



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, July 3	8:16pm
Friday, July 10	8:15pm
Friday, July 17	8:13pm
Friday, July 24	8:09pm
Friday, July 31	8:04pm

In this Issue

- P2 Mazel Tov 2020 Graduates
- P4 To My Beloved Jewish Community
- P6 JEA CenterPiece
- P11 Condolences

Non-Profit ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSONVILLE, FL
PERMIT NO. 2840

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



And Then It All Changed

Over the first few months of the year you could feel it coming. First it was small items at the end of the news about some far away city named Wuhan. In watching the news, we thought it was some small, rural area of China that had a problem that was associated with poverty and poor sanitation. Little did we know that it was IIM+ booming metropolis that was brought to its knees with the virus.

In late January, a member of the community stopped by the JEA telling us that there were challenges at the Port with shipments coming from Asia. He told us that there were going to be food shortages and possible shut downs of the economy and that we should “stock up.” It sounded so apocalyptic that we laughed, but listened.

Over the next few weeks the news started to lead with stories of economic shutdowns and the spread of the virus throughout Europe. At the JEA, we took this opportunity to order cases of hand sanitizer, dispensers, wipes, and “no-touch” thermometers. There were members of the staff who thought we were over-reacting, but we figured, better to be prepared than to be caught short (we now know, that we made the “right choice”).

As we came into March, everyone’s understanding of what was happening seemed to come in to focus. When Savannah cancelled the St Patrick’s Day Parade we knew that things were changing quickly. There were a series of Zoom calls (it was a “new program at that point) with Federations and JCCs throughout the

country. It was on one of those calls that we heard from San Francisco, Seattle and New York City....it was like having a crystal ball to the future. When we heard from them it was like listening to a war veteran recounting their battle(s). They told us you couldn’t over prepare and whatever you thought was going to happen wasn’t a glimmer of the truth.

A mere two weeks later, after taking a number of safety steps along the way, the JEA and Federation shut down our in-person programming. And in just a few days we pivoted to online fitness, classes, afterschool programs, campaign, BBYO...literally everything we did in person, we moved to the internet. Even our Family Services Food for Thought pro-

continued on page 3

Physically Distant, Spiritually Connected

By Rabbi Steven Henkin

It almost seems like trivializing the situation if I were to say that the COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult, anxiety-inducing, and stressful for our community. Not only have we been cut off from our daily routines which are foundational to our psychological well-being, we have been “socially distant” from the people we rely upon to provide us with a sense of belonging. Whether it’s been our inability to interact with co-workers, to hug our family members, to host Shabbat or holiday meals (especially Passover seders), or even just to attend prayer services, we have missed the ability to be close to others.

While experts will be quick to point out that the widespread impact of the novel coronavirus may take years

from which to recover, rabbis across the world and denominational spectrum have been working hard to minimize the damage the virus could inflict by helping people remain connected spiritually even when we can’t be physically together.

For us at Congregation Agudath Achim, it has meant a few adaptations. One of the first things we did as a community was divide our membership amongst our board members and staff and ask each person to check in regularly with everyone on their list. This has helped people remember that no matter how alone they may feel, their synagogue still is thinking about them and caring about them.

Like many synagogues, our congregation moved almost all our programming

continued on page 8

The New Normal Is Really Quite Gray

By Rabbi Robert Haas

As I listened to a community pastor answer a question during the last of my five Zoom conferences that day, she concluded by saying, “We just need to get used to this ‘New Normal.’” It is a phrase we’ve heard time and again, “The New Normal.” Yet, I’m not so certain that we currently live in the age of “The New Normal.” I believe instead that we now sit in the midst of the gray area that leads into “The New Normal,” because we haven’t truly quite figured out our actual “New Normal.”

We know the pandemic has affected us, but we are not sure how to react. Should I wear a mask or not? Should I send my kids to preschool? Should I eat at the restaurant, because it now has outdoor seating, or should I still order take out? Or, is it too danger-

ous to even order take out? Should I work from the office or from home? Should I prepare to move into my dorm next semester, or will I be studying from home? Which friends should I visit in person? How do I balance my need to work with the need for safety?

When we take a test at the doctor’s office, often the most anxiety is caused not by the result but by the time we wait for that result, that gray sleepless area of time. Once we know the result, we can then create a plan of action. Today, we continue to wait for that result. And, as a result of having no result, anxiety remains very high.

The pandemic has remarkably touched the lives of every person on planet earth in one way or another. It has redefined so much about the

continued on page 6

To My Beloved Jewish Community

By Roxanne Formey

To those of you who have been speaking out against racial and social injustice, I think you will appreciate that I will not start this letter by saying thank you for doing what should be done and for saying what should be said. However, I will say that I am glad for your expressions. Your voice is needed in this turbulent time and well beyond.

“Troubled” does not adequately express my sentiments about recent discussions in which I have been involved with some of my Jewish brethren. In these conversations, the issues central to the current movement for justice and reform arose and, sadly, were met with disdain: eye rolling, a swift change of subject, and, in some cases, an outright indictment of black and brown communities. These responses left me feeling again marginalized from the Jewish side of my identity. My immutable black skin reminds me that the privilege to ignore or rebuke is one possessed only by my brethren passing through this world as white. Understand that the exercise of privilege to judge a person or a people in whose shoes one has never walked is not the Torah way. The privilege to dismiss others’ experiences and condemn their actions while disregarding the system, which fosters inequality, is emotional violence.

As I continue to hear fellow Jews criticize those publicly responding to racial and social injustice, I am wounded and confused. Is it not obvious that the need for Jews to acknowledge and participate in this movement is as present as ever? It should be. The eye rolling, the discomfort in faces, and the downright dismissive pivots away from attempted advocacy for others are reprehensible. At times, I sit back, shake my head, and say nothing. I should not have to tokenize myself by saying anything. The conversation now is for those who identify as white. Black people have been talking, screaming, and pleading for centuries. The conversation is not new to us. Yet it is new, albeit often uncomfortable, for many white-identifying people. I remove the burden from myself and from my black community.

Judgment has no place where there is no true understanding. A deeper dive must occur. Jews must examine the underlying structures that have stirred up the racism that has been simmering beneath America’s surface since the Civil Rights and

Black Power movements. Casting a shadow because of the choice to see and deny is dangerous. Choosing privilege over change is corrosive to our society. Ignoring the causal issues is social violence.

Jews, of all people, should understand the plight of blacks in America. Are white-identifying Jews controlled by the need to be seen as white? If so, there is a need to soul search and a need to remember that they, throughout history and still today, have been considered “other.” Take a dive beneath the surface. Go deeper, beyond the first level of just acknowledging that the killing of George Floyd and others is bad. Recognize that it is only a symptom. Jews must take an active role in learning, leaning in, and internalizing the root causes that are the real sickness.

I say to my Jewish brothers and sisters that I am disturbed by some of the retorts and the desire to sling fear-engendered rhetoric about nonviolent and violent protest, to condemn the voice of the voiceless, and to make me choose one identity over the other to satisfy individual internal unrest.

I am angry and I am frustrated. As a whole, my Jewish brethren’s failure to engage on a real and meaningful level about this issue is disappointing. It is horrifying to know that a choice is being made to abide a toxicity that infects us all. Be better.

“Black lives matter” carries with it no controversy unless you believe that they do not matter. The expression, under no circumstances, diminishes the value of other lives. My blackness is real. It is the skin G-d gave me. It shapes the lens through which I see the world and the lens through which it sees me. I cannot, and I refuse to, hide from it. It is what makes me rich. I do not give consent to have it abused. I do not give consent to have it devalued. I do not give consent to have it tortured.

