



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, November 3	6:15pm
Friday, November 10	5:09pm
Friday, November 17	5:06pm
Friday, November 24	5:03pm
Friday, December 1	5:02pm

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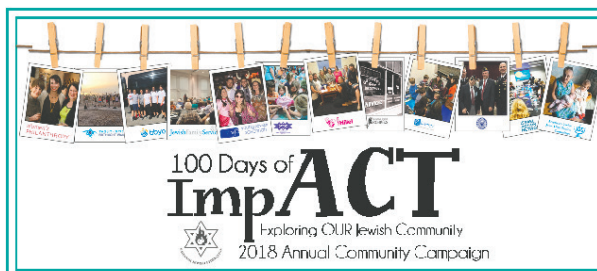
Ties to Village in Poland—Savannahian Candy Lowe visited Kaluszyn, Poland, for the dedication of a monument to the town's (almost) forgotten Jews, her forebears; p10

Everyone Counts

This time last year the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew was fresh on the minds of everyone in Savannah. Fortunately, our Jewish community was mostly spared from severe harm and thanks to the generosity of the many donors to the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign, our Jewish Family Services was well-positioned to meet those critical needs that did arise for some before, during and after the storm.

This year, we have watched as a series of natural disasters beset other communities, though Savannah could easily have been one of them. Hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires have devastated communities and dis-

rupted Jewish lives and those of our fellow countrymen and world citizens throughout the Caribbean, Florida, Texas, Mexico and California. Fed-



erations (local organizations and with support from donors all over North America), our partners, and beneficiary agencies all have been on the scene to help – with cash, with building

supplies, with food, with counseling.

Gifts to the Annual Campaign are the lifeblood of the Federation, for times of crisis and for supporting the dozens of causes that sustain Jewish life year-round here in Savannah, in Israel and elsewhere around the world.

In Savannah your gift provides for Holocaust education, Israel advocacy, PJ Library, community holiday observances, the Savannah Jewish Film Festival, this paper you are reading, and grants for the JEA, Shalom School, BBYO, SCAD Hillel and Jewish youth summer experiences.

Your gift provides critical funding for our overseas partners — the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the

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This Was Their Place

by Lynn Levine

A little less than three hours drive from Savannah, a small south Georgia synagogue is doing everything it can to remain relevant for the Jewish families left in its community and those nearby.

Longtime Savannahians Leon Aronson and Paul Kulbersh both grew up attending the Fitzgerald

Hebrew Congregation and recently began returning there every year for Rosh Hashanah, as they did this past holiday. Leon and Paul are joined by their wives, Barbara and Harriet, and their children and grandchildren also meet them to celebrate the New Year in the synagogue of their fathers' youth.

"In the last ten years or so there's been a renewal of people my age, and people a little older and a little younger, who are coming back to spend the High Holidays at the synagogue; partly because they want to go back to their roots and partly because they want to make sure the synagogue continues to thrive. Only a few families still live in the area," Paul said.

"My kids just really appreciated

the warmth we were shown – everyone in our group got an Aliyah or honor – and they [the locals] were so appreciative that we were there," said Leon, who went on to share memories of his childhood at the synagogue.

"This is where I grew up religiously. We lived in Adel, 50 miles away, and



Leon and Barbara Aronson sending Rosh Hashanah greetings from Leon's 'roots'

we could have gone to synagogue in Valdosta, 24 miles from home, but Daddy's buddies from the old days were in Fitzgerald. So every Sunday we would go to Fitzgerald for Sunday school and the fathers would play cards and the mothers would kibbitz and then we'd all have a big meal. Then we'd get on

the road and drive home, and get home about 8 or 9 o'clock (and then listen to shows on the radio like *The Shadow*). And there were the Chanukah plays and of course, the High Holidays.

"That was our place. What Jewish education I got, that's where I got it. And what's very ironic, and only in America, from that background I went on to be President of BB Jacob [synagogue]."

Paul also expressed how his family enjoys spending the holiday in Fitzgerald: "I think my kids like it because it's a real homey atmosphere and some of my grandchildren – Dana's kids in Atlanta – are friends with children and grandchildren of families originally from South Georgia who moved to

Atlanta, so there's some familiarity."

"It's probably in better physical shape now than when we went there," Leon says of the building originally used by the Methodist Episcopal Church but acquired by

Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation in the early 1940s. He says that going



The Kulbersh family in Fitzgerald for Rosh Hashanah 2016

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This Was Their Place.....from page 1

back there now, “what was especially meaningful to me was seeing this wall of pictures they have from the past and there I am in my little confirmation outfit when I was confirmed. Two of my sisters were married there. And it’s meaningful to see your parents’ names on the Memorial Tablets.”

Paul recounted a childhood memory of Mr. Davalo Israel, a Holocaust survivor who attended services at Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation. Paul says Israel, who he remembers through a young boy’s eyes as permanently old and gaunt, always sat in the same wooden chair pulled to the side of the bima. “I recently learned that after the regular services were over, he would conduct part of the services again in Yiddish.

“Not too long ago, I was wandering through the part of the building where we used to have Hebrew School – it’s not as well maintained – and I found that old chair. It wasn’t in good shape. Some friends found a local furniture repairman to redo it for me and this year it was in the synagogue in the exact place where Mr. Israel used to sit. It was really nice; it is now used by people waiting to go on the bima for an honor and those who remembered him especially enjoyed sitting in it.”

The synagogue once was home to Jewish families from Fitzgerald and many neighboring towns. At one time, ten different small communities were represented on their fourteen-member Board of Directors. But as family businesses were sold or closed and young-

er generations moved to larger cities, fewer families remained in fewer communities to support the synagogue.

Leon expressed concern for the future of the Fitzgerald congregation. “I won’t mention names, but there basically are two families that keep this place going. In the old days there were a lot of Jewish families in the towns surrounding Fitzgerald, but now most of them are gone. Now, one family in Fitzgerald and one in Tifton really are the lifeblood of this place. My worry is who will take the helm when these two families are gone?

“My daughter Amy was so interested and impressed that she asked about the dues to become a member and was told there are no dues. That gives you an idea how they operate.”

But for now, the heartstrings are strong. Both Paul and Leon boasted how this year’s Rosh Hashanah services were “standing room only,” requiring folding chairs in the aisles. Paul said one family came from as far away as California.

At the conclusion of services on both days of Rosh Hashanah (and before Kol Nidre and to break the fast on Yom Kippur), the reunited congregation gathers in the social hall to share a kosher meal, prepared by local caterers who have familiarized themselves with the necessary dietary laws. “The social hall is adjacent to the sanctuary so when lunch is being prepared you can smell it; the rabbi always seems to



Mr. Israel’s chair,
refurbished

speed up the service at that time,” Paul said. Neither Paul nor Leon forgot to mention the bar graciously sponsored by one of the local families, “so you can have a l’chaim.”

Affiliated with the Conservative movement, every two years Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation employs a new student rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary; they visit on holidays and once a month to lead a study group and Shabbat services. Currently, Rafi Spitzer, a fourth-year JTS rabbinical student who grew up near Boston leads the congregation. Interviewed for the job via Skype, Spitzer accepted the position never having spent time further south than St. Louis, where his grandparents live.

“The community is incredibly warm. People are really persistent in creating for themselves and for southern

Georgia an opportunity for Jewish engagement and Jewish involvement,” Rabbi Spitzer said.

He said the congregation is helpful to him, too. “They see themselves as an educational opportunity for their student rabbis. They give me positive feedback and they tell me when they have growth things that they would like to see me do. They talk to me about my sermons and my teaching.” The young rabbi is married to Rachael Besser, a fourth grade teacher, and they are expecting their first child within a few weeks of this writing.

Rabbi Stephanie Ruskay, Asso-

ciate Dean, JTS Rabbinical School, explained that Spitzer’s position in Fitzgerald is not part of JTS’s official internship program because there is no supervising clergy on site. However, she said JTS is available to provide support if needed. “Every time Rafi talks about the congregation he has a big smile on his face; you can tell he has real warmth and affection for the Jews he is meeting there and the community they’ve created. We want our students to understand what is 21st Century Judaism; that it’s not only in the big cities,” she said.

