



Candle Lighting Times	
Friday, March 3	6:06pm
Friday, March 10	6:11pm
Friday, March 17	7:16pm
Friday, March 24	7:21pm
Friday, March 31	7:26pm

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Annual Purim Carnival Fun March 12th

Kids, put on your costumes and get ready to race Queen Esther and Mordechai through the Candy Cane Forest on the giant *Candy Land* board at the JEA's annual Purim Carnival. The Purim Carnival is planned by the children's programming arms of the JEA and Savannah Jewish Federation – JEA Preschool Savannah, The PJ Library, and the JEA Camps and After School programs.

The Purim Carnival will be held at the JEA on Sunday, March 12th, from 11:30am-2pm. Lots of fun is planned including face painting, inflatables and different games and crafts all along the way through *Candy Land* where you can test skills, make your own masks and do lots of other crafts.

D.J. Horton, the JEA's Children & Camp Director, said the staff are excited about the *Candy Land* theme of this year's carnival and that each department is busy planning activities for its section of the favorite children's game. Children are invited to come dressed in their favorite costumes to hear the reading of the Purim story.

A delicious lunch will be served at noon and there will be favorite snacks including popcorn and cotton candy.

The admission fee of \$15 per family (or \$5 per person) includes lunch and all activities and snacks. The annual Purim Carnival is a program of the Jewish Educational Alliance and the Savannah Jewish Federation.



Annual Purim Carnival, Sunday, March 12th

Aronsons Create Legacy Funds

The Savannah Jewish Federation is proud to announce that Dr. Leon and Mrs. Barbara Aronson have created two legacy funds at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, the planned giving arm of the Federation.

The Aronsons created the *Barbara & Leon Aronson Fund* to establish gifts to five different local and national organizations that have special meaning to them. In doing so, they spoke about their longtime support of these groups, their love of Savannah and how they have “appreciated the wonderful life that we had, both socially and professionally, in this fine Southern city.” In creating the fund, they wanted to give back to the community “that has been our home for over 40 years.”

What a legacy the *Barbara & Leon Aronson Fund* creates to mark the occasion of their 50th anniversary of being in Savannah.

The Aronsons added more to the legacy they were creating by also establishing the *Barbara Aronson Lion of Judah Fund*. Through Lion of Judah endowments, Jewish women across North America strengthen their Jewish communities by providing funds to meet needs at home, in Israel, and around the world... in perpetuity. They are a group of women (over 17,000) who make a powerful state-

ment of their commitment to *tzedakah*, providing legacies to their communities. *In perpetuity*, each year there will be a gift to our community from the *Barbara Aronson Lion of Judah Fund* – for social services, for Israel, for Jewish education and whatever else our needs may be.

Created more than two decades ago, the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah (JCFS) was established to promote philanthropy through meaningful partnerships with donors and community organizations in achieving charitable goals; to increase current and future support for a vibrant and secure Jewish and general community in Savannah, Israel, and throughout the world. With very little paperwork and no administrative hassles, JCFS makes it easy to focus on the important aspect of planned giving.



If, like the Aronsons, you would like information on setting up your gift to the community, contact JCFS Chair Jeff Lasky, or Federation Director Adam Solender, adam@savj.org, to discuss the variety of ways to do so.

Discovers

Honors

Connects

Empowers

Supports

Welcomes

Celebrates

Invests

Leads

Inspires

Educates

Engages

Impacts

100 Days of

ImpACT

Savannah Jewish Federation

2017 Annual Community Campaign

2017 Campaign Update

\$1,039,466

as of February 16, 2017 from 446 donors





Jacquie Drazen,
JEA & SJF
Community
Programming
Coordinator

Programming Coordinator Named

Jacquie Drazen joined the JEA and the Savannah Jewish Federation on January 5th as the new Community Programming Coordinator.

Jacquie recently relocated to Savannah from Tallahassee, FL, where she was a Meetings & Event Manager of conferences and tradeshows for several associations across the country.

Jacquie also has an extensive background working in sales and events for hotels including Hilton & Starwood properties.

Jacquie was raised in a conservative Jewish household in Orlando where her family was very active in the Jewish community. She graduated with a BS from Florida State University in 2012.

Jacquie is delighted to be in the beautiful city of Savannah and especially excited to be a part of the JEA/Federation community.



Young Jewish Savannah with masterpieces from their January Paint, Sip & Schmooze outing

Purim is March 11th-12th. Are you looking for some different ways to help celebrate this year?

Have you tried apps on your phone?

For **Android**, there's **Gragger**, a digital rattle.

For **iTunes**, there's **Grogger**, Follow along in the Megillah and make some noise.

Pinterest has thousands of ideas for costumes, *mishloach manot*, decorations and lots of recipes for *hamantaschen*. Try something different and have fun!

YOU HOLD THE WORLD IN YOUR HANDS

As part of its Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation once again invites community members to recommend overseas Jewish agencies to receive \$500 Overseas Investment Grants. Up to 20 will be approved.

Nominations to other grant-making agencies will not be considered. There is a limit of two nominations per person.



Any member of the Savannah Jewish Federation may make a recommendation at www.savj.org

The deadline to make recommendations for Overseas Investment Grants is **May 1, 2017**



Martin E. Kirschbaum, Jr. Post 320
Jewish War Veterans of the United States

121st Anniversary of the
Jewish War Veterans
Honoring Vietnam Era Veterans
for their service

Sunday, March 19, 2017
10am
Jewish Educational Alliance

Casual dress
Light refreshments will be served

AJ Haysman, Commander
Frank Katz, Sr. Vice Commander
Richard Halperin, Quartermaster



Sign up TODAY
at www.savj.org



PJ families who are participating in Shabbat Across Savannah celebrate Shabbat with other PJ families in the community

Shabbat Across Savannah is a PJ Library engagement initiative that brings together PJ families for in-home Shabbat programming and community holiday celebrations.



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

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

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

PJ Library and Congregation Mickve Israel invite you to our

Sunday, March 19
12:30 pm
Congregation Mickve Israel
20 E Gordon Street

RSVP by Wednesday, March 15
to pjlibrary@savj.org or 912-355-8111.

Chocolate Seder



**What does
PJ Our Way
offer your child?**



- Choose your FREE book each month
- Reviews and synopsis of authors and books
- Leadership with creating kids quizzes, polls, and video blogs



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.



At the beginning of the year, both David Finn and Wexler Clark had their new member kidnap programs. Each chapter had new members attend and learn the basics to BBYO, enjoyed brotherhood and sisterhood programs, and spent time getting to meet other members.

In February, Savannah BBYO celebrated their annual Super Bowl Party at Philip Boblasky's house, the current Savannah Beau. They enjoyed watching the game and laughing at Super Bowl commercials with new and current BBYO members.

Also in February, Savannah hosted the 2nd annual Savannah Teen Weekend, where teens from across the southeast joined one another for a weekend filled with Jewish experience programming and a dance, all planned around a James Bond theme. A special thank you goes out to Jordan Jaffie and Noah Linfoot who coordinated this amazing weekend!

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

Savannah Jewish Federation Beneficiary Agency
Your Campaign Dollars at Work



New Members at Wexler Clark BBG's Kidnap program



BBYO
Annual
Super
Bowl
Party



March 5
Chapter Meetings

March 9
AZA Chapter Dinner

March 19
BBG Program

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



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.

CAKE WARS

Sunday, March 5

3:30 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance



Save the Date!

The Next BBYO
Connect Event is
April 1

LETTERS

T O T H E E D I T O R

Vital Statistics



Marc, Madison, Bailey & Jill Ginsberg

B'NEI MITZVAH: *Mazel tov* to **Bailey and Madison Ginsberg**, son and daughter of Marc and Jill Ginsberg, who were called to the Torah on the occasion of their B'nei Mitzvah, Saturday, December 10th, at Congregation Mickve Israel. Bailey is in eighth grade and Madison is in seventh grade at Hancock Day School. Madison started a fund to raise money for soccer scholarships as one of her Mitzvah projects; Bailey has volunteered as an aid helping organize activities at summer day camp. Both Bailey and Madison enjoy sports and time spent with their parents boating and fishing. Their grandmother is Linda Gartner Ginsberg, of Atlantic Beach, FL.