I am they and I am you. The difference is that I have to pass down generational fear while you pass down generational wealth. Wealth as access. Wealth as resources. Wealth as opportunity. This year many around the nation observed Juneteenth. Recognize that it is a mixed bag. At once, a celebration of final emancipation, yet a reminder of deep-seated hatred and the vestiges of slavery that continue to haunt us.

We see the singling out of black humans. We see the bias that perpetu-

ates the continued killing of black humans. We see the tarnishing of the dead. I am confused about why only black people have to defend being murdered. Is it that others believe that somehow an indictment on character will absolve the heinousness of homicide? Is that the psychological space in which we should operate? How do we understand this? How do we understand the difference in perspective and experience?

For example, if I give you and two other people a drink. I say it is the same drink, but I alter two of them. The unaltered drink is tasty to its drinker, leading to a request for more. The other two spit out their drink as disgusting. The first drinker cannot understand what the problem is because his beverage is delicious and he is operating under the assumption that all the drinks are the same. This is the nature of this social construct.

As pointed out in other forums, the Torah commands us, “Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor.” (Leviticus 19:16) I challenge Jews of the lighter hue to dig deeper. Dig deeper into self and explore why you hold the views that you do. What dictates, determines, and shapes your lens? Is it clouded by something?

Clean it.

How? Talk to black people. Not to be educated, but to delve into racism’s impact on the individual and collective psyche. Channel the desire for humanity to stand up against antisemitism to move you to stand up for other oppressed people, too. See the oppression of others as a vehicle that internally pushes you to embrace equality. Set personal biases aside. If you want humanity to fight against the hatred thrust upon you, you must return the support. Be brave. Stand up for me as I stand up for you—if I am truly your sister. Stand up for my black life and those closest to you. See me, from the surface richness of my blackness to the depths of my Jewish soul.

Then let’s talk.

I sincerely hope that change comes. I hope that Jews as a whole will come to see themselves as part of today’s struggle for equality and social justice, and not just critical spectators of it. To those who are already speaking up and out, thank you for your voice. I hope others will join you.

Sincerely,
Roxanne (Chana Rus) Formey



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

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 15 and June 15, respectively.

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

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

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

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

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

All materials published in the
Savannah Jewish News are
© 2020 Savannah Jewish Federation, all rights reserved,
unless noted otherwise.

Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

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

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

Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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



Adam Solender
Executive Director
JEA/SJF

Executive Director's Message B'tzelem Elohim

In a recent "Vort" (Yiddish for "word") I received, the author recounted an old story

about an "oleh" (an émigré to Israel) from the Former Soviet Union just after its collapse. Upon arriving in Israel he was asked many questions about his former life in the USSR:

"What was life like?"

"How were your living conditions?"

"Were you able to go to a synagogue?"

"Did you have enough food?"

He gave the same response to each question, "I couldn't complain."

When asked why he came to Israel if things were so good there, he replied, "Here, thank God, I can complain."

Complaining is in our DNA. It is a motif running through the Israelites' trek through the wilderness.

When there is a good reason

for the complaint, God responds by remedying the situation: God sends manna from heaven when the Israelites complain about hunger (Exodus 16:4) or provides sweet water when they complain of thirst (Exodus 15:23-25).

Complaining is a sign of freedom, and the story about the recent Soviet émigré to Israel could easily have been a story about our families coming to the United States. Protesting could easily have substituted for complaining.

The Jewish ethical tradition requires protest in the face of injustice: "Anyone who is able to protest against the transgressions of one's household and does not, is punished for the actions of the members of the household; anyone who is able to protest against the transgressions of one's townspeople and does not, is punished for the transgressions of the townspeople; anyone who is able to protest against the transgression

for the entire world and does not is punished for the transgressions of the entire world." (Babylonian Talmud Shabbat 54b-55a).

In the midst of a pandemic, at a time of political turmoil, roiling economic markets, and a slew of unknowns we are faced with difficult conversations on injustice, oppression, bigotry, and xenophobia. They have been there all along, but the death of George Floyd being cast on our screens over and over again made it impossible to ignore, and we shouldn't.

This is a time of introspection, a time of reevaluation, and a time to reflect on who we are, how we relate to others, and react and respond to others who are not like us (define as

you will). It's an opportunity to build bridges and to be a part of a change.

The Torah commands us to remember more than any other behavior and commands us to remember being slaves in Egypt more than any other event. Out of Jewish communal memory comes

empathy and out of empathy, the imperative to imagine, and to work toward a better world with freedom for all.

One of the tenets of Judaism is that each person is created in the image of God, "B'tzelem Elohim." We mourn over each soul lost and are heartbroken over the stories that underlie the suffering, historical and present day, experienced by ancestors, friends, neighbors and even those we don't know. We strive to address the brokenness of our world, to find perspective, to find understanding.

While the words are important, people don't change the world by their best intentions. It doesn't necessarily matter what we think or how we feel. It matters how we behave.

It is all about the actions; that is what defines us. May we each do our part to address the many injustices in our world.

Games Around The Dinner Table

By Edwin Feiler

Recently I attended a lottery at an elementary school where one gift basket after another brimmed with toys, games and high-tech inventions designed to improve "quality time" between parents and kids. The most foolproof device for this purpose that I know of would not fit into any basket. But it was served every night for dinner in my house when I was a child.

We live in an age when talk is truly cheap - chat rooms, cell phones, shock jocks. But as I grow older, one complaint I hear commonly from friends is that they never have time to talk with their kids - and when they do, they don't know how.

"How was your day, honey?"

"Fine."

When I was growing up in Georgia in the 1960s and '70s, talk wasn't something we left to chance - particularly around the dinner table. It was something we practiced daily.

Dinner was sacred in my house. My brother, sister and I were encouraged to do whatever activities we wanted in the afternoons, but 6 p.m. dinner was untouchable. The first rule of family hour: "Don't greet your father with bad news at the door." Let him, and my mother, open their mail, change and decompress before being walloped with news of cavities and bad grades. Next, my parents would retreat to a behind-closed-doors cocktail hour where they would dispense with their own news - bad and good. That left dinnertime for talking with us. With no television allowed, every night we played the same game, "Bad & Good." A designated moderator would go

around the table and ask each person, "What happened bad to you today?" Everybody had to answer, no matter how young. The one hard-and-fast decree:

"You can't knock someone else's bad." In other words, say that my bad cited by brother, as in, "Andy punched me in the face." He was not allowed to offer some (lame) excuse, like, "He stole my baseball glove first."

My parents would offer bads as well, and the effect was to show their vulnerabilities and to demonstrate that coping with setbacks was part of getting through the day.

With our litany of grievances now out in the open, we moved on to sunnier realms. The next round of questions was, "What happened good to you today?" The pedagogic value of ending with positives was lost on no one, even a 7-year-old, but the game has an irresistible structure and intimacy to it. Looking back, I see now how rare it was to watch, in real time, five very different people struggling with difficulties and enjoying even minor successes.

How to Play "Bad & Good"

Designate a moderator. This should be a rotating role, and each member of the family should get a turn at it. Review the bad stuff first. The moderator asks each person at the table. "What happened bad to you today?" Everybody gets a chance to speak, no matter how young. Respect each answer. You can react to another person's reply, but you can't put it down. End with the good.

In Round Two, the moderator asks each person, "What happened good to you today?" Everyone gets a chance to reply.

And Then It All Changed

continued from page 1

gram pivoted. While we continue (to this day) our Thursday programming, we are delivering meals to members of the community. To date we have delivered over 2,000 meals!

