

Savannah JEWISH ★ LIFE

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Shalom Savannah

Adam Solender, Chief Executive Officer

In my last column to the community as the Federation and JEA Executive, I wanted to leave a message of appreciation, of hope, and warm thoughts.

For the past (almost) 17 years, I have had the privilege of being a guide of this historical Jewish community. I have been surrounded by a group of colleagues who have been hard-working, inspirational, and professional, in almost every way. We have had volunteer leadership who have given their time, their hearts and minds, their passion, all with little recognition. Some have done it multiple times for different organizations; They do it because they believe in who we are and what we do and have a deep reverence for our past, and a love and concern for the future of this community.

Over the past decade and a half+ I have often said, *"If you could see what I see, you'd give more, more time, more money, more passion."* There are so many extraordinary individuals who give to those they know and those they'll never know:

There was the individual who donated many hundreds of thousands of dollars to Israel social service organizations over the years but had never been to Israel (*"I know what my responsibility as a Jew is."*). There was the member of the community who had been supporting another for four decades (It was only discovered after his death). There are those who make weekly visits to the elderly, to those less able, to folks they barely know; providing socialization, food, and funds. There are those that have created funds for the future to provide support for the very programs and services that they have supported over a lifetime. We have members of the community who have seen a need, developed an answer, and worked to make it come to fruition. All in this very small Jewish community, the one that *"thinks and acts like it is a large Jewish community."*

As we read in Pirke Avot, "You are not required to finish the work, yet neither are you free to desist from it."

I came to Savannah in 2007 with a very specific list of goals, some personal, some laid out by the community leadership. Many have been accomplished, some no longer are a priority, and others we just never got to.

I hope that I have left the community better than I found it.

While I have been at the helm of the organizations, we have had many challenges, both locally and overseas, yet, they almost all pale with where we are today. These are frightening times where we are confronting multiple crises at the same time, in Israel, in Savannah, and around the world.

We are living in a time of toxic polarization. Yet, our community has a way of coming together and responding in a unified way.

As the Grateful Dead said in their masterpiece album, American Beauty, *"What a long strange trip it's been."* Take care of each other, value and respect each other, give from your heart, and most of all, be kind.



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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 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.

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.

Savannah Jewish Life is published quarterly four times a year, with a deadline as follows:

Spring Issue- March, April & May- Deadline February 1

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Fall Issue- September, October & November- Deadline August 1

Winter Issue- December, January & February- Deadline November 1

Please send all Savannah Jewish Life materials to: savannahjewishlife@savj.org

Please send eNews newsletter submissions to: news@savj.org

Please join us for
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SEPTEMBER 5

"Requiem For A Whale" Movie

SEPTEMBER 12

"Takeaways for Telfair Museum"

SEPTEMBER 19

Fire Safety

SEPTEMBER 26

National Pancake Day Celebration

OCTOBER 3

Rosh Hashanah- No Food For Thought

OCTOBER 10

"One Year after Oct 7"

OCTOBER 17

Sukkot- No Food For Thought

OCTOBER 24

Simchat Torah- No Food For Thought

OCTOBER 31

A History of Spooky Savannah

NOVEMBER 7

"The Rise of the Kosher Mezze Plate"

NOVEMBER 14

Unlock The Mysteries of the
Rubik's Cube

NOVEMBER 21

Gut Health

NOVEMBER 28

Thanksgiving- No Food For Thought

DECEMBER 5

Flannery's Centennial Season



Thursdays at 12:30 PM
Jewish Educational Alliance

Enjoy a delicious meal,
conversations with friends,
and an engaging speaker.

All meals are served with
salad, vegetable and dessert

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by the Tuesday before
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Join us for the
Youth Group Show
inspired by Jewish Artist Icons
+
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of the Montag Art Gallery
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•Please join PJ Library Savannah for a•

Van Gogh Paint Party & Art Gallery Reception

2:30-4:00PM

Enjoy the Grand Opening of
The Montag Art Gallery,
featuring works from the Jewish Artist
Icons Youth Group Show, and take
home a Van Gogh inspired piece of art.

Free babysitting starting at
4:00pm for JEA Gala attendees.
Prior registration required.

PJ Library

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WAY.

Legend & Legacy

Linda Sacks

On August 26, 2024, Adam Solender stepped down as CEO and Executive Director of the Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance, completing nearly 17 years of unparalleled leadership. Among other accomplishments, his tenure saw the establishment of the city's best preschool at the JEA, a new outdoor pool, and increased participation in the JEA and Federation's educational presentations, community events, athletics and wellness programs, and increased physical security.

Adam was known as a sort of financial wizard, as he brought solid business practices to the running of both non-profit organizations. Under his guidance the JEA emerged from deep red ink in 2007 to a balanced budget - one that is now, four times larger than when he started. Moreover, the support the JEA receives from Federation hasn't increased in 14 years! Our annual Federation campaign remains strong despite losing some major donors through relocation and natural attrition.

"Push the needle forward, think outside the box, anticipate results of your actions months and years down the line," has been Adam's credo, the philosophy of a creative leader. For example, according to Adam, one should look at an organization's budget because it reveals where its priorities lie. He taught us that a substantial unexpected surplus at year's end is not cause for celebration until you ascertain that the extra money is NOT due to planned programs that were NOT carried out. Making good on the programs for which you budgeted is your MISSION.

He has worked tirelessly for Jewish Family Services, ensuring that community members in need are taken care of appropriately, quickly and confidentially.

Adam's skills pulled us through several recessions, a hurricane or two, and COVID. During the pandemic Adam kept our building running. Unlike public schools, our preschool remained mostly open with an organized plan to prevent spread of COVID. Adam realized we could not jeopardize education in toto. He saw to it that both the Federation and JEA secured COVID funds so we could protect our employees and the institution financially.

Adam worked diligently for several years in order to bring us into SCN, Secure Community Network, the national security initiative that strengthens our entire

Jewish community-our synagogues and Jewish schools and institutions - against threats of terrorism and antisemitism that unfortunately have become part of our lives as Jews in 21st century America. A Director of security, classes on security topics, grant money for physical security improvements are just a small part of what membership in SCN brings.