Echoing Leon Aronson’s concerns, Rabbi Spitzer talked about the impact of the deaths of two congregants earlier this year – lay cantor Ira Levinsky and life-long member Louis Perlis of Cordele: “The community [did] a lot of thinking and self reflection about the size and sustainability of the community and the amount of effort it takes to continue to persist.”

But looking back on this past Rosh Hashanah, Spitzer’s voice was full of hope. “I think of Rosh Hashanah as a very serious holiday, with a very heavy approach to the coronation of God and special liturgy and music; but being part of that community for Rosh Hashanah was an incredibly joyful, wonderful experience. There were 160 people there... That sense of joy that comes from kids running around and families being together on Rosh Hashanah was really evident. It was a really beautiful thing.”

LETTERS

T O T H E E D I T O R

Querido amigo,

Deseamos que todo este bien con usted, su familia y la Federacion Judia de Savannah. Le estamos muy agradecidos por la ayuda enviada a la Comunidades de Guantanamo y Santiago de Cuba.

Que sean inscripto y sellado en el libro de la Vida.

Gmar Jatima Tova!!!!

Atentamente,
Rodolfo Mizrahi
Presidente Comunidad Hebrea de Guantanamo y
Coordinador de las Comunidades de la Region Oriental de Cuba

Dear friend,

We wish that all is well with you, your family and the Jewish Federation of Savannah. We are very grateful for the help sent to the Communities of Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba.

Let them be inscribed and sealed in the book of Life.

Gmar Jatima Tova !!!!

Sincerely,

Rodolfo Mizrahi
President of the Hebrew Community of Guantanamo and
Coordinator of the Communities of the Eastern Region of Cuba

Mah Jongg Tournament Getaway



January 21-24, 2018



Meals, beverages and entertainment included!
Prizes for all!

Contact Alison Zaintz at 912.351.0570
for complete pricing and details.



Looking for something to do?
Check the Community Calendar
www.savj.org

Savannah bbyo

October was a great month for BBYO! Teens had fun programs to start the New Year and focused on recruiting new members! David Finn had an athletic day at Fun Zone, filled with competitions and races to the finish line! BBYO also took an afternoon to enjoy some sweet froyo at Lovin' Spoons.



Left: Members of David Finn playing mini golf at Fun Zone.

Later in the month, BBYO new members attended MIT-AIT New Member Convention in Greensboro, NC, with Eastern Region. Our teens learned the basics of BBYO and now have a great foundation to build on as future leaders!

We hope you will join us this month for Fall Fest on November 5 and Southern Region Convention with Atlanta Council, November 10-12. We can't wait to see you there!

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



Fall Fest

November 5

Southern Region Convention
Open to Grades 9-12

November 10-12



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 Invites 6-8 graders to

Clue

Mystery
Scavenger
Hunt



November 4

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance
5111 Abercorn Street

Dinner ♦ Solve the Mystery ♦ Prizes

RSVP by Wednesday, November 1 to Devra Silverman at engagement@savj.org or 912.355.8111



Sign up TODAY
at www.savj.org

What does PJ stand for?

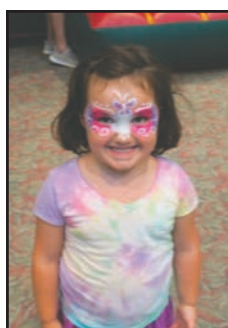
Pajamas! We know those special times of reading, dancing and singing together happen when your children are wearing their pajamas.

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 kids enjoyed a fun fall afternoon at Sukkah Fest, a community Sukkot celebration on Sunday, October 8. Kids had fun with the animals at a petting zoo, riding a horse, playing on inflatables, taking a hay ride, getting their faces painted, and eating some delicious fall snacks. It was an afternoon of fun for all ages!

Save the Date!



December 3

**Menorah
Workshop**



**Check out PJ Our Way™
the Newest Chapter of PJ Library®**

PJ Our Way offers the gift of exceptional books with Jewish themes to kids ages 9-11 – Books that they choose themselves!

Sign up TODAY
at www.PJOurWay.org

**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 Ceceile Richman JEA Fund.

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

Four Questions

for the rest of the year

Ed Wexler, Colonel, USAF Ret., received a phone call a few weeks ago informing him that he had been selected the Veterans Council of Chatham County's 2017 Veteran of the Year. Made up of 27 different veterans' organizations, Veteran of the Year is the Council's highest honor, created to recognize a Savannah-area veteran not only for their prior military service but more importantly for what they do after active duty in service to their fellow veterans and community. The honor was to be presented to Wexler in a "sashing ceremony" on October 29th. Established in 1957, Wexler said the honor previously had been bestowed eight times (that he knew of) to Jewish veterans, the last being to Morris Lamhut in 1986.

In addition to providing all of the service to others that merited this honor, Ed finds time to be a grandfather to nine – the children of his three daughters, one of whom lives here in Savannah, the other two in Colorado. (One of his Colorado sons-in-law currently serves as the Jewish chaplain at the Air Force Academy.) Ed and his wife, Catherine, are looking forward to a family Thanksgiving with everyone in Colorado. They also have established a nursing school scholarship at Armstrong in memory of Ed's late wife, Mary, a military nurse in the National Guard, as a way of giving back because she was able to go to nursing school many years before thanks to a scholarship another family had established.

We spoke with Ed two weeks before the October 29th ceremony.

Do you know how you were chosen Veteran of the Year?

I'm a member of five of the 27 member organizations of the Veterans Council of Chatham County. Any of them can nominate someone, but the top eight or so according to attendance records from the monthly meetings get to vote. I was nominated by a couple of those, so I guess I had a good chance [he says with a smile].

We saw some of the materials submitted in support of Ed's nomination. Here are just a few highlights of his service to veterans and his community: Air Force Assn., Past President, Savannah & state of GA; Jewish War Veterans, current staff advisor; founding board member of Center Court, to support individuals in the Savannah-Cha-

tham County court system; Past Chairman of Honor Flight Savannah, taking veterans on free trips to visit war memorials in Washington, DC; Trustee of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force; Rotary Club of Savannah West, past and current board member.

What was your reaction when you learned you had been chosen to receive this honor and is there anything you hope to accomplish as a result of having been chosen?

I was very, very humbled. It is a very high honor. Sometimes I have to wonder what I did to deserve to it. I'm looking forward to the ceremony, being at the front of the Veterans' Parade [one of the responsibilities/perks of the title] and carrying forward for the next 12 months, being a spokesman for military currently serving as well as prior veterans and doing what I can.

There will be speaking opportunities around Memorial Day and several banquets throughout the year where I will be expected to speak. My final function will be to conduct the election to select the next Veteran of the Year.

I hope to be able to bring a little more notoriety to a couple of projects I'm involved in – Honor Flights and the lesser-known Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, which is a Department of Defense volunteer activity. It's quite a challenge for a person in the Guard or Reserve to satisfy their family, civilian employers and military commitment. ESGR is there primarily to bridge the gap between individuals and their civilian employers if they need time off for training or active duty by letting the community know what a great job the companies are doing making it possible for their employees to serve. I'm the Southeast Georgia area chairman.

How did you decide on a career in the military?

I came from a long line of civilians. Both my father and brother were optometrists. I knew I didn't want to do that. I was in ROTC in high school and liked it. For college, I found out about a little military school up in Charleston and I applied and got in. I was pretty well indoctrinated into the military lifestyle and it seemed to fit my personality so from



Colonel Ed Wexler, USAF, Retired

The Citadel I went into the Air Force as an officer and served overseas for three of my four years. This was during the Vietnam era, but I didn't go to Vietnam. I was close by, in Taiwan. I married my first wife, Mary, who the Air Force said could go with me. Our first child was born in a Navy facility over there. But Mary didn't have many opportunities as a working military spouse so at the end of four years we decided to come home and enter civilian life.

My oldest brother was an optometrist here with the Air National Guard and suggested I see what they had to offer. They had no openings, so I joined on a part-time basis, doing weekend drills and such. Apparently someone decided I should be there full-time, hired me and I spent 30 years there and all told I spent 35 years in the military. I retired in 2006 on my 60th birthday, per a federal mandate.