The JEA reopened over a month ago albeit it with limited programming including camp (at 60%), Early Childhood Camp program (at 50%), and limited hours. Our pools and locker rooms (no hot tub, steam, or sauna) are available. Trainers are back and

the fitness floor is open for your use.

It feels like we are moving forward, but yet, we understand that everyone is not ready to "come back." And we know how fragile this reopening is. What is most important is that we will continue to be there for our community whether in person, on line, by delivery or phone. Together, we will move forward. Together, we will stand together. Together, as one community.

The Only Constant In Life Is Change

By Jennifer Rich

"The only constant in life is change" - Heraclitus

Recently I googled "New Year's Eve 2020," and came across an incredible photo and video gallery titled "New Year's Eve 2020: Pictures From Around the World". It featured multiple celebrations including partiers marking the New Year with a kiss in Times Square, thousands lined along the Champs-Élysées at the Arc de Triomphe cheering the firework display, and children in Kenya dancing with sparklers in hand. What makes the photos and videos remarkable is how surreal they are - it's hard to believe these celebrations occurred only 180 days ago.

From the litany of disruptions and adjustments to our everyday lives due to Covid-19, to the realization that hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost to the virus in the United States and around the world, to witnessing the horrible murders of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd and Breonna Taylor,

it's as though the foundation of our lives has shifted. We have had to change our day-to-day habits and patterns and we recognize (maybe fully for the first time), the desperate and absolute need for societal and systemic changes if we ever hope live up to the promise of freedom and justice in America - for all people of all races, ethnicities, sexes, religions and sexual orientations.

Change is hard when the adaptations we must make are small, but when the changes encompass every aspect of our lives and our society, adapting can feel almost impossible. Our history as Jews shows us that even in the worst of circumstances, change, and adaptation are possible. After the destruction of the Second Temple, Rabbinic Judaism was forced to emerge. Judaism had to adapt from being centralized religiously and politically to decentralization through the growth of Synagogues. Prayer had to replace ritual sacrifices, and Rabbis took the place of priests as leaders and

teachers of the Jewish people. These adaptations were very difficult and required a great deal of ingenuity and determination. At the same time, the adaptations initiated and executed by the Rabbis enabled our people to persevere and survive.

During the past 350 years, as Jews, we have continued to demonstrate our ability to adapt. Our long history in Savannah is a prime example. Our first congregation, Mickve Israel, founded in 1733, began as a Sephardic congregation utilizing a Portugese minhag. In the mid-1800's, the influx of Ashkenazic Jews in Savannah led to the founding of B'nai Brith Jacob Orthodox synagogue in 1861 and led to Mickve Israel slowly moving towards Reform Judaism in 1868 with its full adaptation made in 1904. In 1902, Congregation Agudath Achim was founded in Savannah, originally as an Orthodox synagogue and in 1945, it adapted and became a part of the Conservative movement. The development of three denominations of Judaism in America and the subse-

quent influence on our synagogues in Savannah, reflected changes in the lives of individual Jews and changes in society that required Jewish observance and Judaic practice to adapt in order for Judaism to remain relevant in people's lives. Today, there are a multitude of variations and ways that we practice Judaism and new forms will certainly continue to arise as our religion adapts to survive.

Our ability as Jews to adapt and persevere provides many lessons for the challenges we face today; we are part of a people who are resilient, we have demonstrated that we are able to step back, assess our current situation and intelligently reflect on and address our needs, the needs of our family and community. We must remember we are like those who came before us, and we too have their strength and courage to learn, grow and adapt now and in the future.

Congregation Mickve Israel Anniversary July 11, 1733 - July 11, 2020



Join us for a virtual Shabbat celebration, July 11th at 11am. We will be reading from the original Torah scrolls and honoring Herman Meyer

LETTERS

T O T H E E D I T O R

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,
Thank you for your generous donation to JELF's Annual Campaign.

Increases to the cost of education continue to outpace inflation, driving demand for JELF interest-free loans. In 2018, JELF awarded \$1,011,266 in interest-free "last dollar" loans to help 279 Jewish students fulfill their potential with undergraduate, vocational, or graduate degrees. Your gift helps bridge the gap that remains between other resources available to them and the cost of higher education.

JELF graduates are dependable, as demonstrated by our 99% repayment rate. As they repay their loans, that money is used to fund other students, creating an extraordinary circle of giving. Many of our former loan recipients become JELF financial supporters and volunteers.

Again, thank you for your support. We are confident that the young people who benefit from this donation will, in the years to come, create a lasting tribute to your generosity.

Stan Lowenstein, President
Jenna Loepold Shulman, Chief Executive Officer

Dear members of Savannah Jewish Federation,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation to Latet. Your support demonstrates to people in need in Israel that the Jewish community has not forsaken them; they are not alone. I let you imagine how strong your support was for families in need.

At Latet, we are constantly working to create a more just society by reducing poverty and mobilizing Israelis toward acts of giving and mutual responsibility. We provide assistance to Israel's needy citizens on an egalitarian basis, addressing the most pressing problems facing underprivileged members of Israeli society, such as poverty and hunger, regardless of an individual's religion, race, age, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.

Your support is essential to the successful continuation of our various programs and our organization as a whole. Together we will work towards ending poverty.

We are grateful to have partners like Savannah Jewish Federation that support us in our mission to build a better and more just society in Israel.

Sincerely and in gratitude,
Eran Weintrob, Executive Director
Gilles Darmon, Founder and Chairman

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 your 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, their parents and leaders realize their full potential. ENP programs include after-school scholastic assistance 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 the remarkable Ethiopian Jewish community fully and truly integrate into Israeli society.

Sincerely
Robert Goldberg, Chairman
Friends of ENP

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,
Thank you for your generous allocation to the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish history at the Breman Museum.

As you know, the Cuba Family Archives maintains the largest repository of archival materials, making the Breman the world's leading resource for researching Southern Jewish history, including the significant archive from Savannah. Last year, nearly 400 people visited the Breman for Archives research, in addition to the thousands of people around the world who access our online archival database. It is our honor to be able to share these personal stories from the Southern Jewish community.

For more than twenty years, the Breman has stood out as a hallmark institution for Atlanta and is proud to celebrate and commemorate the Jewish experience.

Leslie Gordon, Executive Director



Check us out!

The Savannah Jewish News is online
at www.savj.org
Tell your out-of-town family & friends!

The Savannah Jewish Federation encourages you and your family to participate in the richness and beauty that our synagogues have to offer.

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM
Rabbi Steven Henkin
9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah, GA 31405
352-4737

CONGREGATION BNAI BRITH JACOB
Rabbi Avigdor Slatus
5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31405
354-7721

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL
Rabbi Robert Haas
20 E. Gordon St., Savannah, GA 31401
233-1547

Edwin Byck
President



Adam M. Solender
Executive Director

Linfoot Recognized

Noah Linfoot, son of Dina and Scott Linfoot, is the recipient of not one, but two awards, the **Harvey Rubin Memorial Award** and the **Kay Becker Israel Scholarship**.

Harvey Rubin spent the majority of his life promoting the importance of athletics in youth development. He felt that through athletics, a child learned the concepts of teamwork, self-discipline, leadership, and sportsmanship. Likewise, Harvey believed in helping the community, through involvement in JEA athletic programs and supporting academic achievement.

Criteria for the **Harvey Rubin Award** include membership at the JEA, displayed leadership, exceptional sportsmanship, displayed athletic ability while participating on a varsity level team, grade point average, and a history of good conduct. Noah certainly reflects all of these attributes and more.

Noah has been a fixture at the JEA since the age of five when his family moved to Savannah. He attended Camp Savannah for 10 summers, was an Assistant coach for TBall, and continues to work at the JEA as a life-guard.

