



June 2016 | Iyar-Tamuz 5776, Vol. LXXI, No. 5

JEA Annual Meeting, Wednesday, June 15th

Popcorn! Peanuts! Cracker Jacks! Come join team JEA when it “plays” its 104th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 15th, at 7pm. President Joel Greenberg will present a mid-term assessment of the state of the organization, new Board members will be installed and retiring Board members will be honored.

Retiring members of the JEA’s Board of Directors — Carole Cohen, Sandy Goodman, Vicky Halperin, Allison Konter and Arnold Young — will be recognized for their years

seeing a 15% increase in enrollment for summer camp over the previous year. The department also just hired a new assistant director, see the accompanying article. In addition, JEA Preschool Savannah also saw a 13% increase in enrollment for its summer program over last summer. The building, pools and playgrounds will be filled with the sounds of *many* happy children for weeks to come!

The JEA is continuing its investment in the organization’s property and facilities and anticipates that

improvements will continue for the foreseeable future as a master plan is developed.

The JEA continues to be the hub for community life. Special programs in May included the community-wide observance of *Yom HaShoah* and a special related exhibit in the Art Gallery with student visits;

a celebration of *Yom HaAtzma’ut*; the rejuvenated Food for Thought lunch series; a book reading/signing; and much more.

The community is invited to share in the excitement of the JEA’s achievements and the investiture of the new Board members at the Annual Meeting on June 15th at 7pm.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, June 3	8:09pm
Friday, June 10	8:13pm
Saturday, June 11	9:14pm
Sunday, June 12	9:15pm
Friday, June 17	8:15pm
Friday, June 24	8:16pm
Friday, July 1	8:17pm
Friday, July 8	8:16pm
Friday, July 15	8:14pm

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of service and new Directors will be installed. Also to be cited are the recipients of the Kaye Becker Israel Scholarships, which this year are being awarded to Shani Locker and Uri Locker.

The meeting, which all members are asked to attend and is open to the community, also will be an opportunity for Greenberg to present special President’s Awards. The honorees this year include Cierra Selby and Danielle Gusby of *Just Paint*, who were responsible for the outdoor mural project that beautified the wall of the JEA’s outdoor basketball court.

For the sixth year in a row, the Children and Camp department is



BBYO teens spruce up the JEA grounds on a recent day of service

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Local Klezmer 42 had everyone on their feet at the JEA’s Yom Ha’Atzmaut celebration.

Children & Camp Assistant Director Named



Mary Mazza

Mary Mazza is joining the JEA on June 14th as Assistant Director for Children and Camp. Mary brings more than 13 years of experience in youth programming including roles as a camp counselor, specialty camp director, after school site coordinator, and Recreation Supervisor for Winter Garden, FL, where for eight years she oversaw all youth programming and events, including summer day camp and holiday camps. Most recently, Mary taught second grade in Orlando for Orange County Public Schools. Her career is dedicated to providing safe, quality and engaging programs for school age children. She holds a BA in Sports Management from Flagler College and a Graduate Certificate in Event Management from Florida State University.

The next issue of the *Savannah Jewish News* will be our combined July/August issue. The deadline for all submissions is June 17th. Please send all materials to sjnews@savj.org.



2016 SJF Community Campaign Update

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JOHN "JACK" KAYTON

Interviewed by Harriet Meyerhoff
19 June 2001

I don't know much about [the Kayton house on Drayton Street, now known as the Mansion] except . . . my mother, the family lived there, and my mother in particular enjoyed it. It was a ballroom where they had dances. . . . I do know that when my mother passed away, she died in New York, and we brought her down here. My son Jim was at the time in the army on his way to Viet Nam. He came over, met me in Atlanta, and we came over here. He expressed the desire to see the inside of the house. So I said, "Let's see if we can get in." We went to the entrance, and when we went inside we were asked what we wanted, and I explained that it was my grandfather's house, and that we just wanted to look at it. They said, "Go right ahead. You can go upstairs if you want. If you see somebody move, don't get excited."



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What does PJ stand for?

Pajamas! We know those special times of reading, dancing and singing together happen when your children are wearing their pajamas.

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Families with children 6 months to 8 years old and at least one Jewish parent in the household, currently residing in the Savannah area.

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PJ families listening to a story at our Puppet Party in collaboration with Shalom School



We had such a great year for PJ Library with so many events around holidays and fun! We're glad that you were able to join in and we look forward to celebrating many more events in the future! Please keep a lookout for some exciting news about events in the fall!

Have a wonderful summer!!!



PJ kids having fun at community events!



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



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



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

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Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Recent Events

Savannah BBYO has had a lot to celebrate in the past month! On April 18 they celebrated their Year End Awards Banquet at the JEA where outstanding teen leaders were recognized and our graduating seniors were honored.

On May 1 our teens took part in a J-Serve community service project at the JEA. Teens helped plant flowers and paint benches at the basketball court.

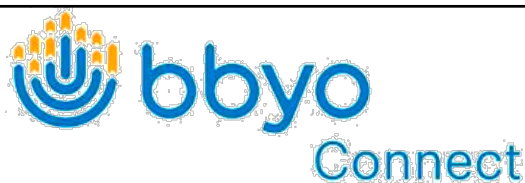


Teens accepting leadership awards and being inducted into their chapters.



BBYO teens planting flowers and painting benches at the JEA.

Contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at engagement@savj.org or 912-355-8111



Thank you so much for a great year of BBYO Connect events!

Have a great summer!!!

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

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



BBYO Connect playing newscaster at WSAV News 3 with Meteorologist Lee Haywood.

Four Questions

for the rest of the year



Murray Greenfield

Murray Greenfield is a hero of the founding of the State of Israel, beginning in 1948 and continuing through today. The charming and humble octoge-

narian, who will speak at the JEA on Thursday, June 9th, at 7pm, participated in the transfer of U.S. ships for use in and the subsequent boatlift of European refugees to Palestine after World War II. He also has been instrumental in the Aliyah movement in Israel, the resettlement of Ethiopian Jews and a number of other cultural and commercial ventures in Israel.

Greenfield is the author of *How to be an Oleh, or, Things the Jewish Agency Never Told You* and *The Jews' Secret Fleet: The Untold Story of North American Volunteers Who Smashed the British Blockade of Palestine*.

How did you become part of Aliyah Bet (the illegal, clandestine immigration of European refugees to Palestine after World War II)?

I'm a born New Yorker, part of a normal Jewish family. We were five brothers; my parents came from Europe, met in America and got married. I grew up in a traditional kosher home, had a bar mitzvah. Then World War II came along and we five brothers, everyone went off to the Army. Two invaded Europe, one went to the South Pacific, the other one got in late (he was younger than

me) and I, following my brothers' advice, joined the Merchant Marine and learned to sail.

When I was discharged I went to synagogue to see the other fellas I knew and that's where I first heard about the rescue efforts going on for the refugees in Europe and that they needed people to go help – it could take a year, you could go to jail, and they didn't pay; it was strictly volunteer. But I felt I should go. Europe was not a friendly place for the survivors. The American volunteers took ten ships from the United States and brought in more than 50% of the illegals before the British gave up. The number itself wasn't a giant number, but it put pressure on the British and the United Nations to come to a decision. I was very proud of what we did, 250 young Americans, most who served in World War II, and I wrote a book about it, *The Jews' Secret Fleet*.

You've made so many contributions to the State of Israel; are there any that stand out to you on a personal level?

I married, had children and grandchildren. My wife [who died a few years ago] was a Holocaust survivor, but I didn't bring her on my ship. She's Czech and survived the camps. I'm a doer and she was a doer. She had a program that was very important to her teaching Czech youth about the Jews of Czechoslovakia. I helped start and run the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, which helped Americans settle in Israel. I set up a number of non-profit housing projects; to this day I think that is one of the most difficult things here, finding a reasonable place to

live. I worked for the Palestine Economic Corp. – Justice Brandeis was one of the founders – which got Americans to invest in Israel. I sit on the Board of the Diaspora Museum. And the president of Bar Ilan University approached me and asked me to get involved when the situation with the Ethiopian Jews arose. It wasn't clear if they would be recognized as Jewish; they needed someone who would volunteer to help get them here and I ended up spending six, seven years on that.

It was recently announced that the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel has been completed. How do you think the absorption work is going and what more would you like to see being done?