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation:

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, I would like to extend my thanks for your generous contribution following the devastating August flood. As you can surely appreciate, it has been a very unusual time for our community.

The impact on the Jewish families in this area is significant – 11% suffered direct and substantial losses. Baton Rouge does not have a JCC, a Jewish Family Service or other Jewish organizations that might normally provide support and assistance. The entire recovery effort is being shouldered by the two synagogues, a Federation office that is staffed part-time, and a small Chabad presence. The community is working together under the umbrella of the Federation to facilitate the recovery of our families.

It has been so heartwarming to see and experience the outpouring of support for the affected members of our Jewish community. Please know that your donation will provide much needed assistance to our families in crisis, support rebuilding efforts, offer essential case management services, and offset expenses for Jewish education and experiences which would not be possible without your help.

We thank you for keeping these families in your hearts during this exceptionally challenging time.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Joanna Sternberg
Flood Relief Manager
Jewish Federation of Greater
Baton Rouge



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.

Savannah Jewish News

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

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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

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Letters to the Editor

Letters should be no more than 250 words.

The *Savannah Jewish News* is a community paper. We request that letters be civil and considerate in tone. Letters may not contain personal attacks, random attacks on businesses or defamation. All statements of facts must be verifiable.

The *Savannah Jewish News* retains full and sole discretion as to which letters to publish. All letters 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 (though only the name will be published).

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

Submit letters to sjnews@savj.org.

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.

The Savannah Jewish Film Festival Presents...

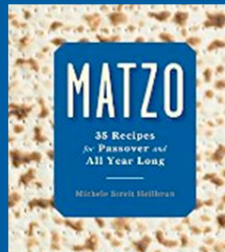


April 5 • 6:30 p.m.
Jewish Educational Alliance

Streit's Matzo and the American Dream is the story of the last family-owned matzo bakery in America during their final year at their historic New York City factory; the iconic Jewish institution which, for five generations, has been baking matzos from inside four unassuming tenement buildings on New York's Lower East Side.

Then, hear from **Mikie Streit Heilbrun**, co-owner of Streit's Matzos and recent transplant to Savannah, on her experience growing up as part of the Streit family and her brand new cookbook, *Matzo: 35 Recipes for Passover and All Year Long*.

Books will be available for purchase.





Adam Solender,
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

What Fair Competition Should Be

What better way is there to get our children active, team building, and developing skills than the JEA Swim Team? Whether our children participate throughout the year or “only” on the Summer Swim team, it is great for kids of all ages to enjoy the thrill of competition, not be stuck in front of a video game for hours, and most of all, have fun.

There are so many values that swimmers learn from the sport:

- Fitness – Almost every study by scientists says that swimming is the best overall sport to achieve total fitness and health;
- Self-Confidence – Each child learns that they can learn, that they can achieve, and that they can overcome adversity;
- Discipline – No good practice exists without structure and discipline to do what is required on a consistent basis... and most of it is self-discipline;
- Teamwork – While each swimmer plays their individual role, teamwork is encouraged. Swimmers learn to encourage each other, to lead, and to follow;
- Work ethic – It doesn't come easy. No sport requires more physical effort than swimming;
- Friendship and Respect – Swimmers don't always “love” their teammates, but each knows how hard they practice and what it takes to build a team;
- Compassion – Every swimmer has succeeded and failed. Through the ups and downs, they care for each other's feelings; they celebrate successes and share losses;
- Gender Equity – Swimming is one of the sports where boys and girls are typically equal;
- Courage – Each individual swimmer gets the chance to test their courage in practice. Sometimes they succeed and other times they fail... it's part of the learning. Courage is a

“developed trait,” and Swim Team develops it well;

- Sportsmanship – One of the key lessons learned is that everyone has their “moment in the sun” to shine... sometimes it is in practice, other times in meets.

Two of the principles that the JEA Aquatics programming values most are sportsmanship (defined as “fair and generous behavior or treatment of others”) and courage.

Last month, those two important traits were modeled by our own Aquatics Director, Coach Kirby Southerland.

Upon hearing that the Savannah Coastal Swim League (the league in which we participate) was having an organizational meeting for the next season, Kirby took the opportunity to address an issue that has bothered her since she has been a part of the league: “ringers” (swimmers of greater ability who typically do not practice with the teams, but participate in the meets).

With a reinvigorated year-round development program, JEA swimmers have been challenging themselves and each other throughout the year... it didn't seem fair that when the league meets began, there would be swimmers on teams whose skills were far greater but who were “not really” a part of those teams. The JEA made a commitment to our swimmers that those who practice with our team and work together to create the camaraderie of a team would have the opportunities to swim in the meets – we would not use “ringers.”

Kirby stopped by my office to voice her discomfort with the league situation and to discuss what to do. Kirby decided that at the upcoming meeting she would bring up a proposal to ban “ringer” swimmers.

She went into the meeting as the newest and youngest representative of a swim team, but that didn't stop her. Gathering her courage she spoke about how unfair it was for those swimmers who worked together throughout the year to have a relative stranger step up to the starting blocks and thoroughly thrash the competition. She asked “what the goal of the league was” and “what do we ultimately want to accomplish?”

There was a discussion and ultimately there was a vote among the members... the vote was 8-1 and Kirby's proposal was defeated... the league would continue to have “ring-

Book for Jews with Alzheimer's

NEW YORK (JTA, Lisa Keys) — The book is large and fits comfortably on a lap. The color photographs nearly fill each page. Each image depicts real people doing everyday Jewish things — a young girl eating matzah ball soup; a *bubbe* and her grandchildren lying in the grass; a man wearing *tefillin*, praying. The sentences are in large print; they are simple (“Mother says the blessing over the candles”) and easy to read.

But the book is not for young children learning how to read, nor is it for parents to introduce Judaism to their preschoolers.

Rather it is designed for those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's disease. The book — a series of independent pictures and captions — requires no memory to read and follow along, allowing those with memory-loss issues to enjoy and engage with each image on its own terms.

L'Chaim: Pictures to Evoke Memories of a Jewish Life, by Eliezer Sobel, is probably the first book of its kind — a Jewish-themed book created explicitly for adults with Alzheimer's or dementia.

“There's such a richness to Jewish content and imagery and history and culture,” Sobel, 64, told JTA. “There are so many Jewish people in Jewish nursing homes, and Jewish families with loved ones who have dementia.”

Sobel's family is among them. The author took inspiration from his mother, Manya, 93, a refugee who fled Nazi Germany and has suffered from Alzheimer's for 17 years. As her memory deteriorated, her language slowly disappeared with it, Sobel said. Eventually, a few years ago, it seemed gone for good.

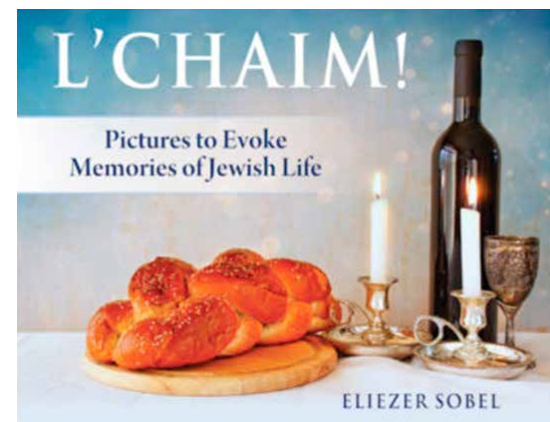
However, “One day I walk into the living room, and she was thumbing through a magazine, reading the big print headlines aloud, correctly,” he recalled. “I said, ‘Omigod! Mom can still read!’”

Sobel said he headed to the local Barnes & Noble to get her a picture book for dementia patients. “It seemed like the most obvious thing in the world.”

Instead, he learned that such a thing didn't really exist. Sobel called

er” swimmers.

We are very proud of Kirby's courage and goal of developing a team — and league — of swimmers that work together for each other and for the team. And while we may have lost



the National Alzheimer's Association. The librarian he spoke with said that while there were more than 20,000 books for caregivers, she didn't know of anything for the patients themselves.