His athletic achievements are many: He was a member of St Andrew's Varsity Swim, Football, and Baseball teams. During his senior year he was an Assistant coach for the Middle School Football team. In a letter of nomination, Noah's Football coach, Doug Dixon stated, "*Noah exhibits character traits that most young men and women only strive for. His positive selfless energy is a light that shines brightly at our school and in the community.*"

Noah was an active member of David Finn AZA where he held a variety of leadership positions including Chapter Morah and Sgan, Dixie Council Morah and Gadol, and was awarded the Matthew Cranman Mem-

ber of the Year two times. He attended many regional and three International Conventions where he connected with Jewish teens from all over the world.

Noah is also the proud recipient of the **Kay Becker Israel Scholarship**. In creating the fund, daughter Laura (Larry) Blumberg stated, "*We can think of no better way to honor her (Kay's) memory than to help make it possible for other Jewish young adults*

to experience their heritage in Israel." Kay Becker had a deep and profound love for Israel. She was a life member of Hadassah, and nothing was more important to her than supporting anything and everything that would have a positive impact for Israel. She made approximately fifteen trips to

Israel after the age of 53.

The Kay Becker Award to Noah Linfoot will help to defray the costs of his Gap Year program on Young Judea Year Course. He will spend the year studying intensive Hebrew while immersing himself in Israeli culture. He will be fortunate to be able to appreciate Israel as a local rather than as a tourist, with experiences fostered by volunteering, learning and speaking Hebrew, traveling around the country, and living with fellow participants from North America, the UK, and Israel. This will be his first time in Israel. It is sure to be a fantastic opportunity.

Noah is thrilled to have been accepted to the University of Georgia, which has granted him a one-year deferral in order to participate in Year Course. Upon his return from Israel, Noah will enroll as a freshman at UGA, where he plans to continue his academic studies with plans of eventually going to Medical School.

Hopefully, Noah will share some of his experiences in future editions of the Savannah Jewish News. Kol HaKavod to Noah Linfoot.



New Normal

continued from page 1

way we view ourselves and our world, and the effects in their entirety have yet to be seen.

For houses of worship, the impact could have been catastrophic. We never imagined, nor prepared, for a world in which people would be unable to gather for prayer, for meals, for social action, for even salutations. Long ago, camaraderie became the center focus of our services, and without it, desperation could have arrived very early. There's simply a vibe to worshipping together. There's a vibe to socializing in a house of worship together. There's a vibe to connecting with the mundane and the holy, alongside our friends and neighbors. Many houses of worship will probably close as a result of this outbreak. Many houses of worship will suffer a financial and/or spiritual crisis of identity.

Few will view this time in our history in a positive light, yet, houses of worship that wish to survive or even thrive during this transitional time, will need to alter their philosophies. Many of us already have done so. Judaism has been a religion based on people as opposed to a building for two thousand years, and during this pandemic, we've needed to focus on this core belief. A community remains a community even if they remain unable to gather together in a building. So at Mickve Israel we began to stream our services live. Then we invited members of our congregation to send in videos of themselves reading prayers. Then we began to stream recorded services because the quality was so much higher. We began Zoom classes and story time on Facebook, Zoom committee meetings, Zoom interviews and Zoom hang gliding. Why not, everything else is on Zoom. We started calling our members as we sought to attend to their needs. We began discussing drive-in Confirmation and Selichot, Shabbat take home meals, and a wide spectrum of other dilemmas that continue to stream in our minds. The videotaping for our High Holidays will begin in July. That's right! July! And early July, not July 32nd. We realized the incredible amount of time and effort required for a streamed Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, and so we're preparing for one, if needed.

Sure, we would much prefer the "Old Normal," but action rather than reflection is now needed. I truly wish I could visit people in mourning or worship with my friends on Saturday morning, live and in person. I miss going out

for lunch....breakfast.....and dinner....and coffee. I miss the handshakes and the hugs and the humor and camaraderie. Yet, our responsibility is to keep the connection alive, and so we must transition.

We're pretty much following the guidelines created by the Union for Reform Judaism and Mayor Van Johnson's Task Force on Houses of Worship, and when the "New Normal" arrives, we will still continue to stream services and use this new expertise in technology to the best of our ability. Hopefully soon, we will join together in worship on a Saturday morning, yet homebound members will have the chance to join in worship with us from their couches, as will others from their own homes, from out of town, or from the beach.

We are terribly saddened by the financial, emotional, and spiritual strain placed upon the backs of so many during this pandemic. We continue to search for ways to help those in need. On a personal note, it has of course been a stressful time. We worry about the financial future of our friends, family, and neighbors. We worry about people who live alone. We worried about our daughter, who had no idea as to why she could no longer go to school, play with her friends, or even run around her favorite playground anymore. Yet, we have also found a sense of connection and purpose during this time. Some of it is as simple as everyone waving hi to us from across the street. Some of it comes from the extra amount of time, I've been able to spend with my children and the understanding that I should have been home more often before the pandemic arrived. Some of it comes from the number of people who are willing to assist people in need. It's astounding, but everyone seems to be searching for a way to help someone else.

Our world has been uprooted by COVID-19, and this pandemic has forced us to alter our lives in so many ways. I have no doubt that we'll continue to adapt in foreseen and unforeseen ways in the future. We all wish we had never heard of COVID-19. Plenty of issues filled the world beforehand, yet, we transitioned into this gray area as well as possible. We aren't quite sure what the "New Normal" will hold for us, but we will work together to adapt. Transitions are part of life, even if we prefer them to be much more subtle.



Thank You!

**Adam Solender
receiving a donation
from the Konter boys
to Jewish Family
Services**

Mazel Tov to our 2020 Graduates

High School

Hannah L Boblasky



St. Vincent's Academy
The daughter of Susan and Joel Boblasky. Hannah swam on the St. Vincent's Swim Team Freshman

through Senior Year and participated at the Georgia High School Association State swimming meet all 4 Years. She was also on the Georgia Coastal Aquatic Team GCAT her Freshman through Senior Year. She served as the Forensic and Law Club Secretary, and the Ecology Club Treasurer. She was active in BBYO during her Freshman and Sophomore years. Hannah volunteered at The Lowcountry Down Syndrome Buddy Walk Freshman through Senior Year and Volunteered at the Ronald MacDonald House during Senior Year. She won the Coaches Award for St. Vincent's Swim Team (Senior) and Graduated St. Vincent's with First Honors. She will be attending Georgia Southern University in Statesboro majoring in Psychology. Hannah would like to become a clinical psychologist that specializes in working with teenagers.

Jordan Alaina Jaffie



St. Andrew's School
The daughter of Monique and Jeff Jaffie, Jordan was a member of the National Honor Society, National French Honor

Society, and International Thespian Society. She was also active in St. Andrew's Theatre department. Jordan was very active in BBYO throughout High School and served as BBYO chapter N'siah (President), council S'ganit (Vice President), and Council N'siah (President). She will be attending the University of Georgia. Jordan attended Rambam Day School from 2 years of age through 3rd grade and 7th and 8th grade.

Reese Michelle Javetz



St. Vincent's Academy
The daughter of Shannon and Scott Javetz, Reese played JV Soccer and was a member of the

Varsity Swim Team and a member of the St Vincent's Chorus. She served as Student Council Secretary and won a Community Service Award. During High School Reese participated in BBYO and served as Vice President of Membership. She was also an active volunteer with the Coastal Empire of Savannah Ronald McDonald House and served on the Teen Board and was part of the Yellow Shoe Crew. Reese will be attending Georgia Southern University majoring in Political Science.