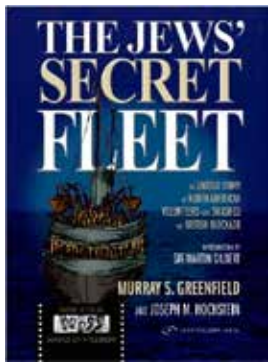
Too many do not go further with education. There are difficulties that some may not be as well prepared and may require additional preparation for university, but we have to commit. Some ask, "Can we afford to do it?" Of course we can afford to do it. When we need war, everyone finds money. They're us. We may have to break down new prejudices, so to speak, but the overall is, the public agrees, so we do commit and there may be difficulties. Yes, you have to break down certain prejudicial aspects and you have to build up financial assets. But it's happening; not as fast as some might like, but it's happening.

What do you see as the greatest challenges and opportunities facing Israel today?

First of all, one of the most serious problems we have is the United Nations attempting to defame Israel in every possible way. That's a challenge. Secondly, we all go to the army, your children, grandchildren, so it's a challenge for every family to support

them for such a long time.

Also, how do we get Americans to buy more Israeli goods? They've got that crazy boycott effort underway. I remember when we didn't buy Japanese goods, but that was when they were building a serious war machine against us. Now you have people not buying SodaStream and putting 500 Arab families out of work. I say B-I-G, buy Israel goods! Provide employment for everybody — Jews, Christians and Arabs — we pay decent wages.



Savannah Jewish News

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www.savj.org

SJF President: **Sherry Dolgoff**

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SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**

SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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

Vital Statistics

ENGAGED: Mr. and Mrs. Avrohom Kramer of Savannah announce the engagement of their son, Bernard (Bernie) Seth Kramer, to Miss Rachel Wolf, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Michael Wolf of Gainesville, FL.

The future bride is the granddaughter of Rhoda Wolf of Orlando, FL, and the late Mr. Leonard Wolf, and of Mr. Harold Morganstern and Ms. Norma Schindler, both of Baltimore, MD. Rachel graduated from Emory University with a BS in Biology in 2007, and a Master's in Public Health in 2009. She is employed with the National Institutes of Health

(NIH) as a communications specialist. Rachel currently lives in Washington, DC, and attends Kesher Israel

Synagogue, where she serves as the Welcoming Chair.

The future groom is the grandson of Ms. Nita Kramer of Savannah, and the late Mr. Bernard Kramer, and of Mr. Robert Sugarman of Baltimore, MD, and the late Dorothy Levy. Bernie graduated from the University



Bernie Kramer and Rachel Wolf

of Maryland in 2015 with a BS in Fire Protection Engineering. He is employed at Southern Company's nuclear power plant in Baxley, GA. Bernie lives in Vidalia, GA, and attends Bnai Brith Jacob Synagogue in Savannah.

A November wedding is planned in Baltimore. The couple plans to reside in the DC area.

Looking for something to do?

Check the Community Calendar at www.savj.org. Exciting programs are added regularly, check for new events each week!



Building the Future

One of the great pleasures of working in the Jewish community is having the opportunity to sit down with supporters and partners to share our successes, challenges, and ideas for the future. You'd think that would be an everyday occurrence, but in the rush of programs, meetings, and outside events, we rarely get the opportunity to relax, grab a cup of coffee and just sit down to share and listen. Over the past few weeks we have been meeting with different community members (you have an open invitation call us to set up an appointment—the coffee is always hot and the conversation easy).

We've been taking the opportunity to share a set of initiatives we have undertaken in my time here in Savannah. It is a coordinated, well-executed set of outreach initiatives with the goal of building future generations of Jewish Savannah.

Young Jewish Savannah was not created in the last two years; in fact, it was a concept that grew out of Josh and Amanda Reeves' "Sweet Potato Schmooze," an annual gathering of Savannahians—new and old—the evening before Thanksgiving. The YJS concept grew for a few years and then the Reeves moved to Charleston. The program languished until Jamie Cahn came to Savannah and brought her concept of engagement; over the past (almost) two years, Jamie has had enough "coffee meetings" to make half of Savannah hypertensive from the excessive caffeine.

One by one, Jamie met young Jewish members of the community building a core group. With an initial goal of engaging 50 distinct individuals, already over 140 have participated in one of the events (and there are over 60 others identified who have yet to be engaged) that are sponsored and supported 100% by the Savannah Jewish Federation. While Jamie plans and hosts some excellent events, she wanted the group to "take ownership," and we now have a YJS Steering Committee charged with planning the 2016-17 monthly events.

Another significant initiative has been our support of Hillel on SCAD's campus. Devra Silverman has been working with three "Campus Ambassadors" using the same concept as YJS, with peers engaging each other on the campus...again, an urn of coffee and lots of talk. The concept

has worked as in the first year we've helped them identify almost 150 students, many of them participating in one or more of the many Jewish campus activities.

Having a professional (Devra) guiding advisors and teen leaders has reinvigorated BBYO. It was not a unique occurrence to see a teen in Devra's office in the late afternoon planning an event, working on a project, or just visiting. Perhaps the highlight of the year was our Savannah Jewish Teen Weekend when we hosted teens from around the region for a weekend of meaningful Jewish programming. Beginning with a Shabbaton Dinner, and ending with a Sunday cheer session, the packed two-day program included Saturday morning prayer, two public service projects, Havdallah, a poverty simulation, and a raucous dance. The initiative set the tone for the rest of the year and for years to come and is a model to other communities. Like their parents, the teens want meaningful, fun learning opportunities, and the Teen Weekend gave it to them. The "year" ended with a lovely Banquet at the JEA where graduating seniors were honored, new BBYO members invested, and awards presented to new and old leaders.

Our next initiative is BBYO Connect, a program for 5th-8th graders preparing for future participation in BBYO. Children are never too young to experience a Jewish youth group, meet others in the community, and participate in activities that enhance and define their lives.

For those even younger we offer PJ Library and PJ Our Way. For the last seven years, the Savannah Jewish Federation has been providing monthly books and CDs to Jewish families in our area. Thanks to Leon and Nancy Slotin, Jane Slotin, and the Cecile Richman JEA Fund, these books and music are provided *free* to every subscriber. And now, the program has been expanded for 8-11 year olds so they can go online and choose the books they will receive. A PJ Library Parent Committee has been formed and is planning outreach events for the fall.

The goal of all of these initiatives (and others) is to build Jewish "community" for a large cross-section of individuals and families, engaging them in authentic, meaningful and fun ways. We are "laser focused" on Jewish relationship building as a core business of the JEA and Federation and we will continue to invest in strategies to train leaders of the future.

Perhaps the most gratifying com-



Sherry Dolgoff.
President of the
Savannah Jewish
Federation

With Appreciation

As I write this column—on the heels of Passover, with Yom HaShoah fast approaching, Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel's birthday) just around the corner, and the

"100 Days of Impact" Savannah Jewish Federation Campaign nearing its end—it feels like we are immersed in a heightened period of Jewish identity reminders, a convergence of our Jewish past, present and future. We retell stories of our past, out of slavery and into freedom, and the birth of the Jewish nation. We are urged to remember, to never forget the Holocaust and the lessons of the past. Although a part of the Diaspora, we celebrate the Jewish homeland and all that it represents for hope, for freedom, for peace. We are summoned with obligations, with responsibility, and with tradition. And mixed with all this, we're given opportunities for giving, for helping others.

It is with sincere appreciation that I recognize the generosity of so many members of our community giving of their time, giving their support, and their personal gifts towards the good work of the Federation so that others might benefit. The graciousness of so many positive responses is heartwarming, year after year, as this support sustains the important Federation programs. One of the most meaningful aspects of giving, to me personally, is to Jewish Family Services. I appreciate very much the concept of helping those in need. The assistance given by Jewish Family Services, of course, is completely confidential, as is appropriate. I do not need to know who needs help, but I am gratified that perhaps my gift to the campaign provides some help at difficult times for a local individual or family in need.

I want to thank the dedicated individuals who took time out of their busy schedules to again make calls to solicit gifts for this year's campaign. It is a difficult and often awkward task to ask people for money. It seems like we are being bombarded sometimes between the mail, phone, and other sources. Personally, I am pleased to be asked to give. If my

ments come from the participants themselves when they tell us "they have community," "have built a core group of peers," "are telling their children Jewish stories," or "are looking to enhance their own Jewish learning," and it is because of the

giving can be of benefit to someone, somewhere, in need, I am happy. I could not do that on my own. My gift, combined with the gifts of others, may make an impact that I could never accomplish on my own.

Our annual campaign for the Savannah Jewish Federation provides such an enormous, unquantifiable benefit to the community and to so many other programs, organizations and individuals in need around the world. I will never forget the information a young man who works for the JDC (Joint Distribution Committee) shared at a conference. He literally walks up flights of stairs in the Soviet Union and other remote places to deliver food and medicines that are desperately needed by elderly Jews who are unable to get out or help themselves. Our gifts make it possible for him to do this.