Eventually she turned up a few books: Lydia Burdick has a series of three books for adults with Alzheimer's, including *The Sunshine On My Face*. In subsequent years a few more have appeared. Still, the market for such products is very small, even though some 5.8 million Americans have the disease.

Inspired, in 2012 Sobel published his first book for adults with dementia, *Blue Sky, White Clouds: A Book for Memory-Challenged Adults*, a series of large color photographs of things like birds, trees and babies with captions.

“If patients see the pictures, say the names of the pictures, make some comments or are in any way affected by the books, that's a good thing, period,” David Teplow, a professor of neurology at UCLA, told JTA. Plus, he added, “There are lot of Jewish people who have Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Certainly it's an important project for the Jewish community.”

Sobel said the books seem to provide his mother comfort and entertainment. Sobel's father took care of her until he fell and suffered a traumatic brain injury himself three years ago, on their 67th wedding anniversary. (He died in November.)

“I watched my father, tearing his hair out, looking for things to do with her,” Sobel said. “There are so few resources for that.”

“If she enjoyed being with the book in the moment, we could do it again the next day, or the next hour. We could read it 100 times — it never got old.”

some families along the way who may not agree with us, and we may lose some of our meets, we consider it a victory.

It's always a victory when you do the right thing.

SAVANNAH TEEN WEEKEND

February 10-12, 2017

Jewish teens grades 8-12 from Savannah and nearby participated in a weekend of fun and transformative Jewish programming, joined the Community Shabbaton, and enjoyed a Saturday night dance.

The Savannah Teen Weekend is made possible through support from



The teens do some "ice-breaking" exercises at the start of the weekend to get to know each other.



There was time to observe Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees (top), as well as to dress up and enjoy a Gatsby-themed dance on Saturday night (right).



One last chance to all be together before the weekend comes to an end.



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

A Powerful Interaction

Story by Amanda Newport, Assistant Teacher - Doobim class

Thank you to our assistant teacher, Amanda Newport, who has been with JEA Preschool Savannah since its inception.

Amanda is a dedicated, hard working assistant teacher who is working on her Associate's Degree at Savannah Technical College and then plans on pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. We are so fortunate to have Amanda as a part of our committed team of teachers. Just recently, she had the opportunity to share with me a wonderful story about an interaction she saw and heard between two children in her class. I was so proud of how she handled this learning moment for the children; an experience from which we can all learn.

An important thing to remember when wrangling four- and five-year-olds is that you have to let them solve a lot their own conflicts. It's hard. Emotions are high. There's a lot of blaming, and if you're not careful, fists may fly. And, honestly, it takes a while for a compromise to be reached. So sometimes it's just so much easier to give them the solution.

But, today, I finally saw and heard two of my kiddos put my (many many) speeches into action and solve their own problem with very little mediation from me! It was a miracle! Usually, after making sure everyone's okay, I stay and guide the conversation, but I walked far enough away, where they couldn't look to me for a solution. I wanted to see what would happen.

(NOTE: I never make them hug after a conflict. or ever. I hate that.)

This is the conversation I heard:

Kiddo #1 (claimed he was playing with toy first and Kiddo #2 took it): Hey, I really didn't like it when you took my truck. I had that first and I had guys in it.

Kiddo #2 (also claims he had the toy first... And had it in his hand when I went to check on them): Well, I didn't like it when you tried to take it back from me. I wanted to play with it and I grabbed it. It was on the carpet, you didn't have it in your hand.

Kiddo #1: But it was there because I had to get another dinosaur... They are going to the dinosaur zoo, so I needed more dinosaurs....

Kiddo #2 (after a long pause): They were going to the dinosaur zoo?

Kiddo #1 (tearfully): Yes. They were. But then you took my truck and now they don't have any way to get there. They can't take a plane. I have three dinosaurs and they won't fit.

Kiddo #2: Okay... If you had the truck first, you can have it back. Can my guys come to your dinosaur zoo, too? They can take the plane because I only have two. Hey, can we add the kentrosaurus?

Kiddo #1: That's a great idea!! Yes, we can add the kentrosaurus. Let's go!

(both kiddos get up from the floor)

Kiddo #2: Wait. Hold on one second. We have to hug.

Kiddo #1: I don't want to hug.

Kiddo #2: The hug is the most important part.

Kiddo #1: You're right! I love hugs!

(They hug, go back to playing, and I have sparkly eyes. This is why I work with young children.)

This was a wonderful learning experience for both the children and Ms. Amanda.

Please come visit us at JEA Preschool Savannah to read a story, sing a song, or play with the children. You will learn as much from them as they do from you!

Harvey Rubin Memorial Award

Do you know a high school teen who has shown exceptional athletic ability and leadership in the community?

Any member of the Jewish community is eligible to be nominated.

Applications are due by April 1st, 2017, download at www.savj.org.



Hamentaschen: Our Victory over a Bully



Eva Locker,
Principal,
Shalom School

For some of us, eating *hamantaschen* on Purim is close to a Mitzvah! While this cookie is only a tradition that we can't do without, it has nothing to do with the four Mitzvot required on Purim: reading the Megillah, the festive meal, the gifts to the poor and the *mischoah manot*. Since at Shalom School we always look for hands-on projects, baking *hamantaschen* with the students is always an exciting time. And every year, the question of the shape comes

up: is this cookie this way because of Haman's hat or Haman's ears?

The story of the megillah is one of victory but also a real modern day lesson: Haman, the king's prime minister, expects all to bow to him and while Jews are fine bowing to a representative of the monarchy, Mordechai has an issue bowing to someone who is also a tyrant and a brutal dictator. In today's world: a real bully.

Mordechai is not the only one to rebel. In her own way, Esther risks her life when actively plotting against Haman. She shows up before the king without being invited and that alone is punishable by death. But that doesn't stop our princess

on her quest to stop the bully and she takes control of the situation by pushing the king to ask questions and investigate Haman.

Meantime Haman continues in his evil plan and he convinces the Persian people to join him in killing all the Jews in one single day, the 13th of the month of Adar. The Jews, maybe inspired by Mordechai's and Esther's heroism, did not sit still: they gathered to take arms and fight the Persians.

They take three resistance steps to the bully, each heroic, courageous and necessary: standing up to Haman to alert higher authority, to bring others to question the bully's integri-

ty (and intellect) and to take actions. And all are steps that are part of a modern anti-bully campaign.

The question of the *hamantaschen*'s shape is still on the table: hat or ears? Whatever the answer is, the important thing is that our children always remember to refuse to take a bully seriously and that laughter is the best medicine to such a trauma. By humoring Haman's hat or ears we are establishing the victory of good against the evil: our children's laughter is our revenge on Haman and that alone is worth devouring any flavored *hamantaschen*!

Wishing you Purim Sameach!



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Teaching from Textbooks is Only Part of What We Do

We have been very busy ensuring the safety of our students. We had a police officer come out and walk around our campus and point out any areas or activities that we could improve in some way to increase safety. We had an officer come out and give our staff a class on what to do if an armed intruder is present or you see the threat of one in close proximity. We had an FBI agent come out and talk to the administration about bomb scares. I spoke with the principal of a school in Atlanta that received a bomb scare and how they responded and why.

We are increasing our already existing security measures. We are making our students knowledgeable about what to do in case of various emergencies. Even our little people are learning what to do but the knowledge being given to them is on

their level so as not to scare them.

Pre-K through 8th grade classes over a two-week period were focused on learning about bullies. What defines a bully, what to do if you are bullied, what to do if you see someone being bullied. Mr. Ron James will be speaking to our school and Chatham Academy on March 7th about bullying. You can look him up – his story is amazing; ronljames.com. We are very excited about this opportunity.

Our first graders received their Siddur at their Siddur Presentation on February 1st.

I find the Siddur Presentation to be one of my most favorite evenings. The children are excited beyond words and then the moment arrives when they are in the spotlight and they parade into the room smiling and anxious to take their places on stage. Then they stand and sing the cutest songs about the use of a siddur and what Hashem means to them. They each recite various verses that demonstrate what they have learned

thus far about davening (praying) and Hashem.