Jared K. Kahn



Urban High School in San Francisco, CA
The son of Mark and Judy Kahn and grandson of Jane Kahn, Jared was 4-year starter on the

Urban Baseball team. He won the 2019 San Francisco Little League Youth Volunteer of the Year award for work in the Challenger Division – a Division for kids with cognitive or physical disabilities. Jared will be attending Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

Colette Karnibad



Savannah Country Day School
The daughter of Yvette and Scott Karnibad and granddaughter of Anita Karnibad,

Colette participated in Varsity Cheerleading, School Musicals and Stage Managing. She volunteered with Second Harvest and served as Club Leader of Second Harvest and Treasurer of Thespian Society. She was part of the National Honors Society, Cum Laude and participated in multiple Savannah Children's Theatre productions.

Colette will be attending Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, and will major in Psychology.

Noah Solomon Linfoot



St. Andrew's School
The son of Dina and Scott Linfoot and grandson of Sherri and Allen Weiss, Noah played Varsity Baseball, Varsity Football and was

on the Varsity Swim team. He was a Coach for the Middle School Football team, Team Manager for the Varsity Baseball and Varsity Football teams and Sports Information Director for the Baseball team. He served as Yearbook Editor and was part of the Backstage Team for many Drama Department Productions. He was active in BBYO throughout High School and served as BBYO AZA Chapter Moreh, Chapter Sgan as well as BBYO Dixie Council Gadol and Council Moreh. He enjoyed attending many local, regional and International Conventions. Noah earned Honor Roll and was part of the National Thespian Honor Society and National Honor Society. This September, he is planning to go to Israel for a Gap Year with the Young Judea Year Course. When he returns, he will begin my Freshman year at the University of Georgia, class of 2025. After UGA, he hopes to go to Medical School. He will be working this summer at the JEA pool as a lifeguard.

Marc Kalmon Saul



Benedictine Military School
The son of Lainie and Brian Saul, Marc was active in the ROTC throughout High School, in the Political Science Club

his senior year, the Wrestling team freshman year, and on the Raider Team freshman and sophomore years. He was part of the National Honor Society, received an SAT Scholar Designation and an ACT Scholar Designation his Senior year. Additionally, he received the Fine

Arts Award for Film/Cinema and the Theology Award for Jewish Studies his senior year, achieved Honor Roll his freshman and sophomore years and achieved High Honor Roll his junior and senior years. Marc was active in BBYO throughout High School and was AZA Chapter President his senior year. He is attending UGA in the fall with plans to major in Political Science and go to law school.

College

Gabe Adler



University of Washington
Gabriel Adler is the son of Susan & John Adler. He graduated cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of

Washington with degrees in Law, Societies & Justice and Creative Writing.

Zoe Levine



Bentley University
Zoe is the daughter of Jack Levine & Ragan Andres. She graduated with a BS of Economics Finance & MS of Economics

Finance Honors Program, Resident Advisor

Zoe is a Financial Analyst with Thermo Fisher Scientific, Boston MA

Evan Parker



Georgia Tech
Evan is the son of Barry and Terri Parker. He graduated with highest honors from Georgia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in

Biomedical Engineering. He will be entering the medical device industry.



MAZEL TOV
TO THE
CLASS OF 2020

J

J

The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide

CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance ————— July 2020

JEA Donations (2/7/20-6/24/20)

JEA GENERAL DONATION

A donation by:

Anonymous
Carole Cohen

In memory of Eric Meyerhoff
Marilyn & Bob Slagel

In honor of Michael Karpf
Merry & Richard Bodziner
Gail Robinson

In honor of the Tues./Thur. Discussion Group
Marty Foxx

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Nancie Clark
In memory of Fred Clark
Shelly & Jeff Peller

JEA BUILDING FUND

A donation by:

Maxine & Don Patterson

BERTHA & HYMIE KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

A donation by:

Ellen Busch
In memory of Harriet Konter
Linda & Gary Udinsky
In memory of Susan Lovitz
In memory of William Bradley
Sally & Steve Greenberg

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Abram Rubin
In memory of Barbara Rubin
In memory of Isie Rubin
Elise Shernoff

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Leon Aronson
Harry Center

JEA VIRTUAL 5K

A donation by:
Jack Levine
In honor of Kirby Southerland
Arlene & Allan Ratner
In honor of Adam Solender
Sarah Denmark

STAFF SUSTAINABILITY FUND

A donation by:
Constance Gemson
Jane Kahn
Sheree & Larry Zaslavsky



THURSDAYS
AT 1:00 PM

JULY 2

Harmony in a Divided Identity: Jewish Diversity
Rivka Campbell

JULY 9

Institute for Southern Jewish Life
Bethany Berger- Assistant Director of Education

JULY 16

Biblical Archaeology
Dr. Erin Darby

JULY 23

Festival Sneak Peak
Savannah Voice Festival

JULY 30

Tisha B'Av: The Destruction of the Temples
Rabbi Steven Henkin

...ONLINE



We're Happy to Announce our New

SUMMER
POOL
HOURS

We welcome you to join us by the pool.
Social Distancing Guidelines in effect.
Your safety is our top priority!

INDOOR POOL HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
8am-11am & 3pm-6pm
Tuesday & Thursday
3pm-6pm
Sunday
9am-1pm

OUTDOOR POOL HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10am-6pm
Tuesday & Thursday
3pm-6pm
Sunday
10am-6pm

LANE RESERVATIONS MUST BE
MADE BY GOING TO
WWW.SAVANNAHJEA.ORG

J





in the JEA Art Gallery

Kitt Dobry & Hannah Williams - July 2020

Kitt Dobry graduated from Moore College of Art and Design with a BFA in Illustration and in Art History. Her thesis was a series of illustrations narrating the events of the Gaelic Wars focusing on the Celtic leaders Vercingetorix and Boudicca. Her art history thesis explored the work of fantasy illustrator Frank Frazetta.

Shortly after graduation, Kitt was invited into the prestigious Philadelphia Sketch Club where she showed and sold her work.

Kitt has worked as an assistant director; a freelance graphic designer, illustrator, and fine artist; and as an art teacher. Currently, Kitt is working on her first children's book.

Hannah Williams is a mixed-media artist born in Albuquerque, now living in Colorado. Prior to finishing her degree, she spent time at her high school alma mater teaching fine art to middle and high school students.

Hannah earned her BFA from The Museum School of Fine Arts, Boston, partnered with Tufts University. While her degree focused on traditional animation, she was exposed to an array of art-making practices and gained a significant appreciation for installation art. Post-college she obtained a job in the Furniture and Frames department of the MFA Boston until she and her husband moved to Colorado.

Working with both two and three dimensional mediums, she seeks to create a spark of recognition between the object and the viewer. Hannah's ultimate goal in her work is to imbue inanimate objects with a life of their own.



Dobry



"Fenton" - Williams

Artwork available for viewing July 1-31, 2020

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 March 7, 2020)

Walter & Melanie Biner
Andrea Campos
LaWanda Ferguson
William & Sarah Forrester
Nitzan & Shelly Friedman
Cynthia Harry
Barry & Jessica Krakow
Cornelius & Sarah Kriwox
Brett & Paige Levine
Kevin & Leah Nightingale
Peter Pawlicki & Katherine Dawson
Caitlin Philipppo
Barbara Shelton
Van Vogt
Jason Zipperer & Brienne Walsh

Join the JEA

Types of Membership include:

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

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

Swim With Me!

[MULTI-AGE GROUP SWIM CLASS WITH MISS THERESA]
LEARN THE SKILLS TO HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME A HAPPY SWIMMER
30 minutes of instruction followed by 15 minutes of guided play!