Adam has secured many grants, both large and small, to keep our educational and community programs going. For example, JEA recently received a 1.5 million dollar grant from Perlman-Spears foundation over 10 years for building upgrades. We received \$40K from a philanthropic foundation through JFNA for security guards for our children at Rambam, Shalom School, JEA preschool and after school program through the end of 2024.

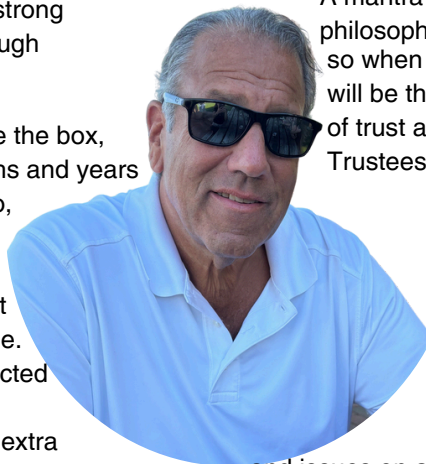
A mantra of Adam's fiscal expertise is his philosophy on endowments – allow them to GROW, so when the need for funding is critical, the money will be there. He has received the highest degree of trust and confidence from the Foundation's Trustees.

Adam is a staunch advocate for Israel, a man studied in both the politics and culture of our homeland. He is the national President of the Friends of Israel Association of Community Centers. He possesses a deep knowledge of Jewish history and respect for religion. His grasp of Judaic events

and issues on a global scale made him an articulate voice for our Jewish community both in person and in print. His knowledge and passion comes through in his articles, speeches and presentations at meetings. As he passed on information regarding national and international events of relevance affecting us as Jews, he opened doors to our community through current events knowledge. As our primary executive, Adam has represented us well among Savannah's political movers and shakers; many are now his friends, and they all respect him as a true leader.

Adam's dedication, visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to Savannah's Jewish community has been 24/7 for nearly two decades. As Adam's term ends, we thank him for a job well done; we appreciate his enduring legacy.

The entire community wishes him all success in the future as he embarks on his next adventure.



**May the year 5785 bring peace!
The Ratners wish you much joy!**

Allan, Arlene, Jami, Scott, Skylar,
Madelyn, Brett, Jennifer, Margot

**Linda & Michael, Stephanie, Jonathan,
Lilly, Amelia and Isabelle Zoller; Becca,
Eric, Adeline & Zachary Zoller Stone wish
everyone a happy and healthy New Year.**

**Wishing you a new year
filled with good health and
much happiness.
The Shernoff Family**

**Best Wishes for A Happy and
Healthy New Year!**

The Kulbersh Family:
Harriet and Paul
Dana, Eric, Ross, and Alyssa
Brian, Jennifer, Alec, Peri and Josie

**Dayle and Aaron, Shraga and Chava,
Rich and Michelle and their families
send loving wishes to all of their family
and friends for a new year filled with
peace, good health, and gratefulness.**

**Happy Holidays
AM Goldkrand
Judith Goldkrand & Nancy Geenen
Lucy & Joy Goldkrand Cheskin
Howard Goldkrand
Beth Coleman and BZ**

**We wish everyone a
very Happy New Year**

Marilyn and Jim Farley

**From our families to yours, the ADL
Southeast regional office wishes you
L'Shana Tova. May you be inscribed in the
Book of Life for a good year, may every
hostage in Gaza return home, and may we all
see a more peaceful and just world.**

L'Shana Tova!
Jewish Educational Alliance Board of Directors

**To a better year ahead
The Fins Family**

**We wish for health, happiness, and peace here
in Savannah, Israel, and the entire world.**

L'Shana Tova
Sarah Denmark & Adam Solender

**Steve and Linda Sacks wish a Happy and
Healthy New Year to the Savannah Jewish
Community.**

**Wishing all our family and friends a healthy and
happy new year. May there be peace for all!**

Best always,
Lenny & Tami Tishberg

L'Shana Tova!
Savannah Jewish Federation Board of Governors



Allison Konter

Jewish Educational Alliance, President



As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and hope. Rosh Hashanah is not only a time of reflection but also a moment to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. This season of renewal invites us to pause, consider our journey, and chart a course for the future with clarity and purpose.

The past year has been one of continued growth and transformation for our Jewish Educational Alliance. Thanks to our community's unwavering support and dedication, we have made several exciting enhancements to our facilities and services. These updates include our preschool expansion, a renovated outdoor pool that we have now enjoyed for a second summer season, and upgrades to our recreation and fitness facility.

As we enter this new year, our vision is to build on this solid foundation and further enhance the ways in which we serve our community. Our goals for the coming year include significant improvements to our facilities and resources, including essential capital projects. First, it is paramount that we address our roof and HVAC system. Our building's roof has served us well over the years, but it is now in critical need of replacement to ensure the future of our facility. Our current HVAC system needs updates to make it a more modern and energy-efficient system. Improving both the roof and HVAC system is critical to the health of one of our community's most essential assets and will reduce the long-term costs of running our facility. Finally, we plan to renovate our outdoor spaces, to create more inviting and functional areas for community gatherings and activities. Improvements will include dedicated kids play areas, paving a half mile walk path, and ensuring that all of our outdoor spaces are accessible and navigable for all.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to our former CEO, Adam Solender, who has dedicated nearly 17 years of exceptional service to our Jewish community. Under Adam's remarkable leadership, we achieved significant milestones. Adam spearheaded the development of a state-of-the-art preschool that has become a cornerstone of our community.

He navigated the Alliance through some of the most challenging economic and global health crises in recent history, demonstrating resilience and adaptability in preserving our mission and supporting our members. Additionally, Adam was instrumental in expanding our programming for children and youth, creating opportunities for learning, growth, and engagement that have enriched the lives of many young people in our community.

As we bid farewell to Adam, we warmly welcome our new CEO, Sam Friedman. Sam brings a wealth of experience and a visionary approach that promises to guide our community to new heights. With a keen sense of innovation and a deep understanding of our community's needs, Sam is poised to lead us into an exciting new chapter. We are thrilled about the fresh perspectives and strategic vision he will bring, which will undoubtedly propel the Jewish Educational Alliance forward and enhance our ability to serve and connect with our members.

Rosh Hashanah is a time for setting intentions and making resolutions. As we gather with family and friends to celebrate the new year, let us take this opportunity to reflect on our individual and collective goals. Let us approach the coming year with a spirit of renewal, optimism, and shared purpose.