There are numerous Federation activities and programs for which the value may be apparent, but there are also a number of ways and times when there are intangible benefits for our community. I can only speak for myself when I tell you that being able to offer this kind of assistance to Jews around the world gives me a feeling that is impossible to describe.

Many years ago, when I was thirteen and joined BBG, I was asked to participate in the Houston BBYO Campaign. (If you are Jewish, it's never too early to be part of a fundraising campaign!) This was part of the Houston Jewish Community's Federation campaign. That was the first time I was told that I could make a difference. That no matter how small, it was a beginning. My MIT Mom said I had to understand that just thinking of myself was not enough. Was I hungry? Did I need medicine? A place to sleep? If my answer was "no," then I should realize that there were other children who did perhaps need those things and I could certainly do something to help.

No matter how far I have come from those unforgettable BBG days, my path was somehow set. I would give what I could financially. To myself, I would give everything. To those young women who guided and encouraged me, I appreciate your guidance more than I can say.

outreach, the introductions and the programs that we have provided.

We each have a role and a responsibility to support, enhance and define the next generation of Jewish life in Savannah.

Mazel Tov to the 2016 High School and College Graduates!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Gabe Adler
Savannah Country Day School

The son of Susan and John Adler, Gabe was a varsity tennis and basketball player and is a member of the National Honor Society. He co-founded SHARE, a peer mentorship group for middle and lower school students, was active in Students for Diversity and on the Student Council his freshman and sophomore years. He volunteered for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Teens Hope, Second Harvest and the Legends Golf Tournament. In BBYO, Gabe was membership chair, vice president and president of his AZA chapter and Dixie Council Godol (president). He was selected as AZA Member of the Year and as Savannah BBG's Beau. Gabe will attend the University of Washington in Seattle. He went to Shalom School from pre-school through his Bar Mitzvah and was confirmed at Congregation Mickve Israel.



Max Braun
Savannah Country Day School

The son of Meg and Dana Braun, Max is a member of the National Honor Society and is the recipient of the AP Literature English Award and the Danyse Edel Achievement in Art Award. At Country Day, he was on the varsity golf team, in the T.R.E.E. Environmental Club and pursued his interests in world affairs and ceramics. Max also participated in BBYO, the Telfair Academy Teen Council and the Marex Youth Ocean Summit. He

will attend the University of Miami where he plans to major in marine science and biology. Max went to Shalom School from third through tenth grades.



Evelyn Natalie Darling
Islands High School

The daughter of Susan and Eric Darling, Evelyn participated in the Islands High School Women's Chorus, Drama Club, FFA and was a peer facilitator and a photographer for the Yearbook. She also was involved with the Savannah Children's Theater. She recently won an award from the Rape Crisis Center for a Public Service Announcement she created. In BBYO, Evelyn held several leadership positions at the chapter and council levels, including vice president of Wexler Clark BBG in Savannah and secretary-treasurer of Dixie Council BBG. Evelyn will attend Georgia State University in Atlanta to study creative media and video production. She attended Shalom School from second through fifth grades.



Solomon "Harris" Friedman
Islands High School

The son of Royceann and Marc Friedman, Harris participated in football, wrestling, soccer and lacrosse at Islands High School. He also was in the Band Company, for which he served as a band leader, in the Debate Club and attended a Georgia Junior Classical League Convention. Harris is an assistant Sunday school teacher at Shalom School. He will attend Georgia College & State University

in Milledgeville where he plans to major in environmental studies. Harris attended Shalom School through his confirmation at Congregation Mickve Israel.



Aaron Goldstein
St. Andrews School

The son of Lisa and Douglas Goldstein, Aaron played on the golf team at St. Andrews where he was named Most Valuable Player. He participated in Junior Statesmen of America and in BBYO. Aaron will attend Georgia Southern University. He went to Shalom School through middle school.



Chelsey Halperin-Jung
Effingham County High School

The daughter of Jeff and Stephanie Jung Nash, Chelsey played volleyball her freshman year. She also pursued her interests in Spanish and Hebrew. She will attend Savannah Technical College where she will be studying nursing and plans to pursue a career as a neonatal nurse. Chelsey attended Rambam Day School from pre-school through sixth grade.



Asher Kolman
Savannah Country Day School

The son of Celia Irvine and Stephen Kolman, Asher was the recipient of the Minis Scholarship and Princeton Book Award. He was treasurer of his class for four years. Asher also was a member of the varsity baseball and varsity cross

country teams for four years and senior captain of both. In BBYO, he was Godol of David Finn AZA. Asher will attend Williams College in Williamstown, MA.



Jack Kronowitz
Avon Old Farms School, CT

The son of Hilary and Lowell Kronowitz, Jack played on the baseball, football and hockey teams at Avon Old Farms School. He also played recreational tennis and golf. Jack was president of the Italian Club, founded the Jewish Student Union, was an Ambassador in the Admissions Office and participated in the Chorus and BBYO. He will attend Indiana University in the Kelley School of Business. Jack went to Shalom School from second through seventh grades.



Zoe Levine
Savannah Arts Academy

The daughter of Jack Levine and Ragan Andres, Zoe is a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta math honor society. She participated in Future Business Leaders of America, Beta Club, International Cultural Exchange, Seniors Offering Freshman Advice (SOFA) and Tutu's for Tata's. Zoe will attend Bentley University in Waltham, MA, where she plans to major in economics and finance. She attended Shalom School through ninth grade and was confirmed at Congregation Mickve Israel.



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Mazel Tov to the 2016 High School and College Graduates!



Nathan Israel Luskey
Savannah Country Day School

The son of Debby and Barry Luskey, Nathan is the 2016 valedictorian, a member of the Cum Laude Society and is the recipient of the Georgia Certificate of Merit and the Captain Charles S. Daily Scholarship Award. He was a member of the Environmental Club, the cross-country, golf and quiz bowl teams, and headed the Lower School tutoring program during his senior year. He spent summers at Camps Judaea and Ramah Darom and attended Ramah's seminar program in Israel last summer. In BBYO, Nathan held leadership positions at the chapter and council levels and was selected Beau for Savannah BBG. After working at Camp Ramah Darom this summer, Nathan will attend Georgia Institute of Technology as a Stamps President's Scholar where he plans to major in biomedical engineering. He attended Rambam Day School for pre-school and then Shalom School.



Melanie Ourhaan
St. Andrews School

The daughter of Michelle and Tracy Ourhaan, Melanie is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Art Honor Society and Thespian Honor Society. She played varsity volleyball and tennis and is the recipient of the George Eastman Young Leaders Award and the JEA's Harvey Rubin Award. Melanie participated in Girl Scouts, Math Club, Future Scientist of America Club, Red Cross Club, and Student Council and was Editor of the Yearbook. She was a member of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Executive Teen Board and the recipient of a National Dig Pink Service Award. In BBYO, she held leadership positions at the chapter and region levels and was named Member of the Year. Melanie will attend Gettysburg College where she plans to major in mathematical economics. She attended religious school at Temple Etz Chaim in Thousand Oaks, CA.



Evan Parker
Savannah Arts Academy

The son of Terri and Barry Parker, Evan is a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Tri-M Music Honor Society, French Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta math honor society. He also is a Georgia Merit Scholar and was a Governor's Honors Program semi-finalist. Evan was president of the Savannah Arts Academy band and named to the All-State Band. He will attend Georgia Institute of Technology with plans to major in biomedical engineering. Evan attended Shalom School through tenth grade.

COLLEGE GRADUATES



Laila Cohen
Kennesaw State University

The daughter of Ruth and George Cohen, Laila graduated *magna cum laude* with a BA in Theatre and Performance Studies with a concentration in design/technology and a focus in stage management. Laila was a member of Phi Eta Sigma honor society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Alpha Psi Omega theatre honor society. She participated in Hillel, women's rugby, Swing Dance Club and ceramics. She plans to pursue a career in Atlanta in stage management and as a production assistant on film productions. Laila attended Shalom School through her confirmation at Congregation Mickve Israel.



Rebecca Kramer
Armstrong State University

The daughter of Cheri and Andy Kramer, Rebecca graduated with a BS in Biology. She

currently is employed at Chatham Animal & Bird Hospital and is seeking permanent opportunities in a research laboratory environment. Rebecca attended Rambam Day School through eighth grade and then Hannah Sacks Bais Yaakov High School in Chicago.