Your parents, Bill and Dorothy, are still remembered by many here for their dedication to Jewish and civil rights causes. Do you think their values influenced your career? [Ed's father, William Wexler, served as International President of Bnai Brith from 1965-1971 and held leadership positions with numerous other national organizations. Dorothy Levy Wexler held leadership positions in Hadassah and Bnai Brith Women; the Savannah BBG chapter is named for her.]

Definitely some lessons I learned along the way during my childhood were reflections of the values my parents tried to instill in me – to treat people fairly, to treat people with respect, to look beyond race and religion in the hopes that people would look beyond those things as far as I was concerned. When I got into leadership positions I was able to carry those values forward. I think they had a lot of influence on my perception of what was happening on any given day. I tried to be fair and above-board—and predictable, which I think was important, too.

Savannah Jewish News

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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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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.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

From Generation to Generation

L'dor v'dor — from generation to generation, passing on our

traditions.

Much has been written about the transmission of tradition and history. We've all heard the expressions, "You have to know the past to understand the present" or "You need to know where you came from."

Living in Savannah, history is all around us. Millions of people flock to our Historic District to walk the streets, take tours, and admire the extraordinary antebellum architecture—so lovely preserved and restored.

It's not surprising that the Georgia Historical Society is located here (corner of W. Gaston and Whitaker Streets); after all, Savannah's and Georgia's recorded history begins back in 1733. Many of my friends who have visited can't get their "minds around" the fact that there were Jewish settlers in Savannah 43 years before the United States was founded as a country. For the typical "Northerner," if your family went back to the late 19th century, you were an "old-timer." Savannah is different.

While we have our stories that have been passed down from generation to generation, it took Kaye Kole and a group of dedicated volunteers to create the Savannah Jewish Archives. They assembled, identified, and catalogued over 6,000 photographs. They preserved artifacts, did oral histories, and wrote books, all

with a goal of preserving our history and traditions. Two years ago, the Savannah Jewish Archives, which was formerly housed at Georgia Historical, was transferred to the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta. The Breman has taken the holdings to a whole new level of preservation having catalogued and cross referenced all the holdings to make them more accessible to genealogists, historians, and writers. We can feel great, knowing that under the guardianship of the Breman our history will be transmitted to future generations.

That same history was on display this past month when JEA President Scott Samuels hosted a JEA Past Presidents Dinner. While the goal of the meetings has always been to keep former leaders "in the know," a major component of the meeting is to "harvest" their institutional memory and to absorb their experienced knowledge...after all, if you don't know where you come from, it's difficult to know where you are going.

Seventeen of the nineteen living JEA Presidents were in attendance. From the oldest, Walter Lowe (95 years old – don't tell him I told you) to the youngest, Scott Samuels (suffice it to say, he is under 50—he'd fire me if I told you his actual age), each of these individuals have served the Savannah community and the JEA for decades. One can't look at this group of names and not be awed for many reasons: the decades of consistent service to the JEA (and the entire community); the number of past

presidents who were either born here or married to someone who was (14 out of 17); and how many of them come from the same blood lines...such unbelievable commitment to the Alliance. Many of those JEA Presidents also have been synagogue presidents and led the Federation and many other community organizations. It's an old mantra, "leaders lead."

Kol Hakavod to (in order of oldest service to most recent) Don Kole,



Seventeen Past (and current) Presidents in attendance at the 2017 JEA Presidents Dinner

Walter Lowe, Murray Arkin, Aaron Levy (unable to attend), Skippy Goodman, Steve Greenberg, Jerry Konter, Michael Karpf, Kenneth Sadler, Jeffrey Lasky, Jeff Kole (unable to attend) Lynn Reeves, Jodi Sadler, Marcy Konter, Scott Samuels (2x), Paul Kulbersh (2x), Bill Sand, Arlene Ratner, and Joel Greenberg for sustaining the JEA for so many years.

In that vein, in January, the Federation is investing in a group of "next" leaders as we begin the YESOD leadership program. Yesod, the Hebrew word for foundation, aptly describes this vital initiative for the

Savannah Jewish community. The goal of the Yesod Community Leadership Development Program is to support our community by aiding the development of excellent volunteer leadership.

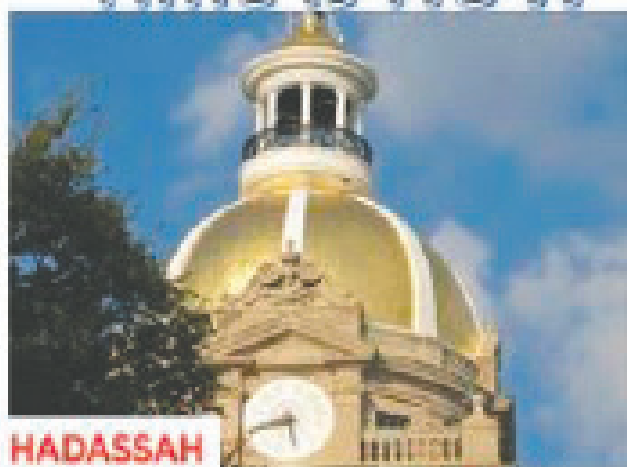
We are so excited to be able to provide this amazing nationally created leadership program to help build the lay leadership of all of our local area partners!

The Yesod curriculum was developed through the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning and was written by Dr. Erica Brown. This course of study, *Yesodot Manhigut: Essentials for Jewish Leadership Today*, offers insights into personal and organizational leadership through Jewish perspective. Course content

will merge Judaic text study, business skills, leadership theory, and experiential application. The sessions will be taught by Rabbi Emily Cohen.

Developing potential leaders is the most important factor in ensuring the long term success of our community. Graduates of the YESOD Community Leadership Development Program will help shape our future and hopefully, they will join that long line of leaders who, *l'dor v'dor*, have passed on our traditions from generation to generation.

Time is NOW to be part of the **Rich Hadassah Experience:**



Save the date Sunday, January 7, 2018

Installation Luncheon of our own

Joanna Rich

as Southeastern Regional President!

Volunteer to be a Weekend Hostess or Tour Guide

For visiting Hadassah dignitaries

Contact Carol Now 912-352-1238

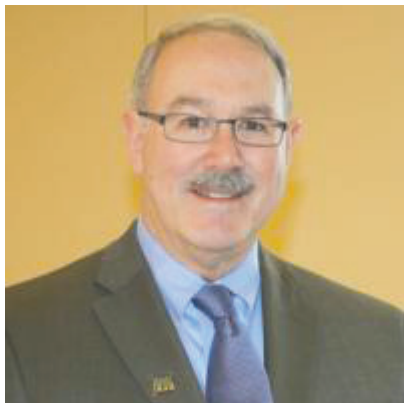
MStarArts@gmail.com



Non-Nuclear Iran Event Nov. 19

The Savannah Jewish Federation will host a free, community event featuring Bob Feferman from United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) on Sunday, November 19th at 10:30 am at the Jewish Educational Alliance.

Mr. Feferman's presentation, "Holding Iran Accountable," will address the question: How do we hold Iran accountable



Bob Feferman

both for implementing the terms of the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) and for issues not covered by the deal including Iran's support for terrorism, its ballistic missile program and abuse of human rights?

Mr. Feferman recently wrote for the Times of Israel: "While the western media has been focusing on the latest tweet of President Donald Trump, there have been disturbing developments in the Middle East. In a speech given this June, Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah warned that a future war with Israel, "...could open the way for thousands, even hundreds of thousands of fighters from all over the Arab and Islamic world to participate – from Iraq, Yemen, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan". Since the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War in 2011, Iran has provided the Assad regime with massive financial support, an endless supply of ammunition and weapons and tens of thousands of fighters. The international community must hold Iran accountable, not only for implementing the terms of the nuclear deal (JCPOA), but also for adhering to norms of in-

ternational behavior.

"Unless the United States, Europe and the international community wake up to the dangers posed by Iran's malign efforts in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria then Israel will be left on its own to deal with the implications of the gathering storm on its northern borders."