But what is most emotionally charging is watching parents and grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends who have joined us for this wonderful evening. The children are just plain excited and while they understand it's an important moment, they don't really comprehend the deeper meaning of the words they are using to share with us their knowledge, but the adults? We do. We understand there will be times in their lives when they will turn to their siddur and cry to the Almighty to help them, to help someone else, and there will be times they will pour their joyous hearts out to the Almighty to thank Him for something grand and wonderful. This understanding shows on the faces of those who have joined our first graders for this momentous evening.

And so it seems to me, even though it's their night; the first grade's night of celebration; it is our evening of reawakening to the world around

us. The world that engulfs the innocence of our children, and we should take a moment to appreciate that we have insulated our children within the walls of a Jewish Day school that will prepare them for their secular place in the world, but also prepare them to respect and appreciate their relationship with the Almighty.

A Jewish day school is more than Judaic studies; it is a well-rounded education that prepares children for their next stage even should they choose a completely secular school. However, we cannot take lightly the Jewish education received in a Jewish day school. Every Jewish child has the *right* to know about their heritage. They *need* to know about their heritage so they can take pride in the place they hold among our people; and not be easily swayed by others in society who very much want them to despise their roots. This is not about what we practice, this is about what we know and what we ensure our children know.

Congregation Mickve Israel receives Humanitarian Award from the Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day Association

In the summer of 2008 Julie Hirsch, then Para Rabbi of congregation Mickve Israel, gave a derasha (sermon) at a Shabbat service where she spoke to the congregation saying that although most members were practicing *tikkun olam* individually, that we as a congregation were not. She urged that the congregation as a whole get involved in social action. Following the service Margie Levy, the president of the congregation, directed that a social action committee be established to investigate and come up with a plan to start congregational social action programs. After some research the committee came up with the idea of providing weekend packages of food for those children who, although fed at school during the week, had little or no food on weekends. Each package would contain food for two breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners. The Backpack Buddies program was born here in Savannah. The first year Mickve Israel started delivering 25 bags (150 meals) each week for children in need at East Broad Elementary School.

Shortly thereafter, it was decided that Mickve Israel would try and spread the program to other religious organizations so that eventually every elementary school in Chatham county would have a Backpack Buddy partner. An effort was made to reach out to other congregations. Local TV news stations began covering the story. As a result other congregations came on board and started their own programs, each taking on another school. The first congregation to join Congregation Mickve Israel in this effort was Agudath Achim followed by St. John's Episcopal.

The effort has been very successful and continues to expand today. There are currently 32 congregations of various denominations running Backpack Buddy programs serving every public elementary school in Chatham county, as well as some middle schools. These programs feed over 1500 children each weekend.

In recognition of this community wide effort, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Day Association awarded Congregation Mickve Israel with the Humanitarian Award at their Business Community Breakfast on January 28, 2017.

The award reads

Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day Association Inc.

Presents

The Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award to Congregation Mickve Israel

For outstanding humanitarian efforts to serve youth at risk for weekend hunger through the Backpack Buddy Program.

Founded in 2008, the Backpack Buddy Program has unified people across multiple faiths and ethnicities to serve children in the TRUE spirit of brotherhood and unity as Dr. King envisioned.

Presented this 28th day of January, 2017
Mrs. Carolyn S. Blackshear, President

*"The time is always right to do what is right."
Martin Luther King, Jr.*



I on Israel

Cyber Ed – Start Young

In February, Israel announced the establishment of a national Cyber Education Center (CEC). The center, spearheaded by the non-profit Rashi Foundation in conjunction with Israel's defense forces and academic institutions, is meant to be a breeding ground for talent for Israel's military intelligence units as well as to prepare the country's youth for eventual work in defense and high-tech industries and academia.

The announcement of the new center came at *Cybertech 2017* in Tel Aviv, which says it is the most significant conference and exhibition of cyber technologies outside of the United States. "Not many years ago, computers were far away. Then they came to our desktops, then to our laptops, and then to our pockets; now they're in our clothes and, for some, in our body — medical devices. All this needs to be defended,"



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with high school students from the Magshimim cyber skills program, during the announcement of the new Cyber Education Center

Erez Kreiner, CEO of Cyber-Rider and former director of Israel's National Cyber Security Authority, told attendees.

"We still need the security solution for smart homes, we still don't have security solutions for autonomous cars, or for connected medical devices or MRI machines, or for connected kitchen appliances. Every technology that will be introduced to our lives in the coming years will need a cyber solution," said Kreiner.

In addition to the threats to everyday technology Kreiner outlined,

the world already has seen Ukraine's power grid attacked and shut down by hackers in 2015; more than \$80 million dollars stolen by hackers in 2016 from the account of Bangladesh at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; and agreement by U.S. intelligence services that Russian intelligence hackers undertook cyberattacks aimed at influencing the results of the 2016 U.S. Presidential election.

Israel's CEC, with a six million dollar budget over the next five years, will coordinate all aspects of cyber education on the national level, advancing new initiatives while strengthening existing programs such as *Magshimim* (which trains underprivileged high school students in college-level cyber skills) and *Gvachim*

(which introduces computer and robotic classes to fourth-graders in about 70 schools). It will operate in conjunction with Israel's security and high-tech sectors to keep educational curricula current with the quickly-evolving needs and advancements of the industry and the army's elite cyber units.

When they join the IDF, alumni of these programs often become members of the distinguished intelligence Unit 8200 — the Israeli equivalent of the NSA — responsible for intercepting digital communications and collecting intelligence on Israel's adversaries. After their service, many veterans of this unit move on to Israel's high-tech and cybersecurity industries, even founding some of

continued on page 10

Update

The Home Stretch

SpaceIL, the Israeli team competing in the Google Lunar XPRIZE competition, now is one of only five finalists in this 'modern moon race' that began in 2007 with 33 teams from around the world. To win, a team must have a successful landing on the moon of an unmanned spacecraft by the end of this year. Teams must be privately sponsored.

Teams had to have verified launch contracts in place by the end of 2016 to become finalists. SpaceIL was the first to do so (*I on Israel*, November 2015). The four other finalists are from India, Japan, the U.S. (which just announced that it completed funding for its mission) and a multi-national team.

SpaceIL is planning to launch their lunar craft later this year from California on a SpaceX Falcon 9

rocket; the exact date has not been announced. SpaceX suffered a devastating launch test failure in Florida last September that included the loss of an Israeli communications satellite (*I on Israel*, October 2016), but had a very successful Falcon 9 launch from California in January that successfully deployed an American communications satellite system. We will continue to keep you updated on SpaceIL's progress.

In other space news, two Israeli satellites were included in the 104 small satellites successfully deployed on February 15th from an Indian rocket launched from south India. The launch set a new world record for the number of satellites positioned in a single mission, beating Russia's previous record of 37 in 2014.

Mining Masada

Archaeologists began excavations again at Masada in February, marking the first time the historic site has been actively explored in more than a decade.

A team from Tel Aviv University, headed by Dr. Guy Stiebel, a Roman-period scholar, planned to spend a month studying previously unexamined areas of the mountain fortress, including the residences of the Jewish rebels who died there in 74 CE. It is the first expedition on Masada since 2006 and the first ever there for Tel Aviv University.

Though identified in the mid-19th century and visited in the early to mid-20th century, extensive excavation of Masada did not begin until 1963, when former IDF chief of staff and archaeologist Yigael Yadin spent two years unearthing a great deal of the site. However, archaeologists estimate that substantial portions of Masada's mountaintop and the former Roman army encampments that ring the peak still require excavation and/or study. After Yadin's expedition, it was said that archaeologists did not dig up the entire site "for the sake of leaving some exploration for generations to come."

"This is the next generation," Stiebel told *The Times of Israel*. While he did not discuss plans for the 2017 dig in

detail, in addition to the rebels' residences, it was reported that areas to be studied included a garden built by Herod the Great (the 'architect' of Masada) and an underground structure first detected in some 1924 aerial photographs of the site and still unexplored.

Masada was added to the UNESCO registry of world heritage sites in 2001 for its "majestic beauty" and its importance as a "symbol of the ancient kingdom of Israel, its violent destruction and the last stand of Jewish patriots in the face of the Roman army." The dry desert climate allowed the preservation of elegant frescoes and organic remains belonging to the Jewish rebels who holed up on the mountaintop.