I wish each of you a sweet and fulfilling New Year. May it be filled with health, happiness, and the joy of meaningful connections. As we embark on this new chapter, let us move forward together with strength and solidarity, confident in the knowledge that our shared vision and collective efforts will continue to enrich our community and strengthen our bonds.

L'shanah tovah and warmest regards

Linda Sacks

Savannah Jewish Federation, President



5784 has been a difficult year for the Jewish community here in Savannah and world-wide. We began the year with the announcement that our CEO and Executive Director Adam Solender would step down after nearly 17 years of dedicated leadership. A ten person hard working transition committee, co-chaired by Robyn Carroll and Buzzy Karpf was formed and hired a JCCA consultant to assist them. Many zoom sessions, in-person meetings, phone calls and interviews later, we signed Sam Friedman as our new CEO. You can learn about his background, qualifications and plans for our organization's future elsewhere in this SJL issue.

And then, on October 7, we awoke Shabbat and Yom Tov morning to the news that Hamas terrorists were attacking civilians at kibbutzim bordering Gaza, at a music festival, and military bases. They murdered over 1,200 innocents and took over 250 hostages including Americans. They struck with inhumane barbarism, in the worst "pogrom" since the Holocaust. Israel's IDF struck back in defense of our homeland; the war in Israel has now raged for 11 months. Many still remain hostage. Over 600 IDF soldiers have died. Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been displaced, and are temporarily housed in other cities, their lives totally disrupted.

In Savannah we immediately held a rally in support of Israel. While most of the world initially supported Israel's right to defend itself, antizionism and antisemitism are now the norm at the UN and on college campuses. University administrators for the most part have shown themselves to be at the best cowards and at the worst truly antisemitic, supporting Hamas supporters' right to destroy property in the name of free speech.

As Jews we are caught up in the strange and often bitter politics of an election year, and the division of opinion regarding the embattled Prime Minister of Israel. And sadly, despite our communal support for our brothers and sisters in Israel, the gap of understanding between synagogues remains wide. Communication of critical information to all members of our community remains a challenge, despite heroic efforts from Adam and staff at the JEA and SJF. And without communication, participation becomes more difficult to achieve.

On the brighter side, there is much we at Federation here and globally have been able to do. In response to the crisis in Israel, we found the support and generosity of our local Jewish and non-Jewish community. In the space of a few weeks, we collected \$300,000 to send to JFNA for distribution in Israel. JFNA is prepared to assist immediately where needed and through other agencies with food, shelter, medical care, and psychological support services. In addition, our annual campaign collected nearly \$1 million for general needs here and worldwide, an additional \$39 thousand for security (the amount will be matched by a grant), and an additional \$85 thousand pledged for Israel. On the downside, many of our most generous donors have relocated to other communities, and sadly, with the passage of time, some have died. It remains difficult to recruit solicitors, but we managed. Help with solicitation is always needed and appreciated.

Other positive notes this past year included a CHABAD led, Federation and community supported Hanukkah party. The event delighted everyone, including our non-Jewish neighbors who joined in the fun. SJF marched in the MLK parade with a group twice the size and enthusiasm of 2023's. In March we presented "Anne and Emmett", a play examining the similarities and differences in the hatred and prejudice experienced by Anne Frank and Emmett Till, a young African American lynched for talking to a white woman. Due to the generosity of our community, we were able to offer the play free to everyone. The audiences of all religious and ethnic groups were moved by the content. We can only hope that the lessons of tolerance and "no place for hate" will change how we deal with each other in daily life.

Federation sponsored an additional program on the origins of antisemitism featuring Brendan Murphy, an award winning holocaust teacher from the Marist School in Atlanta. We commemorated Yom Hashoah at the JEA in May. PJ Library continues to bring Jewish books and programs to kids at no cost to their parents, and Food for Thought provides subsidized lunch, socialization and fascinating information to our older adults. Young Jewish Savannah is active once again!

The success of our collaboration with Security Community Network continues. Brett Butler, our security director, has presided over countless programs held at the JEA and local shuls. All of our security programs are open to the public. Assessments of security needs at all our Jewish institutions have been completed, and continue to be updated. We recently obtained an additional security grant for the remainder of 2024 to provide guards whenever and wherever children are involved at our Jewish institutions.

The leadership of Federation wishes everyone a Shana Tova. We hope and pray that 5785 will be a better year for all. May we all be inscribed for a year of peace.

Rabbi Avigdor Slatos

B'nai Brith Jacob



"Bechol Dor V'dor Omdim Aleinu Lechaloseinu". In the Hagaddah at the Pesach Seder, as we celebrate our freedom from the exile of Egypt, our Sages inserted a very sobering statement: *"In every generation they rise up against us to destroy us and the Holy one, blessed is He, rescues us from their hands."*

For many, these were just words from a ceremonial service, however, since October 7, 2023, these words have become a reality for Jews throughout the globe. In addition to the atrocities and unthinkable bestiality of Hamas terrorists, antisemitism has emerged in academia, intelligentsia and on the streets of democracies. In America, Europe and Australia, statistics of hate crimes and blatant calls for the destruction of Israel (Jews), have risen exponentially. The slogans of our enemies can be heard at rallies and gatherings on many continents. The United Nations turns a blind eye to the slavery of North Korea, the aggression and murder of civilians by Russia, the oppression and totalitarianism of China, the Terrorism of Iran, yet every opportunity to criticize Israel is seized with a vigor of condemnation which is unequalled.

Arabs have been exploited by their own people for over a thousand years, yet only Israel is taken to task. For many Jews throughout the world, the entire issue is astounding. How is it possible to despise Jews to such an extent when we have done so much to show the world that we are no different than they are? Some eat the same foods, attend the same schools, dress the same, celebrate together, stand for common causes, march side by side, work together and some marry their neighbor's children- we are just like them, how and why is there such vitriol? This identical question was asked in Germany in the 20th century and yet the answer seems to evade us.

Antisemitism is a reminder that we are DIFFERENT! We have a unique role to be "a light unto the nations" but this is achieved by recognizing that it is G-D's gift of His Torah, and our reverence and observance of His commandments that we accomplish our goal. NO man made philosophy or humanitarian effort can substitute for the defining essential element of Judaism (Jewish identity) which is His Torah.

