

Savannah JEWISH LIFE

A PUBLICATION OF THE SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

WINTER 2021 - VOLUME 1, ISSUE 04

2021 Savannah
Jewish Community
Survey

SAVJ.ORG

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Shalom Savannah

Adam Solender,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

During August and early September, the Savannah Jewish Federation opened a Community Survey. As an Opt-In type survey, the respondents had to click a link from Federation eNews, Facebook page, or participating congregational communications. There were no phone calls. This online survey was 100% anonymous; no one knows who responded to the survey. It was designed that way to give the clearest voice to the respondents, therefore, ensuring no hold back in the responses. Online surveys are great because they save time and resources as you collect real-time data (productivity!) and they have a limited margin-of-error which improves the quality of data that you get in the end.

We are thrilled that 432 members weighed in, giving us a very strong response rate. And respond they did. In the end there were over 7,000 data points to compile and analyze. In looking at the data sets and doing some interpretation, we hope to arrive at a number of conclusions. By looking at segmentation, respondents' age, where they live, gender, marital status, and more, we are able to further "drill down." Thank you to all of the members who participated in the survey. (See "And the Survey Says" on page xx of this issue of *Savannah Jewish Life* for specific survey results as well as information on how the survey was formulated.)

Sometimes in life we all take a mirror to look at ourselves and consider how others look at us. This survey was just such a mirror. It affirmed some of the things we knew while other pieces of



information were surprising. In many ways, Savannah is "just like" other Jewish communities around the country and in other ways, we are quite unique.

The feedback we received will help us better align our mission(s) with the needs and expectations of our community. It gives us a better understanding of the different sub-groups which gives us the opportunity to tailor programming to those groups.

The officers and boards of the Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance will be using the results and conclusions of the survey to create "touchpoints" and programs in the coming years. We will be using them to prioritize what and where we fund. After all, it is our community who have now told us what they want/need/are looking for. They told us our strengths and opportunities for improvement.

We hope that you'll take the time to read about the survey and reflect, as we are, about the future of the community as we rapidly approach our fourth century of Savannah Jewry.

Savannah JEWISH LIFE

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The objectives of the Savannah Jewish Life Magazine 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.

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Letters to the Editor

Savannah Jewish Life is a community publication. Letters should be civil and considerate in tone and not contain personal attacks, random attacks on businesses, or defamation. All statements of facts must be verifiable (state the original source of the information). Letters should be no more than 250 words and may be edited for length, clarity, or factual content. The opinions expressed are always the writer's. All letters must include the author's full name, address, and phone number (only your name, and if appropriate, job title and organization or business name, will be published).

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

Submit letters to savannahjewishlife@savj.org. Savannah Jewish Life retains full and sole discretion about which letters to publish.

Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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

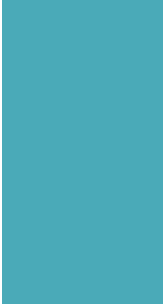
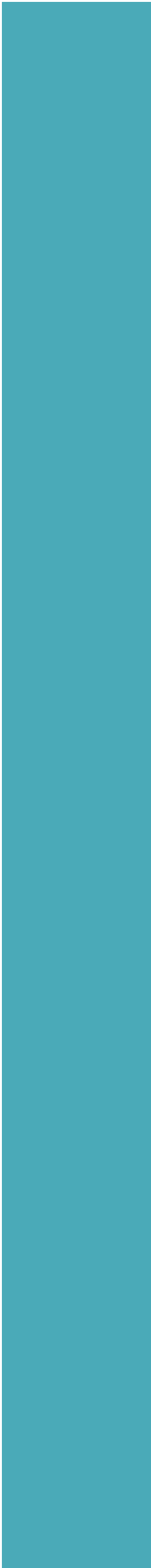


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Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well and in good health. On behalf of all of us at ADL, thank you for your trust and confidence. We are grateful for the pledge of \$2,500 from the Savannah Jewish Federation to the ADL Southeast Annual Appeal. Your support helps strengthen our fight against antisemitism and hate, wherever it exists.

Our country continues to grapple with a multitude of challenges: reckoning with a long history of racial injustice and all of its pervasive and systemic consequences, witnessing anti-Asian racism and violence; and a continuing surge in antisemitism, hate speech and extremism, amplified online across social media platforms. We have not, cannot and will not sit idly by as hate flourishes online and in our communities.

Your gift helps ADL continue to expand our programs that address this increase in extremism, antisemitism and hate in the United States and around the world. These are complex and challenging times, but we will continue to speak up, share facts and show strength against hate. I know we could not do this work without you alongside us.

Take care and be well,



Jonathan A. Greenblatt
CEO and National Director



Savannah
Jewish
Federation



FIGHTING HATE FOR GOOD



SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION

**2022 SAVANNAH
JEWISH FEDERATION
ANNUAL COMMUNITY
CAMPAIGN**

**YOUR GIFT IS NEEDED
MORE THAN EVER.**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE YOUR
GIFT TO THE 2022 CAMPAIGN,
PLEASE GIVE TODAY!**

WWW.SAVJ.ORG

2022 SJF Campaign Kicks Off

Michelle Allan,
2022 SJF CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Why did the bicycle stop donating? It was too TIRED. Haha.

Honestly, we are all tired. For more than a year now, we have lived in uncertain times. It has been exhausting. We've been asked to give our time and our money more than ever before. We've watched businesses and individuals we care about struggle. And, I feel like time has been suspended. I don't remember when this started, or when things started to make a turn but I know that they are. As I was trying to write this, I found myself Googling "How to write a speech to inspire people to give you money." I went down a rabbit hole of opinions, and not surprisingly, I was met with a lot of "say what the money does." And, "tell a personal story." My personal story isn't nearly as meaningful to this organization as yours. Who are you? Where are you from? Why are you here? Who is your legacy? The answer is: because you care.

Times are changing, we are adapting, reinventing and redefining. The Federation has remained a pillar of Jewish life through good times and difficult ones. When our community members were isolated in their homes, the Federation delivered meals - not just to provide nourishment, but as a reminder that even though people weren't leaving their homes, they were seen and valued. And now, many of those individuals have been welcomed back into the building as Food for Thought finally returned in person.

"The Phoenix rises from the ashes," or so they say. And when the whole world felt like it was on fire, we were constant. We didn't burn. The Federation embarked on a new journey. The Community Relations Committee is back up and running! What a critical part this committee will play in our future. Arts and Ideas programs for adults are coming back. PJ Library has continuously provided families with books to fill the days and make connections as a family and community, and now there are multiple community members taking on smaller roles to connect and plan events.

The difficulty of the past has simply shown that the Federation exists for us. For every single one of us in the room. There isn't



anything in your life that isn't influenced in some way by your connection to the Federation. Whether you love Israel, or send your kids or grandkids to Shalom School. If you've got family history being preserved in the Breeman or you work out in the building - that's Federation.

So, I know that we are all tired. We are being asked for things in dozens of directions. We are spread thin. We are having to allocate our time and our money in new ways. I get it. Whether that \$18 donation you give means that you alter your grocery list for a week, or that \$540 gift is something you can give freely, or the \$5,000 gift is something that you plan and save for. A donation is a donation. It makes an impact. When you give, you are part of something that will always work for you. An organization that will provide education, community, and connection.

The Talmud states, "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now, love mercy now, walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." Everything in life requires work. We hear it as children, we sometimes learn the hard way as adults, and we leave a legacy when we are gone of the "work" we have done. The Federation works for you, and I ask that you don't abandon the work. But as we've also been told and learned, nothing works for free. In the words of the incredible Jeff Lasky, "Don't give til it hurts, give until it feels good." Think of the impact you won't just make now, but for the future. This needs to stay. And there is NOTHING that feels as good as ensuring something, or someone's success.