Guy Stiebel shows a lice comb found at Masada



Yigael Yadin oversees excavation during the original major excavation of Masada in the 1960s



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

March 2017



Children's Programming

Saturday Night Out

The final SNO of this season!

Who: 6th-8th grade

Cost: \$30/child and \$55/family

JEA Member Value Price: \$25/child and \$45/family

Where: JEA

March 11th, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

6th-8th Grade Only

"Get Air"

- Venture to Get Air for trampoline fun!
- Bring extra cash for a stop at Lovin' Spoons!

RSVP and advanced payment must be made by Thursday, March 9th

Check www.SavannahJEA.org for more details



June 5th-July 28th!

Week 1 - June 5th-9th - Purim Palooza (Purim Carnival) - Join us as we set sail on the cruise of a lifetime. Our first stop is Israel - just in time to celebrate Purim. Make your own Hamantaschen, dress up in your favorite costume, enjoy a Purim carnival and participate in a Michael Jackson-infused Shabbat.

Week 2 - June 12th-16th - Siesta Fiesta (All-Camp Sleepover) - Bienvenidos! We've arrived in Mexico to partake in a week-long Cinco de Mayo extravaganza. Campers can make their own Piñatas or dress as one as well. There will also be a sleepover!

Week 3 - June 19th-23rd - Shipwrecked (Cardboard Boat Regatta/Trip to the Clubhouse) - Aloha! We've arrived in beautiful Hawaii. Campers will hula through our Hawaiian Luau, build their own cardboard boats to race in the pool and take a trip to The Clubhouse.

Week 4 - June 26th-30th - Color War: Go Bananas (Savannah Bananas Super Splash Day) - We're making a pit stop at home just in time for Color War! Campers will engage in a week-long competition of silly games and spirit chants that will culminate with the Color War Finale. We'll watch the Savannah Bananas play a game, and have a water day with them as well.

Week 5 - July 3rd-7th - The Camp That Never Sleeps (All-Camp Sleepover) - We've arrived at the Big Apple for a high-energy, trend-setting adventure. Campers will explore the performing arts, become culinary chefs and enter the chic world of fashion. We'll also have a sleepover.

Week 6 - July 10th-14th - The Year of the Rooster (Trip to the Movies) - Kon'nichiwa - We've made it to Asia! Campers will be immersed in an Asian-infused cultural experience. They'll practice the art of origami, make their own candy-themed sushi and sample different cuisines at our Asian-Fusion Buffett.

Week 7 - July 17th-21st - Waves in Atlantis (Inflatable Water Park) - Welcome to the JEA Camp Savannah's very own paradise known as Waves in Atlantis. Campers will be immersed in an array of island activities from our Atlantis Inflatable Water Park, to our SpongeBob-themed smoothie bar, and even the Gamers Reef Arcade.

Week 8 - July 24th-28th - Glee: Global Takeover (Glee Performance) - We've reached our final destination and have saved the best for last. This is camper's choice week. Campers will pick from various activities that they participated in throughout summer 2017. In addition, campers will work with choreographers to learn routines from music from around the world. Then they'll perform in our Glee Finale Show.

JEA Camp Savannah Kickoff!

**Friday, March 31st
3:00-6:00 PM**

- Camp Registration Packets and Brochures Available
- Purchase Camp Savannah Swag
- Meet Camp Leadership and Staff
- Meet with Aquatics Staff
- Bounce House, Snacks and More!

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

JEA Donations

(December 20, 2016-February 10, 2017)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Ronald Kronowitz

In memory of Elizabeth Weitz

Nancie & Fred Clark

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Rosalia Chernos

Elena Day

In memory of Murray Greenberg

Doris & Martin Greenberg

In honor of Tony Center

2016 Visit Savannah Board of Directors

In memory of Ronald Kronowitz

Joanne & Dick Hochman

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Irene Tabackman

Donna & Tony Eichholz

In memory of Ross Stermer

Kelly & Marc Gordon

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH FUND

In memory of Ross Stermer

Betty Lasky

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Suzanne & Leonard Kantziper

Esther Buchsbaum

BERTHA & HYMIE KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Harvey Goldberg

Jeanne & Larry McHugh

Sally & Steve Greenberg

Marilyn Seeman

Barbara & David Gottlieb

Eva, Judy & Larry Odrezin

Ann & Jay Davis

Gene Smith

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Sheryl Kreh

In honor of Jack Sussman

Brenda & Patrick Salter

In honor of Howard Cooper

Brenda & Patrick Salter

Marsha & Chuck Bernstein

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

In honor of Merry & Richard Bodziner

Samra & Ron Robbins

In memory of Seymour Kandel

In memory of Leo Center

Simone Center

Days @ the JEA

March 17th, 20th-24th

Mar. 17th - "Erin Go Braugh" (St. Patty's Day Celebration)

Mar. 20th - "Bee Our Guest" (Kid-Friendly Honey Tasting)

Mar. 21st - "Life with a Porpoise" (Field Trip to the Tybee Marine Center)

Mar. 22nd - "Scaly Skin Is In" (Reptile-Themed Stem Challenges)

Mar. 23rd - "Just Winging It" (Making an Edible Bird's Nest)

Mar. 24th - "Camouflage" (Live Petting Zoo)

Cost: Members \$35/day

Non-Members \$45/day



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 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Community Garden

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



Food For Thought

Join us on each Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

March 2

Color and the Magic of Alchemy

Julie Ann Miller

March 23

Growing up in Savannah

Dr. Jeffrey Jenkins

March 9

Meditation with Tai Chi

Trevor Jaha

March 30

Matzo: 35 Recipes for Passover & All Year Long

Author, Mikie Heilbrun

March 16

Hearing Loss Seminar

Heather Bedgood

April 6

Passover Insight

Rabbi Robert Haas

Visit with old friends and meet new ones, and enjoy a delicious lunch for only \$5, followed by an educational speaker or performer.

Don't forget to make your reservation at the JEA desk or by calling 912-355-8111.



Bruce Feiler

April 2, 2017 - 2:00 p.m.
Jewish Educational Alliance

The JEA is excited to host Savannah's own Bruce Feiler. Join us as Feiler discusses his latest book, *The First Love Story, Adam, Eve and Us*.

After the discussion there will be a signing and books will be available for purchase.

Bruce Feiler is the author of six consecutive New York Times bestsellers.

Coffee & desserts will be served.



Health & Wellness

Barré Sculpt Express



Kathy Ackerman
Fitness Director

Starting Thursday, March 1st, we will begin offering Barré Sculpt Express. This class is a true total body workout: cardio, Pilates and weight lifting all in one!

Suitable for all fitness levels, this fun, fast-paced class is set to rhythmic music and is designed as a low-impact, strengthening and toning workout that focuses on the whole body.

Combining moves from Pilates, ballet and yoga, this class will help you achieve long, lean muscles, lift your seat, and create a more toned midsection.

This class will be offered Thursday mornings, 9:15 am-10:15 am in the Aerobics Studio.

Your instructor will be Helena Maslansky. CPT, Certified Bender Barré Academy, Certified Pilates Instructor.

It is suggested that you wear non-slip socks or toe socks when participating in this class.



Fast and Fit

Monday and Thursday @ 5:30 pm

Wednesdays @ 4:30 PM

Get in and out in 40 minutes - this is where the Fast comes in!

This class is a mixture of stretching, cardio, and strength intervals, plus plyometrics, calisthenics and core work. Suitable for all fitness levels whether you are new to exercise or a veteran.

Feel free to walk in!

Get Your Fit On!



Swimming - The Moving Meditation



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

If you ever thought swimming was a “boring” sport because it lacked the rush of running on a cold day or it was missing the adrenaline rush of a spin class, you might be missing the point of it.

Swimming is far from boring. It is ultimately a stripped-down moving

meditation session. It is the inability to see anything except the bold black line at the bottom of the pool and hear nothing but the rush of water as it moves over your body. It almost creates an insulating, cocooning effect.