POST-GRADUATE DEGREES



Harris Stephen Greenberg
Boston University

The son of Carol and Joel Greenberg, Harris received his PhD in Archaeology. His dissertation involved a detailed study of soil layers and micro-artifacts at the Neolithic-period site of Beisamoun, Israel (near Rosh Pina). He received his undergraduate degree with honors from The George Washington University and a Master's Degree in Middle Eastern Archaeology from University College, London. While at B.U. he was a member of two choral groups, volunteered at a homeless shelter, organized educational programs in the Archaeology department, and taught at colleges in the Boston area. He is relocating to New York and plans to continue his research in Israel. Harris attended Rambam Day School through eighth grade and then Shalom School through his confirmation at Congregation Mickve Israel.



Karli Zuckerman
Columbia University

The daughter of Elaine and Joel Zuckerman, Karli received her PhD in Psychology after obtaining four masters' degrees. She will be joining a private practice in Salt Lake City, UT, as a psychologist. Karli attended Rambam Day School from third through fifth grades and Shalom School from sixth through eighth grades.



Be a delegate or just party with the best!

THE POWER OF OUR DREAMS

Contact:
SE Region Convention Chair
Savannah Chapter's own
Joanna Rich
Joanna@chirphealth.com
912-228-0543

Hadassah 98th National Convention
July 25-28, 2016
Atlanta, GA



HADASSAH
the power of women who DO™

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
40 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005

hadassah.org/hadassah-the-power-of-our-dreams

The graduates included in this listing are those whose parents submitted information in time for publication. The Savannah Jewish News and the Savannah Jewish Federation extend a hearty Mazel Tov to everyone in and from the community who are graduating this year – and to your families! We wish all of you the very best in your future endeavors.



I on Israel

How Big?

Israel just celebrated its 68th birthday and according to the country's Central Bureau of Statistics, its population has grown more than ten-fold since its founding.

When the State of Israel was officially formed in May of 1948, its population was 806,000. Today, that number is 8,522,000, of which 74.8% are Jewish Israelis. Arab Israelis make up 20.8% of the population with Christians, non-Arabs and other minorities accounting for the remaining 4.4%.

As a comparison, the United States saw its population grow less than eight-fold in its first 68 years, from 2.5 million to about 19.3 million.

Among Israel's current Jewish

population, 75% were born in Israel, and more than half of those are at least second-generation Israelis. In 1948, only 35% of the Jewish population was born in pre-State Palestine.

In 1948, only one city – Tel Aviv – had a population of more than 100,000 people. Today, eight cities – Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Rishon Lezion, Petah Tikva, Ashdod, Netanya and Beersheba – each have populations of more than 200,000.

In 1963, only about 13% of households had a telephone line. Today, about 96% of Israelis have a cell phone.

It is estimated that Israel's population will grow to 11.3 million people by 2035.

Magic Bus Planner

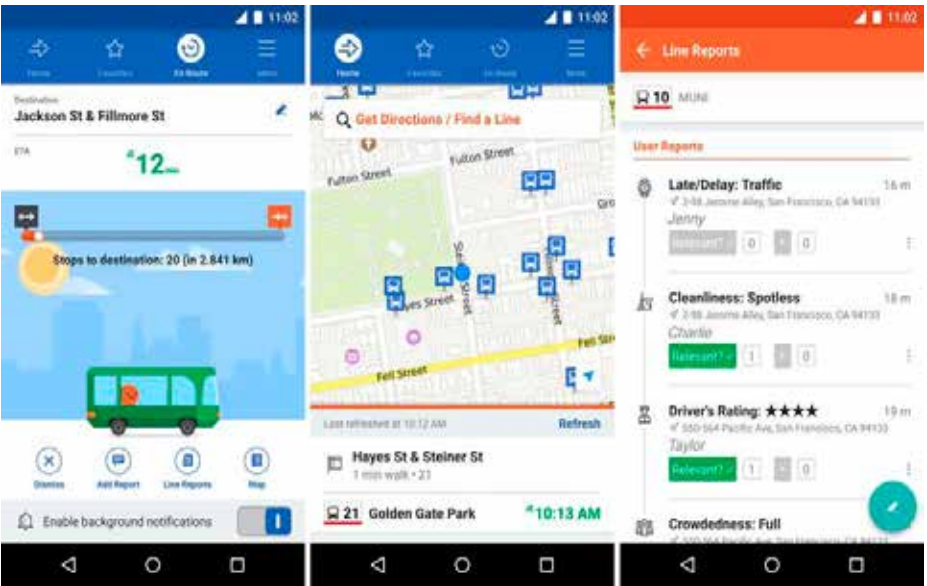
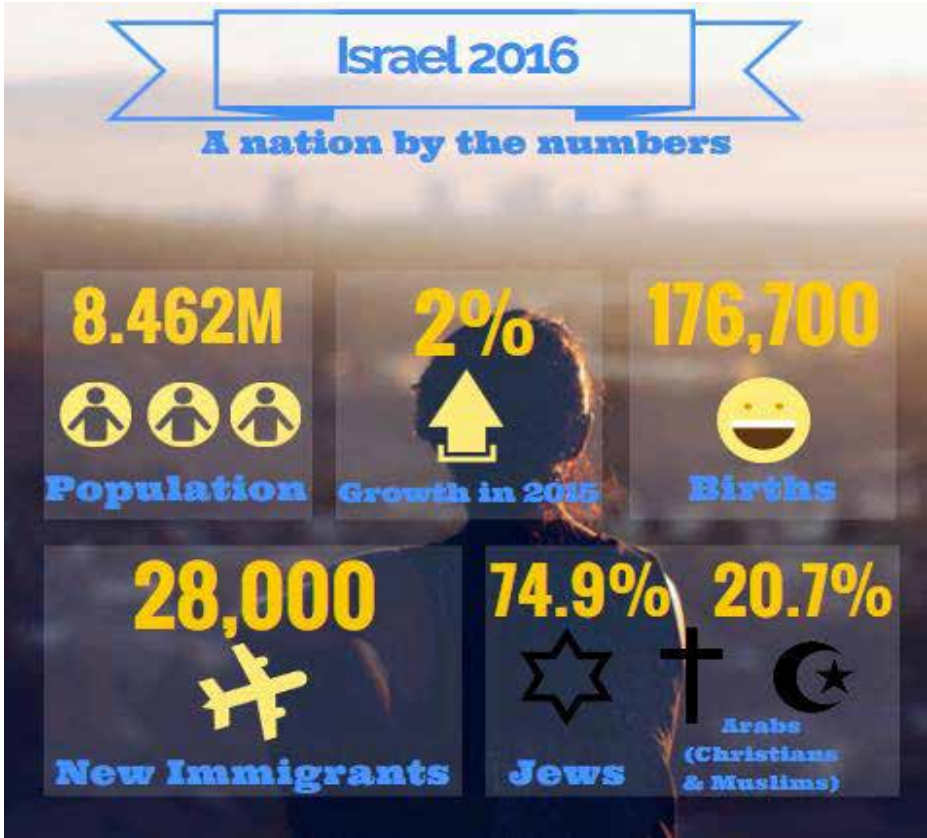
Planning to go to the Summer Olympics or Paralympics this year in Rio de Janeiro? You'll need to know the best ways to get from venue to venue and of course, there's an app for that. Developed in Israel and launched in 2012, Moovit has mapped 31 new miles (50 kilometers) in Rio and will provide real-time traffic and public transportation information in 35 languages to an estimated 1.5 million local residents and 500,000 visitors during the Games.

Moovit offers real-time public transit information and GPS navigation across transit modes, including buses, ferries, subways, trains, trams and trolleybuses. Users can access a live map, and view nearby stops and stations based on their current GPS location, and can plan trips across transportation modes based on real-time data. The application differs from traditional public transit applications as it integrates official public transit data from trans-

sit operators with real-time data collected from users.

By keeping the app's 'Live Ride' feature active, users can passively and anonymously transmit their speed and location data to Moovit as they ride on public transportation. Moovit then integrates this crowd-sourced data with public transit schedules to improve trip plan results based on current conditions, and to share this data with the user community. In addition to passively sharing data, users also can actively send reports including reasons for delays, overcrowding, satisfaction with bus drivers and Wi-Fi availability.

These capabilities have led to some people calling Moovit "Waze for public transit." The app works in more than 850 cities in 65 countries around the world and now has more than 35 million users. *Savannah is an official Moovit city!*



21st Century Ark

A group of young adults from Tel Aviv have a plan to deal with the skyrocketing cost of housing in Israel: to move, as a community, to the heretofore isolated town of Ofakim in the northern Negev.

Calling themselves the Noah Initiative, the group has a vision "to mitigate Israel's young adult economic crisis, focusing on housing prices

and cost of living, while helping to strengthen the peripheral cities."

Noah means "comfortable" in Hebrew, reflecting the group's desire to live comfortably in Israel, and they initially planned the project at Café Noah in Tel Aviv. The name also refers to the biblical Noah, and their hope to bring couples, two by two, to a new community, said Ben

Topor, the group's chairman and a partner at Cukierman & Co. Investment House.