TUESDAY & THURSDAY
EVENINGS

- Session I: July 7, 9, 14, 16
5pm-5:45pm
- Session II: July 21, 23, 28, 30
5pm-5:45pm

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED

PHANTOM

Gala

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
6:00 PM

SUPPORT THE JEA FROM THE
COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!



Save the Date

Spiritually Connected

continued from page 1

online. Thanks to Zoom, our classes have continued and picked up a few new members during this time, allowing us to study Torah while socially distant and allowing some to come to attend that they might be able to normally. We also offered some options early on, such as a weekly Zoom lunch date and a pre-Shabbat story time for younger children, to help people connect at a time they were struggling the most.

Perhaps the most noticeable change, though, has been our move to virtual services. We have been streaming our daily twice-daily minyan via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AgudathAchimSavannah>), while hosting Friday night and Shabbat morning services on Zoom (which are also simulcast to Facebook). With thanks to the Rabbinical Assembly and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism who have provided pastoral, ritual, halakhic, and technical guidance along the way, the transition has been smooth as our services have continued, providing spiritual support, allowing mourners to recite Kaddish, and provide a forum to feel spiritually together. We have even had people connect to our services who normally don't attend—not only locally, but in Savannah, Florida, Maryland, and even Israel. We have not had formal discussions, but it seems likely that

even when our building reopens for services, we will likely continue some sort of streaming option for at least the near future for those who are at the highest risk of infection and for those who might be physically unable to attend.

While there have been many challenges, the benefit of this time in quarantine has been an opportunity for us to assess what is most valuable to us. Although many of our congregants miss gathering in our synagogue, we have learned that it is really not the building that they miss, but the people. While the building assists in developing those connections, it is those bonds which are holy. To paraphrase my teacher, Rabbi Sharon Brous, "The true character of a community can be seen in how they celebrate together and how they support each other during times of mourning." A community is measured by the way they connect together, not the building they inhabit.

As we move towards reopening and re-establishing services (once it is safe to do so), this experience has taught us that we need to focus our attention on facilitating the relationships between our congregants and not on the physical space in which we do so. If we can do that, then we as a community can endure a pandemic and anything else we may face.

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 sjnews@savj.org



Linda Novack
TOP SALES EXECUTIVE
at The Landings Company
2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016



If you're thinking of moving to The Landings & you're looking for a **Top Producer** with a **Proven Track Record**,
Call Linda Today!
912-596-1908

THE LANDINGS
HOME
TEAM



THE LANDINGS COMPANY

Seaside Island Real Estate

One Landings Way North
912-598-0500



Even Though We've Been Apart...



Our Community
CAME TOGETHER TO

DELIVER **1642 MEALS**

PROVIDE OVER **\$10,000** OF **Financial Assistance**

INVEST IN **PPP Materials** INCLUDING MASKS, HAND SANITIZER & GLOVES

AND **SO MUCH MORE!**



WE'RE all in this **TOGETHER**





Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director
Early Childhood
Education

Eye on education

Quite the Journey

What a journey it has been over these past 3 months!

We went from a normal routine at home and at school, to total isolation,

back to a “new normal” and the reopening of JEA Preschool Savannah. There has been a lot of transition in our daily lives. I have heard this phrase again and again “but the silver lining is.....”. You fill in the blank.

As part of the Early Childhood Education Sheva Framework, there are many lenses we use to experience our world through Jewish values. The lens of Masa or Journey encourages us to recognize that each step is a moment of learning and an opportunity for personal and professional growth.

As I have been on this journey, I have reflected on a few big ideas. They are resilience, gratitude, courage, and love.

Resilience means the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. When we reopened for our Summer program, we noticed that young children are resilient, maybe more than adults as they bounced back into the classroom routine with great ease. After being with their own families for two months, the children were so excited to see other people their size as well as the familiar faces of the teachers and staff. These wonderful human beings can teach us adults a thing or two about resilience!

Gratitude is a word used a lot in the world and it can mean many different things to each of us. As we moved through the pandemic, gratitude became a daily focus and practice for me. I was grateful for the good health of my family, grateful for loving relation-

ships, and grateful for an organization for which I worked for that valued each and every member of the staff by retaining their employment during the pandemic. This could only have happened because of the commitment of the leadership of the Savannah Jewish community who found a way to retain its employees at the JEA. For this loving community, of which I am proud to be a part, I am truly grateful.

Here is a gratitude story that actually happened on the first day of our Summer Program. Our finance administrator came to our preschool office, saw the toddlers on the playground and exclaimed, “There are the babies! I missed seeing them!” You could see her big smile, even through her mask! She was grateful to once again see the children!

It has been a difficult time for all. No matter who you are. It has taken **courage** to navigate these uncharted waters. Decisions and choices were and still are coming at us at record speed, with situations changing daily. It takes courage to make the best decision for that moment in time with little or no prior experiences. Courage to decide when to venture out of the house, or when it is OK to give grandparents a hug again, or when it is safe to return to work, or when is the right time to send a child back to school. And the list of questions continues to grow. But we must find the courage to move forward. And that will mean different ways for everyone. Our goal is to honor and respect each individual with these courageous decisions.

And finally, **love**. If we all just keep love in our hearts and minds, we will persevere and make it through this together. And we might just learn a little bit on this unexpected journey!



Robin Rackoff

If someone had told us that a horrific, contagious virus would spread throughout the world, killing hundreds of thousands of people, we would have thought that they had been watching too many science fiction movies. Schools shuttered? Sports canceled? Every single show on Broadway dark? Far-fetched, right? But alas, it is very real.

While the numbers of cases in our area are considerably fewer than in other parts of the country, we all know or have heard of someone who has been sickened or died from COVID-19. It's heartbreaking. Also awful is that many of us haven't been able to be with our children and grandchildren for months. I have no idea when I'll be able to see mine. My New Jersey kids are in the medical professions, seeing patients every day. When will we feel that the danger has passed and we can safely be together? My mother, 103 years old, cries, “Will I ever see you again?” As I try, unsuccessfully, to hold back tears, I explain to her on FaceTime that the elderly population is the most vulnerable, and we must be so careful. At her senior care facility, Buckingham South, they go above and beyond to protect their residents, which means keeping all outsiders, like myself, outside.

Thank goodness for technology! Three months ago, I had never heard of Zoom, and now not one day goes by without at least one Zoom session. We play Boggle or other board games with our kids on Zoom, and even my six-year-old grandson can come up with better words than mine. We get together by video conference, with friends who live a distance away. Each time we do it, we say how stupid we are that it took a pandemic for us to

Mah Jongg and More

realize that communicating in this fashion is so much more meaningful than a phone call. Our Book Club Skypes and my doctor's appointment by Facetime was certainly better than sitting in a waiting room full of sick people. When the virus caused my cousin to delay her daughter's Bat Mitzvah, the family held a Zoom-Mitzvah on the original date to mark the occasion. Almost one hundred of us signed on to hear Sophia beautifully read her Torah portion. There were a few unexpected moments, like the cousin who obviously didn't realize that we could all see that she was still in her nightgown. It was one of my favorite Bat Mitzvahs, and I didn't have to change out of my yoga pants!

And what would I do without online Mah Jongg? My normal one-game-a-week has been bumped up to four games since we all have so much time on our hands. My regular group signs on with Zoom, and then we form a private table at Realmahjongg.com or Myjongg.net. We laugh, we talk, we complain about our lack of jokers, just like when we're all together. Even our friend who moved out of state can play with us, and we can pretend that she still lives around the corner. The only thing missing is the chocolate!