5784 has been a difficult year for Klal Yisroel, however, as we seize the opportunity of the gift of life and begin returning to our roots by reading and studying the Torah, attending services that enable the soul to connect with its Creator, then we commence the journey of discovering the true meaning of being a Jew.

Reconnecting with the words taught by Moshe, and explained Torah true Sages, enables us to feast on the delicacy of our heritage discovering our identity and finding meaning in a tumultuous world.

Yes, they rise against us in every generation, but the Holy One has, does and will always come to our rescue. May 5785 be filled with good health, success and Shalom for all Klal Yisroel and humanity.

Friends of Jewish Family Services

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Rabbi Robert Haas

Congregation Mickve Israel



I want to first wish everyone all the best for the New Year as we conclude what has been a successful year in many ways but also a very trying one. The Dow was up. We still live in the greatest country on earth, and Georgia remained a powerhouse in football despite not winning the national title.

However, we were shocked and dismayed by the antisemitism found on university campuses during that War in Gaza protests. The violent and virulent verbal attacks spewed by students on university campuses around the country sent shivers through our bodies. As the director of the CEO of the ADL, Jonathan Greenblatt mentioned on CNN, "You can vociferously criticize Israeli policy, you can strongly oppose moves by the Netanyahu government... but something is deeply wrong... when the way you express your frustration is telling Jewish students to go back to Poland. When the way you manifest your anger is by waving a Hezbollah or Hamas flag. That isn't normal."

Yet as the New Year approaches and issues of antisemitism remain, we must remember that when antisemitism reared its ugly head in ages past, we had little or no power to make a difference. In the book of Esther (3:8), we read about the great villain Haman and how he so easily convinced a king to destroy his enemy, the Jews. "Haman said to Ahasuerus: "There is one people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom; and their laws are diverse from those of every people; nor do they keep the king's laws; therefore it does not profit the king to tolerate them." Only through the fortuitous intervention of the king's queen, Esther, who happened to be Jewish, were our ancestors saved, because according to the sage, Rava, "There was none who knew how to slander like Haman."

However, as we enter the year 5785, we thank God for the privilege of living in a more modern age and in this great country of ours, where even though many know how to slander Jews, there are many of us to protest these slanderers.

Through the power of Jewish organizations, through the power of our phone calls, emails and letters, through the power of non-Jewish organizations and churches, through the power of non-Jewish individuals, though the power of our students, and through the sheer power of our incredibly vibrant spirits, we overcame this period, and we will overcome future ones.

Today in America, we still can stand proudly by our Judaism, and we can still stand and support Israel. Thank goodness that we live in a country where legitimate protests are legal. It is however essential that we help everyone understand the difference between legitimate protests and protest laced overtly and covertly with anti-Semitic rhetoric. We must remember that whenever we see examples of anti-semitism in the media today, rebukes from Jews and non-Jews alike must immediately follow. Society no longer forces us to stand idly by and hope for an Esther or a Mordecai. We are now all Esther and Mordecai, and let's stand together against future Hamans.

A vibrant red advertisement for Savannah's Candy Kitchen. The top section shows a man in a blue shirt and apron behind a counter, with a woman and a child behind him. A large circular logo above them reads "SAVANNAH'S CANDY KITCHEN ON THE HISTORIC WATERFRONT". Below this, three inset photos show various candies: chocolate truffles, caramel apples, and a cup of pink ice cream. The bottom section features the text "STOP BY FOR A FREE SAMPLE!" in large, bold, yellow letters. At the very bottom, two locations are listed: "The Original 225 E River Street" and "City Market 318 W St. Julian St", with the Savannah's Candy Kitchen logo in the center.

Rabbi Samuel Gelman

Congregation Agudath Achim



This year my column in the Savannah Jewish Life is bittersweet for me. This is my last High Holiday column I get to write for this magazine, since I will be leaving Savannah next summer. I will always treasure my time here in

Savannah, and am sad to say goodbye. As I reflect on my time here, and the good memories I have made and people I have met, my thoughts turn to the Savannah Jewish community, and what it means to be in community.

Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik once noted, in his lectures on teshuvah, or repentance, that there are two kinds of acquittal of sins that occur on Yom Kippur. One is for the individual, and what we think of most when we think of Yom Kippur. In order to qualify for this acquittal, the individual has to do teshuvah, to grow as a person, to repent their mistakes and vow to be better. But there is a second kind of acquittal, represented by the scapegoat ritual we read in the Torah on Yom Kippur and the communal service that grew out of it. That is the acquittal of the community. To qualify for this acquittal, remarkably, no teshuvah is needed, since it is not about us as individuals. Rather, "in order to partake of the communal acquittal he must be bound to the community; the stronger his bond, the greater degree of acquittal he will enjoy."

There is a certain logic to this. How can we benefit from a community that we are not a part of? Clearly, being part of the community is necessary. What Rabbi Soloveitchik claims, which is remarkable, is that belief in the Jewish community, and being bound to the Jewish community, is paramount. "A Jew who has lost his faith in Knesset Israel," the Jewish community, he says, no matter how pious and observant he may be, "is incorrigible and totally unfit to join the Day of Atonement."

We are required to stand together, to stand in community, to love one another, and to believe in the mission of Judaism and the people of Israel.

The Savannah Jewish community is strong. But like any community, it could be stronger. This High Holiday season, I challenge all y'all (I've picked up the lingo) to recommit and dedicate yourself to our Knesset Israel. It is a community that crosses age, denomination, profession, wealth, and even, for some, state lines.

It is our community. Without it, or apart from it, we are so much less than what we are. So volunteer. Donate. But also seek out those in our community you might not know. Someone from another synagogue, or another part of town. Get to know them. Welcome them in. We make our community stronger by going out of our way to care for one another.

I will be sad to leave Savannah. I'll miss the warm autumns, the beautiful trees and Spanish moss, Forsyth Park and the squares downtown, the beaches at Tybee, the history throughout the city. But more than anything, I'll miss our Jewish community. We have a beautiful, warm, welcoming community here. And my greatest hope as I leave is that when I return to visit, I'll come to find that our Knesset Israel has only grown larger, more welcoming, and even more of what it already is.

Best wishes to you and yours for a *shana tova* *u'metukah*, a happy and sweet New Year.