Mr. Feferman is outreach coordinator for the advocacy group United Against Nuclear Iran. In 2009 he helped to initiate and support divestment legislation in the Indiana General Assembly that required Indiana's state pension funds to divest from holdings in companies working in Iran's energy sector. In 2011 he helped lead advocacy efforts in Indianapolis that led to a law forbidding the state from contracting with Iran for goods or services. Mr. Feferman lived in Israel for 11 years and served in the military.

UANI is a not-for-profit, non-partisan advocacy group that seeks to prevent Iran from fulfilling its ambition to obtain nuclear weapons. UANI was founded in 2008 by former U.N. Ambassadors Mark D. Wallace and the late Richard Holbrooke, former CIA Director Jim Woolsey, and Middle East expert Dennis Ross.

The Savannah Jewish Federation and its programs are open to everyone regardless of religious affiliation. The Savannah Jewish Federation builds and fosters a strong unified Jewish community and strives to ensure its well-being and continuity locally, in Israel, and throughout the world.

Everyone Counts.....from page 1

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). Together, JAFI and JDC offer a network of vital social services throughout the State of Israel responsible for everything from at-risk youth to absorption of emigrants. And with JDC taking lead, but JAFI also present in many places, these agencies are caring for needy Jews throughout the world. When crises arise anywhere in the world, our overseas partners already are there, seeing to the needs of our Jewish brethren and others.

Your gift maintains funding for Birthright Israel, ensuring that every Jewish young adult can visit Israel, as his or her birthright, on a 10-day free trip. What an unbelievable gift!

Your gift provides investment grants each year for up to 20 different overseas organizations chosen by members of our community to receive direct assistance.

And of course, your gift provides for Jewish Family Services, which pro-

vides confidential financial and social services to those in need in our community.

Super Sunday for the Federation's 2018 Annual Campaign is November 5th. Please answer the call. Prefer to beat the call? Email campaign@savj.org or call (912) 355-8111 to make your gift.

The 2018 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign is chaired by Paul and Harriet Kulbersh. The campaign management team includes Women's Division Chair Linda Sacks and Men's Division Co-Chairs Matthew Allan and Harvey Lebos. Jamie Richman is the Campaign Director. The team intends to conduct and conclude the campaign within 100 days.

When you are asked to consider a gift to the 2018 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign, please remember, everyone counts!

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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 Teen Weekend

January 19-21, 2018



Open to Jewish teens Grades 8 - 12 • Make New Jewish Friends
from Across the Southeast • Organized Home Hospitality •
Fun & Transformative Jewish Programming • Exciting
Saturday Dance & Program • All Meals Included!

Cost: \$50 . Registration opens November 1 at www.savj.org

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

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

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

‘Amazing and Unforgettable’ Israel

by Jami Goldstein

This summer I had the most amazing experience on my summer program, BBYO Journey. I went to Israel with 39 other kids and they became my family. We referred to each other as “mishpacha” because that’s family in Hebrew.

We traveled all over Israel learning about the ancient history of the country. We learned about King David, Zionism, and much more. It started and ended in Jerusalem but we also went to Akko, the Golan Heights, the Western Wall, Haifa, the Negev Desert, Eilat, the Dead Sea, Masada, and many other places. We went to the Holocaust museum—Yad Vashem—and other museums, too.

We volunteered to play with kids that have heart problems. They come from places all over the world (such as

Ethiopia) to Israel so they can get the medical attention they require. It’s with a program called Save a Child’s Heart (SACH). We also volunteered to help and spend time with elderly people that have disabilities. It was the most amazing and unforgettable experience.

It’s been almost two months since I’ve been back in America and I have spoken to the friends I made on Israel Journey every single day.

Jami Goldstein, 17, is a senior at St. Andrews School. She is the daughter of Lisa and Doug Goldstein and Sh’lichah of Wexler Clark BBG. Jami traveled to Israel this past summer with BBYO Journey with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer

Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation made possible by your generosity during the annual Community Campaign. See bbyo.org for more information on BBYO and its Israel travel programs.



Jami, left, shares an ever-popular camel ride in the Negev



If you are Jewish and in your 20s or 30s and want to socialize and make a difference, Young Jewish Savannah is where you want to be!

Young Jewish Savannah, a division of the Savannah Jewish Federation, provides meaningful opportunities for engagement in the Jewish community through social and professional networking, community service, Judaic and leadership programs for Jewish young adults.

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

YJS welcomes the participation of interfaith couples and families, and people of all abilities, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

New Student Ambassadors Named

by Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator

Hillel at Savannah College of Art & Design has been an official club for 16 years, overseen by Faculty Advisor Heather Szatmary. Heather’s dedication to SCAD’s growing Jewish community could be seen in the many holiday programs and Shabbat dinners she has coordinated for students to enjoy.

In 2015, SCAD Hillel decided to add a focus on peer-to-peer engagement as a way to expand their reach across campus. With the help of the Savannah Jewish Federation, it began the Student Engagement Ambassador program, similar to that of Hillel’s national Engagement Intern program. SCAD Hillel Student Engagement Ambassadors would be tasked with finding, communicating with, engaging, and connecting uninvolved Jewish students to Hillel and its members.

In the first year of the Engagement Ambassador program, SCAD Hillel had four Ambassadors. They learned the art of engaging, networking, and connecting Jewish students to Hillel and its resources under the supervision of Devra Silverman, the Federation’s Community Engagement Coordinator. Together the Ambassadors identified more than 60 new Jewish students at SCAD. Several of those students are still active in SCAD Hillel!

Coming off of a successful first year, the Engagement Ambassadors in year two were excited to find more freshman and sophomore students to engage with Hillel. These

newfound students were looking for more in their Jewish identities; they requested more Shabbat dinners and

the establishment of Hillel Shabbat services. The year ended with the identification of 70 new Jewish students at SCAD, some of whom now are leaders on Hillel’s newest executive board and are implementing the ideas of the most recent incoming students.

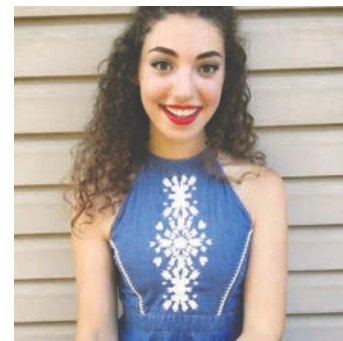
As the third year of SCAD Hillel’s Student Engagement Ambassador Program kicks off, they are excited to introduce their new 2017-2018 Student Engagement Ambassadors: Sydnie Wainland, a sophomore

studying jewelry, and Jacob Hirsch, a freshman studying film. Both are enjoying being Ambassadors so far and have been very busy engaging the 65 new students that already have been identified!

The Ambassadors serve as a bridge between Hillel members

and the Executive Board; they help identify and present the wants and needs of the current freshman class. SCAD Hillel’s Ambassadors are quickly learning that not only are they a resource to new students, but they can have a significant impact on a student’s Jewish experience while at SCAD.

We are looking forward to seeing the new Ambassadors’ impact on SCAD Hillel and hope to celebrate their many successes throughout the year!



Sydnie Wainland



Jacob Hirsch

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it without them!*

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Fake 'News'... It's Everywhere

Open the newspaper, turn on the news (any channel), scroll your social media newsfeed and you will be confronted with stories someone will label as 'fake news.' If you're on the internet and brave enough to click on the comments for any of those stories, be prepared to be assaulted by vitriol coming from every direction. Often the comments are from people you know, but sometimes they come from people with anonymous 'handles' and their messages are so extreme it makes you wonder, "Are they for real?" Seems it's a fair question, one the Times of Israel (TOI) recently asked, too.

A recent story in Haaretz received a bit of attention in Israel when it reported that Benjamin Netanyahu and the Likud party were paying people with fake online identities (sockpuppets) to write online comments that praised Likud members and disparaged political rivals. TOI went into an online forum and asked if anyone there (in Israel) had ever been a paid online troll or knew anyone who worked as such.

The early responses, as reported by Simona Weinglass, were not all that helpful, though some were amusing.

"This is a thing?"

"I keep being told that I must be getting paid by George Soros's International Liberal Jewish Conspiracy, but the checks never arrive," wrote another.

But patience paid off and soon people came forward who could both confirm the existence of paid sockpuppets in Israel and lift the veil covering the online manipulation industry.



On Yavin, CEO,
Online Performance Ltd.