"We thought about establishing a new movement that would solve the problem and we found the solution in Ofakim," Topor told *The Times of Israel*. "So the idea was to establish an organization that can build a new quarter that will provide housing for young people but at the same time develop the country of Israel."

A veteran of the IDF's intelligence

corps, Topor was studying economics and East Asian studies at Tel Aviv University during the social justice protests in 2011. He wrote a paper on how young and new cities can fuel a country's economy and, with some friends, came up with the bold idea of establishing a new city in Israel's periphery to provide more affordable housing to young people.

Israel's housing costs are some of the highest in the world relative to



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

June 2016



Children's Programming



JEA Camp Savannah June 6 - July 29, 2016

Days @ the JEA

May 31-June 3

Join us as we enjoy activities such as a homerun derby, Splash in the Boro, Lego building relay race, live version of Tic Tac Toe, zany science experiments and more!

Age: Children Pre-k to 8th grade

Cost: \$35 - Member
\$45 - Non-Member

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

**JEA CAMP SAVANNAH
IS NOW HIRING
SUMMER CAMP STAFF!**



We are currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- **Lead Group Counselors:** College Freshmen and up, Early Childhood Education Majors and Teachers preferred
- **Junior Group Counselors:** High School Juniors & Seniors
- **C.I.T. (Counselors in Training):** High School Freshmen & Sophomores
- **Specialty Counselors:** Themed Program Counselors, WSI-Certified Swimming Instructors, Middle School Counselors (Counselors who specialize in working with middle school children)

Counselor Application available online at www.SavannahJEA.org.

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

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

JEA Indoor Triathlon



This will be a non-competitive introduction to one of the fastest growing sports. The JEA Indoor Triathlon will inspire athletes of all abilities to challenge themselves in a fun, safe environment.

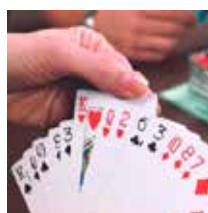
The triathlon will be held during the week of June 27th. Participants will pre-register for a designated time to race during that week. During the participant's pre-registered, designated time, they will swim in the Indoor Pool for 10 minutes, ride on the True Stationary Bike for 30 minutes, then walk/run for 20 minutes on a treadmill. The JEA will have volunteer Race Marshalls to record the total distance of the participant's swim, bike and walk/run. Participants will receive an "Indoor Triathlon T-Shirt."

Cost: \$20/JEA Members, \$25/Non-Mem.
Registration: Online or at the JEA
Time: June 27th-July 1st

You will be able to sign up at the Fitness Desk for your designated start time.



Adult Programming



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



Community Garden

Love to garden, but don't have the space? Be part of the JEA Garden Club and help work one of the 18 garden boxes at the Midtown Miracle Community Garden, three blocks north of the JEA. Excess produce and herbs will be donated to Second Harvest to aid them in their mission to feed up to 6000 children daily. For more details, "like" **Midtown Miracle Community Garden** on Facebook or email Carol Greenberg MStarArts@gmail.com. **Join us for Dinner & Dirt June 7th at 5:30 pm at the JEA.**

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

June 2	<i>The Hidden Jews of Ethiopia, Melissa Toporek</i>
June 9	<i>Good Works of Julius Rosenwald, Bob Rosenwald</i>
June 16	<i>Water Safety, Kirby Southerland</i>
June 23	<i>Physical Therapy, Stuart Fife</i>
June 30	<i>Ethics of the Fathers, Dr. Linda Sacks</i>
July 7	<i>Life of Mercer, David Oppenheim</i>

Don't forget to call and make your reservation at the JEA Front Desk

Meet Jayeson York, New JEA Aquatics Manager



You've probably seen Jayeson York around the JEA for the past few years, but you might see much more of him in the coming months.

Jayeson will be joining the JEA Aquatics Staff full-time this summer as the Aquatics Manager. He will be in charge of maintaining the chemistry and cleanliness of the pools and spas, as well as serving as an on-deck supervisor for lifeguards.

He and Aquatics Director, Kirby Southerland, will work together on continuing to build programs for the aquatics department such as swim lessons, swim team, and community safety outreach programs.

Jayeson has been with the JEA for almost four years and is excited to continue his career in the aquatics field.

We are excited to have Jayeson as a part of our full-time staff! When you see him, please give Jayeson your congratulations on his new position and responsibilities!

Jewish Arts & Culture Center
Beach, Bagel, Borscht, Bingo: A Summer Schpiel
Thursday, June 2
7:00 p.m.
Jewish Educational Alliance
 Tickets: \$8 JEA Members/\$10 Non-Members
 Delicious Snacks and Adult Beverages will be served.
 Buy your tickets now by calling 912-355-8111 or stopping by the JEA Front Desk.
 Questions? Contact artsandculture@savj.org

Murray Greenfield
 June 9 • 7:00 p.m.

Join us to hear Greenfield discuss his book, *The Jews' Secret Fleet* — the dramatic story of the rescue of Jews from Europe after World War II. Hear Greenfield tell the heroic tale of the North American Jewish volunteers who brought thousands of refugees to safe haven in Palestine.

"A Fascinating Account of Jewish History"



Health & Wellness

Five (5) Ways to Be a Better Pool Patron



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

Summertime brings everyone out to the pool. Whether it's the pool at the JEA or a neighborhood pool, you need to do your part to contribute to a safe and fun pool environment!

1. Read the pool rules: this may seem like such a simple thing to do, but make sure

that you read the pool rules that are specific to each pool! Different pools have different rules for their specific structures such as slides and diving boards. It is also very important to point out to your little ones the basic rules like no running and no solo swimming.

2. Use a swim diaper: if you have young children that aren't quite potty trained, make sure you are in compliance with the Chatham County Health Department and have reusable, snug-fitting swim diapers. This helps eliminate pool closures

due to accidents.

3. Wear waterproof sunscreen: Non-waterproof sunscreen has a tendency to leave a greasy residue on the top of the water in swimming pools that can make swimming unpleasant for some. To help battle this, be sure to look for waterproof or organic sunscreen that will stay on in water. Also, remember to apply sunscreen about 20 minutes before sun exposure for full effect!

4. Be mindful of oversized pool floats: giant flamingos and smiling dolphins are a fun addition to a pool experience, but keep in mind busy days. If there are a large number of people in the pool, you may be asked to leave oversized pool floats on the side to save room for more people to swim!

5. Respect the lifeguards: Lifeguards are trained to do a specific job: keep pool patrons safe. Children are not the only ones that have to follow pool rules! Please be mindful of pool rules like, 'no diving in shallow water' and do your best to help the pool staff maintain a safe and fun summer!

Eight (8) Reasons to Drink Water



Kat Ackerman
Health & Wellness
Director

With summer upon us, we must all keep in mind the importance of hydration. In Savannah, the heat can sneak up on us. Drinking water is the easiest and healthiest way to stay hydrated and detox the body. Try to stay away from fruit juice, sweet tea and soda. Sugar and sodium dehydrate the body. If you feel thirsty, you

are probably already dehydrated. Here are eight reasons to drink water, not including the HEAT of Savannah.

1. Battling Fatigue-Water is one of the most important sources of energy for your body. Hydrating helps restore your body's cells which contributes to better sleeping habits, bodily functions and ample energy to get you through your day.

2. Helps prevent weight gain-If your body is depleted of water, your brain will want to replace it to get more energy. Unfortunately, that means eating unwanted calories. Staying hydrated keeps the body happy and energized!

3. Reduce High Blood Pressure-The blood is approximately 92% water when fully hydrated. This helps the blood flow freely, helping to prevent

high blood pressure and other cardiac ailments. It is not a cure for high blood pressure or heart disease, but it can help.

4. Reduce High Cholesterol-If the body is dehydrated it needs to produce more cholesterol to help the cells function properly. Again, it is not a cure.

5. Help Digestive Disorders-Water can help reduce or eliminate bloating, gastritis and constipation. A well-hydrated body helps the function of the intestinal tract, helping eliminate waste and toxins out of our bodies, leaving us less gassy and lethargic. This is especially important for aging women.

6. Better Bladder and Kidney Function-Dehydration can cause bacteria to build up in these organs causing more bladder and kidney infections. Water can help flush out microbes, eliminating toxins and bodily waste, making our organs function smoothly.

7. Happy Joints & Cartilage-The padding on our cartilage is made up of mostly water. If we are dehydrated the bones and joints can feel stiff and achy, especially as we age and have less padding to begin with. Water can help the body feel more mobile and agile, as well as help the healing process of injuries.