Fall Youth Soccer



Open to Ages 3-10

More Info/ Register

Sept 9th- Oct 30th



Questions? Contact Coach Jared at Enrichment@savj.org

Rabbi Zalman Refson

Chabad of Savannah

It is the question that G-d asked Adam on the first Rosh Hashanah of history. After Adam and Eve consume from the “Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad,” they hear G-d walking in the garden, and they both go into hiding. That is when G-d utters that one-word question: “Ayeka, where art thou?”



Why did Adam and Eve hide? And why did G-d ask them where they were? Did He not know? The “Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad” is also a metaphor for self-consciousness, the gift and curse of humanity. All other creatures just are; we, on the other hand, need to figure out who we are and who we are not; and we can end up confused, torn, and anxious.

When Adam and Eve swallowed the plant of self-consciousness, they could not see who they really were from G-d’s perspective, a shining infinite light; so they went into hiding. They felt they needed to erect “protectors” to camouflage their authentic selves.

Their Creator now reaches out with one word: Ayeka, where are YOU? The real you? Why are YOU hiding? This question reverberates throughout history and pierces our hearts each Rosh Hashanah. Ayeka.

You see, there will always be the two images of Adam. The way G-d sees us: bold ambassadors of unlimited potential and holiness walking on earth. The person capable of reaching the height of heights and becoming the interlacing link between heaven and earth. But there is the second Adam, the one who has developed so many protectors and shields, afraid that if his or her essence ever comes out, it will spell disaster and chaos. The fake Adam sends the real Adam into hiding, and creates a substitute personality, filled with fear, anxiety, and little self-worth.

After the brutal holocaust of October 7, a profound sense of unity emerged among the people of Israel and the global Jewish community. This unity was rooted in the first image of Adam; by looking at each other the way G-d looks at all his children. From the venomous hate of our enemies, we recognized the spark of holiness that unites us all. Almost a year later the call of “Ayekah” beckons us, to rediscover the divinity embedded in all of us, and unite as one people under G-d. By the time this is printed may all our hostages be freed, and may our healing process begin, drawing on the resilience our people have demonstrated time and again throughout Jewish history. Wishing you and your loved ones a Shana Tovah filled with happiness, love & light!

Janet Langhart Cohen's ANNE & EMMETT

NOVEMBER 7, 2024 THROUGH
NOVEMBER 17, 2024
MULTIPLE SAVANNAH LOCATIONS

Please email Michelle Allan at programming@savj.org
or
visit www.savj.org
for sponsorships, group tickets or more information.

Please be advised that this play contains derogatory racial language and imagery that may be disturbing but reflects the realities of the lives and deaths of these two young victims.

On The Personal Side

Mazel Tov To

To Sophia Center, daughter of Tatsiana and Scott, who became a bat mitzvah on July 20th at Congregation Mickve Israel.

To Naima and Samuel Gelman on the birth of their daughter, Shira Hadassah, on July 3rd.

To Fred E. Rabhan on his investiture as President of Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob.

To Morgan McGhie on her installation as President of Congregation Agudath Achim.

To Eli Berwitz who was recognized as a "Top 2024 Savannah-Area Tennis Player." As a freshman at St. Andrews, he led the Lions to the GIAA Individual State Tournament and had an overall record of 14-3.

To Sean Dane-Kellogg on his engagement to Abigail Kennedy.

To Hudson Meeroff, son of Kim and Diego, who became a bar mitzvah on July 13th at New London Synagogue in London, England.

To Larry Silbermann for being recognized by the Georgia Association of Broadcasters with the Spirit Award.

To Yosef Slatius, son of Chani and Tzvi, who became a bar mitzvah on August 17th at Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob.

To Maiya Tolman, daughter of Tova and Jonathan Javetz and Dani and Steve Tolman, who became a bat mitzvah on August 24th at Congregation Agudath Achim.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Stay up to date on all events in the
Savannah Jewish community

WWW.SAVJ.ORG

OPERATION ISAIAH

SEPTEMBER 4-OCTOBER 16

Visit www.savj.org to donate or
drop off non-perishable foods at
the following locations:

Congregation Agudath Achim
Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob
Congregation Mickve Israel
Jewish Educational Alliance
Rambam Day School
Chabad of Savannah



*This is my chosen fast...
Share your bread with the hungry
Take the homeless into your home.
Clothe the naked when you see him,
Do not turn away from people in need.
- Isaiah 58:6-7*



GOOD NEWS!

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

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!

**SUBMIT TO
SAVANNAHJEWISHLIFE@SAVJ.ORG**

Meet Sam Friedman, New CEO

Robyn Carroll and Michael Karpf

In November of last year, with joint board approval, we co-chaired a transition committee to help the community search nationally for a new CEO of the Jewish Educational Alliance and the Savannah Jewish Federation. The transition committee included past presidents and board members from both organizations comprised of Joel Greenberg, Steven Hollander, Tova Javetz, Allison Konter, Marcy Konter, Linda Sacks, Kenneth Sadler and Andrew Walcoff. We are grateful to the committee for all their hard work and dedication through countless zoom calls, meetings, site visits and discussions. Without the help of our committee we would not be in this exciting new phase.

We are thrilled to announce a pivotal moment in the journey of our Jewish Educational Alliance and the Savannah Jewish Federation: the appointment of our new CEO, Sam Friedman. With an impressive background encompassing 14 years of Jewish communal experience across the Hillel, JCC, and Jewish Federation movements, Sam joins us from his role as Chief Development Officer at Shalom Orlando.



Sam and his wife Jennifer

Sam's notable past contributions include securing multimillion-dollar donations, significantly increasing community involvement, leading hundreds of people on transformative journeys to Israel, and building strong relationships with elected leaders. He has been prominently featured in numerous Jewish media outlets for his innovative leadership and dedication to advancing communal initiatives.

In 2023, Sam, was honored by the Jerusalem Post as one of the top 25 young "vizionaries," underscoring his visionary approach and commitment to community impact.

Sam will oversee both our JEA and Federation, ensuring seamless integration and collaboration between these vital organizations. Sam expressed, "I could tell in my first interview that there is something special about Jewish life in Savannah. Your rich history, friendly employees, committed donors and active volunteers all combine to create the kind of community that every Jew in America yearns to join. All those reasons and more are why I am so thrilled to be joining the team at the JEA and SJF. I am looking forward to building upon your current successes, forging new opportunities and connections, and growing the JEA and Savannah Federation into an even better and stronger agency for us all!"