Please fill out your pledge cards and answer the call, and know that whether your donation is \$18 or \$1,800, it's just as meaningful. The Federation works for you. No matter who you are.

And the Survey Says

As leaders of the Jewish community, lay and professional, we are in the fortunate position to help impact the future of Jewish life in Savannah. We want to make decisions that will positively influence how people connect with, experience, and gain value from Jewish life. With that in mind, over the past few months the Savannah Jewish Federation has been gathering data and knowledge about our Jewish community, our current Jewish offerings, and what people want out of Jewish life.

Thanks to a group of generous community leaders who donated the funds to engage Joy Goldstein Consulting, the Federation has been surveying the community to get a vision on what things we are doing well and what needs improvement, what opportunities exist, and who we are as a community.

Through 36 one-on-one, one-hour conversations, our consultant was able to get an initial picture of the community. Those interviewees were a representative sample of key stakeholders from the three synagogues, unaffiliated, young and 'well-seasoned,' newcomers and longtime Savannahians, with a goal of creating a representative sample. From those conversations, an Opt-In survey was created to get a much larger sample of the community. Through various avenues including synagogue newsletters, Federation eNews, Facebook, and personal appeals, we had 426 unique respondents to the (approximately 10 minute) survey. While not the same as a random survey which is vastly costlier in time and money, this was a reasonable compromise to give a voice to everyone in our community who chose to participate. The survey assured anonymity of the respondent and hopefully gave us more frank responses.

Why was it done?

The survey results will enable more proactive decision making for the Boards of the Federation and JEA. *What do people want out of Jewish life? Why do people choose to engage or not engage? Where are possible opportunities to better leverage what our community already has done or is doing?* It is so important to get these answers from a wide range of people representing different ages, levels of engagement, Jewish knowledge, and more. Instead of merely responding to proposals or funding an event or program as a "quick fix" to a larger, possibly systemic community problem, community data enables us to develop initiatives strategically, aligned with priorities that reflect the people and needs of our community.

Equipped with data, we will all have more confidence to try new engagement approaches and overcome barriers to participation. Armed with direct input, we can make data-driven decisions to invest in and support approaches that reflect the outcomes that the community has prioritized.

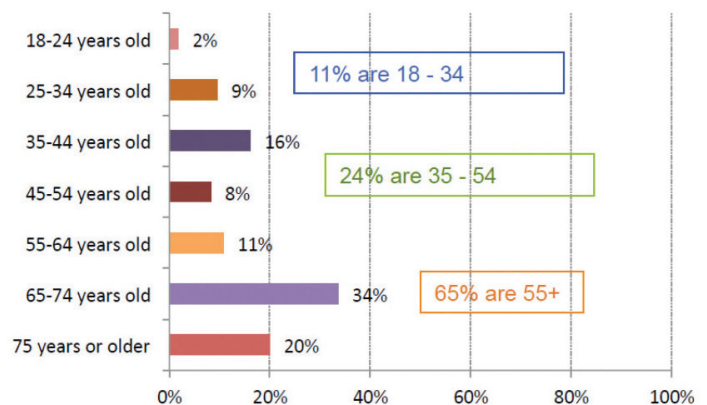
Assessing local needs deepens our understanding of the individuals in our communities and how we can better welcome and engage them in Jewish life.

We should now be able to develop demonstrable outcomes to measure success. From the initial survey data, we are able to determine what outcomes we want to achieve. This could include an increased number of young adults engaging in certain Jewish experiences, or perhaps more people saying that they find meaningful connections through Jewish community.

This is just a first step. Data and knowledge-gathering are a significant investment and can take time to bear fruit. Having conversations and making decisions grounded in data provides clarity and sheds light on what can otherwise be confusing issues around community goals. When we create strategic initiatives, gleaned from professionally mined data, the decision-making processes and goals become much clearer.

By the numbers

Respondent Profile



- Gender distribution: 62% are female and 38% are male
- Age distribution: 11% are 18-34, 24% are 35-54, 65% are over 55 years of age
- 22% are in an interfaith marriage/relationship (46% of those 25-34)
- 73% of those surveyed are "empty nesters"
- 79% live in 31401, 31405, 31406, 31411, 31419. (The zip code distribution closely mirrors our distribution of Savannah Jewish Life magazine)
- 23% were born and raised in Savannah with 61% having moved to Savannah as adults
- 65% indicated they are very unlikely to move in the next 3-5 years

Engagement

- 80% of those surveyed feel very much or somewhat a part of the Savannah Jewish community
- 78% belong to a synagogue (much higher than the national average)
- 69% often or sometimes attend Jewish programs
- Programs for young families and children garnered the most support including Summer camp (93%), preschool (90%), and afterschool (87%), all of which provide an important service to working families
- 93% indicated that community holiday programs were very or somewhat important
- 90% thought sports leagues and activities for kids were very or somewhat important
- Other programs mentioned frequently as very or somewhat important include BBYO (82%), PJ Library (80%), and Shabbat Across Savannah (76%)
- Rated as very important in programming are Yom HaShoah

(83%) and Jewish Family Services (79%);

- Other programs frequently mentioned as Very Important include Speakers/education (72%), Israel Advocacy (68%), Community Relations (68%) and Health & Wellness (68%)
- Most often cited programs needed in the community: Jewish programs (most mentioned), adult, social, singles, and senior programs

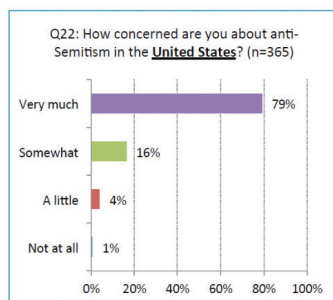
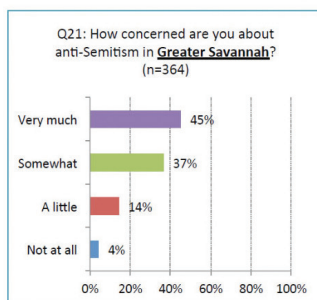
When asked about “*why people don’t attend programs*” in the community the most common answer was “*I’m too busy*” (not surprisingly, those under 55 citing it at double the rate of those over 55), followed by “*the topics don’t resonate with me*,” “*I don’t hear about them*,” “*not at convenient times*,” and “*I don’t feel connected to the Jewish community*.”

Connection to Israel

Mirroring the most recent Pew Research Center Study and Gallup polling, 80% of respondents are very (51%) or somewhat (29%) attached to Israel. Drilling down on the responses there is a large age gap in attachment to Israel with 57% of those 55+ indicating that they are very attached to Israel while only 37% of those below 55 feeling the same way.

Concern About Antisemitism

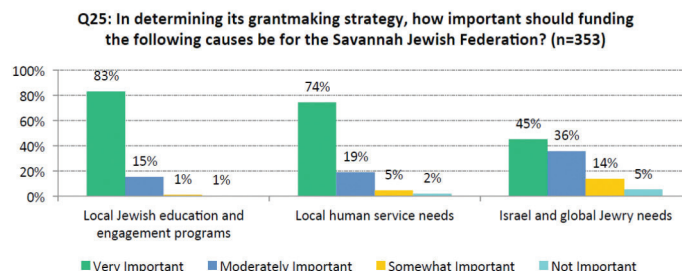
Concern About Antisemitism



Diverging from national statistics, where 79% are very concerned about antisemitism, Jews in the Savannah community registered 45%. The older the respondent, the more concerned they are about antisemitism.

