



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, October 2	6:50pm
Sunday, October 4	6:48pm
Monday, October 5	7:42pm
Friday, October 9	6:42pm
Friday, October 16	6:33pm
Friday, October 23	6:25pm
Friday, October 30	6:19pm

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Main Event Oct. 8; Fun Foreseen



Sidney Friedman
sees you at the Main
Event on October 8th

You don't need a psychic to tell you that you will be greatly entertained if you attend the Savannah Jewish Federation's Main Event — the yearly kickoff for the Community Campaign — on Thursday, October 8th. But that is just what you will get: famed mentalist Sidney Friedman, who has delighted audiences on television, Broadway and all over, the featured guest this year.

The Main Event is an annual opportunity to show communal support for our local and worldwide Jewish agencies that provide Jewish education, social services, Holocaust edu-

cation and remembrance, youth, teen and college Jewish identity programs, combating anti-Semitism programs, Israel advocacy, and more. The Community Campaign is the primary source of funding for many of these services and programs in our community.

Known as the "master of WOW," Friedman will read your mind and perform ESP, telepathy and premonition. Plus, you will witness his unique "Music Mind Reading" where audience members think of song melodies and Friedman telepathically senses each tune then plays them on an instrument.

Though he has many celebrity clients — *Forbes* magazine has called him "the mentalist to the stars" — Friedman has performed at more than 160 Jewish charity events in just the last six years, in-

cluding Jewish Federations, Chabad, Hadassah and Israel Bonds. His TV appearances include *Today*, *The View*, *20/20* and *The Early Show*. In addition to all of that, Friedman works regularly with corporate clients and schedules private consultations when possible.

The Main Event this year truly will be a rare evening for our community, one not to be missed. You will be inspired and astonished and most importantly, you will have fun! And it also will include a delicious dinner, catered by Bryan Graves.

"Friedman will blow your mind!"
Time Out magazine

"Sidney Friedman is the master of all things psychic."
Chicago Tribune

What: SJF Main Event Dinner
When: Thursday, October 8th, 6:30pm
Where: JEA, 5111 Abercorn St.
Cost: \$18/person
RSVP: savj.org or (912) 355-8111

100 Days Campaign Planned

by Jamie Cahn

The 2016 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Community campaign will focus on educating the community about what the Savannah Jewish Federation does, the organizations the campaign supports and the impact it makes. We hope to accomplish this through our 100 Days of ImpACT.

100 Days of ImpACT is a community-wide effort to raise more than one million dollars for the 2016 Savannah Jewish Federation Community Campaign while shining a light on ways Federation, its partners and supporters make a difference in the world around us. The campaign will officially kick off on Thursday, October 8, at the Main Event and end 100 days later on Friday, January 15, at a community Shabbaton celebration.

For 100 days, we will highlight the ways that the Savannah Jewish Federation makes a difference in the Savannah Jewish community, in Israel and around the globe. Each week for 15 weeks, the campaign will feature a program or initiative supported



by the Savannah Jewish Federation — from community to engaging to sparking to investing to thanking to educating. The patchwork of stories is moving, educational and inspiring.

Here are the weekly themes for October:

Week 1 (October 8-11) — Community

The 2016 campaign kicks off with the Main Event with all of us gathered as a community so the 100 Days of ImpACT begins with the idea of community. The history of the Jews is the history of building Jewish community—or *kehillah*. A *kehillah kadosha*, a sacred community, a group formed by Jews who have joined with each other to explore our understanding of Jewishness, to offer and receive support, to share joy and sorrow, to learn and grow together, to explore the meaning of our lives and the wis-

dom of our ancestors. There is something about our history and our heritage that makes us inherently want to build relationships together, support one another, and grow as one.

Week 2 (October 11-17) — Leadership

Week Two will focus on leadership. What does it mean to be a leader? What does it mean to be a Jewish leader? The Savannah Jewish community is lucky to have had incredible leaders along the way and we are fortunate to continue to have such strong leadership. These leaders ensure that our beloved Savannah Jewish community maintains historic traditions while encouraging growth and dynamism. Past, present and future leaders will be highlighted this week.

Week 3 (October 18-23) — Responsibility

Week Three will spotlight the Jewish idea of *tzedakah*, helping those in need and the emphasis Judaism puts

continued on page 5

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JEA Theater Memories

by Miriam Center

My early memories of theater at the Savannah Jewish Educational Alliance are rather familial. I was born in my grandparents' house at 215 W. Charlton St., diagonally across the square from the old JEA. There were ten of us in the family using one bathroom. My uncle, Harry Richman, would cross over the grassy square to the JEA and use their shower. It cost him one quarter, and that in itself was theatrical.

My sister and I were dragged to that big glorious red brick building to see whoever was performing. Usually it was one of our uncles or aunts in a minstrel show. In those days all performances were fashioned after Jewish theater in New York, which was vaudeville, usually minstrel or slapstick. Someone said that Molly Picon had appeared there before I came along.

I remember seeing Uncle Harry, pantomiming in black face, ala Al Jolson. That was a common practice in those days when performing slapstick. My aunts, Ceil and Ethel, danced in the chorus lines, or whatever they were called back then. When I came of age my dancing on that stage was tap dancing. I thought I was Ginger Rogers when I turned thirteen. The big show that took place that year was a dance contest and with Harry Slotin I won first place. Our prize was one Baby Ruth bar, and we had to share it.

Hadassah presents became the main show for entertainment, with dancing, singing, acting and comedy. During the years after World War II they had an annual performance and most of the young couples drew upon their talents to perform. It still takes place, but mostly away from the building these days. They have graduated to professional entertainers, comedians, and movies.

During the seventies, Roberta Peters sang at the JEA. She had a connection to the Meddin family, her husband and Dr. Maurice Fields were brothers, and she graciously performed for the Jewish community. Also, Theodore Bikel did a fundraiser at the JEA. In the early eighties there was a performance of *Fiddler*

On The Roof.

The JEA cultural events changed after WWII. Where once it had appealed to mostly the Orthodox Jews in Savannah, after the war a Jew was a Jew, was a Jew. And also the Alliance, as we referred to the building, was open to the entire community, which made its cultural benefits and appeal draw in a much wider audience and more stage performances. Stacy Keach, Sr., who was a professor at Armstrong College when it was still on West Gaston, founded the Savannah Playhouse and worked closely with those members of the



A bevy of beauties from a JEA variety show, circa 1960
(l-r) Louis Cranman, Harry Kaplan, Daniel Schlucke and Harry Benzl. (SJA image 1019)

JEA who were interested in acting. He cast many of them in his plays.

There were many Wiley Gunter puppet show performances to the delight of the children and their parents.

The Miriam and Jack Levy annual musical concert is a gift to the entire community. They themselves were important in the growth of cultural affairs at the JEA.

The Joan and Murray Gefen Jewish film festival has brought unusual and artistic movies that appeal to the entire community.

And of late there's been Reuben Formey, a local young Orthodox man who became a rapper, who has performed at the JEA Chanukah Party. There also are annual jazz performances.

Dr. Ja Jahannes's play, *Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly*, was presented in memoriam after his recent death.

The memories of golden olden days may come and go, but for me, culture goes far beyond theater, movies and comedy. My memories of the young people who gave so much love and kindness to my son Henry when he was dying of a brain tumor go way beyond words. Until he could no longer walk, he wanted to go to the Alliance every day where his friends greeted him with love and care. It was the best medicine he could have gotten.

Yes, the Jewish Educational Alliance is quite a cultural benefit to the city of Savannah.



Miriam Center

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

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Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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

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Sherry Dolgoff,
President of the
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Confronting Our Future

How did I get here? I wondered for a moment. The first answer that comes to mind is easy: I was tricked, set up by a dear friend.

Then I was confronted by Linda Zoller, whom I admire and respect very much. Too much to refuse. She asked me questions about my feelings for the Savannah Jewish community. "You have worked for the community for years."

"Yes, I have," I said.

"You have been on the boards of the JEA and the SJF," she stated.

"Yes, I have."

"You care about the welfare and continuity of our community," she continued.

She proceeded to state what I considered obvious. You cannot do all of the things that I have done and not care. Linda is a master organizer. She "organized" me very neatly into understanding that this was the next step in my journey as a volunteer for the Savannah Jewish community.

My personal history came into play, also. I had been confronted this way before. When I joined BBG I was extremely fortunate. I was, believe it or not, so shy that I was filled with trepidation to even meet people that I didn't know. My family lived in an area with no other Jewish families. So when I went to my first meeting (having been forced to go by my Mom) I was already somewhat traumatized. I knew none of these confident teenagers. There were several girls, a few years older than I, who took me under their wings, so to speak. The most impressive to me was Marna Tucker, who told me that she never again wanted to hear me say that I could not do something. How did I know what I could do until I put forth my best effort?

For her and for myself, though I did not realize it at the time, I forced myself to be more outgoing, to participate in everything. I never again doubted that I could do something until I tried. BBG, with these older, confident and determined teenagers, changed my life. I was involved, active in everything connected with BBYO. Luckily for me, many of these same young women who pushed me to be more positive, more involved, at thirteen, were in the sorority I pledged at the University of Texas. I was my pledge class President. I became Pledge Trainer a few years later. My fate as a worker was sealed.

When we moved to Savannah I

was a young mother with two toddlers. Savannah was Norman's world, not mine. I was blessed that many of his lifelong friends accepted me into their lives. When I was offered a job teaching Language Arts for the 6th and 8th grades at the Savannah Hebrew Day School I was immediately thrown into a warm and welcoming part of the community. Not only did I meet many wonderful people, I had a purpose. I very much enjoyed my students as well as their parents. Our daughters were in the Preschool having fun, learning and making new friends.