TOI spoke with On Yavin, founder and CEO of Online Performance Ltd., a player in what he says is the 'online reputation management' (ORM) business. He says the services his company typically

provides for their clients include cultivating them as thought leaders in their field, content marketing, creating highly shareable videos, creating Facebook pages, and paying social media influencers — millennials who have managed to acquire a large following on Instagram or Twitter or Vine — to write about them. But

the two most important aspects of ORM, Yavin says, are SEO (search engine optimization) on sites like Google, and social media campaigns.

Yavin estimates "at least 15 percent of comments on Israeli news sites, and possibly as many as 25-30 percent, are fake. Articles of a political nature are most likely to attract paid trolls... those of every political persuasion. Some people maintain their fake profiles for months or years. They do it so well it's almost impossible to know they are fake."

Yavin told TOI he is opposed to fake profiles. "I do not have any problem with people getting paid for a social media post if they use their own name. That is the world we live in, and it's the same as if you paid a presenter to do a commercial on television or radio."

Yossef Daar is co-founder of Cyabra, an Israeli company that specializes in identifying fake social media activity. He said that having been in the business intelligence/ORM field previously, him and his partners recognized a need for organizations to be able to combat such efforts.

Daar told TOI there are 140 million fake accounts on Facebook,



Yossef Daar,
Co-founder, Cyabra

48 million bots on Twitter and 38 million fake users on LinkedIn worldwide. He warned that targets of social media disinformation campaigns can suffer tremendous damage without realizing why.

"Let's say you own a supermarket chain, and 400 customer complaints against a particular store were fake. It would help you a lot to know that.

Our company can determine which social media profiles are fake and even figure out who is pulling the strings behind the scenes."

Daar said it is common for large European brands to employ troll armies to malign each other. In Israel, he said, politicians do the same.

"But there isn't one side of the political map that uses these methods. Everyone does it." As examples, Daar cited his examinations of comments posted for a couple of TOI op-eds for which he found multiple fake profiles, both critical and supportive of the authors.

It did not take long for some questionably-sourced remarks to appear in the comments section of the Times of Israel article (*Sockpuppet Nation*, October 10).

They Built a Bridge

As awards competitions go, this one is pretty obscure, but prestigious in its field nonetheless. And the winner in the long-span category of the triennial Footbridge Awards, presented at the Footbridge 2017 conference recently held in Berlin, Germany, is...

the Beersheva High-Tech Park Bridge!

The 210-meter footbridge was commissioned by the municipality of Beersheva and cost \$25 million. Its award-winning design team included Bar Orian

Architects, Rokach Ashkenazi (structural) Engineers, and lighting by Orly Avron-Alkabes.

The bridge, nicknamed the dou-



Beersheva High-Tech Park Bridge

ble-helix bridge or the DNA bridge because of its design, connects the Beersheva University railway station with the Gav Yam High Tech Park next door to Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

The Footbridge Awards are presented once every three years to recognize the best in design, renovation and lighting of bridges for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians that have been completed in the previous three years. The Beersheva structure competed against bridges in Canada and New Zealand for this year's honor.

Sight-Saving Process Developed

CorNeat Vision, an Israeli ophthalmic medical devices startup, announced it has completed the design and development stage of its revolutionary cornea implant (CorNeat KPro/Keratoprosthesis), along with an associated implantation tool and a dedicated manufacturing process. The company is initiating formal biocompatibility and safety tests toward first implantation in humans by mid-2018. The process was presented for the first time to selected members of the ophthalmic community at the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons Congress (ESCRS) in Lisbon, Portugal, in October.



The CorNeat KPro implant is a patent-pending synthetic cornea that utilizes advanced cell technology to integrate artificial optics within resident ocular tissue. The CorNeat KPro is produced using nanoscale chemical engineering that stimulates cellular growth. Unlike previous devices, which attempted to integrate optics into the native cornea, the CorNeat KPro leverages

a virtual space under the conjunctiva that is rich with fibroblast cells that heals quickly and provides robust long-term integration. Combined with a novel and simple 30-minute surgical procedure, Corneat says its solution provides an esthetic, efficient, scalable

continued on page 15



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:

CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

November 2017



Children's Programming



Days at the J



Wednesday, November 22nd
8:00am - 6:00pm

Don't forget to bring a bathing suit, towel, and lunch! This program is full of games, friends, sports, art, crafts, baking, and field trips!

Cost: Member Value Price

\$35.00 - 1st child / \$33.00 - 2nd child

Non Members

\$45.00 - 1st child / \$43.00 - 2nd child

Ages: Pre-K - 8th Grade



To register, email kids@savj.org. For a complete schedule of activities visit savannahjea.org.

AFTER SCHOOL

The JEA After School program is available to children ages Pre-K through 8th grade. After School hours are Monday-Friday, 3:00-6:00 pm. Transportation is provided from Garrison, Charles Ellis, Jacob G. Smith, Savannah Classical Academy, Heard Elementary Schools, and Susie King Taylor School.

Registration for 2017-2018

Registration is open. Space is extremely limited. Please call for availability.

Activities include arts, baking, sports, games, homework help, computer lab, & more!

Registration packets are available at the JEA front desk & at savannahjea.org.



SATURDAY NIGHT OUT

ENJOY A NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN WHILE THE KIDS ARE HAVING FUN! YOUR CHILD WILL ENGAGE IN THEME ACTIVITIES, SNACKS, MOVIES, AND BUILD STRONG FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHER CHILDREN FROM THE COMMUNITY. PROGRAM IS OPEN TO CHILDREN FOUR YEARS OLD - 5TH GRADE. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY THE THURSDAY PRIOR.

Saturday, November 18th

JEA Member: \$25 single child or \$45 family

Non-Member: \$30 single child or \$55 family

Nov. 18 - Hide and Seek: Black Ops - Join us as we kick off Saturday Night Out with a top secret mission. Just make sure that your Hide and Seek skills are up to par . . . because other teams are not the only thing you'll have to seek!

Registration forms are available at the JEA front desk & at savannahjea.org.





Adult Programming



Bridge Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Scrabble Wednesdays 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Mah Jongg Mondays 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
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.

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 9/16/17-10/11/17)

Hussain Al-Khalaf & Rawan Ajina
Jesse & Brianna Goldman
Deni Javas
Candice Parsons
Michael Roach
James & Chelsea Stoevers
William Wilson & Lisa Denmark
Robert Zarem

JEA Donations

(September 16, 2017-October 11, 2017)

ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In memory of Pearl Friedenberg
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt
In honor of Herb Sanders
Marcia & Sandy Berens

PEARL & JOSEPH GEFFEN ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In honor of Doris Klugman
Sherri, Rob, Evan & Elana Wildstein

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy
Harriet & Eric Meyerhoff

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Maxine Patterson
In honor of Roberta Haysman
In memory of Pearl Friedenberg
Brenda & Patrick Salter
In memory of Barbara Rubin
Elise & Victor Shernoff

Join the JEA

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

Types of Membership include:

Family Plans
Couple Plans
Senior Plans
Individual Plans
Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

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



Food For Thought

Join us each Thursday at 12:30pm

October 26 Essential Oils Margaret Clay	November 16 Vaccination Clinic Walgreen Pharmacy
November 2 Live Music Savannah Voice Festival	November 23 NO FOOD FOR THOUGHT JEA is Closed for Thanksgiving
November 9 Styling Session Meghan Baytagh Carr	November 30 Climate Change Bob Schwartz

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 355-8111.

JEA Youth Basketball

Registration begins November 2017

Open for athletes from kindergarten
to 5th grade!

Practices on Mondays and Thursdays

For more information
please contact
Kirby Southerland
youthsports@savj.org



Health & Wellness

The Five Components of Physical Fitness



Kathy Ackerman
Fitness Director

There are five components of physical fitness, and these components represent how fit and healthy the body is as a whole.

Some people think that being physically fit means being in good general health. Other people think it means being able to lift a certain amount of weight or being able to run a particular distance in a certain time.

There's actually no single agreed upon definition of physical fitness.

One common definition is that physical fitness is a set of attributes that people have or achieve relating to their ability to perform physical activity. Another common definition is that physical fitness is a state of well-being with a low risk of premature health problems and energy to participate in a variety of physical activities.