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Sam and his wife, Jennifer, and their two dogs, Snoop and Charlie. He will officially assume his role at the end of August, and we invite you to participate in welcoming him during the Federation Annual Meeting on September 4th, the JEA Gala on September 22nd, and the Federation Campaign Kickoff on September 25th.

Together, let us embark on this exciting new chapter as we continue to strengthen and expand our Jewish Educational Alliance and Savannah Jewish Federation, enriching the lives of all who call our community home.



BBJ Sisterhood Judaica Shoppe

Carrying unique gifts, holiday decor, and everyday
Judaica items imported directly from Israel!

Hours vary, so give us a call and we can meet you there!

5444 Abercorn St.
Beth: 912-344-4834
Bracha Jo: 912-658-5824



Fall Days at the J

COMING YOUR WAY

8am-6pm

September: 23

October: 9, 10, 11, 14, 15

November: 1, 5, 11, 25, 26, 27

Open to all children PreK (must be 4+ y.o.) - 8th grade

www.savannahjea.org

A photograph of a young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt, smiling with his arms raised in the air. He is standing in front of a large pile of hay and several pumpkins. In the background, there are more pumpkins and a sign that says "FARM F PUMPS".

Chasing Churchill

Jeffrey Lasky

Brian Krapf and I have been law partners for over 30 years. I knew he was an excellent trial lawyer and was passionate about representing families whose loved ones were victims of long-term care malpractice in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. During that time what I could never figure out was why Brian would travel to Great Britain every year. What could be so interesting there that would draw Brian overseas year after year?

I knew he was a collector and owned memorabilia of every American President from Washington through Truman. What I did not know until recently was that his true passion was collecting memorabilia of Sir Winston Churchill. This lifetime passion resulted in Brian publishing a book about Churchill's decades-long public service using his collection as the vessel for telling Churchill's story.

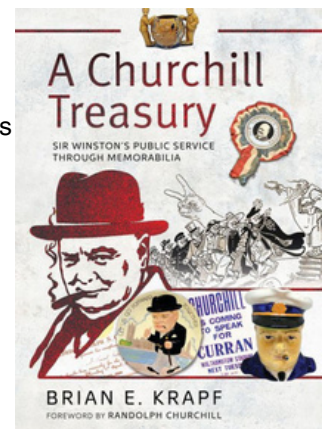
Here is an interview with Brian where we talk about his passion, his collection (which other collectors say is the best in the United States) and the publishing of his book, **"A Churchill Treasury: Sir Winston's Public Service Through Memorabilia"**.

Can you tell us how you started collecting memorabilia of Winston Churchill which is better known by collectors as "Churchilliana?"

I grew up in a family that loved history and loved experiencing history. We lived in Savannah's beautiful Historic District, surrounded by history. Family trips would always include visits to historic sites. In our home, thanks to my Dad, there were two names you would hear discussed over and over: Winston Churchill and Douglas MacArthur. When I started going to American Political Items Collectors hobby shows, there would be Churchill memorabilia that no one really appreciated because he was not an American politician. As a result, I would pick up the pieces for very little and bring them home to share with my family. This was the beginning of my collection which has been expanding over the past 40 years.

What about Winston Churchill ignited your passion for collecting his memorabilia?

He was an engineer. He was an author. He was a soldier. He was an inventor and an accomplished artist. When I go to British antiques shops hunting for Churchill memorabilia, I don't even have to mention his name. I'll ask, do you have anything for the "Great Man"? And they know exactly who I'm talking about because that is how he is known and how his legacy endures in Great Britain.



I know that you've had lots of exciting personal experiences through your journey of collecting Churchill memorabilia. Please share with us some of your more memorable experiences.

Sure. I've been a member of the International Churchill Society for many years. I served seven years as the national President of the American Political Items Collectors (APIC). We had a lot of successes, but it was really time to pass the torch. When my term ended, I needed something else to fill my passion so I contacted the

International Churchill Society in Britain and was offered a position to write a monthly column on Churchill memorabilia. I've been doing that now for about eight years. I also donate photos of items as needed for the quarterly journal. Items from my collection have been featured on the front and back covers several times.

My experience of collecting Churchill material has really opened a lot of doors for me in Britain. My reputation in the Churchill world has gotten me behind the scenes in several Churchill related museums and exhibits. Just this past trip, was given the privilege of going into the National Liberal Club, which is where Churchill used to go during the war for some quiet time over a cocktail. I've been given private tours of Churchill's home at Chartwell. My favorite place to visit in London is the Cabinet War Rooms, the underground complex from which the war was conducted.

I often go behind the glass. A few times, I was given access to and sat in Churchill's chair in the Cabinet Room where major wartime decisions were made. Over the years, I've also become friends with many members of the Churchill family. Stacy and I have actually hosted a few in our home- they are such great, solid, hard working people.

Before we get to your book, tell us a little bit about your collection.

The collection actually starts with Winston Churchill's father, Lord Randolph Churchill, Chancellor of the Exchequer and a leader in the Conservative Party. Churchill often said his father was his inspiration for his own dedication to public service. We then enter Churchill's own career, starting in 1900 and running through his election to his second premiership in 1951. The collection consists of many different types of items, ranging from porcelain and glass to textiles, badges and posters. One of my favorite items is one-of-a-kind poster all in Hebrew used in 1942 to recruit Jewish men in Palestine to serve in the Jewish Brigade of the British Army.

I often say all of the pieces of my collection are all my favorite pieces. However, there are two documents that will always be a part of my collection. The day after World War II was declared Churchill was brought back as the First Lord of the Admiralty. His first order of business was to notify the British fleet and the British colonies that Britain had declared war on Germany. I have the telegrams he sent, but to acquire them, I had to register them with the British Arts Council since they are historically significant documents.



So let's now talk about your book, "A Churchill Treasury, Sir Winston's Public Service Through Memorabilia". Tell us about the origin of the book and a little about the content.