While this is most definitely a difficult and scary time, there has been a silver lining. We have never heard from our kids so often, partly because they are worried about us, and partly because they are so bored that even talking to their parents is better than nothing! When it's all over, we will continue to “get together” with old friends by video conference, and I might even continue to play Mah Jongg virtually on occasion because no one can tell that I haven't cleaned my house.

Until next time, be safe, be well, and maj on!

2020 JEA Henry W. Center Scholarship



The Jewish Educational Alliance is proud to announce that Emma Loncon is the recipient of the 2020 JEA Henry W. Center

Scholarship. The fund was established in memory of Henry Center, son of Leo Center and Miriam Cen-

ter, who died at the very young age of fifteen.

Henry never had the opportunity to attend college. He was an excellent student with a terrific sense of humor who loved the JEA. The Center family established this fund in his memory to help JEA members and their families to attend the college or university of their choice.

Emma Loncon is entering her

senior year at Georgia Southern University as sociology major. She is a member of the Social Science Honor Society and will begin an internship with a local school guidance counselor in the Fall. Following graduation she will continue her education with the goal of becoming a school counselor.

Emma has been a fixture at the JEA for her entire life, as a camper,

LIT, CIT Counselor, Lifeguard, Swim Instructor, and Afterschool leader. She has been a wonderful role model to hundreds of children in our community over the past ten years.

Emma stated, “I love being a part of the Savannah Jewish community,” and we love Emma.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Mark Joseph Fishel

Who died Saturday, February 29, 2020.

Helene Cohen Streicher

Who died Sunday, March 1, 2020.

She is survived by her husband, Jack Streicher, son Martin (Paige) Streicher and grandchildren Madeline and Eytan.

Arlene Neufeld Steinfeldt

Who died Thursday, March 5, 2020

She is survived by her husband Dr. Michel "Mike" Franklin Steinfeldt; son, Dr. Andrew Berens; daughters, Dr. Lisa Scott (Andrew), Carolyn Slipakoff (David); grandchildren, Cameron and Colby Berens, Talia, Baden, and Landon Scott, and Avery and Ben Slipakoff and Connor Bennett; a brother, Dr. Laurence Neufeld (Dede), and their children, Michael, George, and Daniel; a sister, Dr. Elizabeth Neufeld and her children, Zachary and Jessica Boven. She will also be greatly missed by her step-children, David, Lisa, and Daniel, her step-grandchildren, Ray, Rebecca, Rachel, Jacob, and Gabriel, and her many other nieces and nephews.

Remembrance donations may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation – Post Office Box 5014 Hagerstown, Maryland 21741-5014

Helene Ungar Adler

Who died Thursday, March 5, 2020.

She is survived by her son, Brian Adler; her daughter-in-law, Annette Vaigneur Adler; her grandchildren Sarah Smith (Juan Michael Smith) of North Bethesda, MD; and Noah Adler of Denver, CO; her great-granddaughter, Ella Savannah Smith; a cousin, Arnold Goldstein of Savannah; special friends, Nancy Warth, Harleston Cabniss, and Frank Fling, of Savannah, Russ Sill of Atlanta, George and Stell Cranford of Charlotte, NC; and her caregiver, Sheila Webster of Savannah.

Remembrance donations may be made to Hospice Savannah – Post Office Box 13190, Savannah, Georgia 31416-0190, or the no-kill animal shelter of your choice, or to Congregation Mickve Israel Sisterhood – Post Office Box 816, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0816.

Will Thomas Taylor

Who died Monday, March 16, 2020

Will is survived by his wife Lauri; son Lance; his upholstery son, Chad; and his beloved Jack Russell, Skipper.

Remembrance donations may be made to The Humane Society of Savannah, St Jude's Children's Hospital, or COPD Foundation.

Arnold Tenenbaum

Who died Tuesday, March 24, 2020.

He is survived by his children Ann, Brian, Margot and Allison

Lorlee Shark Tenenbaum

Who died Sunday, March 29, 2020.

She is survived by her children Ann, Brian, Margot and Allison

Fred Stephen Clark

Who died Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

He is survived by his three children: Jonathan A. Clark, Robert S. Clark, and Alison Clark Sturm, his son-in-law David Sturm; and his step-grandchildren, Tara Sturm and Megan Sturm.

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

Linda Goldstein Cohen

Who died Tuesday, March 31, 2020

She is survived by a daughter, brother, and many cousins.

Irwin Leon Aronson

Who died Thursday, April 16, 2020.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Ginsburg Aronson, children, Dr. Amy I. Aronson, Lynda Boelter Sarkisian, (Bruce) and Hedy Marks, (Josh); grandchildren, Emma Boelter, Jacob Marks, Charlie Marks, Ella Marks, Sela Sarkisian and Leila Sarkisian.

Remembrance donations may be made to Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia 31405.

Jean Tenenbaum Birnbaum

Who died Thursday, April 16, 2020.

She is survived by her children, Sharon (and Ken) Goldblatt, Stuart's wife Pam Birnbaum, and Dr. David (and Denise) Birnbaum; her grandchildren Mark (and Jen) Goldblatt, Amy (and Curtis) Bianchi, Brittany Brewer, Brooke (and Mark) Turnbow, Jacob Birnbaum, Michael



Birnbaum (and Fiancé Rachel Faulkner), and Ashley Birnbaum. She was blessed to have five great-grandchildren, Samantha, Jacob, Abby, Caleb and Nikolaus; sister-in-law Harriett Ullman and the late Albert Ullman; nieces Dyan (and Ken) Cotton and Meredith (and Alan) Rosoff, Doreen (and Dr. Jack) Goldberg, Adrienne (and Ed) Misiph and her great grand-nieces and nephews.

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

Frank Hoffman

Who died Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma Milgrom Hoffman, sister Gert Hackman, daughter Barbara Hoffman and her husband Paul Shapiro, son Fred Hoffman, granddaughters Emily Shapiro and Sarah Shapiro, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Remembrance donations may be made to National Coalition for Cancer

Survivorship, 8455 Colesville Road, Suite 930, Silver Spring, MD 20910, www.canceradvocacy.org or to the charity of your choice.

Eric Meyerhoff

Who died Tuesday, May 19, 2020

He is survived by his wife, Harriet Cranman Meyerhoff, daughter Margo (Brooke), son Mark (Tom); brother-in-law Dr. Jerald (Merle) Cranman; nephews Steve (Linda) Bobroff, Ben (Ashley) Bobroff, and Kevin (Sheila) Cranman; nieces Jean Bobroff, Lauren (Alan) Cranman, and cousins, Charles Katz, Ruth Heineman, David (Rebecca) Ries, Patti Ries, and special family Robin Gunn and Rett Gunn.

Remembrance donations may be made to Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd, Savannah, GA 31405, Savannah Jewish Federation Jewish Family Services, 5111 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31405, or Rotary East of Savannah, PO Box 60822, Savannah, GA 31420.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

By joining one of our new Facebook groups!

A place for you to connect with each other & stay up to date on the programs YOU care about!







AND BE SURE TO LIKE THE JEA FACEBOOK PAGE @SAVANNAH JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

HADASSAH

Savannah Chapter



Arab doctor and ultra-Orthodox Jew find common ground in a covid ward

excerpted from *The Washington Post*, April 25, 2020

JERUSALEM — When Jesse Michael Kramer was hospitalized [at Hadassah Hospital, Ein Kerem] with the coronavirus, he realized as soon as the doctor in the spacesuit introduced himself that it would be a rare encounter.

Kramer is an Israeli ultra-Orthodox Jew; Fadi Kharouf is a Palestinian Muslim...