According to Wikipedia, physical fitness is a state of health and well-being and more specifically, the ability to perform aspects of sports, occupations and daily activities. Physical fitness is generally achieved through proper nutrition, moderate to vigorous physical exercise, and sufficient rest.

Even though the definition of physical fitness

can vary, there's near unanimous agreement on the five components of physical fitness. Here's an overview of each of the components:

1. Cardiovascular Fitness - Cardiovascular fitness (also known as cardiorespiratory fitness) is the ability of the heart, lungs and vascular system to deliver oxygen-rich blood to working muscles during sustained physical activity.
2. Muscular Strength - Muscular strength is the amount of force a muscle or muscle group can exert against a heavy resistance.
3. Muscular Endurance - Muscular endurance is the ability of a muscle or muscle group to repeat a movement many times or to hold a particular position for an extended period of time.
4. Flexibility - Flexibility is the degree to which an individual muscle will lengthen.
5. Body Composition - Body composition is the amount of fat in the body compared to the amount of lean mass (muscle, bones etc.).

Now that you know what the five components of physical fitness are, please contact me (912-355-8111 or fitness@savj.org) for more information about working with one of our personal trainers.

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 - Aikido

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 - Shimmy Chic

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Microsports Program is a Hit!



Kirby Southerland
Youth Sports Director

This fall, the JEA launched a new program for our youngest athletes: MicroSports. The program, designed to begin teaching the basics of soccer, baseball and basketball, was offered to children ages 3-5, and it was a success!



Our young athletes worked on the simple mechanics of each sport: hand (or foot) - eye coordination, working with a team to reach a common goal, and having a lot of fun!

Youth sports activities are a great way to introduce much more than a competitive spirit, though. Studies show that children that are involved in youth sports are more confident and more inclined

to work better with a team. Our goal at the JEA is to ensure that each child that is involved with our youth sports programs takes away a love for the game, the inspiration to lead a healthy and active lifestyle and a few new friends along the way.

If you are interested in learning more about youth sports programs at the JEA, please contact Kirby Southerland at youthsports@savj.org.





JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now 2017-18 School Year

- Enrollment for our 2017-2018 Pre-school Year is open for 3 and 4-yr olds!
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

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

JEA Preschool Savannah Rock and Read

Sunday, November 5th - 3:30pm

Kick off to the Scholastic Book Fair

Come buy a children's book or two and support JEA Preschool Savannah. It's not too early to think about Chanukah/Holiday presents for your children, grandchildren, and friends!

**Scholastic Book Fair Open
November 6-10th**



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.



November

in the JEA Art Gallery



"Martin and Lewis" -
Shaaron Thomas



"Fireworks of the Soul" - Ron Hodge



Charismatic Chameleon" -
Donna Stankiewicz

Art in Stitches

The "Art in Stitches" exhibit showcases the use of fabric, thread and quilting to create the illusion of three dimensions. The images presented by the Art Quilters of the Lowcountry range from realistic to abstract.

The Quilters are three gals and a guy – Ron Hodge, Shaaron Thomas, Peg Weschke and Jody Wigton. Ron Hodge creates his art with various fabrics including linen, velvet, organza and many others but there is always one constant – his beautiful beading. Shaaron Thomas is an incredible artist who paints on silk and then quilts and embellishes with beads and thread painting. Peg Weschke creates realistic scenes of the beauty of the low country with fabric collages and thread-painting. Jody Wigton uses color and improvisational piecing to create beautiful abstract art. Each award-winning artist has a unique approach to their art that, when brought together, creates a wonderful and fabulous fiber exhibit.

Artwork available for viewing November 1-30, 2017

Join us for the Art Gallery Reception November 5th, 1-3 pm

Photos from Sukkah Fest





303 Lee Boulevard • Habersham Woods • \$719,500

This one of a kind custom-built home was designed by noted architect Tom Stanley Jr, and built by Bert Berry. It has been well maintained and beautifully renovated and updated throughout. Fabulous Chef's kitchen, master suite on main floor, marble bathrooms, lush landscaped gardens and wonderful private courtyard. Pristine and move-in ready.

Lauren K. Tomhave
912.247.5739
ltomhave@gmail.com

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Savannah Oral History Collection

by Lindsay Resnick

The Cuba Family Archives at the Breman Museum is pleased to announce that we are beginning the process of reformatting and uploading to the web the Savannah Jewish Archives collection of Oral Histories.

This process will provide researchers easy access to searchable transcripts of all of these significant interviews. The oral histories are now permanently a part of the Breman's collection of oral histories, along with interviews from the rest of the state of Georgia and the state of Alabama as well.

The process of reformatting and uploading is intensive, and will continue as quickly as possible while providing detailed informational annotations and biographies

of each memoirist. The transcripts are then uploaded to our website and can be viewed at <http://www.thebreman.org/Research/Cuba-Family-Archives/Oral-Histories>.



*Screenshot of Robert Friedman
interviewing Harry "Gig" Eichholz
on February 25, 1999*

We are reformatting, annotating, and uploading the oral histories in alphabetical order by the memoirist's surname, beginning with life-long Savannian Leah Adilman and ending with prominent community leader Ida Slotin Wilensky. Other memoirists include Judge H. Sol Clark and Alan and Isser Gottlieb. The collection contains roughly 150 oral histories in total.

If you have questions about this process or anything relating to the Savannah Jewish Archives, or if you are interested in donating materials to the Archives, please contact Lindsay Resnick, archivist, at lresnick@thebreman.org.



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



Who Will Write Your History?

by Lynn Levine

This past September 14th, Joseph Gellman of Jerusalem, Israel, originally of Charleston, SC, and the brother of Candy Lowe of Savannah, stood in a Jewish cemetery in the village of Kaluszyn, Poland, and assured the ancestors and martyrs buried there that when they ask, “Who will write your history?,” the question will be answered by the generations who have come after them.

Kaluszyn, 30 miles east of Warsaw, was predominantly Jewish with about 5,500 Jews when the Nazi decimation of the village began just before Rosh Hashanah of 1939. By the end of 1942, all of Kaluszyn’s Jews had been murdered or deported. The grave-stones are all gone from the cemetery—stolen by the Nazis to build an airstrip—in an act of further humiliation.

Standing in the chill that day, Joe told the story of Miriam Kuperhand, who had been born in Kaluszyn and survived the war:

“In a book she co-authored decades ago with her husband, Saul Kuperhand, entitled *Shadows of Treblinka*, she writes that after the war, she together with her father, headed to Kaluszyn. Miriam sought to pray at her mother’s grave. Her mother had died before the war and was buried in our Kaluszyn cemetery. ‘I wanted to cry in her presence,’ she wrote, ‘to ask for forgiveness and further guidance, and to share the terrible triumph of my survival.’

“And this is what Mrs. Kuperhand saw: ‘When we arrived in Kaluszyn we were jolted again into the real world of wartime Poland. Not only had live

Jews been cast into the fiery crematoria but dead ones had been bulldozed from the holy Polish landscape. The cemetery had been wiped away and turned into a field for planting grain. The headstones had all been removed, leaving only a series of scars where the graves had been.’

‘We were,’ she wrote, ‘too stunned to move.’”

Joe’s and Candy’s maternal grandparents left Kaluszyn for Charleston as part of the mass Jewish emigration from Russia and the Pale of Settlement

in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Local lore has it that the arrival of a single person, Eleazer Bernstein, began a ‘chain migration’ of many family and

friends from Kaluszyn to Charleston. In addition to Candy Lowe, some of Savannah’s Jewish community today who trace their roots to Kaluszyn (through Charleston) includes Richard Bodziner, Sylvia Yellin and Lena Solomon (now living in Boston).

Joe first visited Kaluszyn in 2007 when his friend and guide, Aryeh Geiger^{obm}, surprised him with a stop there while on a tour of Poland.