If you’ve participated in a yoga class or sat through a guided meditation practice, this is a different kind of meditation process than you might be used to. It is an enforced *Pratyahara* or “sense withdrawal.” It is meant to shut down

external stimuli, such as the glare of the florescent pool lights or the drone of the pop music on the radio, and really allow your mind to settle.

This is obviously not a traditional meditation process where you find yourself sitting cross-legged, seeking a chant that fits with you. It allows you to discover a meditative place within the flow of the water.

Watch a trained swimmer as they glide with grace, cutting and drawing back, reaching, extending. Every stroke and turn is designed to be aerodynamic and dolphin-like. There is no jolting or jarring but instead, a smooth and steady rhythm.

So how can you bring some meditation into your practice?

1. Slow it down. Ignore the clock on the wall. Keep your stroke unhurried and steady. Don’t flail your arms; instead, extend and pull back in slow motion.

Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

- 8:45 am - Firm It Up
- 9:45 am - Aquasize
- 10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
- 10:45 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
- 5:15 pm - Fast & Fit
- 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 - Silver Step
- 4:30 pm - Fast & Fit
- 6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

Thursday

- 9:15 am - Barre Sculpt Express
- 10:00 am - Aquasize
- 10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
- 5:15 pm - Fast & Fit
- 7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Friday

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

2. Find a comfortable breathing rhythm. Take the time to find a breathing pattern that most closely matches your normal breathing pattern. Once the mechanics of breathing are there, you can become more mindful.
3. Exhale through the nose. So often, swimmers hold their breath while swimming. This causes a rushed reaction to inhale and exhale when it’s time to breathe. If you exhale as you swim, you will find that you can enjoy a comfortable breathing pattern.
4. Latch onto one element. Find one thing to focus on, and think of that one thing only. Is it the sound of the trail of bubbles as they escape from your nose? Is it the rolling sensation of the body as it tilts from side to side? Is it the visual focal point of the bold black line?

Find what works for you!



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now 2017-18 School Year

- Enrollment for our Summer Program begins **March 31st**
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for toddlers and 2-year olds
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

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

Upcoming Events

- Friday, March 31st, 3-6 pm - Summer Program Kickoff Event - Join us and learn about our summer program. Pick up your Camp Registration Packet.
- Sunday, April 2nd, 6 pm - JEA Preschool Savannah Art Bash - This art show is not just for the parents! We invite the community to come view what the children of the JEA Preschool have created and also to bid on Silent Auction items donated from local artists, businesses and services. Last year's auction had more than 70 items including pieces of art from local artists, a private aerial tour of Savannah, gift certificates to businesses and more. Join us for the JEA Preschool Savannah Art Bash April 2, 2017. Drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

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

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



in the JEA Art Gallery

March Artist - Marilyn Foley

Marilyn Lyon Foley, an internationally acclaimed watercolorist, is a graduate of Wellesley College. She received a BA degree in Art History and later did graduate work at Rutgers University and the Art Students League in New York.

Thirty-five years ago, Foley left the classroom to paint professionally and in 1993 moved from to Savannah. Foley has been inspired by Savannah and the many places she has lived and traveled. Among her works are marine scenes from the Massachusetts coastline, farmhouses from Provence, village roads from Burgundy, church domes from Italy, brightly painted doors from Santorini, and the romantic ruins of Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire.

Foley's paintings have been exhibited with the Knickerbocker Artists, as well as the National Arts and Salmagundi Clubs, the Education Department of the Museum of Modern Art, and the World Financial Center. In 2007 she was chosen by the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. to be part of their Centennial Celebration. In a one-woman show over 20 of her watercolors of the Cathedral were exhibited throughout the year 2008. She has exhibited at the Telfair Museum and has received four Best in Show ribbons and five other awards from the Landings Art Association...including a first prize for watercolor in 2014.



Artwork available for viewing March 1-31, 2017
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception March 2nd, 5:00-7:00 pm



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 12/20/2016-2/10/17)

Erik & Hope Bernstein
Joel Blair & Jana Lewis
Guido Bottazzo
Eric & Jeanne Brooks
John & Susan Clayman
Carol F. Cohen
Jack & Jennifer Damron
Paul Dunn & Heidi Harris
Robin & Jessica Estes
Emma Fischer & Cari Glickman
William & Bonnie Gordon
Shannon Hirsh
Reginald & Ruby Holmes
Paul & Joy Jaqua
Monica Jones
William Keith

Allen & Christie Lastinger
Marilyn Lavallee & Kate Cato
Lynette Mikell
Timothy & Corinna Mosher
David Rebula
Phillip & Marlene Robinowich
Mires & Betty Rosenthal, Jr.
Samuel Schwartz & Rachel Adison
Eugene & Ponda Showalter
Evan & Jordan Siegal
Harold Tessoroff
Eric Tolbert & Chyna Gomez
Susan Turner
Benjamin & Elizabeth Wearing
Denim & Katherine Weaver

JEA Baseball

Register today at the JEA

T-Ball (6U)

Coach Pitch (8U)

Practices and Games
at the JEA



For more information contact Kirby at youthsports@savj.org

Maccabi USA Seeking Jewish Wrestlers

Philadelphia, PA – Maccabi USA is seeking qualified Jewish male wrestlers, ages 18-35, to represent Team USA at the 20th World Maccabiah Games in Israel, July 4-18, 2017. Open Wrestlers will be part of the overall 1,100+ member Team USA at the 2017 World Maccabiah Games, comprised of 10,000 athletes, from 80 countries, participating in 43 sports.

The Maccabi USA Team Trials will be held on April 2, 2017 in Philadelphia, PA. The cost of the trials per person is \$100.00, which will include a commemorative t-shirt.

The World Maccabiah Games are more than an international sporting competition; they are a celebration of Jewish culture, unity and pride. ISRAEL CONNECT, Maccabi USA's unique cultural and educational

program, takes place for seven days prior to the start of the Games. All Juniors, Youth, Open, and Paralympic athletes must participate in the program, where they have the opportunity to tour historical and religious sites, take part in cultural identity seminars and train with their teams, all while developing lifelong relationships.

Interested Open Wrestlers must apply for the games prior to the trials. Please visit www.maccabiusa.com to complete an application.

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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



**Attention
2017
Graduates**



**Mazel Tov to the Class of 2017—
High School, College
& Post-Grad Students—
and Your Families!**

You are invited to submit your pictures and records of achievement for publication in our special graduation section of the June issue of the *Savannah Jewish News*.

To be included, please download the submission form from www.savj.org or pick one up at the JEA.

All submissions must be received by the absolute deadline of May 8th, 2017.

Listings will be published only in the June issue.

**Return forms & pictures to: sjnews@savj.org or
Savannah Jewish News
5111 Abercorn St. | Savannah, GA 31405**



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Cyber Ed.....from pg 8

Israel's most successful technology companies.

In announcing the CEC, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told invited high school students: "You students need to strengthen us with your curiosity. Your years in the security services will be golden years for the security of the nation."

Along with this announcement, the theme of a need for collaboration was strong at the Cybertech conference. Netanyahu warned: "Terrorist organizations use the same tools we use – against us. The Internet of Things can be used by these terrorist organizations for dangerous purposes. Unless we work together and cooperate, the future can be very

menacing. In this context, Israel, the US and other countries should cooperate at the government level as well as among the industries." He said he planned to discuss cybersecurity cooperation with President Trump during his visit to Washington.

Cisco CEO Chuck Robbins said: "We have to deploy security everywhere and it must be simple to use." He added that companies, states and industries must share threat information and give customers and cities the ability to act rapidly to deploy defenses. The industry "must collaborate," he said. When it comes to cyberattacks, "the security community leaves competitiveness at the door."

Ronald Allen Kronowitz

Ronald "Ronnie" Allen Kronowitz, President of the Savannah Jewish Federation from 1983-1985, died on January 17, 2017, while spending time at his home in Budapest, Hungary. He also had homes in Savannah and New York City.

Ronnie was born in Chicago and grew up in Coral Gables, Florida. He attended Emory University and Emory Law School. After graduation, he moved with his wife, Bailee Tenenbaum Kronowitz, and their infant daughter to Washington, DC, to work in the Kennedy Administration; their son was born there. The family moved to Savannah in 1967, and Ronnie worked at Chatham Steel Corporation as a part of the Executive Team and as in-house counsel for nearly 40 years.