Perceptions of the Savannah Jewish Federation

Perceptions of the Savannah Jewish Federation



The perception of Federation is generally strong with 65% of respondents having donated to Federation in the past 24 months. 78% of those 55+ are donors while 58% under 55 made contributions.

- 70% feel that the Federation adds value to a great extent as a fundraiser for the community;

- 65% feel that Federation successfully conducts outreach to the Jewish community;
- Just over 50% feel that to a great extent, Federation fosters connection to Israel and global Jewry, fosters a cohesive Jewish community, and adds value as a grant maker;
- 44% feel that the Federation is somewhat effective in its outreach to the general community.
- There is almost unanimous support for funding local Jewish education and engagement (98%) and local human service needs (93%)
- While 81% of respondents rated Israel and global Jewry needs “very or moderately important,” support in this category does not garner the same level of interest with those under 55 ascribing much less importance to fund Israel and global needs (this is consistent with the finding about younger respondents being less emotionally attached to Israel).

Leadership & Volunteerism

The Savannah Jewish community indicated that in the last 3-5 years nearly half of all respondents volunteered in a leadership capacity in Jewish or secular organizations in Greater Savannah, with 35-54 years old more likely (66%) to have served on a Board or committee (versus 49% of those 55+). The most often cited organizations for volunteering were synagogues (60%), Federation (43%), and the JEA (43%). Other organizations most often cited for leadership volunteerism included Savannah Voice Festival, United Way, Telfair Museum, Rambam Day School, local hospitals, and Chabad.

When asked what was your motivation to volunteer, respondents stated they wanted to give back (77%) and wanted to help their community (73%). A majority volunteered because the organization’s mission resonated with them (64%) or they have/had a current/previous connection to the organization (58%). Approximately 33% indicated that they were motivated by the organization’s leadership or to maximize their impact. Only 6% of those responding volunteered in order to strengthen their leadership skills, grow their network, or raise their professional profile....truly altruistic!

When asked “What prevented you from taking a leadership position?”

- 40% indicated that they haven’t been asked;
- 30% said they don’t have the time or don’t want the responsibility;
- 20% are concerned about financial obligations or feel that they don’t have the skills

Others cited “*I’m too far from Savannah*,” “*I’m new to Savannah*,” or “*I’m too old*.”

On reflecting on the initial report from Joy Goldstein, JEA President, Larry Silbermann commented, “*The best news coming out of this report is that we have an engaged, enthusiastic community. Our next challenge is figuring out what our next steps should be.*”

Now the hard work begins.

Joy Goldstein’s presentation is available on YouTube (@SavannahJEA) and a copy of the Powerpoint presentation is available by contacting Jamie Richman at jamie@savj.org.

Jews in Food

Cathryn Cohen

Jewish Savannah has no shortage of delights, whether they be historical, architectural, dining and imbibing or otherwise. There are many Jewish business owners in Savannah and here are two young Jewish men who are running successful restaurants in town.

a.lure - Daniel Berman

If you're going out for a romantic dinner, business casual or dress-up evening or entertaining out-of-town guests, be sure to make your reservation at a.lure, located at 309 West Congress Street, in the heart of historic downtown Savannah.



Although a Pennsylvanian by birth, owner Daniel Berman has made his home in Savannah for 25 years after marrying Savannah native Kasey Reeves and raising their children together here.

The spectacular fare that lights up a.lure's modern-day cuisine can be linked directly to Daniel's growing up around great food, working for his uncle's restaurant group in Charleston and Savannah for ten years, training with some of the best chefs in the Southeast, and studying and understanding the cultural building blocks involved in Lowcountry cooking.

If you want to start off with a cocktail, be sure to try Food Network Magazine's Signature Cocktail of Georgia, the Nuts & Grains Manhattan. You can choose a middle dish including the Chef's Soup du Jour or salad and then move onto one of the favorite main dishes that change weekly. Since dishes are often changed seasonally and are locally and regionally sourced, don't be surprised if your favorite delicacy isn't always on the menu. As the world turns, you will see them again.

When asked what the best thing about owning and operating a.lure is, Mr. Berman responded, "I am also a musician, so the orchestrated chaos that blends into a beautiful experience through playing as a team and improvising when called to. It's truly an art form." We can only add, have fun and *Bon Appetit!*

Cotton & Rye - Zach Shultz

Casual and sporting a full bar and great desserts along with fantastic meals, Cotton & Rye is owned by Chef Zach Shultz.

Zach Shultz began dreaming of owning his own restaurant when he was old enough for



his Bar Mitzvah but still probably not of age to hold a legal job. He began his culinary career at the ripe old age of 13 while in middle school in Savannah. His restaurant education continued through high school at other local eateries and then off to Florida he went for more formal learning.

With an Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts and a Bachelor's Degree In Hospitality Management, Mr. Shultz gathered more hands-on experience through working in several restaurants in Florida including the James Beard Foundation's award-winning Chef Allen's Restaurant and the famous Louie's Backyard in Key West. Eventually, he moved back home to Savannah to pursue his dream. Thus, the opening of Cotton & Rye.

Delighting the palate, the menu contains many of the owner's favorite foods, with his own version of down-south and lowcountry staples. including fried chicken and mac & cheese. Through trial and error and lots of taste testing and perfecting, favorites include starters such as the creative and award-winning Chicken Wings made with spicy honey, sumac, and chipotle morita. A crowd pleaser for sure, Cotton & Rye was invited to cook the Wings at the James Beard House in New York City and won first-place among competition from prestigious restaurants throughout the country.

Also relying on the farm-to-table spirit, dishes change seasonally so don't necessarily expect to see the same menu items each time you return. But return you are sure to do.

Cotton & Rye has been well received by the greater community and a lot of its best supporters are from the Savannah Jewish community. The Shultz's were both born and raised in Savannah. As Zach says, "We love seeing our Jewish family friends and cannot thank them enough for their extreme loyalty and constant support. They are the best!"

About the Author

Born in Los Angeles, Cathryn made her home in various locales along the coast of California, in Phoenix, in and around Chattanooga and then on to Georgia. Always engaged in her Jewish Community, she was deeply involved in BBYO, enjoyed responsibilities on the Board of Directors of her temple, and is a Life Member of Hadassah. Writing has been her vocation and avocation all her life. She now lives in Savannah with her husband and their two dogs.



Are you a Jewish business owner in Savannah and want to be interviewed for a feature in Savannah Jewish Life Magazine? Email SavannahJewishLife@savj.org.

2022 Georgia Teacher of the Year

How much more fortunate can we get within our Jewish community? Cherie Dennis, daughter of Dr. Michael Bonder, is not only an outstanding teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages (besides English, she's familiar with four other languages!) and teacher leader at Hesse K8 School, but, moreover, Cherie was nominated by her peers at Hesse to be the school's Teacher of the Year.

After achieving the award from Hesse, Cherie went through a very rigorous essay, classroom observation, and interview process. She was assessed against teacher-of-the-year candidates from every other school in Savannah-Chatham County which resulted in her being chosen as Savannah-Chatham County's District Teacher of The Year.

As if all of those hurdles weren't enough, the competition became even tougher. Against candidates from all over the state, who had won their respective district's teacher-of-the-year award, Cherie was required to participate in additional interviews and give multiple presentations to a panel of educational and community leaders who ultimately selected her as Georgia Teacher of the Year for 2022!!

Cherie was born in New York and grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Cherie then graduated from Georgetown University and Stanford University, majoring in Japanese as an undergraduate and earning a master's degree in East Asian Studies. Wanting to teach Japanese, but not having an opportunity to do so, Cherie began a career in advertising. In 2004, and fortunately for us, Cherie moved to Savannah to be near her parents.