It was no surprise that I became a participant, then a volunteer. Many of the parents of my students were involved in the community. I worked in the JEA. It was a win-win. I was there where things were happening, I could meet more of the community and I loved getting to know each family through their children and working on different events.

Does this all translate to being President of the Savannah Jewish Federation? I don't know the answer to that yet. I will keep in mind what Marna Tucker taught me: I will not forget what the power of positive thinking can accomplish. I can do it. Whatever "it" is. I will do it to the best of my ability.

It is my hope that other people will want to support me and the Jewish community. Volunteering is not a difficult word. It means the principle of donating time and energy for the benefit of other people in the community as a social responsibility rather than for any financial reward. We want to build a strong, cohesive society. I think we can accomplish that together and I look forward to the opportunity of learning from you and working with you.



Sherry Dolgoff happily accepts the reins
at the 2015 SJF Annual Meeting



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Grateful for the Help

No one enjoys being dependent on someone else for their basic needs in life. This past week I was reminded of this as I had knee replacement surgery. Everyone spoke about the pain, the awful experiences with the physical therapist, and the fact that you can't "rush Mother Nature."

I, of course, knew that none of this would affect me. In fact, I was answering emails, making some phone calls, and posting on Facebook the day after surgery... And then the surgical anesthesia wore off and I was dependent on everyone for everything. I couldn't get out of a chair, go to the bathroom independently (I know, too much information), get my meds, put on my shorts, get a drink... you get the picture.

I am blessed to have a supportive wife, Sarah Denmark, who has been my "Nurse Nancy." At 3am she was up to change the ice in my ice therapy machine, she drove me to physical therapy, fed me, clothed me, and put up with my "rosy disposition." I don't think she could have been any more gracious and loving.

It was the first time in my (adult) life that I was totally dependent on someone else for my basic daily needs.

It got me to thinking that my situation has parallels to the work of the Savannah Jewish Federation with its Annual Campaign:

Certainly the Jewish community of the Ukraine could not have known what was going to happen in their country and what the result to their way of life. In just a few short months, lives that enjoyed relative security

became lives in need... in need of food, safety, housing... all the basics of life. Your Federation gift helped provide the assistance needed for these lives to continue to exist... and they will continue to need our help.

Certainly the family of four living in our community did not think they would need our help. Just six months ago, Dad had a job and the family was living independently (albeit, on the edge), without anyone's help. Then Dad's hours were cut and Mom got sick. As you can imagine, it didn't take long with mounting medical bills and diminished income, before the family reluctantly turned to the Savannah Jewish Federation's Jewish Family Services for assistance. We were able to help with the medical bills, to provide some scholarship for children's activities, and to help close the gap created by Dad's "underemployment."

Certainly no one in Houston could have anticipated the floods that struck that Jewish community earlier this year. Our community immediately stepped up to "answer the call." Many among us immediately sent funds to the Houston Jewish Federation to help with the rebuilding of basic infrastructure and reconstruction of the synagogues that were so badly damaged.

Our Federation has been there for all of the above and for so much more. Our community stands behind those in need, lifts them up, and provides for the basic safety and security of Jews in Savannah, in Israel, and throughout the world.

I am grateful for all the help that Sarah provided for me and proud of the help that the Savannah Jewish Federation provides each and every day.



**Our Annual
Food Drive for
Those Less Fortunate**



The strength of a people
The power of community

Continuing Thru October 9

Drop Off Locations:

**JEA, Agudath Achim,
Bnai Brith Jacob, Mickve Israel,
Rambam Day School**

***Perform a mitzvah and help
provide food for those in need!***

The New Year is a time for self reflection and thinking about those less fortunate. Team up with the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Second Harvest Food Bank to help provide food for those in need. Donated food is distributed through Second Harvest Food Bank and Backpack Buddies.

Jewish Donor's Story Told

Rosenwald, the new film by documentarian Aviva Kempner, begins screening in Savannah on Friday, November 20th, at the Eisenhower Square theaters. *Rosenwald* is the incredible story of Julius Rosenwald, the son of an immigrant peddler, who never finished high school but rose to become President of Sears, Roebuck & Co. and one of this country's leading philanthropists.

Inspired by the Jewish ideals of *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* (charity and repairing the world) and influenced by the writings of Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald joined forces with Washington and African American communities throughout the segregated south during the Jim Crow era to build more than 5,300 schools during the early part of the 20th century.

(A school built in 1932 with Rosenwald funds still stands on the campus of Savannah State University — once used to educate the children of staff and faculty, today Powell Hall is used for academic offices. The remaining schools that are still standing now are 80-100 years old, and many suffer from abandonment or neglect. In 2002 the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed Rosenwald Schools on the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list and created a special initiative to help raise awareness, find new uses, provide resources, and assist in the preservation and rehabilitation of the aging school buildings.)

The list of prominent alumni of Rosenwald schools includes Georgia Congressional Representative John Lewis, poet Maya Angelou, Tony Award-winning playwright George Wolfe, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Eugene Robinson and many more.

In addition to building schools, Rosenwald built YMCAs and housing for African Americans that helped



Julius Rosenwald with students from a Rosenwald school. (Courtesy Fisk University, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections)

address the needs of the Great Migration and awarded fellowship grants to a who's who of intellectuals and artists of his day so they could pursue their scholarship and art. Grant recipients included Marian Anderson, James Baldwin, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston and more.

Kempner, also the director of the popular films *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg* and *Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*, interviewed many surviving alumni of Rosenwald schools and grants, and their descendants, as well as descendants of Julius Rosenwald and Eleanor Roosevelt, a Rosenwald Fund board member. Kempner commented on what she learned from making this film: "He gave away \$62 million to various causes, which in today's dollars is closer to \$1 billion... It is a great Jewish legacy that I am excited to make better known. At a time when financial hardships abound and civil rights issues unfortunately still exist, it is imperative that Julius Rosenwald's story be told now. It is a vital part of the great story of Jewish and African American partnership."

What: *Rosenwald* (the film)

When: Beginning Friday, November 20th (currently scheduled for one week); check theater for times

Where: Eisenhower Square, 1100 Eisenhower Dr.

Cost: Check with theater

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

HIAS

As part of the 2015 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation reapproved the Overseas Investment Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 mini-grants, with up to 20 being approved. Eighteen submissions were made this year and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

HIAS, formerly Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, rescues people whose lives are in danger for being who they are. Guided by Jewish ethics and history, HIAS brings more than 130 years of expertise to its work, to:

Protect the most vulnerable refugees, helping them build new lives and reuniting them with their families in safety and freedom;

Advocate for the protection of refugees and assure that displaced people are treated with the dignity they deserve.

Conflicts around the world have forced 60 million people to flee their homelands due to persecution — harassment, threats, abduction, or torture, because of their race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation or political opinion. Using the foundation of these principles and values — welcoming, dignity and respect, empowerment, excellence and innovation, collaboration and teamwork, and accountability — HIAS fulfills its mission of protecting, resettling and advocating for these vulnerable people.

HIAS began in a storefront on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, a group of American Jews organized to provide much-needed comfort and aid to thousands of Jews fleeing waves of anti-Semitic riots in Russia and Eastern Europe. While those who arrived were refugees — people who were being killed in their homelands because of who they were — the world did not yet have a legal concept for people who needed safe refuge outside their homelands.

A shelter was established on the Lower East Side providing dormitory space, a soup kitchen and clothing to any needy Jew. HIAS opened a bureau on Ellis Island in 1904 providing translation services, guiding immi-



grants through medical screenings, arguing before the Boards of Special Enquiry to prevent deportations, and obtaining bonds to guarantee employable status. HIAS even installed a kosher kitchen, which provided more than half a million meals to new arrivals on Ellis Island.

World War I brought the largest influx of Jews from Eastern Europe yet; and a more restrictive immigration policy. The number of immigrants allowed into America was limited to no more than 2 percent of the total of each nationality residing in the U.S. in 1890, severely restricting the entry of Jews from Eastern Europe.

Though precious few refugees were rescued during World War II, due to the National Origins Quota of 1924, HIAS provided immigration and refugee services to those who were. (In 1965, with the help of aggressive work by HIAS, the National Origins Quota was replaced with a new law that liberalized decades of restrictive admissions policies.) After the war, HIAS was instrumental in evacuating the displaced persons camps in Europe and aiding in the resettlement of 150,000 people to 330 communities in the U.S., as well as Canada, Australia, and South America.

In the 1970s, at the request of the State Department, HIAS assisted in the resettlement of several thousand Southeast Asians, garnering a special thank you from President Gerald Ford. This was not the first time HIAS had assisted non-Jews but it may have marked the beginning of the expansion of the organization's mission.

Founded in 1881 originally to assist Jews fleeing pogroms, and having touched the life of nearly every Jewish family in America, HIAS now welcomes all people who have fled persecution. HIAS also partners with local refugee assistance organizations around the country to assist newly arriving refugees.



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100 Days.....from pg 1

on philanthropy. It is the responsibility of the Jewish people to take care of the Jewish people. The Talmud offers us a memorable line: *kol Yisrael areivim zeh bazeh*, All Israel are responsible for one another. The sense of solidarity among Jews, across time and space, is one of the most remarkable elements of Jewish life. Being in Israel, meeting Jews from around the world, comparing our situations in life—these experiences all prompt us to ask, again and again, who are we responsible for? And how do we act out that responsibility?

Week 4 (October 25-31) – Investing
Week Four is all about investing — investing in the Savannah Jewish community through the Savannah Jewish Community Foundation and investing in the future of the Savannah Jewish community. As we go

about the everyday business of our lives, we can ask ourselves what we want our own legacy to be — what do we want to bring forth into the future? What do we want to have left behind? What kind of impact do we want to have had? How do we want to be remembered?