“When we arrived in Kaluszyn, we began asking people on the street where the Jewish cemetery was. People pointed us in the direction of what we discovered to be a very large overgrown field with no gravestones whatsoever. It was clear to me that something needed to be done to memorialize the fact that this small village had

been in 1939 about 60% Jewish. After returning to Israel and doing additional research, I realized that virtually the entire Kaluszyn Jewish community was murdered by the Nazis in Treblinka. I was not about to let this go undocumented and immediately became committed to documenting the existence and the

murder of Kaluszyn’s Jews on the very site of one of the two Jewish cemeteries in Kaluszyn,” Joe said.

What followed was a decade-long effort to preserve and memorialize the cemetery, working closely with Monika Krawczyk, the CEO of the Foundation for Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland. Over the years the process included geo radar testing to determine the location of graves in the cemetery, securing registration of the property away from the Ministry of Treasury of Poland to the Foundation, beating back an attempt by the town to expropriate part of the cemetery to expand a highway, and raising funds to pay for all of this and for the monument that was dedicated in a moving ceremony on September 14th.

“I told Joe I wouldn’t be able to make it there,” Candy said. The dedication was on a Thursday and Candy “didn’t think I could get home before Shabbos, and Rosh Hashanah was a few days later. But then we found a



Joe Gellman, Candy Lowe, Karyn Gellman and Rick Zitelman just after Candy’s surprise for Joe (photos courtesy of Edward Goldberg)

way to make it work.”

Candy decided not to tell her brother she was coming for the dedication.

“Life has so few surprises. And his kids were so disappointed they couldn’t go, I thought it would be fun to do it this way. When he saw me in the hotel he went crazy! ‘Best surprise I ever had,’ he told me.”

Candy relates that Joe asked her what she thought their bubbe and

zaide would think of all this? “I told him our grandparents would be very proud and very happy for you.”

Joe said that having Candy at the ceremony with him meant they both understood continuity. “Candy and I both have pictures of our maternal great-grandfather, Eliezer Miedzrecki, and Candy and I both have grandchildren. Candy’s being there enabled us together, without even verbalizing it to one another, to look across six generations, respecting and memorializing the generations that were no longer with us and having great hope for those ahead of us.”

Joe says “the work in memorializing the Jewish community of Kaluszyn has only begun.” They hope to place historical markers

on the sites of another, older Jewish cemetery, the main synagogue and the mikvah, all of which will be challenging because all have been built over. They also are establishing an essay contest in the local schools about tolerance and anti-Semitism.

To learn more about the Foundation for Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, go to <https://fodz.pl/?d=1&l=en>.



The new monument and marker that were dedicated to memorialize the Kaluszyn Jewish cemetery; a recently discovered gravestone sits at the foot of the monument.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Marilyn Beskie Schneider
Who died October 14, 2017

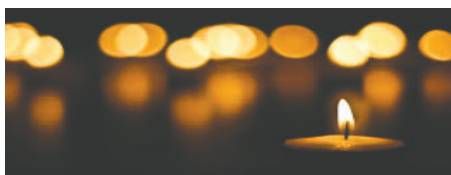
She is survived by her husband, Stephen Schneider; her son, Michael Schneider (Lisa Kornylak); her daughters, Stacy (Adam) Ritchie and Rose Schneider; her brothers, Dennis and Howard (Tina) Beskie, and many friends.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or The Alzheimer’s Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.

Phyllis Ann Finn
Who died October 11, 2017

She is survived by her husband, Sidney; two daughters, Lisa (Jeff) Connor and Julie Finn; her sister, Ellen Konar (Steve Goldband); brothers and sisters-in-law; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her half-sister, Penina.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or the charity of your choice.



Norman Gersten Hirsch
Who died October 5, 2017

He is survived by his wife, Jewel “Julie” Eisenstein Hirsch; his children, Abby Hirsch (Steve) Phillips and Jonathan Ilan (Sheryl) Hirsch; four grandchildren; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Sanford Cohen, Dr. and Mrs. Howard Brensilver and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kaplan; and nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Backpack Buddies or The Camp Scholarship Fund, c/o Congregation Mickve Israel, P.O. Box 816, Savannah 31402-0816.

Don’t forget...

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

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Back issues through
January 2008



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

What's Beyond These Walls

The children have been quite busy; all the usual things are going on: math, reading, science, social studies, learning about the holidays, making projects etc. But what goes on beyond the usual is what makes Rambam Day School so unique. Some of our middle students helped put up Buckingham South's succah and some of our students help put lulavim together.

Now those experiences are real happenings, because the children lived and breathed a learning experience. They were so excited and not because it gave them an opportunity to be out of the classroom. They were very much in a classroom; the classroom of life. They loved building. They loved seeing the finished product after putting all the pieces together for the lulavim. They loved feeling needed. They loved doing the mitzvah of helping someone else.

Two years ago, a student working on her PhD approached me and inquired if our students could be of assistance to her for a dissertation she needed to write. After gathering parental permission, she took off with her assignment. The young

lady gathered all the data she needed, thanked us profusely and was gone. Of course I forgot all about it. My goal had only been to help this student and give our students the opportunity to interact with a student working on her PhD.

October 2, I received an email from the young lady thanking me for having allowed my students to assist her with her dissertation. Two years and 135 pages later, the young student's project was completed; Effects of Academic Self-Concept and Academic Locus of Control on Metaconceptual Knowledge in Middle Childhood.

"Data collection took place at two private schools, two public libraries, and participants' homes. A total of 36 girls (58%) and 26 boys (42%), between the ages of 8 and 10 (M = 9.13, SD = .799) participated in the study. Participants were from various ethnic backgrounds; they self-identified ethnically as Black (42%), White (34%), Jewish (18%), Bi-racial (4.8%) and Philippine (1.6%) (Table 1). Grades ranged from second to fifth (M = 3.48, SD = .864)."

There is a world beyond the walls of a school and we take pride in seizing opportunities that bring this world to our students.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

Count Your Blessings

In the spirit of the secular holiday of Thanksgiving, children are asked almost everywhere they go to reflect on what they are grateful for. The standard answers I often hear are things like 'family, friends, health, pets, shelter.' These are all fantastic and honest answers. These are things that bring us joy, enrich our lives, or provide the lifestyle that we have. Gratitude is a difficult concept in today's age of instant gratification. So many things are available at the click of a button, even friendships, and it is easy to slip into a pattern of taking things for granted.

This is why Harkarat Hatov (acknowledging kindness received) is such an important chapter of Jewish education.

Hakarat Hatov takes us a step beyond what we typically do when we reflect upon our blessings and give thanks. Harkarat Hatov doesn't just acknowledge friendships or deeds but trains us to look for and recognize grace and good everywhere.

There's a Jewish tradition that encourages doing or recognizing 100 blessings each day. Specific times like when a friend smiled at you for no reason or the time someone went out of their way to get

you somewhere. Perhaps it was the time you were sad and tired only to see a familiar face that showed up 'just because.'

We should get into the routine of identifying those little things that warm our hearts, make us better, and give us a reason to be truly grateful. By being able to recognize all the kindness we have been shown by others, one will necessarily want to return the gesture.

Hakarat hatov is something kids often practice pretty naturally when they're little. There are so many new things to discover and be amazed by for a toddler but, as they grow, our little ones have a tendency to lose that ability to wonder. Our brains may be trained to take greater notice of and hold on to negative experiences and interactions. Actively counting our blessings, appreciating even the smallest positive moment on an otherwise rainy day, and learning to turn around difficult situations helps us reframe our thinking.

Pirke Avot tells us "Who is rich? The person who is happy with what he has." If we can teach our children to actively look for what they have, big and small, if we can teach them to recognize not only the obvious but also the concealed, we will guide them to the path of happiness.

For more on Hakarat Hatov for children, read together Thank You, For Me! by Rick Recht, or watch *What's Jewish about Gratitude* on bim-bam.com.

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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Time to Order Mah Jongg Cards!

Attention Mah Jongg Players! It's time to order your 2018 Mah Jongg cards. The standard card is \$8.00; the large card is \$9.00. The deadline for placing orders is January 15, 2018. Make checks payable to the Agudath Achim Sisterhood and send to:

Judy Todtfeld
23 Sundew Rd.
Savannah, GA 31411

No extra cards will be ordered after January 15th;
be sure to place your order on time!
For additional information, contact Judy at (912) 598 -1161.