After her son, Emmett, who is now in college at Pepperdine University, started kindergarten, Cherie went back to school at Armstrong for a Master's degree in Teaching Early Childhood Education. She then started teaching in the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, first at White Bluff Elementary, and then at Hesse where she has been since 2011.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Cherie went back to graduate school at Mercer University for her Education Specialist Degree in Teacher Leadership and Endorsement in Educational Coaching.



A growing field in education, Teacher Leadership programs prepare teachers to partner with administrators on the task of identifying school needs and developing strategies for improving student learning, school culture, and professional development within school communities. Teacher leaders often serve as voices and mentors in an effort to create an environment of professional collaboration.

We're thrilled that Cherie has agreed to be a presenter at Food For Thought in 2022. Cherie will speak about her educational experiences, the love she has for her students, her role as Georgia Teacher of the Year, and her passion for public education.



#lifegoals

**To be published in
Savannah Jewish Life**

**Submit your articles, poetry,
reviews, recipes and more!
All Welcome!**

Deadline: February 1
savannahewishlife@savj.org

Savannah-based Home Builder to Lead National Trade Association



Jerry Konter, a Savannah-based builder with more than 40 years experience in the home building industry, is set to take the reins of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) in February 2022 as its Chairman of the Board. NAHB is one of the largest trade associations in the nation, representing 140,000 members of the residential construction industry who work hard every day to build homes and communities.

Konter, currently serving as the association's first vice chairman, is the founder and president of Konter Quality Homes, which he established in 1977 in his home town of Savannah. The company builds a broad range of designs in production home communities and is also a custom builder.

Over the years, Konter Quality Homes has constructed more than 2,000 single-family homes and 500 multifamily units in the Savannah area. Konter has twice been recognized as Savannah Builder of the Year, and he has been inducted into both the Home Builders Association of Greater Savannah and the Home Builders Association of Georgia halls of fame.

In February, at the association's annual industry trade show — the International Builders Show® (IBS) — Konter will ascend to the top of the five-year leadership ladder to be named Chairman. He will lead the six-person senior officer team, which is elected annually by a leadership council comprised of 1,700 members.

Throughout his career, Konter has been active in NAHB's leadership at the local, state and national levels, including as president of the Home Builders Association of Greater Savannah in 1991 and president of the Home Builders Association of Georgia in 1998. At the national level, Konter chaired several NAHB committees including land development, meetings and convention, state and local government affairs and federal government affairs. He is also a senior life delegate, having served as a leader in the association for more than 20 years.

A graduate of the University of Georgia, Konter is active in his community, as a member of the Jaycees, on the board of directors of both the Savannah Humane Society and the Savannah Jewish Federation, as president of the Jewish Educational Alliance (1991-93), as a trustee of the Savannah Jewish Foundation (close to two decades), and as a member of the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Konter and his wife, Marcy, enjoy spending time with family, including their two grown children and two grandchildren.

Young Jewish Savannah

Meet the YJS Connectors



Isn't Sukkot the best holiday ever? Well, it's right up there with Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Purim, and Shavuot! Okay, all holidays are awesome, but for me, Sukkot was extra special this year, and it was all made possible thanks to Young Jewish Savannah.

I am relatively new to Savannah's Jewish community, so when the opportunity to join a group whose mission is to connect Young Jewish adults, I was all in! As children, friends came naturally as we existed in planned circles of like-individuals from school or sports. However, as we progress through school, get jobs, and find our place in the real world, there are fewer opportunities to meet new people, especially in a pandemic... So for me, being a part of Young Jewish Savannah is more than just a group of people to celebrate the holidays with. Instead, this group has helped me make friendships that I would not have had the opportunity to make if not for YJS.

Another incredible perk of being involved in Young Jewish Savannah is that the group.

hosts fun and unique events each month! For example, in the spirit of Sukkot, YJS hosted a wine tasting event. It was a magical night where everyone gathered under the Sukkah while sipping delicious (kosher) wine courtesy of Republic National Distributing Company. It was a night full of laughter, friendship, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Needless to say, I am excitedly waiting until the next event and hope to see even more new faces! Thank you again to Savannah Jewish Federation board member David Forman for my new appreciation of quality wine.

Young Jewish Savannah Member,
Elizabeth Micheline

Elizabeth Micheline

Hi everyone! I'm Elizabeth, an elementary school teacher or chaos coordinator (I've been called both). I have many passions in life, from my love of food & traveling, my two wiener dogs, or my newfound hobby of DIY projects. But I would say my greatest passion in life are people. I



love meeting new people and building new friendships. The way I see it, every new friend is a new adventure!

Yossi Shirazi

Hi there! I'm Yossi. I've recently settled into Savannah and have quickly made this wonderful little corner of earth my home. I work as an environmental economist for an Australian firm (remote, thank goodness) and enjoy interacting with people wherever I go. Sharing and connecting over ideas,



foods, l'chaims, tales of adventures and (of course) photos of my doggos are some of my cornerstone joys. On the weekends you can also find me tinkering on old bikes and getting forever reacquainted with the grass at Forsyth Park.

Mah Jongg and More

Robin Rackoff

When I was a kid, I really wanted my mother to teach me to cook, but somehow, we never got around to it. My mother, however, really wanted to teach me to clean. Fortunately, we never got around to that either. What we did get around to was Mah Jongg.

Even before I could read, she taught me the tiles. I'd stand behind her during her weekly game and try to figure out what hand she was trying to play. Of course, I was not allowed to say a word. The girls, with names like Gert and Ethel, would call me over. "Come stand by me," they'd say. "You'll bring me good luck." So many of my favorite memories of my mother and her friends are tied to Mah Jongg.

Nine years ago, when she was 95, I moved my mother to Savannah to be near me. When my sister and her family would come to visit, we'd try to get my mother to play Maj with us, but she always refused. She was happier to sit behind us, card in hand, and say, "I wouldn't have gone for that hand. Why didn't you go for this hand instead?" pointing to a different one on the card.



Her Mah Jongg days might have been behind her, but not her Bingo, Dominoes, or Word Search days. She was always first in line in the activity room at Buckingham South for whatever game was coming next. In addition, she was an equal-opportunity member of Savannah's Jewish community. She loved going to services, whether at Agudath Achim, Mickve Israel, or Bnai Brith Jacob, and all the rabbis knew her well.

Just recently, my mother, Yetta Tureck, passed away at 104 and a half years old. (She always included the one-half.) She lived a long and beautiful life. I'm sure that Gert and Ethel are waiting for her, tiles ready and snacks on the table. Since it's heaven, I'm sure she'll get lots of jokers. I put her picture on the front of my Mah Jongg card so that each time I play, I can be reminded that her love of the game led to my love of the game.

May she rest in peace. Until next time, let's Maj on!

Food for Thought

We're baaa-ck! On November 4, Food for Thought was live – not streaming online, but in-person, at the JEA! We will welcome attendees every Thursday from 12:30 to 2:00 for a kosher lunch and great presenters.

November presenters included: Dr. Jay Goldstein who spoke on the pandemic and his experiences working in the ER; Frank Katz who discussed the work of many dedicated people on behalf of Jewish War Veterans; and Rabbi Zolmon Refson who enlightened us with information on the history and programming of Chabad.

Presenters for December and early 2022 are already on the calendar. You can get the complete listing at www.savj.org. We welcome suggestions for topics, speakers or entertainment.

Please call the Audey Biloan, Arts and Ideas Coordinator, at 912.355.8111 or email to artsandideas@savj.org.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at a Food for Thought soon!