This year's campaign will focus on inviting the community to *get in on the ACT* by supporting the 2016 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Community Campaign and participating in community programs.

So we look forward to seeing you all at the Main Event (see story) and sharing the difference that Federation makes through these exciting 100 Days of Impact. A lot can be done in 100 days — even more when we team up!

More to the Story

New Savannah residents (especially by Savannah standards — they've been here less than two years) Bob and Jeanne Rosenwald, have a special connection to the film *Rosenwald*, and spoke with the *Savannah Jewish News* about it. Bob's grandfather and the film's subject, Julius Rosenwald, were first cousins and contemporaries.

Not surprisingly, Bob and Jeanne are fans of the movie, but so are most film critics. "It's a great story, a part of American social history that's not well known," says Bob. He points out that many leaders or parents of leaders of the civil rights movement were educated in Rosenwald schools "and it's that kind of history that this movie begins to tell. It's a story that needs to be told because it really is part of America's social fabric."

"This movement with Booker T. Washington changed the history of this country, educating people and getting the civil rights movement going," Jeanne says. "It's a fabulous story and humility aside, it will be really fabulous if this movie can impress upon people what those two men were able to accomplish."

We asked Bob and Jeanne for a family story we wouldn't hear about in the film, and learned, as Jeanne says, "if it weren't for Julius, Bob would not be here today." The conversation flows freely back and forth between Bob and Jeanne when talking with them about the Rosenwald family story and Julius's work as a philanthropist. Bob says, "Jeanne knows more about my family than I do," and it's clear that while that may be



Bob and Jeanne Rosenwald

a playful exaggeration, it comes very close to the mark.

They tell the story of how Julius Rosenwald was born in the U.S. in 1862, Bob's grandfather in Germany in 1861. They were a "tight" family and Julius would later often take his family "across the pond" to visit their German cousins. Bob's grandfather died young (in 1919) but his children were still in Germany in the 1930s as Hitler came to power and life in Germany became more and more difficult for Jews there. Julius Rosenwald died in 1932; his sister, Sophie, and his sons who had begun the Rosenwald Family Fund, were largely responsible for seeing through the incredible three-year effort required to bring Bob's father's family to the U.S. beginning in December 1935, eventually including his grandmother, aunts and other family (about 12 in all).

The financial resources of Julius Rosenwald and his family made it possible to guarantee that their German family would not be a drain on the U.S. if allowed to immigrate here — a guarantee that was required due to the restrictive immigration policies of the time. When the German family arrived and explained the dire

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situation in Europe, the Rosenwalds went on to quietly use their resources to help "many, many others" leave Germany, though the exact number is not known. "They were very generous and liberal and gave help to anyone who needed it," Jeanne said.

"I wish that I had ferreted out the whole story from my father when he was alive," Bob says. "Like many refugees of World War II, my parents never talked about it. I was not terribly inquisitive and I didn't ask. So unfortunately I had to learn all of this impersonally when I could have learned it personally but didn't. I had no idea that my father had to struggle so hard to get over here and what a difference his arrival made for the rest of the family."

Upon arriving in the U.S., Bob's father first went to work for a subsidiary of Sears, where a number of Rosenwald family members still were executives, but moved to South Dakota after Bob was born to become a grain broker with his brother-in-law. They lived there for about 10 years before

moving back to Chicago.

Bob points out that due to marriage, most of Julius's descendants no longer have the name Rosenwald. He says that today, members of the extended family find ways to gather at events such as the National Rosenwald Schools Conferences sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation or at book release parties. At the most recent Conference this past summer in Durham, NC, Bob was voted the descendant who looks most like Julius. He says, "I didn't have a lot of competition." Speaking about the family, he adds, "There seems to be more interaction today than there was 20 years ago."

Jeanne reminds us of an important aspect of their forebear's character: "Julius Rosenwald did not want to be in the public eye, to the point that he donated the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago to the city and they put his name over the door and he made them take it off. It wasn't about celebrating him; it was about giving."

Four Questions

for the rest of the year



#16 David Handler Moving to a new city is never easy. Making connections to friends, finding your way around... it can all become so overwhelming! Luckily, Savannah State University's new quarterback **David Handler** found the transition to a new environment much easier than most, partially in thanks to the welcoming Jewish community.

Handler grew up in Los Angeles, California, and moved to Savannah to attend classes at Savannah State University in the spring of 2014. He found out about the program while studying at a preparatory school in Atlanta, around the time he began sending recruitment videos to various college coaches in the NCSA (National Collegiate Scouting Association). Coach Earnest Wilson of Savannah State was one such recipient of Handler's video, and after contacting Handler's high school coach, recruited the now 19-year-old quarterback.

Jessica Snelling spoke with David for the *Savannah Jewish News*.

How has the transition to Savannah been?

It went very well. With being here a full semester off-season, there was the opportunity to get to know teammates, the school, coaches, and everyone else involved. It provid-

ed me the chance to get comfortable in a new surrounding, make a great transition, establish a great group of friends. People knew who I was.

What are you studying?

Homeland Security and Emergency Management. I didn't know what I wanted to study originally, but I knew it wasn't political science. [After sending in the recruitment video, he saw a brochure for SSU, which is how he found his current major.]

Do you feel your Jewish faith played any part in your decision to come to Savannah?

Faith was not a big part of the decision to come to Savannah, or Georgia as a whole. It did, however, make things easier to have the support of the Jewish community in Savannah.

Is it [Judaism] an active part of your life as a student, athlete, etc.?

Everyone on the team knows, and it doesn't make anything different. When the team goes to church on Sunday, I can choose to attend Shabbat services [at Congregation Mickve Israel where he has affiliated] on Saturday instead. Everyone is very supportive. I'm very happy I'm here. One because of football; two because of the Jewish community.

Jessica Snelling, a contributing writer to the Savannah Jewish News, is a graduate student at SCAD studying sound design.



The 2015 Savannah Jewish Federation President's Awards were presented at the Annual Meeting on September 9th. Pictured (l-r) are: Heather Sztatmary, Frank Katz, Margie Levy and Harvey Lebos. They were honored for years of dedication and service to various community organizations such as SCAD Hillel, Jewish War Veterans, the Federation, synagogues and more. *Mazel tov!*

Jewish Food Festival Oct. 25

by Cindy Kohn

Congregation Mickve Israel's 27th annual Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival will be held on Sunday, October 25, in Forsyth Park. Delicious Jewish foods from around the world will be offered, including centuries-old favorites such as corned beef, pastrami & tongue sandwiches, latkes, hot dogs, and stuffed cabbage. Returning again this year are Sizzlin' Sephardic Lamb and He'brew Beer.

Savor the richness of our homemade blintzes and kugels. And enjoy other Jewish delicacies such as matzah ball soup (perfect for flu season!), chopped liver, hummus with pita and Israeli salad. Back again this year is a holiday booth with some favorite holiday foods. Take home a challah or two for later. Finish with honey cake, sweets and coffee.

We even have homemade dog biscuits for our canine friends at the Sisterhood booth. See their fabulous Bauble booth. Also take advantage of our take-out containers so you can



Get there early before they run out!

enjoy other specialties later in the week.

Free musical entertainment will be around all day, and other activities will delight children of all ages. We start at 11 a.m., so come be part of this fabulous and fun- and food-filled annual event.

What: Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival

When: Sunday, Oct. 25, 11am-3pm

Where: Forsyth Park

Cost: Admission free; food items vary

Info: (912) 233-1547;

www.mickveisrael.org/food-fest



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TIMBERLAND 10612 Abercorn Ext. Savannah, GA 31419 912.925.5475	RIDGEWOOD 12008 Middleground Rd. Savannah, GA 31419 912.925.9108	WINDSOR ARMS 12409 Largo Dr. Savannah, GA 31419 912.925.4811	WYNDMERE 1326 Highway 80 West Garden City, GA 31408 912.964.9211



New SCAD Student Engagement Program Begins

The Savannah Jewish Federation announces the launch of its newest initiative with Hillel at the Savannah College of Art & Design — Engagement Ambassadors. The new program will focus on recruitment, retention, and programming for the campus organization. The Ambassadors will have the opportunity to connect with other Jewish students on a deeper level by taking them out for coffee, inviting them to Hillel events, and being resources when it comes to both Jewish life and student life at SCAD.

SCAD Hillel is excited about the three engagement ambassadors it has selected to serve for fall quarter who will meet and engage new and current students at SCAD. Meet our interns!

Shira Kohn

Shira is from Plymouth, MN, and is a senior at the Savannah College of Art and Design. She is majoring in Fashion Design, and enjoys dancing and traveling in her spare time. Shira is excited to share her Jewish experiences with other Jewish students in Savannah and wants to share all the options to get involved in the Jewish community and Hillel in Savannah.



Ronit Liberman

Ronit is from West Palm Beach, FL, and is majoring in Production Design, with a concentration in costuming, and has a minor in Themed Entertainment Design. Her hobbies include all arts from sewing, knitting and crochet to drawing, painting and playing the saxophone. As an engagement ambassador she is looking forward to making new friends and welcoming students to the Jewish community in Savannah. Ronit loves connecting with new people who come from a similar culture despite usually having different backgrounds.



Elise Spiegel

Elise is from Cincinnati, OH, and is majoring in Sequential Art, with a minor in Scientific Illustration. She enjoys drawing comics, writing, swimming, traveling, and studying a variety of subjects such as plants, animals, anatomy, history and religion. For Elise, growing up in a mostly non-Jewish environment, it was a big deal to come to a place and learn it had a Hillel. Because of this, she is looking forward to the year ahead as an engagement ambassador and simply helping Jewish students connect with other Jewish students.



Looking for something to do?