8. Help Slow the Aging Process-If we are

Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

dehydrated the circulatory, digestive, urinary, muscular, excretory and respiratory systems of the body have to work harder, accelerating the aging process. Staying well hydrated makes us feel better, look more youthful and act younger! Don't forget, it can actually help us lose those extra pounds!

We encourage our members to always carry a bottle of water with them when they exercise. If you forget yours, you can always purchase a bottle at one of the machines in the Fitness Lounge.

Spice Up your Water:

- Try adding lemon and oranges to your water
- Adding cucumbers can be very refreshing
- Basil and strawberries are two of my favorites



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now

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

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

2016 Summer Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



in the JEA Art Gallery

June 2016 Artist

Joshua Hill

For twenty years Joshua Hill has been raising a family and painting in Savannah. Working as a muralist and faux finisher, he has always sought new inspirations. Surrounded by "leftover" paints from his many projects, he began to paint canvas with the acrylics. Continuing his search for a voice for his creativity, he studied the conversations begun by Claude Monet and the Impressionist movement.

Over the past five years, Joshua has been developing "Folk Impressionism." Building on the foundations of the masters, he seeks to capture light and its effects. Inspired by Gerhard Richter, Joshua uses a "drag technique" not used by the Impressionist. This allows for a "building up" of paint and the ability to capture beautiful images with the contrasting of color.

In his latest exhibition "Folk Impressionism: Reflected Light, Pondered," Joshua continues the discoveries Monet was making in Giverny.

Influenced by life on the coast, Joshua paints light, water and life. He is always striving to understand the complex and simplify.



Artwork available for viewing June 1-30, 2016

JEA Donations

(April 3, 2016-May 6, 2016)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Stephanie Rotkow
Nancie & Fred Clark
Alison & David Sturm

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Errol Cohen
In memory of Suzi Bernard
Arlene & Allan Ratner

JEA GENERAL DONATION

In memory of Henry Levy
James Yeckley

ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In memory of Stephanie Rotkow
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH FUND

In honor of the Konter baby boy
Linda & Michael Zoller
In memory of Ruth Sand
Lynne & Fred Spector
In memory of Stephanie Rotkow
Arnold Tillinger & Family
In honor of Reed Konter
In honor of Tess Konter
Sue & John Adler

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Sue White
Joanne & Michael Kooden & boys

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Brett & Paige's wedding
Elise & Victor Shernoff
In honor of Bernice Elman
Emma & Theron Sprouse
Kim, Andrew & Noah Bernstein
Michelle, Larry, Morgan, Mason & Matilda Bernstein
In memory of Abram Rubin
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt
Joanne & Michael Kooden & boys
Barbara & Ricky Friedenberg

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 4/3/16-5/6/16)

Charles Bloch
Daniel & Lillian Brown
Brian & Daria Cetti
Jordan Denton
Adam & Katy Eichholz
Juliann Green
Sidney Karp
Mary Negley & Carolyn Negley
Seth Nelson & Elizabeth Deher
Ruth Parmett
Anita Rivera
Matthew Weiner & Julia Woodward

IsraAID to the Rescue

by Susan Weiss

IsraAID, the Israeli NGO, provides emergency humanitarian and disaster relief as well as long term assistance for communities in distress. Started in 2001 by Shachar Zahavi, who had prior experience working with aid organizations. IsraAID now operates in 19 countries including Ecuador and Japan because of recent earthquakes, Berlin and Lesbos for the refugee crisis, the Philippines, still recovering from massive flooding from a typhoon in 2013, and other countries that experienced disasters. I recently had the opportunity to visit IsraAID in both Lesbos and Berlin to photograph and document their work.

I arrived in Lesbos on February 14, during a week that turned out to be critical for the future of the refugees. Lesbos is a Greek island only six miles from Turkey, where refugees (mostly from the civil war in Syria, but some from other regional conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places) pay smugglers more than \$1,200 per person to make the crossing to Europe. They have been fleeing in large numbers since 2015; on some days more than 50 boats arrive with migrants seeking asylum and a better life in Europe. It is a perilous journey on rough water, in small inflatable rafts designed to hold 30 but which carry more than 70, with broken motors and fake life jackets. Do the math because the numbers are staggering! Deaths at sea are estimated to be over 900 since 2014.

On February 20, the EU signed an agreement with Turkey to close all borders on the migrant trail and ultimately send refugees back to Turkey to wait for asylum status, a process that will take several years. That decision left refugees stranded in migrant camps throughout Greece and Macedonia, with boats now taking them back to Turkey. However, some rafts still sneak through and refugees continue to arrive.

The IsraAID team on Lesbos consists of 10-15 medical and psycho-

logical professionals and volunteers. When a raft lands, the team begins providing medical triage and emergency counseling. There are many international NGOs on Lesbos but IsraAID is unique because their team consists of multi-faith and multi-lingual Israelis: Jews, Christians, Muslim and Druze. They are trained to quickly assess and treat any crisis, in part because of their crisis training in Israel.

I was met at the airport by some of the team and told to be on the beach at 7am the next day, when most of the rafts arrive. The Turkish smugglers send the rafts under cover of darkness to avoid being caught and point the rafts toward Lesbos. Refugees carry only what they can hold, luggage thrown overboard because there is no room in the rafts. They arrive with nothing, often in shock, traumatized, in poor health, and hungry. Sometimes they have lost family members during the crossing. IsraAID assesses each person's emotional and physical condition, handing out candy to raise blood-sugar levels, comforting small children; they have delivered four babies on the beach. IsraAID follows up with those in need in the shelters, including Caritas, a shelter for women who have experienced extreme trauma.

The IsraAID multi-lingual team converses with the refugees in all of the languages spoken (Arabic, Farsi, Pashtun), providing welcome hugs and sympathy on their struggle to find freedom. At all the camps on Lesbos including Idomeni — the border town near Macedonia — food, clothing and medical care are provided.

IsraAID began working in Berlin in March, 2016, and I joined them in April. Germany has taken in more than one million refugees and placed them throughout the country. Berlin is one of the best locations because of the social services available. There are over 100 shelters, both temporary structures and retrofitted older

structures such as the old Tempelhof Airport. IsraAID's Berlin team is headed by Samuel Schidem, an Israeli Druze fluent in Hebrew, Arabic, and other languages. Prior to this position he worked at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin.

The city has medical and mental health experts in place and IsraAID is working with them to train staff to counsel refugees for trauma and cultural differences. One staffer is a 90 year-old Holocaust survivor who teaches German to the refugees and identifies with their struggle for survival. I was told that a successful transition requires immersion into the local culture as soon as possible so they pair refugees with local citizens. Schidem told me they are expecting four Stanford interns this summer to help plan future programs for refugee immersion and adaptation.

As in Lesbos and Berlin, IsraAID often is the first NGO on the ground wherever there is a crisis, providing much needed emergency response and long term assistance. They receive funding from a variety of sources including UNICEF, various Jewish Federations (including Savannah's), and individual donors. Visit their website, www.israaid.co.il, for more information or to donate or volunteer.



IsraAID's Dr. Mira Atzil (in sunglasses) counsels a grieving family that just arrived who lost family members on a prior crossing attempt.



Mali Azenot, a volunteer nurse from Haifa, treats a refugee with a medical emergency on the beach.

IsraAID received a 2016 Savannah Jewish Federation Overseas Investment Grant and was profiled in "I on Israel" in the April 2015 issue of the Savannah Jewish News.

Susan Weiss is a documentary and fine art photographer based in San Francisco. She was born in Detroit and lived in the Savannah area for many years beginning in 2001. She had two shows at the JEA: Strange World, portraits of people from Papua New Guinea and Parking Lot People, portraits of people in Walmart and Target parking lots. Susan began photographing the refugee crisis in Lesbos and Berlin as a volunteer in February, 2016, under the auspices of IsraAID.



Language instruction in a Berlin shelter.



Elishay Maytav, a professional medical clown and part of the IsraAID team, working with children at the shelter on Lesbos.



An IsraAID medical worker scans the coastline for refugee boats.



Helping Children Be Successful

Shavuot is the next holiday on our Jewish calendar. It is celebrated seven weeks after Passover begins. Shavuot means “weeks” in Hebrew. This holiday is also recognized as the anniversary of the giving of the Torah and most Shavuot celebrations are centered on Torah study and other Jewish learning. Teaching and learning are values at the core of Judaism. Therefore, as I learn about the growth and development of young children, I’d like to share this valuable information.

Karen Cairone is an expert in child and adult mental health and resilience, social and emotional development, challenging behaviors in young children, product and training design, and training delivery. Currently, Karen is contributing to the EDC-led Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation. She wrote about helping children become resilient and outlined ten effective strategies teachers and parents can use every day.