Meet Audrey Biloan, Arts & Ideas Coordinator for the Savannah Jewish Federation & Jewish Educational Alliance

Audrey is a recovering lawyer, a radio show producer (currently helping on a public radio station), and a writer (currently writing a Times of Israel blog). Her interests are non fiction reading, writing, painting, gardening, improvisational theatre, and finding humor wherever and whenever she can. She is excited to bring programs for adults to the Jewish community.



Chanukah: I Have a Dream!

Sam Glaser

For eight nights, starting with the twenty-fifth of the month of Kislev, Jews celebrate the 165 BCE victory of the Maccabees, a brave troop of priest-warriors that vanquished the mighty Syrian-Greeks. Every winter, we commemorate this military miracle by lighting the Chanukah candles, increasing the glow of spirituality in the world and saluting those who keep the dream of freedom alive. Interestingly, the Torah portions we read at this time of the year also highlight dreamers—we learn about the visions of our patriarch Yaakov and his son Yosef, followed by Pharaoh's butler and baker and then Pharaoh himself. The resounding theme of the power of dreams offers us hope amidst darkness, echoing the prophet Zecharia's motto, "not by might but by spirit" shall we all live in peace. Every single flame on every *chanukiah* (Chanukah *menorah*) is a small victory, a reminder of the triumph of good over evil throughout history. This holiday recalls those dreamers, from biblical times to the present, who were committed to the transformation of a barbaric world into one of liberty and justice for all. Moreover, we are reassured of the efficacy of the secret weapon in our arsenal, the power of dreams.

Jewish survival requires toughness and fortitude, an indefatigable resolve to advocate for liberty and self-expression. As a once enslaved people, we instinctively rally against injustice inflicted on any group. Chanukah further refines the Passover message of freedom, emphasizing that bondage can also be spiritual. Our endurance is predicated upon our ability to learn God's word, to remain separate, to worship as we choose. The Greeks prohibited the three things they perceived crucial to maintaining the Jewish covenantal claim: observing the Sabbath, commemorating Rosh Chodesh and circumcision. Of course, these fundamental mitzvot are not optional for sustained Joy of Judaism and the Maccabees were compelled to take up arms. As we know, the loss of enthusiasm for these Jewish non-negotiables can smother our spark just as readily as the threat of physical annihilation. Chanukah reminds us to "Keep the Dream Alive" in spite of tribulations we face. During the week of Chanukah, we can reflect on ALL injustices suffered by ALL people, feeling a sense of unity with those afflicted throughout history and today.

The standard box of Chanukah candles contains forty-four candles. We light "double *chai*" (thirty-six) over the eight nights to fulfill



the mitzvah. Perhaps this represents *chai* (life) for the Jews and another *chai* for our dream of peace for all nations. The eight leftover candles in the box serve as the *shamash* (servant/aide) for each night. Why? We light the *shamash* first, make the *bracha* and then use it to light the others, one the first night, two the second night, and so on. But more than just igniting the others, the *shamash* serves an important function. *Halacha* dictates we can't use the Chanukah lights for practical purposes like reading or working. These lights are purely spiritual and are solely for our metaphysical enjoyment. If we read by the light of the *chanukiah*, it's the *shamash's* light we're using. That's how holy and special the main lights are! So don't light and run. Avoid the urge to rush into presents, dreidle spinning and a latke feast. Sit and enjoy the candles. Take a deep breath, relax, converse with family and friends, or just sit alone and ponder the simple everyday gifts we get from our Creator. Most importantly, use the holy moments to rekindle your own dreams.

Chanukah is the time to remember that the battle of the Maccabees must be fought in every generation. Like Yaakov and Yosef, whose stories illuminate this season, we must reclaim our connection with the dreams of our people, but not at the expense of our connection with all of humanity. We will continue to fight for a distinct Jewish identity while making this world a better place for all people and all nations. Let us realize Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of a "day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing together with the words of the old folk song, "Free at last, free at last, great God Almighty, we are free at last."

Sam Glaser is a performer, composer, producer and author in Los Angeles. He has released 25 albums of his compositions, travels the world in concert, produces music for various media in his Glaser Musicworks recording studio and his book *The Joy of Judaism* is an Amazon bestseller.

On The Personal Side

Mazel Tov

To **Maxine Patterson School of Dance** for winning the BEST of the BEST of the Coastal Empire for best dance studio and for best dance school for 2021.

To **Jeffrey Lasky** for being named Best Overall Attorney in the Savannah Morning News Best of the Best 2021.

To **Evan Siegall** at Chatham Orthopaedic Associates for being named Best Orthopedist.

To **Lauren Fins** at Fins Animal Training for being named best dog trainer.

To **Sharon Hughes** on her retirement from JEA after 36 years.

To **Shelley & Nitzan Fridman** on the birth of their daughter, Danny.

To **Cherie Dennis** on her engagement to AJ Goldman. A February wedding is planned.

To **Zach & Caroline Schulz** on the birth of a daughter, Bradley Rose Schulz.

To **Rabbi Zalman & Zelly Revson** on the birth of their son.

To **Kara & Spencer Adoff** on the birth of a daughter, Cosette Binie-Roux Adoff.

To **Rabbi Simcha & Erin List** on the birth of their son.

To **Elianna & Mike Gilensen** on the birth of their daughter, Avia Rose Gilensen.

To **Lynn & David Reeves** on their 50th Anniversary.

To Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe attorneys **Stephen F. Greenberg, Edwin Byck & Stuart Halpern** for being peer-selected to be included in the 2022 edition of Best Lawyers.

Tell us your good news! Celebrating a significant event, simcha, birthday or anniversary? Submit to savannahjewishlife@savj.org by March 1st.



**TELL US
YOUR
good
news**

**CELEBRATING A SIGNIFICANT
EVENT, SIMCHA, BIRTHDAY OR
ANNIVERSARY?**

**SUBMIT TO
SAVANNAHJEWISHLIFE@SAVJ.ORG
BY MARCH 1.**



**WADE
HERRING**
DEMOCRAT for CONGRESS
GEORGIA'S 1ST DISTRICT

Best wishes to All during this holiday season. May the bright light of democracy and freedom shine for each and all of us during the Season of Light.
- Wade Herring

WWW.WADEHERRINGFORCONGRESS.COM
Email: info@wadeherringforcongress.com
Phone: 912-996-9354
P.O. Box 9145
Savannah, GA 31412



PAID FOR BY WADE HERRING FOR CONGRESS

Obituaries

Obituaries through 10/31/21

Nell Helen Simon Itzkovitz

Who died Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

She is survived by her sons Frank Wagman and David Wagman, and grandchildren, Jacob Wagman, Adrian Wagman, Michael Wagman, and Allie Wagman.

Yetta Helfand Tureck

Who died Friday, August 27, 2021.

She is survived by her daughters, Robin (Lester) Rackoff, Arlene (Joseph) Crystal, and son, Jeff (Sharyn) Tureck. She was the grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of six.

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

Eduard Grinberg

Who died Monday, August 30, 2021.

He is survived by his wife Marina Khasid Grinberg

Harris "Bud" Joseph Linder

Who died Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

He is survived by his wife Barbara Pearlstein Linder. He was predeceased by his son, Emil Harry, and is survived by his remaining sons Robert Aaron and his wife Tina de Chuebel and their two sons David and Michael and his wife Maeve; Allen Richard and his wife Liza Boyce and their two sons Isaac and Theo; David Edward and his wife Cheryl Evans and their three daughters Sarah, Rebecca, and Joanna, and Parker Ian, his great grandson and son of David Linder and his wife Ashley Williams.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Linda Karsman Friedman

Who died Friday, September 10, 2021.