He was a committed and active member of the Savannah philanthropic community, serving in leadership positions for many Jewish, civic and arts organizations. In addition to Ronnie's involvement with the Federation, he was President of the Savannah Little Theatre and a founding member of the Savannah Business Group. He is remembered as a strong and steady leader of the Federation.

Ronnie was devoted to Bailee, his



Ronald Allen Kronowitz

wife of fifty-one years, and adopted her hometown of Savannah as his own. Together, they were founding supporters of Savannah on Stage, the precursor to the Savannah Music Festival.

He is survived by his children, Rachel and Lowell, and their spouses Mark and Hilary, his brother Kenneth and his wife Bunny, and his sister Cheryl and her husband Lee, and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bailee.

Remembrances: American Civil Liberties Union, <https://action.aclu.org/donate>; or The Savannah Music Festival, Attn: Development Dept., 200 East Saint Julian St., Suite 601, Savannah 31401.

We Want to Hear from You!

If you know about something new going on in Israel that you'd like us to cover in **I on Israel**, please let us know about it. If you are traveling to Israel, we'd love for you to send pictures of yourself at interesting places and/or reports on what you saw that fascinated you. Please send ideas, pictures and travel reports to sjnews@savj.org.

The JEA & Savannah Jewish Federation Present
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January 25 - February 4 2017

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Returning to Myself

by Elena Day

Part I

I was born and lived all my life in Moscow. Jewish traditions were not respected or encouraged in the Soviet Union. By the time I turned 18, I had visited the well-known Central Synagogue only two times. On the other hand, belonging to the Jewish people was like being a part of a secret society, kind of a special sign. Jews were always different from other Russians, almost alien to them but united by special, secret bonds.

My great-grandfather was the first immigrant in our family. He left his family and ran away from the Soviet regime to the USA in the late 1920's. He lived in New York all his life and was buried there. Later, in the 70's, my relatives began to immigrate one-by-one, some to America, some to Israel. The last wave of emigration picked up and carried away my grandmother and her younger daughter, my aunt, and her family, who settled in Jacksonville. My cousin eventually was invited to study in a Yeshiva in New York.

Understanding the difficulties of living in Russia and wishing to open new opportunities for me, my grandmother sent me an invitation to come visit the USA, which at that time was all that was necessary to receive a visa. That's how I found myself in New York in 1992.

I was met by my cousin who was my best friend all my life. He looked so different in his long black jacket and hat. But I saw how happily his eyes were shining when he told me about his new, religious life. He was full of enthusiasm to open a new world for me, the world to which we belonged by the birth, the world of Jewish life.

He arranged for me to stay with some of his very hospitable friends. So I plunged into their life where everything went according to an established order, where Shabbat and all traditions were observed. At first, it was difficult for me to meet the standards of traditional Jewish life, but everyone was so kind, so tolerant of my mistakes or lack of knowledge. They didn't push me to live in strict obedience to the customs, but instead offered me this opportunity to share Jewish traditions.

Being there, I felt that to be a Jew is not only the right granted to me by my Jewish mother at birth but also my free and conscious choice. In a month I went back home to Moscow, for 20 years, knowing that I am

a part of a big Jewish family.

Part II

In 2012 I moved to Atlanta, and since 2014 have been living in Savannah. By this time my grandmother passed away. My cousin, and his parents, moved to Israel. I felt so lonely not having any support living in a different country. My aunt and uncle, trying to comfort me, called me regularly from Israel telling me: "Remember the Jew, you are not alone!" I decided, the thing which can bring me the feeling of stability is visiting a synagogue and establishing communications with the Jewish community of Savannah.

I knew nobody who could join me in going to a synagogue and getting acquainted with people. I decided to just go to a Museum and Sanctuary tour at Mickve Israel, one of the oldest synagogues in America. I was met by a very friendly guide, I immersed myself in the three-hundred-year-old history of this place, and spent a wonderful time there.

I felt like I had come home! But I didn't know how to become a real member of their community. I waited for Rosh Hashanah, purchased tickets for their holiday dinner and went there hoping to find new friends. I wasn't mistaken. Many people approached me, knowing I was new to the community, got acquainted, asked me who I was and where I was from. My new friends welcomed me and introduced me to others, glad to see one more person in their family. I felt great support! Whenever I came to celebrate High Holidays or just for regular Shabbat services, I was always met with the smiling faces.

I was given all the necessary information and contacts I needed. I made a donation and became a member of the Savannah Jewish Federation. It turns out that the Jewish community has an interesting life full of many events. Everyone can find something to do here: learn Hebrew or the Kabbalat, listen to informative seminars on Thursdays or watch movies with Savannah Jewish Film Festival, send children to the Jewish school or the summer camp, work out in the fitness center or participate in public and political organizations.

My life as a full-fledged member of the friendly Savannah Jewish community has only begun. I am full of enthusiasm and can't wait to open myself to all aspects of life here.

Elena Day is a local realtor, newly active in the Savannah Jewish community. She is married to Dr. Philip Day, a local chiropractor.



Lt. Col. A.J. Haysman,
Georgia Air National
Guard, Retired;
Commander, JWV
Post #320

Veterans Corner

by A.J. Haysman

It is hard to believe that we are coming up to the craziest part of the year, St. Patrick's Day in Savannah. This year seems like it is flying by.

If you have been out to Bonaventure Cemetery, you may have noticed red flags near your loved one's grave. I want to thank Frank Katz, Ed Wexler and his wife for helping to get those flags out. We put the flags out so that it would be easy to find the veterans' graves. By the time that this article comes out, we should have placed flags on all veterans' graves.

If your loved one does not have a flag, that means they are not in our database. Our hope is to always have a flag on any Jewish veteran's grave and to put them out twice a year so that the flags are always presentable.

Any donations to the Jewish War Veterans are really appreciated — they enable us to honor our veterans by keeping the flags on all Jewish Veterans' graves. Donations should be made to the Savannah Jewish Federation earmarked for Jewish War Veterans.

Please mark your calendar for March 19, 2017 at 10am at the JEA for a program commemorating the 121st Anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans. During this event we will be honoring our Vietnam Vets with a special presentation. We will also have light refreshments. Please come out and support you fellow veterans and our Jewish Veterans!

For long range planning, please mark you calendar to come out and support the Rambam Memorial Day run on May 29, 2017. We are proud to be a part of it and the Jewish War Veterans will be manning a water table at the finish line.

Have a great month!

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SHABBAT SERVICES:

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

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm, Monday 7:15 am & 6:00 pm
Friday 7:00 a.m. & 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

~~~~~ HAPPENINGS AT AA ~~~~~

2nd Annual Larry Lasky Golf Tournament
Sunday, March 5th at the Palmetto course at the Landings. Coffee and donuts before the rounds, lunch, good times, prizes and much more.
Please form a team or just sign up and we will pair you with others.
Contact the office at 912-352-4737 for further details.

Join us for Purim party,
Megillah Reading, Hamentaschen, costume parade and
more on Sunday, March 12th at 10 am.
Also Megillah Reading on Saturday night.





It's a Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

A man from Minsk comes to Chelm, the town of foolish people, and finds many of the townsfolk looking at the ground around a lamppost.

"What are you searching for?" he asks.

"Yossi lost his keys and we are helping him look for them."

"I'll help too," says the Minsk fellow. "So he lost the keys around here?"

"No," says one of the Chelmites, "it was probably at the other end of Chelm."

The visitor asks, "Then why are you searching over here?"

"Because here the light's better!"

Aaron and Becky managed to get tickets to the hit Broadway show *Hamilton*. They noticed an empty seat in the row behind them. When intermission came and no one was sitting in that seat, Becky turned to the woman sitting next to the empty seat and asked, "Pardon me, but this is such a sold out show and in such demand, we were wondering why that seat is empty."

The woman said, "That's my late husband's seat."

Becky felt awful and apologized, then said, "Without meaning to be rude or anything, this is an incredibly hard show to get into. Surely you must have a friend or a relative who would have wanted to see the show?"

The woman nodded, then explained, "They're all at the funeral."

The Hebrew School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt...

Little Josh interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

Maurice and Sarah were getting old and Maurice felt his wife was losing her hearing. He decided to stage a test. One day, as Sarah read the paper, he stood a distance behind her chair and said, in a conversational voice, "Can you hear

me?" Silence.

He moved closer to her. "Can you hear me?" Still silence.

Finally, he moved directly behind her chair and bent over, just inches from her ear, and yelled, "Can you hear me?"

Sarah replied, "For the third time, Maurice, YES I CAN!"

Sandra Zimmerman is driving toward home in Northern Arizona when she sees an Indian woman hitchhiking. Sandra stops the car and the woman gets in.

After a bit of small talk, the Native American notices a brown bag on the front seat. "What's in the bag?" she asks.

"It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband," says Sandra.

The Indian woman is silent for a while and then she comments, "Good trade."

Mrs. Rothman and Mrs. Oppenheimer were both residents at the Maimonides Senior Residence and were rivals with one another. One day they met at the residence gala.

"My dear," said Mrs. Rothman, "Are those real pearls?"

"They are," replied Mrs. Oppenheimer.

"Of course the only way I could tell would be for me to bite them," smiled Mrs. Rothman.

Mrs. Oppenheimer responded, "Yes, but for that you would need real teeth."

It's all in the punctuation.

English professor Dave Schwartz wrote the words, "Woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed his students to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing."

The women wrote: "Woman: Without her, man is nothing."

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

We have docent-led tours of our museum available from 10:00am - 3:30pm during the week.

For a complete schedule of Services & Events, check our website at www.mickveisrael.org

Purim Celebration

Saturday, March 11th

We will start off with dinner at 6pm, followed by the Megillah reading and dessert. RSVP to rsvp@mickveisrael.org or 912-233-1547



Members: \$6/person & \$12/family
Non-Members: \$8/person & \$16/family

1st & 2nd Night Passover Seders



Monday, April 10th at 6pm
& Tuesday, April 11th at 6pm

Members
Adults: \$25
Children age 5-12: \$10

Non-Members
Adults: \$40
Children age 5-12: \$15

RSVP by April 7th to
RSVP@mickveisrael.org
or call 912-233-1547

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Elizabeth Weitz

Who died February 8, 2017

She is survived by her sister, Mary Weitz Friedman; her nephew, Stephen (Annette) Friedman; her niece, Abby Friedman (Harry Heiman); and great-nieces and nephews.

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

Harvey Neal Goldberg

Who died February 2, 2017

He is survived by his sisters, Eileen Kalikow of Cape Elizabeth, ME, Susan (Harvey) Blumenthal of Potomac, MD, Irene (Bobby) Lichtenstein of Atlanta, and Sandra (Michael) Kaufman of New York, NY; seven nieces and nephews, and six great-nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: JEA Bertha and Hymie Kanter Young at Heart Fund, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.

Stephen Halperin

Who died February 2, 2017

He is survived by his wife, Rhoda Faivus Halperin; one daughter, Shelly H. (Jack) Glenn of Lakewood Ranch, FL; two sons, Kenneth J. (Judi) Halperin of Gaithersburg, MD, and Andrew F. Halperin (Brenda Burnell) of

Boulder, CO; four grandchildren; one sister, Joan (Warren) Klein of Boynton Beach, FL; one brother, Stewart Halperin (Susan Spiegel) of St. Louis; six nieces and nephews,; and his sister-in-law, Joann Oestreich of Rancho Dominguez, CA.

Remembrances: Backpack Buddies Mickve Israel, P.O. Box 816, Savannah 31402-0816; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Doris E. "Dottie" Lynch

Who died January 28, 2017

She is survived by her husband, Joel Lynch; her son, Bill (Lane) Lynch; and two grandsons. She was pre-deceased by her son Jim and her daughter Ellen.

Remembrances: Senior Citizens, Inc., 3025 Bull St., Savannah, 31405; or the Live Oak Public Library Foundation, 2002 Bull St., Savannah, 31401.

Gary Joel Levenson

Who died January 5, 2017

He is survived by his brother, Stuart Levenson of Atlanta, and several close cousins.

Remembrances: Center for the Visually Impaired, 739 West Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308, www.cviga.org.

Irene Tabackman

Irene Tabackman, age 98, of Rockville, Maryland, died on January 23, 2017. Irene was born and raised in Portage, PA. She, along with six of her siblings, served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, where she attained the rank of Lieutenant. She spent her career as a Nurse Anesthetist retiring from Greenville (SC) General Hospital in 1983.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Bobbie and Michael Leff, of Atlanta, and Debra and Joel Rotkow, of Savannah; grandchildren, Kevin and Jennifer Leff, Barry and Amy Leff, and Eric and Victoria Rotkow; great-grandchildren, Jordan, Nina, Alex, Evan, and Zahava; many devoted nieces and nephews, including her loving and devoted niece, Roz Spott and caregiver, Melba Bartholomew, both who cared for Irene for the last years of her life. She was preceded in death by her husband Joe, her sisters and brothers, and her beautiful granddaughter, Stephanie Rotkow.

Graveside services were held on January 25 at Greenwood Cemetery, Atlanta, with Rabbi Joshua Heller officiating. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Stephanie Rotkow Fund at Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31405. Arrangements by Dressler's Jewish Funeral Care, 770-451-4999.

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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

WE REMEMBER



April 23, 2017

Jewish Educational Alliance

In observance of Yom HaShoah, we read the names of children who died in the Holocaust.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing in 15 minute shifts until 5:00 p.m.

We speak and hear their names, and we recall them as full human beings, not just as “victims.”

Please sign up here to participate in this meaningful tradition.

<http://bit.ly/2kzo8ta>

For additional information go to www.savj.org or call 912-355-8111.



Celebrating Jewish Life in Georgia

at the Governor's Mansion

By Jeremy Katz

On December 11, 2016, the Governor's Mansion opened its doors to the public to celebrate the extravagant decorations that don the mansion every holiday season. As part of the display, the community was asked to mount an exhibition on the Jewish history of Georgia. Since Jewish life in Georgia began in Savannah, the committee in charge of the display knew the Savannah Jewish Archives at the Breman Museum would be an excellent resource to provide reproductions and original artifacts for the display.

The Breman Museum worked closely with the display committee to find appropriate artifacts to concisely tell the story of Jewish life in Georgia. We decided to include a poster-sized reproduction of the George Washington letter to Congregation Mickve Israel, Abigail Minis' Oath of Allegiance to President Andrew Johnson,



Beirne Prager's World War I helmet, several items from Jacob's Pharmacy (the first place to sell Coca-Cola), and a ceremonial reproduction of the tickertape from when The Home Depot joined the New York Stock Exchange.

Further, the committee chose to display and gift the First Lady with a copy of Georgia artist Wilbur Kurtz's pen-and-ink "Dr. Nunez in Savannah". Mrs. Deal is a fan of Mr. Kurtz's work and was delighted to see his work as part of the display and receive a copy to add to her collection of Kurtz works.

The celebration of Jewish life in Georgia at the Governor's Mansion furthered our ongoing mission to promote the Savannah Jewish Archives to the general public. To learn more about these efforts, please contact Jeremy Katz, Archives Director, at jrkatz@thebreman.org, or 404-870-1862.



Savannah Jewish Federation

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

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Your life is rooted in Jewish experiences connecting you to the Jewish community.

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You demonstrate to your family the depth of your philanthropic commitment and the **importance of giving back to the Jewish community**. You leave your children, your grandchildren and your community an invaluable inheritance and a lasting testimony to your values.

You designate how your gift is to be used: to provide unrestricted funds to help meet community needs now and in the future, or to provide permanent resources to aid identified programs, projects, agencies, organizations or initiatives that are of particular interest to you and your family. It's up to you.

The Savannah Jewish Federation is your experienced, reliable partner in **helping you realize your philanthropic goals**, building a lasting testament to your name that meets your specific needs, vision and objectives.

An endowment is forever. Create your Jewish legacy today for your family, your community, and your people.



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