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

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

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

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

SERVICE HONORING VETERANS AND CURRENT MILITARY PERSONNEL

November 11th at 11am
at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum
175 Bourne Ave Pooler, GA 31322

THANK YOU, VETERANS

Join us Veteran's Weekend as we honor the men and women who have dedicated themselves to our country in a very special way by serving in the armed forces.

*Reservations for lunch required,
call the office at 912-233-1547*

UPCOMING EVENTS



CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH WITH SPECIAL GUEST

MAYOR EDDIE DELOACH
Sunday, November 12th, 1pm

Come join us for this wonderful Congregational event with our very own Mayor Eddie DeLoach speaking about our great city and the changes being made. Cost is \$5 per person, payable at the door.

JEWISH ETHICS WITH RABBI MICHAEL COHEN

Monday, November 13th, 3pm
Divine Footprints:
The Importance of Mussar
(Jewish Ethics) in our daily lives.
Come meet Rabbi Michael Cohen,
the new Chaplain at Fort Stewart.



ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 21st, 7pm
Sometime after WWII, a special tradition began in which many of the Downtown Historic Houses of Worship in Savannah began to celebrate Thanksgiving together, and that tradition continues today. Members from various congregations will join us as clergy from multiple faiths lead our service. Location information TBD.

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SUNDAY, THE 10TH OF DECEMBER
AT 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
CONCERT AT HALF PAST 7

TICKETS: SINGLE \$150 • PAIR \$300

CORPORATE TABLE SPONSORSHIP: \$2,500

TABLE SPONSORSHIP: \$1,200

Join the Savannah Jewish Federation as we welcome:

Bob Feferman

Outreach Coordinator for the non-partisan advocacy group, United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI)

Holding Iran Accountable

Sunday, November 19
10:30 am

Jewish Educational Alliance



Coffee & Refreshments will be Served



CONGREGATION
AGUDATH ACHIM

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Rabbi Steven Henkin

Join our Synagogue, Join our mishpacha!!!

Tefila/Service

Backpack Buddies

Hebrew Classes

Friday Night Young Family Shabbat

Parashat Hashavua Classes

Midrash Study Groups

and ... Good food too!!!

SHABBAT SERVICES:

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

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm, Monday 7:15 am & 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm,
Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm
Friday Shacharit 7:00 am & Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm



Current Savannah Jewish Federation President Allan Ratner presented Immediate Past President Sherry Dolgoff with her portrait for the Hall of Presidents at the 2017 Annual Meeting



Plan to join us for the 2018 Savannah Jewish Film Festival

January 24—February 3

Seven days & nights of film, food and fun!

Watch these pages, your mail and savj.org for more information including complete details on the films, meals and links to trailers and previews!

Would you like to be a Festival Sponsor?

Contact Jacqui Drazen, (912) 355-8111 or programming@savj.org to learn more



Savannah Jewish Federation 2018 Annual Community Campaign

Sunday, November 5

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance

IF NOT YOU....

THEN WHO?



To sign up to make calls,
email_campaign@savj.org or call 912-355-8111.



Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Ethiopian National Project

As part of the 2017 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation reapproved the Overseas Investment Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 investment grants. We continue our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

The Ethiopian National Project (ENP) unites global Jewry, the Government of Israel and the Ethiopian-Israeli community in its mission to advance the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.

ENP is a partnership between the Jewish Federations of North America, the Government of Israel, representatives of Ethiopian Jewish community organizations, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Israel (JDC-Israel) and Keren Hayesod-UIA. ENP works in true partnership with the Ethiopian-Israeli community, involving them at local and national levels at every stage of the creation, implementation and evaluation of ENP programs.

After an extensive review of the Ethiopian community's needs and programs available to it, ENP decided to focus its efforts on youth ages 13 – 18. In 2004, ENP launched a major multi-year effort to provide quality opportunities for Ethiopian youth. ENP's programs include after school scholastic assistance, neighborhood

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

The Ethiopian National Project strives to provide social and educational opportunities to help Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers realize their full potential taking a "big picture" view of the cultural, social and emotional

challenges they face. Today, the Ethiopian National Project operates in 23 communities across Israel, serving approximately 3,413 youth in its scholastic assistance programs and

almost 1,900 youth in 14 outreach centers.

Two key initiatives are at the heart of ENP's work:

- SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment) Scholastic Assistance (5,815 students): A holistic program providing supplementary hours of educational support to improve student achievements in core subjects, increase motivation to learn and improve self-confidence.
- Youth Outreach Centers: 14 outreach centers that provide Ethiopian-Israeli teens a second home and offer a range of extra-curricular activities, one-on-one emotional support, and leadership opportunities.



Children play at an ENP Youth Outreach Center in Beit Shemesh



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

is a time when my children will return to the nest for a brief visit with family and friends. Good food, good times, and good conversations abound in the Sadler/Lasky households during this time of year.

At JEA Preschool Savannah, the teachers focus on core values that relate to Thanksgiving and there are many to consider. We can teach them to our children; even the youngest of children can understand these ideas.

Some of the values the educators teach the children include acts of kindness (*gemilut chasadim*), guarding the earth (*shomrei adamah*) and welcoming guests (*hachnosot orchim*).

We have a daily PreK program based on the story *Have You Filled a Bucket Today*, by Carol McCloud, which revolves around acts of kindness. For example, every day the children try to give hugs, check on hurt friends, make gifts for parents, express thanks and have good manners. When one act of kindness is shown, the child gets to put a pom pom in his or her bucket which sits on the windowsill. The goal is to fill your bucket each day with pom poms. How proud the children feel every time their bucket gets filled up. You know they've had a pretty good day when that happens!

Guarding the earth and showing appreciation for the harvest are not only themes of Thanksgiving but also

A Value-able Thanksgiving

core Jewish values. As Thanksgiving is the time for harvest and gratitude, the love of nature and protection of the environment are values deeply embedded in Jewish texts and reflected in Jewish holiday celebrations. At JEA Preschool Savannah, all of the classes are actively engaged in taking care of the earth through the Garden project. A few times a week, the children turn the soil, plant and water the seeds, and pull the weeds. Soon the earth will produce squash, beans, cucumbers, flowers, cabbage, and red lettuce that the children along with their teachers have so carefully cultivated. They are growing food for the school tortoise, Sheldon, and vegetables for our annual soup night!

Another core value we reinforce at Thanksgiving is Welcoming Guests-Hachnasot Orchim. Thanksgiving is a special time to celebrate and create memories with family and friends. At Preschool, guests are always coming to the classrooms to visit, to read stories, or to bring special birthday snacks. The teachers model for the children how to be warm and welcoming when the guests arrive. "Say hello to our guests" and "Welcome to our classroom" can be heard from the children and teachers.

So, as we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving with our loved ones, let's remember the values that are important to us as individuals and how we can transmit those values to our children.

As we say in the Shma prayer, "And you shall teach them diligently to your children."

Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, filled with time enjoying those values you hold dear!

Sight-Saving.....from page 8

remedy for millions of people with cornea-related visual impairments and is far superior to any available biological and synthetic alternatives.

"Corneal pathology is the second leading cause of blindness worldwide with 20-30 million patients in need of a remedy and around two million new cases per year," said CorNeat Vision CEO and VP R&D, Mr. Almog Aley-Raz. Existing solutions, such as corneal transplantation, are carried out only about 200,000 times a year worldwide. Together, corneal transplantation, and to a lesser extent artificial implants (KPros), address only 5%-10% of cases. "There exists an urgent need for an efficient, long-lasting and affordable

solution to corneal pathology, injury and blindness, which would alleviate the suffering and disability of millions of people. We are very excited to reach this important milestone in the development of our solution and are confident that the CorNeat KPro will enable millions to regain their sight," he added.

"We are entering the next phase with great confidence that CorNeat KPro will address corneal blindness just like IOLs (Intra Ocular Lens) addressed cataract," commented Dr. Gilad Litvin, CorNeat Vision's Chief Medical Officer, founder and CorNeat KPro inventor.



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In the wake of natural or financial disasters, Federation is there to help rebuild communities and give families what they need. But we can't do it without you. Help Federation continue to reach out in ways no one else can, to create a safer, more just world for everyone. GIVE TODAY.



Savannah Jewish Federation