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

Filming the Liberation

On the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Falkenau, the Atlanta History Center is one of only two U.S. venues to host the exhibition, **Filming the Camps – John Ford, Samuel Fuller, George Stevens: From Hollywood to Nuremberg**. Combining a wealth of material, including private letters and footage from their personal archives, *Filming the Camps*, on display through November 20, 2015, explores these filmmakers' experiences during and after WWII, their confrontation with Nazi atrocities, and the mark it left on them as artists.

Created by the Mémorial de la Shoah (Paris, France), with support from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Lilly Library (Indiana University), and the participation of Christa and Samantha Fuller, George Stevens Jr., and Jerry Rudes, the exhibition presents rare, often unpublished archives, films, and photographs that enable today's generations to observe the first-hand, day-by-day experience of these filmmakers.

The exhibition looks at these three directors and their film documentation of WWII and concentration camp liberation, its use as evidence during the Nuremberg trials (the first time movies were used as evidence), and as inspiration for Hollywood cinema. Artifacts include rare film footage, interviews, manuscripts, photographs, director's notes, and additional video of WWII.

Focusing on the Dachau and Falkenau camps, the exhibition enables the public to understand the particular working conditions of the American cameramen. The teams established by Ford and Stevens contained professionally recognized, experienced filmmakers trained for the task.

With four Academy Awards, John Ford is the most decorated director in film history. He also received Oscars for two wartime documentaries. Before the war, George Stevens was best known directing light-

hearted films with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, as well as Cary Grant, Irene Dunne, and Carole Lombard. Afterward, he was the award-winning director of more serious cinema, and his wartime legacy undoubtedly is his 1959 film, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which received three Academy Awards.

Samuel Fuller, the son of Jewish immigrants, worked as a crime reporter and scriptwriter before the war. At the instruction of his captain, he filmed the liberation of the Falkenau camp using a camera his mother had sent him, his first filming experience. He subsequently had a successful film career directing more than 25 films, including the 1980 film, *The Big Red One*, which reflects on his wartime experiences.

What: Filming the Camps – John Ford, Samuel Fuller, George Stevens: From Hollywood to Nuremberg
When: Through November 20, 2015
Where: Atlanta History Center, 130 W. Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta 30305; 404-814-4000
Cost: \$16.50/adults; \$13/senior; \$11/youth; members free



George Stevens and his film crew in France shortly before the liberation of the camps



Savannah Jewish Federation

At the 2015 Annual Meeting, special proclamations of the Federation Board of Governors were read by President Steve Greenberg in honor of Murray Bono, Aaron Buchsbaum and Ernie Friedman, all of blessed memory, for their service to the Jewish community and the world at large.



with Mary Friedman



with Esther Buchsbaum



with Muriel Bono



A proclamation also was read honoring Kaye Kole for founding and sustaining the Savannah Jewish Archives

Don't forget...

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

Tell your out-of-town family & friends!
Back issues through December 2007.



I on Israel

A Cheap Cup o' Jo

Israeli businessman Avi Katz had been thinking about inexpensive coffee for a long time. When his country's frustration with the high cost of living boiled over in 2011 and hundreds of thousands took to the streets to voice their discontent, Katz was at work on an idea that would lead not only to a cheaper cup of coffee but also eventually to a supermarket of lower cost essentials.

In late 2013, Katz opened the first Cofix coffee shop on a busy street in downtown Tel Aviv. Cofix offers carry-out only coffee and snacks (sandwiches, quiche, etc.) – all for five shekels each, about \$1.27 as of this writing. At the time, his competitors were charging prices in the range of about \$3-\$4 for a cup of coffee and \$5-\$10 for a sandwich. Katz estimated that he would have to sell about 1,000 items per day to break even.

Katz is president and founder of the private real estate investment firm Hagshama, which has holdings in the U.S., England, Israel and elsewhere. He has extensive retail experience having founded the Bee Retail Group, Israel's largest group of chain stores for the home and leisure market. He also introduced the affordable chains, Kfar Hashashuim for toys, and Doctor Baby for, well, baby items. Katz also brought the 'dollar store' concept to Israel.

Cofix has grown to a chain of about 75 locations with many stores selling around 2,000 items per day. Of course success like this meant the creation of copy-cat shops (including one called Caffix in London where all items sell for one pound) and the slashing of prices at traditional competitors.

In July of this year, Katz opened the first Super Cofix, a grocery store in

Tel Aviv's Florentin neighborhood where nothing costs more than five shekels and some things can be bought in quantities for five shekels (i.e., 3 for NIS 5).

The Super Cofix is an experiment in more than just simple, discount pricing. "Super Cofix is redefining the concept of discount packaging," Katz told *The Jerusalem Post*. Unlike big box stores where discounts are achieved by buying in quantity, "Cofix, in contrast, is betting that city dwellers believe good things come in small packages," he said. Cofix executives estimate that the average Israeli family throws away about \$92 worth of food each month and will find the smaller packaging used in their store appealing.



Founder Avi Katz in the new Super Cofix store

As for its suppliers, Super Cofix has been able to convince them to provide either discounted goods or newly-packaged smaller units based on three principles: A single price point (no negotiations); a chain-wide one brand per item policy (which has significant implications for the group with plans to grow to 100 stores); a willingness to forgo "having it all" in terms of what it carries, though the store's offerings are reported to be broad.

Un-Orthodox Approach for Jobs

Despite Israel's reputation as the 'start-up nation,' the integration of its Orthodox population into the country's high-tech industries has been slow. But techies and business have responded to the challenge with an initiative called Kama-Tech, launched two years ago, to help introduce religiously observant engineers and recent college graduates to the high-tech companies who could use their innovations and expertise.

Kama-Tech was founded by Zika Abzuk, senior development manager with Cisco Israel, and entrepreneur Moshe Friedman, with backing from investor and entrepreneur Dr. Yossi Vardi, the Kemach Foundation and the UJA-Federation of New York. They built a coalition of companies that today includes more than 35 of the world's leading high-tech players who have facilities in Israel, including Google, IBM, Microsoft, Intel and more.

Kama-Tech has established a program that targets observant graduates with BA, BS or higher degrees in the fields of Computer Science,



Participants in Kama-Tech's 2015 bus tour

Electrical Engineering, etc., as well as students in their third year or above who would like to be placed in internships. It aims to create a network of Orthodox employees in the sector, and asks that candidates stay in touch and help fellow graduates find employment.

For job candidates, the program provides orientation and consultation about high-tech careers and professional and human resources interview preparation. It also provides diversity consulting services to hiring companies to help them understand the Orthodox community.

As part of its efforts, Kama-Tech

continued on page 9

Pretty Woman



Sofia Mechetner

Fourteen year-old Sofia Mechetner of Holon, south of Tel Aviv, is the new face of the fashion house Christian Dior.

Mechetner was discovered in what can only be described as a Cinderella-like, truth is stranger than fiction (use any cliché you like) story. According to Israel's Channel 2 and the *Washington Post*, tired of being asked why she didn't try modeling, this daughter of a single, three-job mother of three finally approached a Tel Aviv agency, which in turn sent her photos to the exclusive Paris agency, Viva, and they were interested.

But when Mechetner and her chaperone arrived in Paris, Viva decided she was too young. The pair went sightseeing and to check out a Dior store where they spotted chief Dior designer Raf Simons. The chaperone asked to take a selfie with Simons, introduced him to Mechetner, and the rest is history.

In July, the teenager with no mod-

eling experience signed a \$265,000 contract with Christian Dior and walked in her first runway show.

In 2012, Israel was one of the first countries in the world to pass a law governing the weight of fashion and commercial models. It stipulates that models (female and male) must have a body-mass index (BMI) of at least 18.5 and also requires that published photos that are manipulated to make models appear thinner be noted as such.

Earlier this year France also passed a law overseeing the weight of fashion models. The French law is a little more lax, requiring a BMI of at least 18.

If you know about something new going on in Israel that you'd like us to cover, 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 Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

October 2015



Children's Programming

Jewish Educational Alliance's

Fall/Winter Days @ the JEA

The JEA offers year-round vacation programming for children pre-K - 8th grade. Your child will enjoy Days @ the JEA as each are packed with activities such as field trips, swimming, cooking, sports and arts and crafts!

Upcoming Days @ the JEA:
October 8th, 9th & 12th

Member Prices: \$30.00 per day
Non-Member Prices: \$40.00 per day

October 8th - Create maple leaf candle holders; let our imagination soar with pumpkin moon sand; bake pumpkin desserts; keep our feet moving and swim in the indoor/outdoor pool

October 9th - Venture out to Madrac Farms; feed the animals; explore life on a farm through a hayride; find the perfect pumpkin at the pumpkin patch

October 12th - Participate in our fall festival games for prizes; compete in our 2nd Annual Pie Bakeoff; create leaf sun catchers or maple leaf candle holders

Please call 355-8111 or email DJ Horton at kids@savj.org for more information.

Saturday Night Out

Swimming & a Movie!
November 7th - 6:30-10:00 pm

Activities include:

- Swimming in the JEA pool
- Movie & popcorn

When: 6:30-10:00 pm

Who: 4y-6th grade

Where: JEA

Cost: \$25/child or \$50/family

JEA Member Value Price: \$20/child or \$40/family



RSVP and advanced payment must be made by Thursday, November 5th
Limited to the first 30 children
Check www.SavannahJEA.org for more details

Jewish Educational Alliance's AFTER SCHOOL Enrichment Program

- At the Savannah JEA, we believe that your child should have happy memories every day. We provide a foundation for their future, help shape their lives, and take part as your children grow and change.
- At the JEA's After School program, your pre-K through 6th graders will participate in activities such as swimming, sports, homework help, daily snacks, cooking, fitness fun, art, and much more!
- After School hours are Monday-Thursday, 3-6 pm, Fridays 3-5 pm. We pick up from Garrison, Charles Ellis Elementary and Jacob G. Smith Schools.