She is survived by her four children, Renee, Kim, Samuel, and Michael, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Sandon "Sandy" Weller Siegel

Who died Saturday, September 11, 2021.

Robert "Bobby" Myron Zarem

Who died Sunday, September 26, 2021.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Elizabeth (Beth) McCaughey Zarem, and by his six nieces and nephews (and their spouses): Harold (Hal) Aaron Zarem, Allison Elizabeth Zarem, Melissa Emily Zarem, Kathryn Rose Zarem, Michael (Mikey) John Zarem, and Robert (Robbie) Everett Zarem, by seven great-nieces and nephews, and by his many dear friends in New York, Savannah, and around the world.

Donations: Motion Picture & Television Fund, The Wasserman Campus, 23388 Mulholland Drive, Woodland Hills, CA

Louis Jay Freedman

Who died Friday, October 8, 2021.

He is survived by his wife, Elissa Rosner Freedman; sons, Matthew (Mira) Freedman and Isaac Freedman; granddaughter, Gila Freedman; brother, Gerald (Lynda) Freedman; sister, Jan (Frank) Katz and several nieces and nephews.

Donations: Rambam Day School, 111 Atlas Drive, Savannah, GA 31405; Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31405 or American Kidney Foundation (www.kidney.org) (800-488-2277)

Edwin Jacob Feiler, Jr.

Who died Wednesday, October 13, 2021.

He is survived by his wife, Jane Carol Abeshouse Feiler, sons, Andrew (Laura Adams) Feiler, Bruce (Linda Rottenberg) Feiler, and daughter, Cari Feiler (Rodd) Bender, grandchildren Max & Hallie Bender and Eden & Tybee Feiler.

Donations: Congregation Mickve Israel, PO Box 816, Savannah, GA 31402, Leadership Savannah Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1628, Savannah, GA 31402; or Hospice Savannah, PO Box 13190, Savannah GA 31416.

Sylvia Flanel Slotin

Who died Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

She is survived by her son, Abby (Joyce) Slotin and her daughter, Dinah S. Foster; five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Donations: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31405 or the charity of donor's choice.



1 in 3
families struggle
to buy diapers



please help
by donating to our
community diaper drive

collection barrel in lobby, or please click here to donate otmdiaperbank.org



Please Join for
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
 back in person!

Join for a delicious meal, meeting new & old friends, and an engaging speaker.

Thursdays at 12:30 PM
Jewish Educational Alliance



DECEMBER 2

Rabbi Steven Henkin

DECEMBER 9

Dr. Linda Sacks

DECEMBER 16

Magic by Paul Alper

DECEMBER 23

Jennifer Rich

DECEMBER 30

Second Harvest Food Bank

JANUARY 6

Savannah Humane Society

JANUARY 13

Breast Cancer Awareness

JANUARY 20

Coastal Heritage Society

JANUARY 27

Motti Locker

FEBRUARY 3

Oatland Island

FEBRUARY 10

CASA

FEBRUARY 17

Leigh Rich

Reservations are required due to social distancing requirements by the Tuesday before by calling 912-355-8111

All meals are served with a salad, vegetable and dessert



WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN EVENT

Featuring Anita Diamant,
 Author of The Red Tent and her new release,
 Period: End of Sentence

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

10:30 AM

**JEWISH EDUCATIONAL
ALLIANCE**

In collaboration with
 Over the Moon Diaper Bank



JEWISH ARTS & CULTURE FESTIVAL

MARCH 2022

ART | MUSIC | FILMS | COMEDY
& MORE

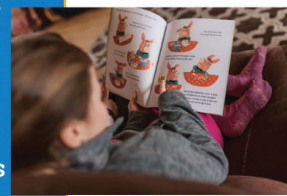
WWW.SAVJ.ORG

PJ Library® & PJ OUR WAY™

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



Families with children ages 9 to 12 years old can register for PJ Our Way at PJOurWay.org.



Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library® is free for those who qualify for the program, which grants one subscription per child. The subscription is renewable annually for qualifying Savannah families.

Need more information? Email PJLibrary@savj.org



Savannah Jewish Federation
Your campaign dollars at work!



Savannah PJ Library
& PJ Our Way

Artist Spotlight

December

'Follow the Thread'

The Fiber Guild of the Savannahs

Show runs December 1-31, 2021

Reception December 5, 2:00-4:00 PM

The Fiber Guild of the Savannahs is a group of fiber artists who meet regularly

(via Zoom meetings at the moment) to share inspiration and techniques using a wide variety of fiber-related arts. Spinning, weaving, dyeing, quilting, knitting, basketry, rug making, paper manipulation, needle felting, and crocheting are just some of the crafts our members explore. We have a strong sense of community service and volunteerism. Our members demonstrate traditional pioneer crafts to children and families at the annual festivals at Oatland Island Wildlife Center. All persons—beginners, amateurs and professional fiber artists, are all welcome to join the guild.



January [artist spotlight -

Courtney Trowman

Mixed Media Collage

Courtney Trowman

Show runs January 2-30, 2022

Reception January 6, 5:00-7:00 PM

Courtney Trowman's mixed media collage is born out of an inherent need for expression, her passion for



art, and her love of repurposing. Self admittedly, her strength is not drawing/painting and she became intrigued by collage and mixed media after being inspired by Robert Rauschenberg's work, a well-known American graphic artist whose early works anticipated the pop art movement.

Trowman came to her art in her 20s, self-taught by her own curiosity, play and experimentation. Inspired to reduce her carbon footprint, all of her collage work consists of found materials and up-cycled/recycled items. To further express the depth and complexity of emotions in her pieces, she began incorporating epoxy resin, giving her pieces more multi-dimensional layers.

She has been living in Savannah since 2016, previously living in California, Arizona, Ohio and even England for two years. She began showing her work publicly in 2018, participating in several

group shows at Sulfur Studios, and held her first month-long residency at the JEA in August 2020.

Courtney's creative career also includes being a published poet, a professional dance theater performer and Assistant Director for Zion Dance Company.

February

'Canvas Chats Presents: Color Me Inspired'

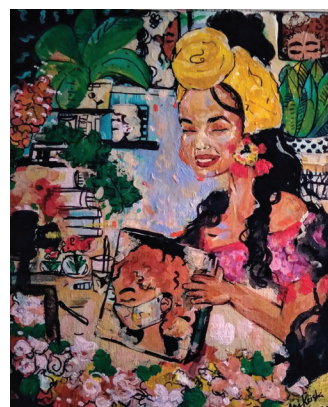
Nae'Keisha Jones

An interactive show with the JEA Children's Department

February 1-28, 2022

Reception February 6, 3:00-5:00 PM

Nae'Keisha C. Jones, the founder and creator of Canvas Chats, wanted to curate a place that breeds inspiration, challenging creatives of any age to create pieces of various art forms that reflect uplifting their communities. She has included an interactive element this time around and collaborated with the staff and kids of the JEA family to showcase their creations alongside hers.



This will be Nae'Keisha's largest solo show to date featuring at least 30 pieces honoring Black History Month. Among the work, her newest venture of a limited-edition home decor collection will make its official debut.

Are you an artist? Would you like to show your work in the JEA Art Gallery? We feature artists from different fields: oil painters, water colorists, sculptors, photographers, potters, quilters, textiles, mixed media, wood sculpture, mosaics and more! Each show is one month, and you may choose to have an opening reception. There's no charge to use our space, but we do ask for a small percentage of anything sold. Having a show at the JEA is a great way to have your work seen and to help your community. Please contact Vicky@savj.org to inquire about available months for your show!



