learn communal values and best practices.

Over 500 teens have been through Susan's House. When these teens arrived at Susan's House they couldn't imagine a successful future, but now they are moving forward, joining the army and then many moving on to higher education. Past participants of Susan's House now find themselves in the workforce as electricians, lawyers, artists, and more. It is really a dream come true.

As a result of its success, Susan's House has opened a second branch in Eilat.



Robin Rackoff

have Starbucks? While waiting for my latte, I've witnessed job interviews, sales calls and even someone getting fired. Talk about embarrassing.

Making sales calls is one thing, but answering mah jongg questions is really serious business. Since I run into everyone at the supermarket, rather than answering one question in the dairy aisle and one in frozen foods, I should bring a folding chair to the bakery section, buy a cookie, and let the asking begin!

Some mah jongg questions can be answered just by reading the back of the card. How easy is that? When an issue is cut and dried, like "must I rack my tile" (no, but why wouldn't you?), or "should I call myself dead" (no, never), these are easy as well, because there is only one right answer. Not so with some of the human issues. I get asked, "how should I deal with a really slow player" almost every day. While some groups put an hourglass on the table to help speed things along, if that player does not take criticism well and is your friend, to that I say, "Good Luck!" If you figure it out, please let me know. I was once hosting

Mah Jongg And More

There was a time when people conducted business in an office. So last century! Why pay for office space when we

a nighttime game at my house, and one of the players took such a long time to discard a tile that I told her I was going to put my pajamas on and maybe when I came back she'd be ready to throw. There was no way that she was going to speed up her game, so that was the last time I played with that group. As a rule, unless you are in a game where everyone plays slowly, nothing is more aggravating than someone who takes forever. Other players might say they don't mind, but if they start to snore while waiting for you to pass your tiles, you are playing too slowly.

Another real irritant is the player who can't stop chattering while the game is in session. That sale at the mall is of great interest to me when we're mixing the tiles and building the walls, but once we start playing out the hand, my not-as-young-as-it-used-to-be brain finds one activity at a time is taxing enough.

A not very famous (or very good) poet made up this little ditty about talking during mah jongg:

*When mixing and mushing,
No need for shushing
But when playing the hand,
Talking is banned!*

If you have any questions, no need to go to the supermarket. Email me at robinsmahjongg@gmail.com. And on that note, I say maj on!

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

My Camp Experience

By Shaina Rotker

My fourth year experience at Camp Coleman was awesome. I made new friends and got to know the old ones better. All of the activities were fun, and I got to know a lot about why being a Jew is important. My friends I met will always be like brothers and sisters to me, and I will most likely see them next summer at camp. Camp has always been my home away from home, and I can't wait to go back and reunite with all my friends.

Camp turns me into a whole other person. The reason I come back to camp is to see my friends and make new ones. The food is good, and Shabbat is awesome. One of my favorite activities was Coleman Rocks. We played the songs 'Check Yes Juliet' and 'Livin on a Prayer'. It was awesome. But I don't come back for the activities. So obviously I come back for the people.

Camp has always allowed me to express how I feel. I always have the time of my life at camp, but we all have to leave eventually. There's always future summers to come back and again have a blast.

Camp is the one place where I can be myself and have fun 24/7. Even though I leave camp physically, I will always have memories of the awesome experiences, activities, and friends in my heart forever. Camp is the number one place where you can have fun and be free from your parents for three and a half weeks. Camp Coleman is my second home and I hope to go back next summer of 2019.



Shaina Rotker-left with best friend Annie Grueman

Shaina Rotker is the daughter of Bobby & Amy Rotker. She is in 8th grade and attends Charles Ellis Montessori School. Her participation at Camp Coleman is made possible, in part, thanks to your support of the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign.



From Hadassah

The Branch:

A podcast with real stories about building connections between Jews and Arabs.



The Branch offers a glimpse into the everyday lives of Jews and Arabs in Israel forging meaningful relationships. Presented by Hadassah and hosted by Dina Kraft, *The Branch* shines a light on the stories of people living the example of a shared society. Together. Even though it's complicated.

Hadassah believes in the power of women for Israel, and that positive stories from Israel can make a powerful impact. Today the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) serves one million patients a year, regardless of race, religion, or nationality, HMO doctors, nurses and staff work together, Arab and Jewish, building bridges to peace through medicine. HMO is the only medical organization to have been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Don't miss new episodes. Listen at:

<http://www.hadassah.org/multi-media/podcasts/the-branch-podcast.html>

Or on these platforms



The 30th Annual Savannah Black Heritage Festival

Presented by Savannah State University and the City of Savannah

Annual Future of Jazz Concert

Feb 12 • 7:00 pm

Jewish Educational Alliance

Future of Jazz is a concert of original, American and Jazz standards that showcases a group of young gifted artists, all under 25 years old. These young artists currently attend middle school, high school, college or a graduate school with jazz/music programs and hail from Savannah as well as throughout the region. Dr. Teddy Adams will conduct and present this select group of outstanding young adults who are truly "proof positive" that the Future of Jazz is in good hands.

This program is annually dedicated to the late Benjamin M. Tucker, a local, national and international Jazz icon who truly personified the art form of Jazz.

Special appreciation is given to the *Jewish Educational Alliance* for its long-standing support and partnership with the festival and this concert.