These strategies include:

- **Model resilience...** Children need to see adults in their world using healthy coping behaviors.

- **Foster healthy relationships skills...** If there is no trust, there can be no growth.
- **Teach self-awareness...** Children need to be more aware of how their own actions affect others.
- **Focus on feelings...** There is a feeling behind almost every behavior.
- **Lead with strengths...** A child who has many chances to use her strengths has more chances to develop confidence and healthy self-esteem.
- **Provide healthy outlets...** Have some spaces for children to retreat to for alone time.
- **Focus on consistency...** When we provide a consistent approach to routines and transitions, we are helping the child feel comfortable.
- **Foster self-regulation.**
- **Connect with children’s families.**
- **Be available...** More than anything else let a child know you are available when he needs you.

At JEA Preschool Savannah, we strive to build healthy relationships with the children every day. As trust in the teachers is established, there will be growth in the child and his/her interactions with other children and teachers. Implementing these strategies will help children be resilient and successful beings.

Ark from pg 10



Plans for the Noah Quarter in Ofakim in the northern Negev

salary and cost of living. It now costs about 148 months’ pay to buy a home in Israel, compared with 66 in the U.S. An average 3- bedroom apartment in Tel Aviv costs NIS 3,148,852 (\$831,643), and a down payment on an inexpensive Tel Aviv apartment can cost more than \$100,000. Meanwhile, rents have increased by about 60% since 2008, more than 72% in Tel Aviv.

Topor pitched the idea of a new city to friends and military acquaintances, then met with government officials. “They threw us out of the meetings,” he said.

After graduating, Topor went to work at Cukierman in Tel Aviv. He now heads the company’s green technologies department and was included in Forbes Israel’s “30 Under 30” list this year. He helps Israeli industrial companies strategize and make connections abroad for both investments and mergers and acquisitions.

His work in green technologies at Cukierman is helping him develop the Noah Initiative. The plan now is not to establish a new city, but to build a new section in Ofakim (population 24,000). The Noah Initiative saw an opportunity when they learned a train station was being built there and the area nearby was open for development.

“We are taking advantage of a window of opportunity that did not exist until now... The north of the Negev was not connected until last year, so now there is the ability to commute between the Negev and the center if someone wants to work in Tel Aviv,” Topor said.

There will be 774 apartments and 330 houses in the community, which will be called the Noah Quarter. The apartments will sell for an average of about \$172,000. They hope to start construction in about a year. It is planned as a green community, with water infrastructure that utilizes wastewater and organized so resi-

dents can get around mostly by foot.

All Together Now

The Noah Initiative is planning the move as an established, young community. “The magnitude is what’s innovative,” Topor said. About 600 people (average age 28, about half from the center of Israel) already have registered to move to Noah Quarter in Ofakim, and they are now starting a funded marketing campaign.

There were concerns about attracting young people from the center of the country to the periphery, where there are fewer cultural outlets than Tel Aviv. The plan might be compared to moving a group of Manhattanites en masse to rural Pennsylvania.

“Now, because of the train station, people are accepting the idea of living one hour from the center, so even if someone is working in Tel Aviv and wants to have quality night life the train makes it possible. It’s one hour from Tel Aviv and 15 minutes from Beersheba, the next train station,” Topor said.

“The primary goal is to help young adults achieve affordable housing, but the second goal is to develop the country of Israel.” Topor said.

The first residents will mostly commute to Tel Aviv or Beersheba for work, but eventually, the community plans on hosting an incubator for green technology and helping develop the Negev in general.

Topor says their model, if successful, could be implemented anywhere. “This could be a proof of concept for elsewhere in the periphery,” he said.

Don’t forget...

The Savannah Jewish News is online at www.savj.org.

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Savannah Jewish Federation

*The Officers, Board of Governors and Staff
of the Savannah Jewish Federation
Extend a warm Mazel Tov
to the 2016 Graduates
of Rambam Day School!*

Hannah Boblasky

Jordan Jaffie

Max Eichelbaum

Leah Landon

Baruch Mordechai Garfunkel

Nathan Pritzker

Marc Saul



Celebration of Education & Values

Shavuot is somehow deprived from Sunday School's attention because by the time it comes around, school is always out! So more than with others holidays, we rely on parents to celebrate Shavuot with their children. Because this is one of the holidays actually mentioned in the Torah, the rabbis chose to connect Shavuot with God's giving us the Torah at Mount Sinai, the most important piece of education ever written.

Shavuot has also always been tightly connected to the principle of education. On this holiday many congregations actually begin their children's education; they reinforce the idea of the sweetness of learning by covering the pages of the child's first book with honey; the child traces with his finger his/her first word and gets to lick the honey on that finger so he will hopefully associate studying with something that wants to be done often. In other congregations, high school students reaffirm their commitment to Judaism and their community in a ceremony known as Confirmation. In many congregations, it is also the custom to stay up the entire night of Shavuot to study with other members of the congregation, emphasizing the importance in Jewish life of studying Torah with a group of peers.

The reading associated with Shavuot, the Book of Ruth, gives us a beautiful opportunity for further teaching. This book is a vivid example of loyalty, compassion, kindness and acts of charity. These themes are

often difficult for young children to understand. Understanding these concepts is critical to the advancement of your child's moral values. The story of Ruth gives young children an easy way to grasp the meaning of these sometimes abstract concepts. For example, Ruth is invited to glean at harvest time, a biblical custom of allowing the poor to follow the reapers in the field and glean the fallen spears of grain. For our children that can be compared with a child gathering his/her toys or books but "purposely leaving some behind" to be donated to less fortunate.

Whether you choose to sit for an evening study session or to practice "honey tracing," Shavuot is a wonderful opportunity to show children how Judaism emphasizes the importance of "formal study" where we come together as a group to learn from our sacred texts. It is obvious to us that we must teach kindness and other moral values but this holiday is also the opportunity to demonstrate that learning texts, discussing and arguing these texts with a group of peers is as much a part of our tradition as tzedaka is.

So have at the cheese blintzes and other dairy delicatessen treats that are customary for this holiday but remember that celebrating Shavuot is in fact a celebration of Jewish education and moral values. Joining friends and family to read together a children's version of the Book of Ruth will be an excellent way to combine these two: studying it like a biblical text while, like on a treasure hunt, searching for the many examples of mitzvot this book offers.

Chag Shavuot Sameach



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Ask Yourself, Does It Make a Difference?

As the holiday of Shavuot approaches, I was thinking how so many of the Jewish people are unaware of this most significant holiday. The observance of this holiday has no specific tangible element. There isn't a succah or matzah or a menorah to light; it is just two days consecrated for this holiday. Unfortunately, because there is nothing specific that makes this holiday stand out, it is easily brushed aside. It is most intriguing how this very idea often reflects the very nature of day-to-day life.

How often do we ignore incidents and acts of others that are common, every day occurrences? How often do we take for granted the very things or people that are common aspects of our everyday life? We don't intentionally ignore those people who mean the most to us, however, they are often the very ones to whom we don't express enough gratitude for the simple everyday things they do. And, we don't mean to take for granted that we woke up and faced a new day. We just tend to wake up and go about our lives not realizing that yesterday could have been our last day on earth, but wasn't.

Shavuot is the holiday that gives us a specific opportunity to acknowledge that G-d gave us the precious gift of the Torah. Found within this gift are all the ingredients needed to live a meaningful life and a path of life that G-d Himself expresses to us as being good for us. Yet, too many of us tend to overlook this day, its message, its opportunity.

And so goes the cycle of life. We get on the treadmill and out of fear of falling off, we just keep going and going without any real destination, without noticing any scenery, without stopping to smell the roses. It's very similar to reading statistics and ignoring them.

All the statistics below have been taken from essays on the PEJE website

- There is an overwhelming amount of statistical evidence that shows the value of a Jewish day school education. For example, Jewish day school students score in the top percentiles on all the various national standardized exams; and in a recent survey of the 60 valedictorians of public and private high schools in greater Detroit, it was discovered that 23 of them were

graduates of a Jewish day school.

- A reason given for the above phenomena is that Jewish day school students are challenged to handle a "dual curriculum" of secular studies and Judaic studies. This means that students in Jewish day schools receive extra mental stimulation, including using one's brain in a variety of additional ways such as analyzing texts, discussing ethics, studying.
- Jewish day school students learn numerous values and expectations of proper behavior that are not a part of the curriculum at public and private schools. Returning lost objects, respect for parents and elders, visiting the sick, not gossiping, charity, wonder, spirituality, hospitality, humility, and appreciation are values taught in a Jewish day school.
- Numerous studies have shown that Jewish day school graduates are more likely to be Jewishly active as adults than Hebrew school graduates. For example, a recent survey of participants at Hillel events at Northwestern University found that 70% of the participants were graduates of Jewish day schools. And when Jewish day school graduates become adults they are also more likely to celebrate the Jewish holidays, join a synagogue, visit Israel, donate money to Jewish causes, volunteer their time to Jewish institutions, and marry another Jew.
- In sum, as the statistical data has shown, if parents want their children to develop a strong attachment to Judaism, while also having their children be well prepared for future academic challenges, and be inculcated with good values, then they should at least explore the possibility of sending their children to a Jewish day school.