Such unlikely meetings have become more commonplace after the pandemic struck with particular fury in Jerusalem's most insular and religious Jewish enclaves, just a few miles — but cultural light-years — from the Arab neighborhoods where Kharouf and other Palestinian physicians and nurses live.

The pandemic has created a bridge between their worlds...

For many health-care workers, exhausting themselves shift after shift, this shared fight against a common enemy has provided a boost of mutual

esteem amid the dark days of crisis...

Israeli hospitals were already known as one of the country's few cultural crossroads, a place where everyone from Jewish settlers to Palestinian activists comes to receive nationalized health care, and to deliver it...

As the epidemic has exploded, the sense of caring for the other has heightened...

"No religious Jew has ever told me, 'I don't want to be treated by an Arab doctor,'" said Sigal Svirer [the Jewish physician heading Hadassah's covid-19 intensive care units]. "No Arab patient ever says, 'I don't want to be treated by a settler nurse.' They wake up on different sides of the fence and they meet at Hadassah..."

"I do believe that if we at Hadassah were the politicians, we could have peace," said Naela Hayek, an Israeli Arab nurse.

by Steve Hendrix

STAY CONNECTED

A New Way to Connect to Your Savannah Jewish Community



WEEKLY CALENDAR OF ONLINE EVENTS • LIVE VIDEOS • RESOURCES • CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • ARTS & CULTURE • LECTURES • FILMS • FITNESS CLASSES • AND MORE!



www.savannahjea.org/stay-connected



CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

9 Lee Boulevard • Savannah GA 31405 • 912-352-4737
agudatha-achim.com

Rabbi Steven Henkin



Mazel Tov to the New Board of AA.

President ---- Matthew Allan

Vice President ---- Adam Fins

Treasurer ---- Lisa Dayan

Recording Secretary ---- Marvin Cweibel

Incoming Board Members: Nancy Isaacson - Jerome Lederman - Betsy Lehner - Fran Kaminsky - Morgan McGhie - Tova Tolman - Annette Friedman - Kenneth Hoffman - Stavie Kreh - Rick Meier.

Thank You Victor Shernoff retiring President and

Thank You Jeffrey Lasky and Linda Zoller retiring Board Members.

We are maintaining Daily Services, via Facebook

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

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

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

Meeting ID: 870 3207 9194

Password: 181818

savannah bbyo

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!



THE BEST PLACE TO BE A SAVANNAH JEWISH TEEN

SAVJ.ORG/SAVANNAH-BBYO   SAVANNAH BBYO

Want to get involved?

Contact Jackie Laban at JackieL@savj.org



Savannah Jewish Federation

Beneficiary Agency: Your Campaign dollars at work

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



IDA PEARLE AND JOSEPH CUBA ARCHIVES FOR SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORY

at The Breman Museum



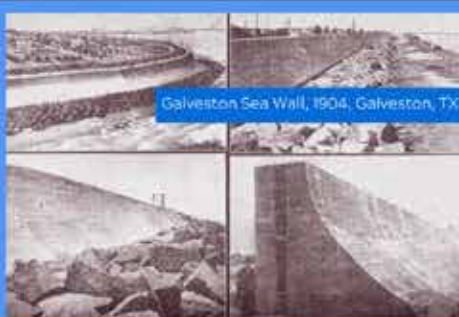
ATLANTA'S OLD JEWISH NEIGHBORHOOD

DATE | July 10 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION | ZOOM | RSVP required
COST | Free!



THE FIRST JEWS IN GEORGIA

DATE | July 24 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION | ZOOM | RSVP required
COST | Free



WEATHERING THE STORM: Rabbi's Responses in Times of Crisis

DATE | Aug 6 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION | ZOOM | RSVP required
COST | Free



JEWS OF FLORIDA: Centuries of Stories

DATE | Aug 20 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION | ZOOM | RSVP required
COST | Free

SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

Join us at four live Zoom conversations on Southern Jewish history this summer presented by The Breman Museum in partnership with the Savannah Jewish Federation, Savannah Jewish Educational Alliance, and the Southern Jewish Historical Society. To learn more and RSVP, visit: thebreman.org/Events

Savannah Jewish Archives in the Time of COVID-19

Despite the public health crisis closing the doors to the museum, we are still hard at work making content from the Savannah Jewish Archives available to the world. Thanks to the generous support from the Breman Foundation, the archives are transitioning the collection catalog system to ArchivesSpace.

A soft launch of the new system can be accessed here: <https://archivesspace.thebreman.org/>

Any questions about the Savannah Jewish Archives? Contact us at iresnick@thebreman.org or jrkatz@thebreman.org.

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

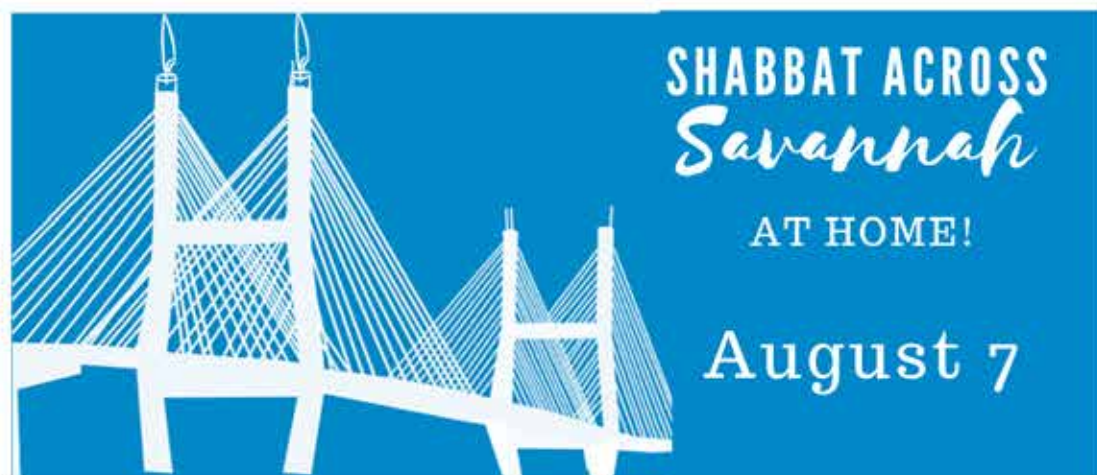


Savannah Jewish Federation



1440 Spring Street | Atlanta, GA 30309
678.222.3700 | TheBreman.org

PJ Library® & PJ OUR WAY™



PJ OUR WAY™ Weekly Virtual Cooking Challenges | Book Club | Leadership Opportunities

Interested? Email us!



Savannah Jewish Federation
Your campaign dollars at work!

Need more information?
Email PJLibrary@savj.org

Learn more...

PJ Library is for Children ages 6 months to 8 years old being raised in a Jewish home, residing in the Savannah area. Parents can register their children for PJ Library at www.savj.org

Families with children ages 9 to 12 years old can register for PJ Our Way at PJOurWay.org. Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library® is free for those who qualify for the program, which grants one subscription per child. The subscription is renewable annually for qualifying Savannah families.



Savannah PJ Library & PJ Our Way

PHANTOM

Gala

**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13**

SUPPORT
THE JEA
FROM THE
COMFORT
OF YOUR
OWN
HOME!



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

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

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

COME & **JOIN US**



Cheers

MORE VIRTUAL EVENTS ON THE WAY!
BE SURE TO JOIN THE YOUNG JEWISH SAVANNAH FACEBOOK GROUP.



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



912.355.8111



yjs@savj.org



Young Jewish Savannah



Jewish Moments
POWERED *by* **YOU**

Give Today
www.savj.org



Savannah Jewish Federation

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