Aftercare Prices: \$18/day plus transportation
\$75/week plus transportation

Member Value Prices: \$12/day plus transportation
\$50/week plus transportation

Register in person at the JEA at 5111 Abercorn Street
Phone (912) 355-8111
Email DJ.Horton@savj.org

JEA Donations

(August 6, 2015-September 4, 2015)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Sara Heyman
In memory of Linda Friedman
Nancie & Fred Clark

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Timothy Rubnitz
Kelly & Marc Gordon
In memory of Don Gellins
Susan Timna
In memory of Linda Friedman
Esther Buchsbaum

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH FUND

In honor of Harriet & Paul Kulbersh
Sharon & Bill Sand
In honor of Lauren & Adam Fins' new son
Harriet & Paul Kulbersh
A very generous donation by
Liza & Markus Niederwanger

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy
Merry & Richard Bodziner

ETHEL COHEN MEDDIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Mary Guild
Lorry & Chuck Palefsky
Sherry & Johnny Macchia
Michelle & Louis Meddin

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Diana Wiersema
Susan Greenfield
In memory of Sara Heyman
Arlene & Allan Ratner
In memory of Bertha Freedman
Risha & Joshua Katzman
Arlene & Allan Ratner

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Elise Shernoff
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein & Family
In memory of Sara Heyman
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Bernice Elman

DAVE & BUNNY CENTER CAMPERSHIP FUND

In honor of Noah Linfoot
Shea Boggs

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Jerry Switz
Harriet Karlin & John Nowell
Sylvia Slotin
Zita Prince

JEA Directory Correction

Our apologies: An error was discovered in the Advertiser's Index of the 2015 Directory. We have corrected the error and have the revised page available for pick up at the front desk of the JEA. Thank you.



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
Tuesdays 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Thursdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



Community Garden

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



Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

October 1st - "Jewish Humor" with Rabbi Robert Haas

October 8th - "The Woman Who Saved an Island and Other Stories," with Jane Fishman

October 15th - "The History of Magic" with Rudy Halbart

October 22nd - "Monet and American Impressionism at the Telfair Museum,"

October 29th - "Low Vision and How You Can Improve Your Safety at Home" with Occupational Therapist, Hilary Schwegler Robertshaw

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 6/16/15-9/4/15)

Theo & Kim Beiter
Chris & Meghan Brawley
Jerry Brody
Robert & Christy Crisp
Christopher & Ruth Deffley
Tatyana Gladkova & Luba Gladkova

Theodore Hertzberg & Christine Ryan
Trevor Jaha & Pamela Salaam-Jaha
Shannon Javetz
Jack Levine & Samantha Pogorelsky
David & Leisha Martin
Thomas & Jennifer McBratney
Michele Mikulec
Gina Scarboro
Christoph Simon & Suanne Fu
Erina Tandy
Chase Turberville & Mary Senseney

**Jewish Arts**
JACC

**Culture Center**
JACC



Save the Dates:

Deadline for Story or Song Submissions
Thursday, October 9, 2015

Writing Stories for Stage Workshop
Thursday, October 29 — 3:15 to 5PM

The *Schpiel*— an evening of stories, song and sustenance!
Thursday, November 5 — 7 PM to 9PM

Interested? Call Carol Greenberg 912-352-1238

Promoting live theater and performance:
Acting, directing, stage craft & theater design with a Jewish flair!



Health & Wellness

Take Control of Your Health with Exercise



Kaylee Grue
Health & Wellness
Director

One in eight women will develop breast cancer over the course of their lifetime. There are steps that you can take to decrease your likelihood of developing the disease. According to the American Cancer Society, regular physical activity is associated with a 10%-20% reduction in risk for breast cancer.

Engaging in regular physical activity and exercise is often cited as a way to lower your risk for both developing cancer and for the reoccurrence of cancer. Exercise improves body composition, increases strength, improves quality of life and has been hypothesized to enhance immunity and alter function within the endocrine system among many other benefits. If you currently have breast cancer or are trying to decrease your risk, exercise can help you live a long and healthy life.

Before beginning a new exercise program it is important to get medical clearance from your physician if you have been sedentary for a long period of time. Your doctor can help you to set safe guidelines for exercise. General recommendations for exercise include exercising for 30-60 minutes at least 5 days per week to cut

your risk of cancer or reoccurrence of cancer.

Consider attending group fitness classes or finding a personal trainer to help you attain your fitness goals and to jumpstart an active lifestyle.

Take responsibility for your health by incorporating more exercise into your life at any age! If you would like to learn more about exercise recommendations please contact the JEA Fitness Department at fitness@savj.org.

JEA Junior Swim Starts October 13th

Registration Now Open
No competitive swimming experience necessary

Practices: Tues. & Thurs. 5:15-6:15 pm

Two sessions: Oct. 13-Dec. 3rd & Jan. 12-Mar. 3rd

Ages: 4-16 years old are welcome!

Cost: Community Member: \$155/8-wk session
JEA Member Value Price: \$130/8-wk session

Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics
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
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Wednesday

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

Thursday

9:30 am - Barre Blend
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
6:30 pm - Yoga Flow
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Friday

8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga
10:00 am - Aquasize



JEA Garden Club Come help us grow!



This Columbus Day take a rare opportunity to Explore! Take a tour of the Second Harvest award-winning kitchen

With Chef Floyd & Chef Nate

Limited to the first 12 reservations
Monday, October 12
12:30 to 1:30 PM
at Kids Café
RSVP "Café Tour"

Next D&D Monthly Workshop is a *Demo & Dinner!*

Cooking With Herbs

With our special guest, back by popular demand:
Jackie Ogden CEC/FACS Agent
UGA Cooperative Extension-Chatham County

Tuesday, October 27
5:15 to 7 PM
JEA Lounge
RSVP "Garden Club"

Bring harvest, produce & herb or other donations for Kids Cafe
Event free; Membership not required
RSVP to JEA 912-355-8111
Or email MStarArts@gmail.com

Building & Grounds: *a better building & greener grounds for all to enjoy!*

JACC:
Jewish Arts & Culture Center

Come Dance Under Our Stars!

Join us for an amazing hour!

New Adult Class — Intro Class & Sign Up Oct. 29 — 7 PM to 8 PM

- Classes begin January at the JEA
- Explore "Dancing in the Diaspora" — Ballroom, Folk, Line
- No partner or previous dance training necessary
- Couples and experienced dancers welcomed!
- Meet people, and dance confidently at events
- Intro class **free**. \$30 members/ \$40 non-members for 6 weeks

RSVP "Dance Class": 912-355-8111 or MStarArts@gmail.com



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now

- Openings 16 months-4-years old
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for the toddlers and two-year-olds
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

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

Rock and Read

Sunday, October 18th, 10am-12pm

The kickoff to our Scholastic Book Fair! We'll have music/DJ by Shockwave Entertainment, Face Painting with Art by Alyson and a full photo booth by Carlson's Premier Events.

We'll be opening the Book Fair to our students. Bring your dancing shoes and smiling faces!

Scholastic Book Fair October 19th-23rd

This fall our Scholastic Book Fair theme is "A Monster Book Fair." It will be held October 19th through the 23rd and will feature books appropriate for preschool age children.

Bring your child, buy a book and support JEA Preschool Savannah!

Mazel Tots

JEA Mazel Tots begins again! Mazel Tots is an interactive parent and child music, movement and play class. It offers upbeat, fun experiences through a Jewish lens for babies and toddlers up to 36 months. Join JEA Preschool Savannah toddler teacher, Tara Swank, for singing, dancing, instrument playing, stories and a whole lot more.

When: Every Sunday at 10 am
Fee: \$40/month for Non Members,
\$20/month Members

For safety and planning purposes, paid reservations are required.

Space is limited to 12 families per session.

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



JEA Art Gallery



October Artist:
Ray Williams



Ray Williams is originally from Long Island, New York. He relocated to Savannah in 2007. He has done extensive work in wood carving, pen and ink, and bronze.

His carving career began in the 1970's. He had just received a beautiful set of chisels, picked up a book from the library, and he and his kids carved their first piece: a man's face on a 4x4 post of white pine. Since then, he has carved and sold many pieces of art including signs, faces, tables and other nautical pieces which are still on display at many local hotels and restaurants throughout Long Island.

He then developed a love for birds and pursued carving intricate decoys. His first was a loon. Over the years he and his wife have completed carvings of many species of owls and ducks - he carved the birds and his wife painted them. This fulfilled both of their artistic expressions.

One of his earlier pieces was a woodcarving of an American Indian which he made into his first bronze piece. He used the "Lost Wax Process," which involves covering a clay or wood piece with liquid rubber, creating a rubber mold. Melted wax is then poured into the mold to form a wax duplicate, which is then covered with plaster and hardened in a kiln, which melts the wax. This plaster mold is then used to create the bronze piece. His next bronze project was a bust of Mr. Charles Frace, the world renowned Smithsonian Wildlife artist.

Ray's first love is being a musician and he has been teaching and playing music since he graduated from the Julliard School of Music in New York City. He also served in the Navy, toured for four years with the Glenn Miller Band and performed symphonic, show and jazz bass as a freelance musician. He currently teaches bass at Savannah Country Day School, Armstrong Atlantic State University, and Savannah Arts Academy, as well as conducting private music lessons.