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Rabbi Steven Henkin

Join our Synagogue, Join our mishpacha!!!

Tefila/Service

Backpack Buddies

Family Shabbat

Parashat Hashavua Classes

Midrash Study Groups

and ... Good food too!!!

SHABBAT SERVICES:

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

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm
Monday 7:15 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

JEA Camp Savannah 2019: Inside the Outdoors

"Building a better community, one camper at a time!"

Week 1

Ready, Set, Survive (Jun 3 - 7)

This action-packed week will be an awesome guide to make sure campers are ready and set to survive!

Week 2

Backyard Explorers (Jun 11 - 14)

Spend the week exploring Savannah by searching for Geocaches, learn how to fish and how to identify local plants and bugs!

Week 3

Nature Unleashed (Jun 17 - 21)

Join us as we make volcanoes explode, tornadoes twist, and then shake things up by making our own seismographs and terrariums.

Week 4

The Amazing Race (Jun 24 - 28)

Pack your bags, we are going on an exotic journey—with stops in Asia for sushi making, building boomerangs in Australia, and listening to bagpipes in Europe, we have a lot to see!

Week 5

Shipwrecked (Jul 1 - 5)

Set sail with us as we search for shark teeth, explore Tybee Island, and design and captain their own boats for our 3rd annual Cardboard Boat Regatta!

Week 6

Wet, Wild, and Yucky (Jul 8 - 12)

Things are about to get a little WET, Wild, and YUCKY with Messy Olympics and Fear Factor competitions and our first ever "Color War Extravaganza."

Week 7

Claws, Paws, and Jaws (Jul 15 - 19)

Would you like to race against a shark and get up close to native reptiles? Join us as we take an exciting look at the creatures of the Southeast!

Week 8

Camp Rocks! (Jul 22 - 26)

Join us as we say L'Hitraot to another fantastic summer. Campers will learn dance routines to perform for families and friends and go gold mining to turn their treasures into prizes.



To register, visit our website at www.savannahjea.org and download our registration form. Please complete a separate form for each child and return the completed forms with the \$50 non-refundable family registration fee.

KOHAV-YAM - KARISH (K-5TH)

JEA Member Value (weekly): \$180
JEA Guest (weekly): \$220

LITS (6TH-8TH) AND CITS (9TH-10TH)

JEA Member Value (weekly): \$115
JEA Guest (weekly): \$150

JEA Specialty Camps 2019

"Building a better community, one camper at a time!"

Potions with Professor C

PK-2: Jun 3-7 3rd and up: Jun 17-21

Do you like learning about science through interactive and hands on activities? Do you like to discover cool chemical reactions? How about find out how things are made? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then join *Potions with Professor C*—where Potter fans and future scientists alike can explore the wonders of science! Campers join in JEA Camp Savannah at Noon daily.

Member: \$250 Guest: \$280



Travel Camp: Tampa Jun 11-14 6th grade and up

After a very successful Travel Camp to Atlanta last summer, we have decided to kick it up a notch and head to Tampa this summer! We will be staying at the Glazer Family JCC at night and exploring all that Tampa has to offer during the daytime including Busch Gardens, The Florida Aquarium, ZooTampa, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, and the Museum of Science and Industry. (11 participant limit)

Member: \$450 Guest: \$500

Nature's Pantry: Multicultural Farm to Table

Jul 1-5 All ages

Join us as we explore and learn about different cultures through their food! By using fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables from our garden, you will have a chance to not only create your own delicious food, but learn about the origins of that food and the culture that goes along with it. At the end of the week, you will get a chance to share with our day campers what you learned by an "Around the World Food Showcase" with samples of all of the recipes you learned throughout the week. Campers join in JEA Camp Savannah at Noon daily.

Member: \$250 Guest: \$280



Day Trekkers Travel

July 15-19 3rd grade and up

Is your child always exploring and looking for a new adventure? Do they like to get try new things? We'll be taking our campers for daily adventures around Greater Savannah. This daily travel camp will be filled with lots of fun adventures including a challenging ropes course at the RAK, escape room, kayak tour to the Cockspur lighthouse, and Get Air when we learn the limits of gravity. (12 participant limit) Campers return daily at 3pm to JEA to join in camp fun

Member: \$260 Guest: \$290

Magic Camp

Jul 22-26 All ages

Does magic intrigue you? Would you like to learn how to perform your own tricks? Magic Camp at the JEA can teach you that and much more! Savannah's own Magic Mark will take the campers on a magical journey, teaching illusions and card tricks with a few surprises. At the end of the week family will be invited to watch their campers help lead a magic show with Magic Mark.

Member: \$250 Guest: \$280



Spaces are limited! All specialty camps are subject to cancellation dependent on minimum enrollment. For more information or to register, visit our website at www.savannahjea.org and download our registration form. Please complete a separate form for each child and return the completed forms with the \$50 non-refundable family registration fee.



Why do we give?

We believe in supporting the Jewish community.
With Federation, we know our gift is used wherever it's needed most.

We may be assisting someone in our own city — someone we don't even know — to get a job so they can take care of their family.

Maybe we are helping kids in Eastern Europe reclaim their heritage.

The important thing is, we are doing something vital to help every single day.

Why do you give?

Give today.
www.savj.org



Savannah Jewish Federation