THURSDAYS | 1:00 PM | ZOOM

My Camp Story

Maiya Tolman

This summer I went to camp Barney Medintz! Every night we had milk line. Milk line is when we have a cookie and a drink such as milk, chocolate milk, orange juice, or apple juice. We got to pick one of the drinks and got one cookie. If there were extra cookies, we would play trivia to see who would get them.

My favorite activity was art. We did sooooo many activities. My favorite art project was when we made bunk signs. I put my initials on mine. I also liked the lake because it had a blob, rave (two trampolines, a wrestling mat and a swing), and the floating dock. The rave was my favorite.

The best part of it all was that I made new friends and had fun with old friends too. Shabbat was also fun because we all sang songs with everyone. It felt like shul (synagogue) -- but better.

I am so happy that I got to go to Camp Barney Medintz. Thank you so much.



Sydney Linfoot

The summer of 2021 was my fifth summer at Camp Barney Medintz. My favorite camp trip was Mappy. It was awesome, we hiked over 5 miles on the Appalachian Trail.

At camp, I love to hang out with friends, and get refreshed in the lake! Also, this year I got to go on the Omega Zip Line again - it was so much fun. You get to go on a zip line one thousand feet long and more than 100 feet in the air, and splash into the lake. That was what I called a camp experience! During Color War, I represented the Red team in the fire building contest and we WON!

At camp you get to do different jobs from the cabin work wheel and my personal favorite is to be the waiter: you get to go to the meal a little bit earlier than your cabin and set up your table. It is very fun to be a waiter. Also, at camp there are amazing activities. You can do arts and crafts, ski, do activities in the lake, go on trips, and a lot of other fun activities, But the best part of all is to interact with your friends.

The best day of the week is Shabbat. On Shabbat, the whole camp gets together and sings with Deddy Paz, who plays the guitar. At camp, everyone is Jewish, and it feels Great!

Thank you to the Savannah Jewish Federation for helping to send me to Camp Barney Medintz.



SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION SUMMER EXPERIENCE GRANTS



Grants available for:
Overnight summer camp
Jewish youth group summer programs
Leadership development programs
Israel programs

Grants are provided from the
Savannah Jewish Federation
Annual Campaign and awarded on a
non-needs basis

Applications open December 1
www.savj.org



JEA Preschool Savannah

Penny Berkman,

**DOOBIM (PREK) TEACHER
& GARDENING SPECIALIST**

Tu B'Shevat is a beautiful Jewish holiday when we turn our attention to the beauty of trees, the cycle of the seasons, and the importance of taking care of nature. Tu B'Shevat (literally, the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat) is the New Year of the Trees or the Birthday of the Trees. Tu B'Shevat, an ancient Jewish "Earth Day," reminds us that caring for the earth is a central tenet of Jewish tradition. Jewish traditions of Tu B'Shevat can help us be "shomrei adamah", guardians of the earth, by encouraging us to stop and appreciate the world. In 2022, Tu B'Shevat begins on the evening of January 16 and ends in the evening on January 17.

At JEA Preschool Savannah, we are teaching the children from an early age about these big ideas through the gardening program which is a part of the curriculum.

Gardening cultivates meaningful and fun learning experiences which not only promotes the love of the land but also the idea of teamwork. The children get so excited when it is time to put on their rainboots and go to the gan, the Hebrew word for garden.



They have the opportunity to work together as they weed the plant boxes, till the soil, and plant the seeds.

There are many benefits of gardening for young children. The children are able to indulge in all their senses. They dig in the dirt to look for worms, try to identify the various insects that are helpful for our plants, pull weeds and taste the different herbs through their senses of taste and smell. Working in the garden teaches them responsibility. The children have learned that plants depend on people to water and take care of them in order to grow into beautiful and healthy plants. Gardening teaches patience as the children need to wait for the seeds to sprout. It's not instantaneous, like the world we live in today!

For the children, the best part is harvesting and tasting their labor of love. It is such a favorable sight to behold when the little JEA gardeners pick the vegetables and start munching the carrots and lettuce like little rabbits. They also are excited to bring flowers and herbs home to show their families.

From a teacher's standpoint it is very rewarding when she receives feedback from the children as well as their parents that they have created gardens at their own homes. The

JEA Preschool garden is a classroom unto itself. Please feel free to come and enjoy the efforts of our beautiful children and look at it through their eyes.

So as the Tu B'Shevat holiday approaches, the children will learn about the ideas of celebrating the tree's birthday and the beauty of nature through the gardening program at JEA Preschool Savannah.





**CHALLENGE YOUR FAMILY TO
SOMETHING NEW THIS WINTER!**

JANUARY 9, 2022

Register online at savannahjea.org

5K Registration | \$36

1 Mile Kids Run | \$18

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Race Participation & timing
- Participation Medal
- Drink Tickets
- T-Shirt

Sponsorship Opportunities Available
fitness@savj.org

Plunge into Those New Year Goals

With 2022 just around the corner, it is time to start thinking about those New Year resolutions! Whether your goals are mental or physical, the JEA is here for you.

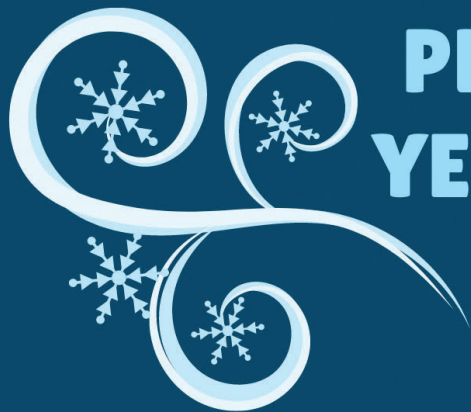
What better way to kick off your New Year than to participate in our Oy Vey 5k on January 9! Don't worry, we will have entertainment for your children as well with our Kids' Fun Run. For those feeling really brave, we will also be holding our Polar Plunge the same day at the outdoor pool.

Beyond our big events happening right at the start of the New Year, we also have a variety of adult and youth fitness programs



to choose from to help you accomplish your health-related goals. From our Kids TriFIT Club, Youth Basketball, Swim Club, adult fitness classes, personal training, GlideFIT Classes, preschool enrichment programs, & stroke clinics we have something for everyone!

What are you waiting for? Take a plunge into this next year with us at the JEA!



PLUNGE INTO THOSE NEW YEAR GOALS THIS WINTER!

**Polar Plunge
Oy Vey 5k
Youth Sports**



**Swim Club/Swim Lessons
Fitness Classes & Personal Training
...plus so much more!**

SAVANNAHJEA.ORG





WELCOME TO THE **J**

William Blincoe
Sean Dane-Kellogg
Paul & Paula Fisher
Frederick & Jennifer Foster
Ellis Kirby
Russ Lee & Carol Higgins
Sudre Lesperance & Tihera Clements
James & Elizabeth Massey
Lawrence & Denise Mielnicki
Christopher Peeler & Laura Beasley
Juan & Rossana Ramires
Lawrence & Melissa Ruf
Eric Shumate
Kari Smith
Ross Willis & Jessica Thompson
Gabriel Woffindin

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY



WINTER DAYS AT THE



School's Out Camp at the JEA

DECEMBER 20-24, DECEMBER 27-31
JANUARY 3 & JANUARY 18

PRE K - 8TH GRADE

DEC 20-24

DEC 27-31, JAN 3 & 18



2022 Preschool at Rambam Day School

Ester Y. Rabhan

Rambam's Preschool is accredited by Bright From The Start, Georgia's department of early care and learning. Bright From The Start guidelines require licensed facilities to follow strict guidelines that ensure children are provided with a developmentally appropriate, safe, and nurturing environment for children from birth to age five.