Artwork available for viewing October 1-30, 2015
Art Gallery Reception October 4th, 3-5 pm

Mi Casa es SUKKAHsa

**Celebrate Sukkot with Young Jewish Savannah
at a Mexican Fiesta with
Snacks & Sangria in the Sukkah!**

Thursday, October 1, 2015
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance



News from Shalom School

There is something about routines and predictability. Some of us thrive on them while for others there is dread. Summer ends and it is time to go back to school. There is much excitement as a new school year begins. Our children are a year older and their learning grows with them. Fall brings with it Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. We hope that fall will also bring cooler, less humid weather at some point!

We are a bit more than a month into our new school year. We have the routine of going back to class and have gotten to know our new stu-

ly lessons. We learned that when we are singing, we are really praying. This concept is a new way of thinking. We are looking at our lessons and incorporating music into our weekly lessons. We began by singing our blessings. We have learned songs which we will continue to practice and share.

We have always had an art program at Shalom School. This year we are trying something different. We are utilizing volunteers to assist us with art projects. For our younger students, art is an extension of what they are learning. For our older students, art is a way to show off their individuality.

Please consider donating a couple



dents. We know the topics we will cover in our classes which predictably, follow the calendar. Next we add some training and brainstorming sessions our teachers have had the opportunity to experience. The result is routine and experience mixed with new thoughts and ideas. This is what Shalom School looks like this year! We want Shalom School to instill a joy and pride of Judaism and an opportunity to foster Jewish Friendships while we are learning.

We have been extremely fortunate to have Robin Shuler visit us twice from Charleston. Robin is a fabulously talented musician. We were lucky to have her work with our teachers to incorporate music into our week-

of hours on a Sunday morning to enhance our learning. Perhaps you remember something you made when you were in Sunday School and want to share it? Maybe you are crafty and have a need to make menorahs with our students or you are interested in a particular Jewish artist and want to share that knowledge with our students while they give that artist's style a try. We would love to hear your ideas! Please contact Eva Locker, Principal at theshalomschool@gmail.com if you are interested.

Sure, we have routines and predictability at Shalom School; but we also have a learning environment that is fun and exciting!

Jobs.....from pg 8

recently took Orthodox entrepreneurs on a two-day bus tour to visit the Israeli offices of leading companies such as Microsoft, Cisco, Taboola and Mobileye. They also met with some of Israel's most successful venture capitalists and CEOs.

Participants toured Jerusalem-based companies the first day and met with key industry leaders who have played a significant role in

shaping that city's high-tech industry. The second day focused on Tel Aviv, where the group visited a start-up and Google and then took part in a stimulating panel discussion with some of Israel's leading technology journalists. They concluded their adventure with a visit to Facebook Israel's impressive offices for a talk on marketing.

Zimbabwean Jewish Emissary to Visit

by Frances Lowery Wilson



Modreck Maeresera

Modreck Maeresera, a leader and goodwill ambassador of Zimbabwe's Lemba Jewish community, will speak at the JEA, Sunday October 18th at 4pm. Mr. Maeresera will be sharing the story of his ancient community, their customs and observances and their struggle to maintain their Jewish identity and fight assimilation.

Savannah is the first Jewish community stop in the United States for Mr. Maeresera, as part of his North American speaking tour sponsored by U.S.-based Kulanu, Inc. (www.kulanu.org), a grassroots, non-profit Jewish organization supporting isolated and emerging Jewish communities worldwide. He will be here as a guest of the Agudath Achim (AA) Synagogue, and will be participating and speaking at the AA's Shabbat services, and meeting with small groups during his stay in Savannah from October 15th —18th.

Mr. Maeresera is a member of one of the Lemba communities, which are found today in Zimbabwe and South Africa, and have a long oral tradition of tribal affiliation with the ancient Israelites. Their oral tradition describes a journey from the Middle East, after the destruction of the first Temple, to Zimbabwe and South Af-

rica, with stops in Yemen and Madagascar. DNA tests administered to members of the Lemba priestly clan found they had the "Kohen gene" in the same or higher percentages as Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jewish men who identify as *kohanim* worldwide.

Although the Lemba have been cut off from the mainstream Jewish community for centuries, they have maintained *kashrut*, Sabbath observance and other traditions. However, as in many countries, the community has been under intense pressure by proselytizing groups trying to convert them to Christianity, Islam, and Messianic Judaism.

Kulanu ("all of us" in Hebrew), founded in 1994, supports isolated and emerging Jewish communities around the world, many of whom have long been disconnected from the worldwide Jewish community. Agudath Achim is bringing this program to Savannah with funds provided by Rabbi Ruven Barkan as a parting gift to the community as part of his extensive outreach efforts during his tenure.

What: October 17th, 9:30am, Saturday services, Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Kiddush luncheon to follow
October 18th, 4pm, talk by Modreck Maeresera, JEA, 5111 Abercorn St.
Cost: Free and open to the public
Contact: Ms. Frances Lowery Wilson, (912) 354-3747

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January 27-February 6, 2016
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The 2016 Joan & Murray Gefen Memorial Savannah Jewish Film Festival once again will feature outstanding, entertaining, narrative and documentary films from around the world that explore the diversity and richness of the Jewish experience.

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Are You Really Listening?



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Abraham Lincoln said: “A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all the States, old as well as new — North as well as South.”

History repeats itself. Our people, divided by baseless hatred and misgivings, cannot survive in peace and harmony. Every individual in this world was created with one purpose: to use the strengths, talents and abilities granted to them to be the best person they can be. Whatever our lot in life; it is ours to treasure, to build upon and to appreciate.

If as Jews we were given the heritage of our sacred Torah as a binding gift between us and the Almighty, then it is our responsibility to use our means to connect with this Torah, to learn from it, to build from it, to grow from it, and to pave the path with it

for the next generation. Everyone is created with choice – the power to decide for ones’ self what to do or not to do; how to do something or how not to do something. Have you ever stopped to think about the power of choice?

It’s there, the ability to make wise choices. It’s buried within our DNA but we muddy the waters with our first priority – comforting ourselves that whatever we do is acceptable and dare anyone to judge us or tell us differently. And all the while as we fight this battle of good choices versus bad choices we have laid to rest precious time.

Rambam is involved in an amazing program with the residents of Buckingham South. The goal of the program is to strengthen the bond between the young and elderly. One of the required classes to be given to the children was coping with losing someone you love. Unfortunately one of our students did have to face the challenge of their resident friend passing away.

So Mrs. Slatius was the perfect choice of someone to talk to the children about coping with loss. She explained it beautifully, delicately and in a manner in which the children could relate and find comfort.

In Mrs. Slatius’s closing remarks to the children she told them a fascinating story. There was a woman who was on her death bed and asked for Ms. Rita to please come to her apartment. Mrs. Slatius was sitting with

her and she said I have a confession to make. (Visualize her room dressed in Catholic appearance.) She says to Mrs. Slatius, I am Jewish.

Let me tell you her story. It was after the war and a wonderful, German gentleman soldier wished to marry her, however, she had to promise never to tell anyone she was Jewish. He was kind, loving, and benevolent and gave her his heart while taking the best care of her.

In that moment as she knew death was upon her, her soul was bursting to be set free and so she told Mrs. Slatius her story.

Mrs. Slatius turned to the students and asked them what did they think she should have done upon the woman’s death – tell her children they were Jewish or keep the woman’s secret?

I was present for this class. I heard this astounding story. I heard Mrs. Slatius challenge the children as to what should she have done?

As I listened to my students respond to Mrs. Slatius’s question of dilemma – my entire career, my reason for doing what I have done for over twenty-five years, and my heart, came together as one and combusted into one huge vision of clarity. It was a defining moment.

Every single one of them said of course you should tell the children – **they have a right to know they are Jewish.** That moment of truth could not have been less dramatic, less spiritually uplifting, less abundantly clear there is a G-d in this world, than when the Jews stood at Mount Sinai. I heard with my own ears **MY**

students affirm – the right that every Jew has to know who they are.

How could we have a Jewish day school in our midst and not feel obligated, compelled to use the means set before us to fulfill our responsibilities as Jewish parents to educate our children to be knowledgeable Jews? How could we look the other way when we have before us the opportunity to engage our children in an excellent secular education that prepares them for the high school of their choice while simultaneously revealing to them the beauty of their heritage? How can we let our excuses and justifications prevent us from following the path less travelled? How can we sleep at night knowing that every excuse we made was just that, an excuse because of our own fear of the unknown, because we fear taking that road less travelled by our peers? How do we justify to our children the tears we shed for the lives lost in the Holocaust but here they are, young, Jewish children alive and well and we as their parents don’t stand tall with Jewish pride?

Rambam Day School hasn’t survived for over twenty five years alone. To all parents who braved the experience and parental obligation to Jewishly educate their children and to all those who have stood behind our lofty goals – thank you, thank you, thank you. Know that the Almighty looks up to you for your courage and your loyalty, and He holds His hands out to catch your tears for the one and a half million Jewish children that perished in the Holocaust. Because you make them relevant.

This past year Rambam Day School’s 8th grade class participated in Better Together, a program that afforded the kids an opportunity to be a part of the daily life at Buckingham South, an independent and assisted living facility. They frequently visited to interact with the residents, talk about and celebrate Jewish holidays, and even taught a few how to use an iPad.

The students were required to write essays toward the end of the year. Richard Epstein was awarded a Gold Medal by the Better Together Legacy Heritage Program. He also was the RDS class winner and the runner up in the “Better 2 Write” contest. Here are some excerpts from his winning essay:

The Times with the Elderly

This year, our school has started a new program, Better Together, in which we visit our neighbors at Buckingham South. In the beginning of the year we went to talk to the residents about Rosh Hashanah. We told them about the names of Rosh Hashanah, how the shofar is blown, and what mitzvos the holiday entails. After our presentation, we gave

out cinnamon, apple filled doughnuts to all the residents.