It was a bucket list item. I always wanted to write a Churchill biography. The problem is there are currently 1,100 books about Winston Churchill on the market. That's more than on Kennedy and Lincoln. I wanted to write my book and the question was "Why does the world need another Churchill biography?" My idea was to write the book and illustrate the text of his career of public service through contemporary pieces from my collection. It is the first book of its kind to do that. I'm honored that Randolph Churchill, who is chairman of the International Churchill Society and Winston Churchill's great- grandson wrote the forward for me. Likewise, author and historian Paul Reid, who wrote The Last Lion with William Manchester, wrote a beautiful dust jacket endorsement for me.

There are 275 photos in the book broken down by chapters associated with the major events of Churchill's public service. There are items that are rarely seen and historically relevant. My personal favorite part of the book is the World War Two chapters. There are several different sections, each with its own type of memorabilia.

There's a section on the Big Three. Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin. There's a section of items that picture Churchill by himself. There is a section of World War Two victory items that picture Churchill.



Your book's already being sold in Britain and has been well received there. In America, its currently available on several websites and will be offered in stores in the Fall. Are you going to have any kind of kickoff in America?

Yes. On August 25th we are going to have a rollout at the National Museum of the Mighty 8th here in Savannah.

I do some volunteer work with the Mighty 8th and just love the museum. It's so well done, and they graciously offered to host my rollout. I hope people will come, enjoy the rollout and buy the book so everyone can see through my collection the incredible life of one of the greatest historical figures of all time, Sir Winston Churchill. The book will be offered for sale online and will also be stocked at the Mighty Eighth's museum store.

Obituaries

May 1-July 31, 2024

Stanley Earl Harris, Jr

Who died Saturday, May 4, 2024

He is survived by his wife Peggy Harris, son Charles (Andrea); daughter, Carolynne, and grandchildren Charles Jr and Colin.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel or Hospice Savannah

Rita Francis Krinsky

Who died Thursday, May 9, 2024.

She is survived by her husband Fred Krinsky.

Irwin Potkewitz

Who died Sunday, May 12, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Simon, children, Hillary Potkewitz, Andrew Potkewitz, and Mark Potkewitz; and many loving family and friends.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel

Marjorie Gordon

Who died Thursday, May 23, 2024.

She is survived by her children, Jeffrey Gordon, Susan (Danny) Klugman, Dale (Richard) DeSena and Marc (Kelly) Gordon; her grandchildren, Alli (Jaron) Solomon, Matt Klugman, Mindy Gordon, Hadley Gordon and Roman DeSena; her great grandchildren IJ and Sadie Solomon; her brother Jerome (Jean) Cooper; along with many others including her beloved niece, nephews, cousins and friends.

Remembrances: Charity of your choice.

Eliot Israel

Who died June 17, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Rachel Israel; sister, Racheline Rolland; daughter, Debby (Barry) Luskey, and son, David Israel; grandchildren, Noah, Nina, and Nathan.

Remembrances: Savannah Jewish Federation, Congregation Agudath Achim, or Congregation Mickve Israel.

Michael Leblang

Who died June 30, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry Leblang, children, Karen (Matt) Hutcheson, Jonathan (Jennifer) Leblang, Mark (Kendra) Leblang, and David (Elizabeth) Leblang; brothers Steve (Linda) Leblang, and Lonnie Leblang; grandchildren, Elle, Andrew, Will, Price, Connor, Wesley, Emily, Adam and many loving family and friends.

Remembrances: Humane Society of Greater Savannah.

Harvey Benjamin Yellin

Who died July 9, 2024.

He is survived by his mother, Arlene (Cookie) Yellin, sister, Ester Y. (Fred) Rabhan; nieces and nephews, Yitzie (Deedee) Rabhan, Rabbi Ephraim (Sabrana) Rabhan, Chaim (Chavi) Rabhan, Baruch (Tehila) Rabhan, Nechama (Yoni) Greenstein, Yaakov (Devorah) Rabhan, Shayna Rabhan and many great nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Rambam Day School or Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob.

Barbara Ann Kahn Silver

Who died July 28, 2024.

She is survived by her husband Murray Mendel Silver and two sons, Murray Silver Jr., and Eric Carl (Barbara) Silver.



The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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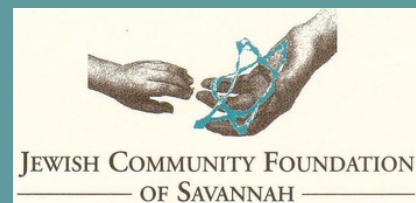
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Donating to a Savannah Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah fund is a wonderful way to honor a special simcha or life cycle event, honor the memory of a friend or loved one, or recognize someone in the community.

Visit www.savj.org to see a complete list of funds and to make a donation.

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Registration and Sponsorship
Information Available By Visiting
savannahjea.org

Scan Me!



YEAR-ROUND SWIM LESSONS

FALL SESSION

AUGUST 4 - OCTOBER 12, 2024

AUTUMN SESSION

OCTOBER 13 - DECEMBER 23, 2024

WINTER SESSION

JANUARY 5 - MARCH 15, 2025

SPRING SESSION

MARCH 16 - MAY 24, 2025



SCAN
ME! >>>

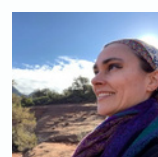
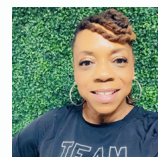
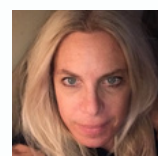
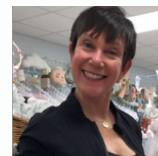
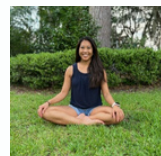
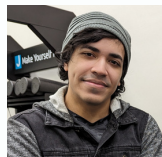
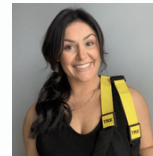


The Fitness Bunch

Callie Smith, Health & Wellness Director

In the Fitness world, it is a valuable resource to have someone by your side through your fitness journey. Someone who can encourage you to make that first step, someone to hold you accountable to show up, someone to motivate you on days you're not feeling it, someone to cheer for you in your triumphs, someone to dare you to be brave...someone to make a difference in your journey.

Here at the JEA, the Health & Wellness Department is proud of the variety in fitness classes that we offer to our members. However, we are even **more** proud of the Fitness Instructors that make these classes happen. These 15 men and women show up with passion, energy, and supreme talent to provide a full spectrum of fitness opportunities. It is the dedication of each of these instructors that has allowed our Fitness program to flourish these past few years.