In addition, Rambam's Preschool is also rated as a preschool of distinction by Georgia's department of early care and learning, Quality Rated. Quality Rated is yet a higher set of guidelines and standards that requires a Preschool's commitment to excellence.

Research demonstrates a strong correlation between a quality early childhood education and how well children who attend a Quality Rated program are prepared for school. In 2016, Quality Rated awarded Rambam's Preschool the highest rating possible, three stars out of a three-star rating, thus placing Rambam's Preschool among a select few preschools of the highest distinction in the state of Georgia.

We welcome the opportunity to take you on a virtual tour of Rambam, either while children are in classes or after hours. Please contact our office at 912-352-7994 or by email at office@rambamdayschool.org.



2022 PRESCHOOL ADMISSION

Enrolling Now For PreSchool

Call Today

912.352.7994

RambamDaySchool.Org

- *2 Year Old Class (2Y) through Pre-Kindergarten*
- *Low Student To Teacher Ratio For Individual Attention*
- *Flexible AfterHours Childcare*

- *Rambam Utilizes The Georgia Early Learning & Development Standards (Gelds)*
- *We Are Licensed through Bright from the Start*
- *We Are A Recognized PreSchool With Distinction Highest Rating - Three Stars - With Quality Rated*

*Expose Your Children
To Judaism So They Can Make
Informed Decisions Later In Life.*

Time to Chase Away the Darkness



SHALOM SCHOOL

Moments of social disruption are a valuable reminder that so much of what we take for granted, our sense of normalcy, isn't necessarily normal at all. The breakdown of the ordinary forces us to confront the ideas and expectations that form the basis of our understanding of the world. A bit like Antiochus changed the life of our ancestors, the pandemic changed ours. At the end, the Maccabees prevail and so will we. This year, we finally get together to light the Menorah candles and chase away the darkness.

Celebrating Hanukkah is about rejoicing with family and friends (and about latkes of course). Hanukkah is also a reminder of our ancestors' fight for the right to keep their faith and their refusal to assimilate.

By re-telling the Hanukkah story to our children, by building family traditions around this holiday, or any other *Chag*, we transpose that battle into today's world. Education, *chinuch*, is our way to fight for the preservation of our religious identity. "*Educate children in the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not depart from it.*" - Proverbs 22:6. At Shalom School, after months apart, our students are back in classrooms together. Our halls are once again noisy: voices joining the guitar at our morning service, chatter about *Tanach* lessons or about ways to put in practice a *Gmitut Hassadim* lesson. Education links us directly to the story of Hanukkah. Parents, grandparents, and countless generations before connected in their refusal to abandon faith, even in the face of adversity: like at the time of the Maccabees, of the Spanish Inquisition, or a world pandemic.

There is so much that occurs under the surface of our classes: the Jewish identities we build, the relationships we forge, and more importantly the continuation of our people. It doesn't matter where our students are in school during the week, come Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, like the Maccabees, they join forces to reaffirm again and again their dedication to their Jewish faith.





Bnai Brith Jacob Synagogue

Join Us for all things

FALL & WINTER

Spiritual and Soulful

**CHANUKKAH AND CHANUKKAH FAMILY NIGHT
CELEBRATIONS**

TU B'SHVAT

PURIM / MEGILLAS ESTER / FESTIVITIES

ANNUAL SUPERBOWL WATCH PARTY DINNER

DAILY / NIGHTLY TORAH STUDY CLASSES

UPCOMING ULPAN (HEBREW LANGUAGE) COURSES

DAILY AND SHABBOS KOSHER FOOD SPECIALS

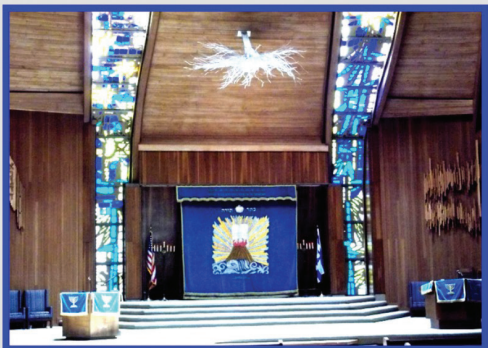
DAILY SERVICES 3 TIMES A DAY

FOR QUESTIONS, INFO, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CALL OR EMAIL US: BBJACOB OFFICE@GMAIL.COM

912-354-7721

WWW.BBJSYNAGOGUE.COM



CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

Hanukkah Party & Fundraiser

Join us for an evening of fun!!!

**Community Candle Lighting, Musical Entertainment, Dinner/Open Bar,
Children's Programming**

Please consider a gift to the Synagogue as your entrance fee.

A gift of \$136/adult will get you a ticket to the raffle.

**If you have already purchased tickets to the Gala, there is no need
to make an additional gift.**

We will have our regular Gala Raffle and Auctions.

Thursday, December 2nd @ 5:30pm

MUST RSVP BY November 26, 2021!!!!

All attendees of age must be masked and vaccinated. Children who are not yet eligible will be kept separate.



**In person Minyan is back on Tuesday, Friday, and
Saturday mornings. To join us call the office,
912-352-4737.**

**Backpack Buddies, Shalom School, and our
Judaism classes are back. Call for more
information.**

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

MICKVE ISRAEL
WISHES YOU A
**HAPPY
CHANUKAH**

CHANUKAH CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD @ 6PM

BRING YOUR MENORAHS
AND HELP US CELEBRATE
THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

VISIT THE GIFT SHOP FOR OUR
CHANUKAH AND END-OF-YEAR
SALE IN PERSON OR AT
SHOPMICKVEISRAEL.COM



In-Person & Virtual Services Every Shabbat & Jewish Holiday

Please call the Temple office
at 912-233-1547
or email info@mickveisrael.org
for a current schedule of our services.

Shabbat To-Go meals
will be available and open to all.

Streaming service links will be sent out
via our weekly email or go to
youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah



Congregation Mickve Israel
20 E Gordon St.
Savannah, GA 31401
912-233-1547
mickveisrael.org
youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah

Come visit Mickve Israel We are open for tours!

Tours Monday through Friday
at 10am, 11am, 1:30pm and 2:30pm

Price: \$10 per person, adults
\$5 for Children 12 and under

Proof of vaccinations, masks, and reservations
required to tour our Historic Synagogue.

Call the office at 912-233-1547 for
more information and to purchase tickets.



Journey of the Soul

Rabbi Zalman Refson of Chabad of Savannah in partnership with the Savannah Jewish Federation will present a new adult education course that will be boldly exploring one of the most asked questions - what happens after we die?

Journey of the Soul considers what happens to the soul at birth and again at death, whether there is a "better place" after this one, whether our loved ones continue to connect with us, the Jewish understanding of reincarnation and how to relate to an afterlife even if we're not spiritual.

Understanding death as a continuation of life reveals the essence and beauty of life while putting everything in a dramatically new context: The soul is on one long journey that is greater than each particular chapter.

Journey of the Soul is geared to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning.

The course will launch in January 2022 and classes will take place at the JEA. For more information and to sign up to this course please visit Jewishsav.org/soul

6"H



JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

A fresh
look at life,
death *and the*
rest—in peace



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(Donations made 8/1/2021 through 10/31/2021)

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Donating to a Savannah Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah fund is a wonderful way to honor a special simcha or life cycle event, honor the memory of a friend or a loved one, or recognize someone in the community. Visit www.savj.org to see a complete list of funds and to make a donation.

A feast for Chanukah.

We'll help you celebrate. Find recipes
at publix.com/Chanukah.



Let's Make Miracles



Savannah
Jewish
Federation

Give Today!
www.savj.org

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