A few days later, on Erev Yom Kippur, we went back to Buckingham South to give the residents a few pieces of candy and we explained that it is a mitzvah to eat before Yom Kippur. We also just sat and talked with them for a while. A few weeks later we were given an assignment to

write a biography about a resident from Buckingham South. We were assigned to specific residents and given time to interview them one-on-one. We discussed in great detail how to go about this interview and what kinds of questions to ask.

I was fortunate to interview Mr. Herman Cranman, my grandfather’s first cousin. Mr. Cranman was a World War II veteran, a prisoner of war and the author of the book, “A Measure of Life”. The book is about his whole life; from his childhood to being liberated from a concentration camp in Germany. He even gave me my own copy of the book. Mr. Cranman was an aviator in the United



Herman Cranman & Richard Epstein

States Air Force before being captured. He was transferred back and forth between three different concentration camps.

Mr. Cranman told me that all the prisoners and all the German officers had to walk to each camp, meaning that the Germans didn’t have a good evacuation plan if it became necessary. He also told me that after ten months of being in

the camps, he was liberated by the Americans. The Americans had a great evacuation plan which was obviously much better than the Germans’. Three decades after World War II, Mr. Cranman was called back into the Air Force to fight in the Vietnam War. After the war, he withdrew himself from the draft list so he could live with his wife in Savannah. I learned a lot from Mr. Cranman, which increased even more my high respect for war veterans and military soldiers...

Aside from the Better Together Program with my school, I personally volunteer at Buckingham South on a weekly basis. On Wednesdays, the residents

have Bingo Night, and every now and then I call the letters for them... On New Year’s Eve, I went to Buckingham for a New Year’s party. I gave out party hats, party crowns, and apple cider. Someone sang for them during the party. I couldn’t believe how much I enjoyed it. What kid wants to hang out with senior citizens?

...I have learned a lot about the residents of Buckingham. I also learned a lot about a World War II veteran and an aviation pilot. I learn a lot about the residents when I play Bingo with them. I love being with the residents of Buckingham South. They are just so full of knowledge from the twentieth century, and have so much insight and wisdom and great stories for this generation. They can tell us what times were like back in the Great Depression, back when Martin Luther King gave his speech and how they felt about those times. We get to hear firsthand what it was like. The Better Together Project has made me feel a lot closer to the seniors of Buckingham and made me feel more grateful to them and for them. We make them happy. How great is that?

Richard is the son of Donna & Jay Epstein.



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

Getting SO Big

What do you do when a new program grows from 23 to 74 children in just two years?

How do you decide whether or not to create additional class-

rooms as the demand for premiere preschool programs grows in Savannah?

Evaluating your program and determining what is in the best interest of the children and families currently participating in the preschool is one place to begin. That is just what the administration and JEA Early Childhood Education committee members did when they began to think about the growth of our Preschool.

Conversations held in individual and group meetings included discussions about the addition of an infant room and/or additional two- and three-year old classrooms.

Our first step was to meet with our intern, Monica Tisminesky, a SCAD graduate who earned her degree in Service Design. She began “internal research” as to how on boarding happened when new teachers were hired and how the teachers were feeling overall about their teaching experience. Monica concluded that JEA Preschool Savannah was a place where children were engaged in learning and teachers were having positive and meaningful work experiences.

Next we had a visit from Alison Peper, our Jewish Community Center Association Vice President of

Family Engagement and Early Childhood Education. Right from the beginning she visited and consulted with us on the formation of the preschool. This was her opportunity to see the results of the planning and decisions made during the creation process.

During this second visit, Alison was excited to see the now beautiful rooms and engaging outdoor play space. She met with all of the teachers in an informal setting, visited each classroom, and spoke with the preschool administration. After her thorough review, she felt that expansion of the preschool was a viable option for the future and recommended that we experience one more year with our current structure of teachers, rooms, systems, and policies. Maintaining the quality of the program is absolute as is building a strong foundation from which to grow the ideal setting for an expanded preschool.

With the idea of maintaining a high quality program, JEA Preschool Savannah has begun going through the Bright from the Start Quality Rated program. This is a systematic approach to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early education programs in the state of Georgia. It is a six to nine months process which will result in a one, two, or three star award. Look for our results in the months to come!

So as we continue to move our preschool forward, learning and engaging children and families, I hope you will take the opportunity to come visit us. You will like what you see and hear and the children’s voices will surely put a smile on your face!



Plan to Join Us This Year

Savannah BBYO has an exciting year planned with many fun and meaningful programs, events and conventions for our teens to enjoy. Now that school has started, the chapters also are gearing up again after a relaxing but productive summer.

Several members got the chance to take part in different BBYO summer programs such as CLTC (chapter leadership training conference), and Ambassadors, which allows teens to travel outside of the U.S. to see what Jewish life is like in other countries. Most recently, Sophie Guggenheim hosted the Dixie Council executive boards at her house where the leaders of the council received training and discussed their goals for this year.

The next BBYO program will be a Sukkah Hop on Saturday, October 3rd, a combined event for AZA and BBG. A few weeks later Dixie Council’s AIT/MIT New Member Convention will be held from October 16th-17th. This is a great convention for 9th graders who are joining BBYO because they get to know each other while learning the history and traditions of the organization.

Southern Region Convention will be held November 6th-8th, a spirited weekend full of cheers and competition. Later that month, November 20th-27th, is Jr/Sr Weekend, a convention held every other year full of meaningful programming for our older members.

Watch this space for more updates regarding Savannah chapter events and Council conventions! For more information about joining BBYO, please contact Jill Strauss, adult board chair (912-844-5588) or Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator (912-355-8111). We can’t wait to see you at our next event!

L’shanah Tovah!



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Who We Are / What We Do

G’milut Chasadim- Acts of Loving Kindness

It was a warm day and the first day of preschool for a 16-month old toddler. Mom dropped off the child and without any tears, Cliff began to play and become comfortable in his new surroundings. The rest of the day, Cliff was a rock star. He transitioned beautifully to his new environment; slept well at nap time, ate a good lunch, and loved being outside in the tire swing.

Mom came to pick him up and was told that Cliff had a great first day at JEA Preschool Savannah. She gathered his belongings, gave him the keys to the car to hold (all babies love keys) and put him in his car seat.

The next moment Mom ran into the office to tell us that the child had pushed the button on the key fob and was locked in the car. We immediately called 911 and were told the police could help get into the car. The JEA maintenance staff came out to see what they could do. The situation was analyzed and it was determined that the best window to break would be the one on the front passenger side.

The toddler was looking at everyone, calm and serene, and probably wondering, ‘why are all of these people looking at me through the windows?’ For the moment, he was fine in his car seat.

The police officer arrived and had a difficult time breaking the window. He finally broke through and the glass shattered everywhere in the car. Thank G-d the child was not hurt. However, the loud noise of the shattering glass and the car alarm scared him and he began to cry. NO surprise!

Finally, Mom crawled through the now open door and was able to hold her baby and give him the biggest hug!

A big thank you to the JEA maintenance crew who cleaned out all of the glass from the car, the child’s car seat and their personal belongings.

Here is the note we received from the mom the next morning:

Dear JEA,

Thank you for taking such special care of me and my son, Cliff. What a dramatic first day! We have longed to find a family environment, and you treated us like we were family with such care, compassion and kindness. We are so grateful to be a part of the JEA.

Thank you,

Tenille Cromwell

Performing acts of kindness is one of the core values displayed on the walls of the preschool. It is a virtue that we strive to exemplify every day. I am glad we were able to live this virtue in assisting our newest preschool family.

-Jodi Sadler

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It's a Funny Thing

Have you ever thought about the fact that the words "slim" and "fat" can never mean the same thing, except before the word "chance"?

Melinda Stein

David and Bernice are visiting Israel and are out for a stroll when they walk into a pet store and see a parrot on a perch, with a red string tied to its left leg and a green string tied to its right leg.

David asks the storekeeper the significance of the strings.

"This parrot can teach you to speak Hebrew," he said. "He's highly trained. If you pull the red string, he speaks Hebrew; if you pull the green string, he speaks English."

"And what happens if I pull both strings at the same time?" asks David.

"I fall off my perch, Einstein!" squawks the parrot.

The editor of a small Israeli newspaper, furious at some of the national politicians, printed a scathing editorial with an enormous headline:

"HALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET ARE CROOKS."

Many of the Knesset members were outraged and exerted pressure on the editor to print a retraction. He finally gave in to the pressure and ran his apology with the headline:

"HALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET ARE NOT CROOKS."

Speaking of politics, a candidate was giving a speech highly critical of his opponent. "During his career, this man has truly done the work of two men!" he said. "Laurel and Hardy!"

An American army general was visiting his colleague, the head of the Israeli Army. After greeting the American, the Israeli general showed him around the base, and the American asked: "So how are your men?"

"Very well trained, general," said the Israeli.

"I hope so. You see, my men of the United States Army are so well trained,

they're the bravest men in the world."

"Well, I'm not so sure about that," replied the Israeli. "My men are very brave, too."

"I'd like to see that."

So the Israeli general called over a soldier and said, "Private Barak! I want you to stop that tank simply by standing in front of it!"

"Are you crazy?" said Private Barak. "It would kill me! You must be some kind of fool!"

And the Israeli general said to his American counterpart, "You see? You have to be pretty brave to talk like that to a general."

It's been so hot lately, a dog was spotted chasing a cat – and they were both walking!



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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Donald Paul Gellins
Who died August 22, 2015

He is survived by his daughters, Lee Gellins of Savannah, and Amy Gellins (Tad MacMillan) of Athens, GA; Ellen (Arnie) Levin of Charleston, SC and Sherrie (Joel) Ertischek of Nashville, TN; five granddaughters and one grandson; his sister, Rosalyn Graime of New Jersey; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and granddogs. He was preceded in death by his wives, Doris, in 1992, and Beverly Cooperman in 2009.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim (Ralph & Pauline Tenenbaum Chevra Kadisha Fund or Rabbi Jerry Potack Camp Ramah Fund), 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405 or a charity of your choice.