Our students know about Shavuot; its laws and its customs. Our students are among those who will, G-d willing, be part of the statistics proving Jewish education makes a difference. Again, it can only make a difference for those to whom being Jewish makes a difference.

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Members of Savannah Jewish War Veterans Post 320 were at Bonaventure Cemetery on Sunday, May 22nd, to replace American flags on the graves of Jewish armed services veterans in advance of Memorial Day.

To read more about the activities of JWV Post 320, go to [Facebook Savannah Jewish War Veterans Post 320](#).

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

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Beginning June 3rd through August 28th, all Friday services begin at 6:30pm with a potluck dinner. Guests are asked to bring a potluck-style dish (no pork or shellfish) to serve at least 8-10 people.

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Saturday 9:30 am Shabbat Service &
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DAILY SERVICES:

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Monday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

Friday Shacharit 7:00 am & Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm



It's a Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

The holiday of Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah, and in recognition of that, two of this month's jokes are Biblically inspired. It's also a holiday during which dairy dishes are traditionally consumed, and to pay tribute to that custom, the rest of the jokes are unusually, well, cheesy!

Melinda Stein

Q: Where is medicine first mentioned in the Bible?

A: When God gave Moses two tablets.

Q: Where does the Book of Genesis reference baseball?

A: It starts with, "In the big inning..."

Sarah Epstein just received her learner's permit and offered to drive her parents around. After a hair-raising ride, they returned home.

Mrs. Epstein got out of the car and said, "Thank you!"

"Anytime," Sarah replied.

As her mother exited the car, she replied to her daughter, "I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to G-d!"

Rabbi Rosen gave his speech Shabbat morning as usual, but this particular Saturday, it was considerably longer than normal.

Later, at the Kiddush, the Rabbi was speaking with some of his congregants when Morris Jacobson approached him and said, "Your sermon, Rabbi, was simply wonderful — so invigorating and inspiring and refreshing."

Rabbi Rosen of course, broke out in a big smile, only to hear Morris add, "I felt like a new man when I woke up!"

Whenever Myrna Adler went to the doctor, she would complain about the long delays she always endured.

One day, after a prolonged lag, her name was finally called.

The nurse asked Myrna to step on the scale. "Let's find out your weight to-

day, Mrs. Adler," she said.

Without hesitation, Myrna replied, "One hour and 45 minutes!"

About 90 fifth-graders from Tel Aviv piled into an El Al airliner heading off to summer camp in New York. Once in the air, the kids got extremely rambunctious. The Captain could hear the flight crew pleading with the children to settle down and let the other passengers get some sleep.

No amount of reasoning seemed to help, until the Captain took charge. He picked up the PA microphone in the cockpit and announced, "Children, this is the Captain speaking. Don't make me stop this airplane and come back there!"

Saul Rubenstein's teacher assigned his class a project on childbirth, so the boy asked his mother, "Mom, how was I born?"

"Well, honey," said his mother nervously, "the stork brought you to us."

"Oh," said Saul. "And how were you and Dad born?"

"Oh, the stork brought us, too."

"Well, how were Grandma and Grandpa born?" Saul persisted.

"Well, darling, the stork brought them too!" said Mrs. Rubenstein, starting to squirm a little.

Several days later, Saul handed in his project to the teacher, who read with confusion the opening sentence:

"This report has been very difficult to write, because there hasn't been a normal childbirth in my family for three generations."

Our family would like to thank the AA Synagogue, all of the generous sponsors and of course all of the golfers that participated in the **First Annual Larry Lasky Memorial Golf Tournament**. We want to especially thank Victor Shernoff, Doug Goldstein and Marcus Seligman who organized the tournament and made it such a special day for the family and for all those who participated.

Larry loved his synagogue and the game of golf so this event was an incredibly fitting tribute to his life.

Again, thanks to all who made this tournament so successful.

Betty, Jeffrey, Stacy, Jodi and Kenneth



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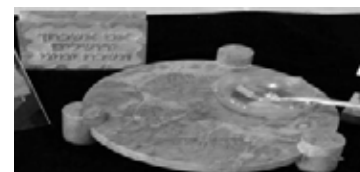


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LASTING LEGACIES

When you know that you know who you love, you can't deny it. -Shawn Colvin



Jamie Cahn and Steve Richman, when it began in 2001

from Columbus, GA, was randomly assigned to stay at Jamie's house for the weekend. They fell for each other right away. "I feel bad for the kids that there's no more co-ed housing," she jokes now.

They dated the rest of their high school years, to the extent that you can when you live so far apart. Jamie and Steve worked together at Camp Coleman the summer after their freshman year in college (she at Indiana University, he at Georgia Tech). But it was difficult to maintain a relationship across the miles.

Steve moved to Savannah and began working for Gulfstream while finishing his degree at Georgia Tech. After graduation, Jamie took a job with the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County in Florida. They kept in touch and saw each other every so often, but ever again, the challenge of distance put a strain on their relationship.

"We knew we had reached a point where we either had to be in the same place or get on with our lives," Jamie said. In 2014 she sent a résumé to Savannah Jewish Federation Executive Director Adam Solender and met with him on a visit to Savannah. She eventually was hired as the Campaign Director with some responsi-

bility for young adults; the position grew to include responsibility for overseeing outreach initiatives and a variety of programming efforts. And finally, she and Steve were living in the same city!

Jamie and Steve became engaged to be married in April of this year and to honor their engagement they established the **Madeline H. Richman Fund** in memory of Steve's mother. Madeline Richman died in June of 2015 after a long battle with cancer. "Maddy," as she was affectionately known, is remembered as a really friendly, gregarious woman who was a devoted wife and mother to her husband, Harvey, and her sons, Steven and Erick.

Income from the Madeline H. Richman Fund will benefit Jewish teen programs in recognition of the special meaning that Jewish youth programming has for Jamie and Steve, given that they met because of their participation in NFTY. They are planning to be married in Savannah in October and ask that donations be made to the Madeline H. Richman Fund in lieu of engagement or wedding gifts.



Madeline Richman

Create a Fund

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

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Bernice Sadler Elman
Who died May 12, 2016

She is survived by her daughters, Brenda E. (Patrick) Salter of Savannah and Marsha E. (Charles) Bernstein of Atlanta; two grandsons; four great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence Elman.

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

Iosif Khasid
Who died May 11, 2016

He is survived by his wife, Galina Khasid; his daughter, Marina (Eduard) Grinberg of Savannah; his son, Igor Khasid of Minsk, Belarus; and three grandchildren.

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

Henry "Hank" Levy
Who died May 2, 2016

He is survived by his wife, Sissy Schram Levy of Tybee Island; one daughter, Suzanne Levy (Lee) Falk of Atlanta; two sons, Sidney Gershon (Randi) Levy of Atlanta and David Kaufman Levy (Jane Townsend) of Savannah; five grandchildren; Sissy's children, Richard L. (Cathy) Harris,

Jr. of Moraga, CA, and Lynn L. Harris (Kevin Adkins) of Hot Springs, AR; and Sissy's three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Morton Henry Levy II.

Remembrances: A charity of the donor's choice.

Stephanie Robin Rotkow
Who died April 20, 2016

She is survived by her parents, Joel and Debra Rotkow of Savannah; her brother, Eric (Victoria) Rotkow of Providence, RI; her maternal grandmother, Irene Tabackman of Chevy Chase, MD; a niece; aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her sister; her paternal grandparents, Fred and Dorothy Heyman Rotkow, and her maternal grandfather, Joseph Bernard Tabackman.

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

Inez Price Pachter
Who died April 16, 2016

She is survived by her children, John (Ilene) Pachter of McLean, VA; Eileen (Mike) Pink of Fort Worth, TX; and Robbie (Sandy) Hollander of Savannah; six grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, David Pachter.

Remembrances: A charity of the donor's choice.



It was standing room only at the 2016 annual **Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Concert** at the JEA on May 22nd. An audience of more than 400 was delighted by the gypsy swing tunes of Velvet Caravan and the outstanding performances of standards and show tunes by the Savannah Voice Festival.





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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!

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

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Savannah Jewish Federation