Bertha Plotkin Freedman
Who died August 21, 2015

She is survived by her two sons, Gerald (Lynda) Freedman and Louis (Elissa) Freedman; her daughter, Jan (Frank) Katz; her sister, Miriam Stein; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Martin Freedman.

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

Linda Gold Friedman
Who died August 19, 2015

She is survived by her husband, Herman Friedman; her son, Charles (Barbara) Friedman; her daughter, Debbi (David) Wildey; four grandchildren; and her brother, Steve Gold. She was preceded in death by her brother, Kenneth Gold.

Remembrances: David and Ida Gold Patient Assistance Fund at Memorial Health Foundation, P.O. Box 23089, Savannah 31403 or a charity of the donor's choice.



An Evening of Fine Art

Let our entertaining auctioneer guide you through the art world as he conducts this informative, fun event.

**Saturday Evening,
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Preview: 7:45 pm Auction: 8:45 p.m.
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CHALLENGING ACADEMICS | CORE VALUES | LEADERSHIP



ALAN S. GAYNOR

6 June 2001
Interviewed by Joan Gefen

We had Sunday School. As I recall, Ruth Byck and Judy Kuhr taught our class. I would have been in Sunday School for only about three years. It was in the building we then were in was right where this building is now. . . . I know that the entrance was on Drayton Street. . . . We had Sunday School Saturday morning, and Sunday school used to end before Saturday morning services ended. All of us in Sunday School whose parents or grandparents were attending Saturday services would walk up Wayne Street, or, I guess, Gordon, and into the front door of the sanctuary, and we would head up the center aisle and sit with our parents or grandparents. I have a vivid recollection of doing that. . . . Well, we were, we were the raunchy crowd. Julius Edel, David Byck, Lee Kuhr, Sylvan Byck, Charles Collat, Dukie Roos - we were a tough crowd. I don't see how Judy and Ruth could put up with us. . . . We were all within six months of age of each other.

I started off the first day of first grade at Barnard Street School until my grandfather realized that they had privies in the backyard. He would not put up with his darling grandson going to a school that had privies in the backyard, so he contacted his son-in-law, Edmund H. Abrahams, who was either president or on the Board of Education in those days, and I was immediately transferred to Henry Street School, which did have bathrooms in the backyard, but they were, as I recall, flush toilets. Barnard Street, as I recall, was dry-pit latrines. All the rich kids in downtown Savannah in those days, who lived on the east side, went to Massie School. The poor kids went to Henry and Barnard.

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

These children attended Jewish overnight camps this past summer with the assistance of Jewish Youth Summer Experience grants from the Savannah Jewish Federation made possible by your generosity during the annual Community Campaign. Study after study show children with pivotal Jewish camp experiences are more likely to become adults who value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes, and take on leadership roles in their communities. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org.

My Summer House

by Sarah Loncon



Sarah Loncon (r) enjoys a quiet moment at camp with a friend.

I love Camp Coleman. I have gone to camp for three years now. When I go to camp I feel loved, and cared for. My friends show me respect and kindness which makes me feel welcomed. When I first arrived at camp this year, my friend Eliana attacked me right as I walked through the door. She already had a bed for me, which was underneath hers.

One of my favorite things at camp is Shabbat. I love hearing people scream, “Who’s next in the shower,” “Will you hurry up,” “What should I wear,” and “Can you do my hair?” During Shabbat we all gather in the front of the cabin to take pictures, then join in the Shabbat Walk. When we reach the dining hall, we say our prayers then eat fried chicken. After that we go to services, then finally, song session. Shabbat is very special at camp.

This year, Camp Coleman let the unit I was in (Solelim) do Coleman Rocks. This was the first year Solelim could do it. I was lucky to be able to be in it. Coleman Rocks has a band from each unit from Solelim up to

Staff. Everyday there is a period to practice for the concert. My unit performed Radioactive by Imagine Dragons. When the night of the concert comes, you perform for the whole camp. It is amazing.

I love camp for all of these reasons. Most people call it their home away from home, but I call it my summer house. I hope to go to camp to be a counselor and then staff and to work there until I can’t anymore! Thank you so much for helping to send me to Camp Coleman!

Sarah, 11, is in sixth grade at Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts. She is the daughter of Lori Loncon and Chuck Loncon.

Really Loved Everything

by Ellie Neil



Ellie Neil with her bunk mates at Camp Barney Medintz. Ellie is third from the left, just between her pals from Savannah, Jordan Ruben and Amanda Kronowitz.

My name is Ellie Neil and this summer I went to sleep away camp for the first time in my life. I went to Camp Barney Medintz as a nine year old but right after I came home I turned 10. I was in the Kochavim unit, which means stars, for a 2-week session.

Before I went to camp, I knew lots of people that went to a sleep away

camp like mine and they all loved camp, but I thought “well I’m never going to go to sleep away camp because I don’t want to be far away from my parents.” But then when it was time to sign up for camp, my Dad was talking to me about it and I said I would consider going. Before I knew it, I was on the bus headed to camp for my first time. I got home from camp and immediately decided I wanted to go back next year, only this time for an entire month, so that is what I’m going to do.

I only was able to be at camp for one Shabbat since it wasn’t exactly a full two week session - it was more like one and a half weeks. Shabbat was really fun, especially because we sang lots of songs. Everyone wore white or blue, which looked really cool when everyone was walking towards the synagogue. Also, the challah on Friday night was amazing. Even when it wasn’t Shabbat, we did Hamotzi before every meal and the Birkat Hamazon after every meal.

My favorite activities during the week were horseback riding and nature, but I really loved everything. We had Barney bars, which are chocolate bars. There were lots of different flavors and we had them the on first day of camp, the last day of camp, and once in the middle.

I would like to thank Savannah Jewish Federation for helping my family with the Jewish Federation Identity Grant.

Ellie, 10, is in fifth grade at Savannah Country Day School. She is the daughter of Melissa and Jeff Neil.

Memories for a Lifetime

by Jordan Foss



Jordan Foss takes a breather at Camp Coleman

This summer was my 3rd summer at URJ Camp Coleman. Camp has taught me to believe in myself, reinforced my Jewish values and the importance of Judaism in my life. I am grateful for organizations such as the Jewish Federation that assists families with camp tuition.

This summer I participated in many different activities while at camp, such as camping with my unit, whitewater rafting, archery, Gaga, mountain biking just to name a few.

In my bunk I was reunited with many friends from my past two years at camp. We have been staying in touch since our camp session ended. For me, the importance of having the opportunity to go to a Jewish camp is due to my living in a small town where I am the only Jewish student in my school. Although I have many friends here, I have a special connection with my camp friends. Although we are only together for 25 days, the memories of those days last a lifetime.

Sunday school teaches me a lot, but when you are actually experiencing what you learn in a Jewish setting, it is more meaningful than just learning in a classroom. I am grateful for the Federation scholarship so I can continue to go to camp and further my Jewish identity.

I look forward to going back next summer.

Jordan will be 12 this month. He is in sixth grade at Southeast Bulloch Middle School in Brooklet. He is the son of Joanne and Terry Foss.

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100 Days of ImpACT

2016 ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

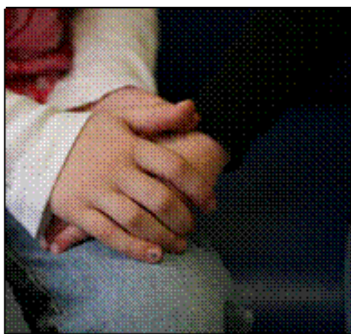
 Savannah Jewish Federation



Week 1: Community



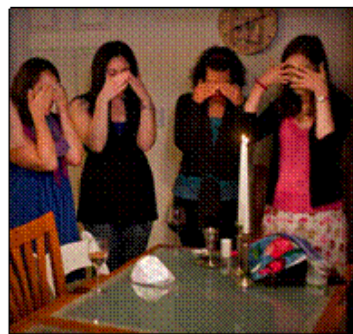
Week 2: Leading



Week 3: Responsibility



Week 4: Investing



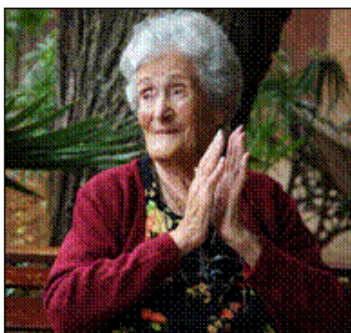
Week 5: Engaging



Week 6: Connecting



Week 7: Networking



Week 8: Thanking



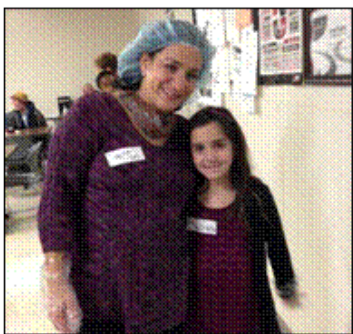
Week 9: Discovery



Week 10: Sparking



Week 11: Reaching Out



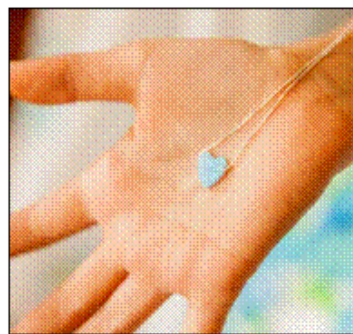
Week 12: Volunteering



Week 13: Compassion



Week 14: Educating



Week 15: Inspiring

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