We want to thank **Alexandra, Chelsea, Dina, Helena, Jacob, Jennifer, Jonalyn, Katy, Kim, Krystyna, Linda, Michael, Nikki, Tiffany, and Vicki** for your continuous dedication to Fitness at the JEA! We could not do this without each of you.

Aquatics by the Numbers

Kate Perry, Aquatics Director

Last week we wrapped up our Summer Session for swim lessons within the Aquatics Department, and what a summer of growth it was! We had a total of 461 swim lesson registrations for the JEA Swim Lesson program this summer. We have always prided our JEA Swim Lesson program to be an essential developmental program for our community. The JEA Aquatic Department believes that knowing how to swim is a critically important safety skill every child should learn, and we want our swim lesson program to reflect these beliefs.

In partnership with JEA Camp Savannah, our Aquatics Department works diligently to support summer campers in the pool during the summer months. Every camper takes part in Structured Swim, a part of JEA Camp Savannah that is built into pool time and takes place twice per week. Each age group has different needs, skill sets, and goals when it comes to being in the water. Through this intentional partnership structure, we had approximately 225 campers pass the swim test this summer, many of whom have worked on specific skills in Structured Swim to meet our swim test standards (such as treading water). It is safe to say we gave over 700 swim tests for Summer 2024.

Our Aquatic Department has facilitated many pool-oriented events through Summer 2025. The Aquatic Department successfully hosted a total of 18 Pool Parties during the Summer months- and still counting. We also introduced a new specialty event, AquaSonic Journey, which sold out due to popularity; we will be hosting another AquaSonic Journey event on August 16, back by popular demand.

The Aquatic Department conducts Lifeguard Certification courses leading up to and during Summer months. These Lifeguard Certification courses fully equip participants to take on the role as a Lifeguard with a superior set of life-saving skills that provide a level of safety for the community that is irreplaceable in aquatic environments. So far there have been over 40 newly certified Lifeguards being sent out to serve our coastal community, including the JEA. We are aiming for that number to reach up to 60 newly certified Lifeguards by the time our Outdoor Pool closes for the season in September.

My Camp Story

Maiya Tolman

This summer I went back to my summer place for the fourth time. At Camp Barney Medintz, you get a new activity each year. Last year it was horseback, and this year it was the omega (zip-line that leads into the lake). There are many different types of activities at camp. My favorite is friendship bracelet making. I like it because you get to show your friends how much they mean to you.

When I am at camp the community is amazing. You always feel welcomed, loved, and never singled out for being Jewish. The feeling of having friends that are also Jewish and also love camp is awesome. The Jewish life at camp is cool in many ways. I love how on Shabbat we all come together and sing. Everybody starts dancing to prayers and clapping. This year on Shavuot we all came together, wore flower crowns, ate macaroni and cheese, and had a program that taught us more about the holiday.

Overall, this summer was awesome and I am so glad that I got the scholarship from the Savannah Jewish Federation to help send me to camp. Thank you so much for helping me go back to camp this summer.

Maiya Tolman is the daughter of Tova Javetz & Steve Tolman. She attended Camp Barney Medintz with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation made possible by your generosity during the annual Community Campaign. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org.

Left: Maiya, a counselor and Maiya's cousin, Rachel, during Maiya's first summer at CBM. Right: Maiya and The Omega, Summer 2024.



Mah Jongg and More

Robin Rackoff



Did you ever have to sit at the Kids' Table at a family gathering? Who hasn't? I had so many cousins that at a family wedding, we needed four full tables to accommodate all of us. And when I say Kids' Table, I don't mean five-year-olds. My husband and I were in our forties, still at the Kids' Table because we were the youngest of this large family.

I was so close to my cousins that we even lived together. It was not unusual in 1950s Brooklyn to live in a two-family house with your aunt, uncle, and cousins upstairs or downstairs. That made for lots of fun, sometimes. My father and uncle upstairs worked nights, so we had to have quiet fun during the day while they slept. That was no easy task when we had voices so loud that they couldn't be measured on the decibel scale.

Their cigars and cigarettes would cloud the room so badly that we never could be sure who was playing! The women would squeeze into a corner of the bedroom where the table was already set up for Mah Jongg.

If they were, they would have known that no human would dare set foot in the living room. With the couch and chairs covered in plastic, who would want to be there anyway?

Sadly, the family couldn't even fill one table at a recent wedding. I'm so happy to have those wonderful memories. Fortunately, there are still four of us left, so when we get together now, we can still Maj On!

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A New Beginning: Embracing Learning, Laughter and Joy at Shalom School



Eva Locker, Principal

As the new school year kicks off at Shalom School, we find ourselves with the same excitement and anticipation as kids unwrapping a surprise gift.

Our theme this year is "Learning with Joy and Purpose," and we're not just talking about the joy of memorizing Hebrew vocabulary! We aim to create an environment where every student feels like they're not just part of a school but a lively, caring community. Our mission is to blend knowledge with fun, ensuring our students leave with both a solid understanding of Jewish traditions and a good laugh from time to time.

Let's not forget the highlight of last year—the legendary last day "Color Games"! It was our very own Olympic extravaganza, but with a delightful twist. Students competed in teams, showing off their knowledge about Israel - the theme of those games in ways that were as educational as they were hilarious. Who knew that scenes from the life in a Kibbutz could be so entertaining? These games were a fantastic way to wrap up the school year, combining learning with a playful spirit, and we're looking forward to more such memorable moments.



This year, we're thrilled to continue offering hands-on events that bring our Jewish heritage to life. Like our mock Passover Seder, where we somehow managed to spill grape juice everywhere while recounting the Ten Plagues?

Or our Tu B'Shvat Seder, where tasting all the fruits of Israel -after making the right Bracha - became a lively guessing game? These interactive experiences are not only fun but also deeply enriching, allowing our students and their families to engage with our traditions in a tactile and memorable way.

As we look around at the world, we're inspired by the spirit and determination we keep seeing in our family in Israel. So just like the last Olympic athletes who pushed themselves to new heights, we encourage our students to embrace challenges with enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

Whether it's mastering a new Hebrew word or understanding a complex Jewish concept, we want our students to approach their studies with the same energy and dedication.

With this blend of humor, learning, and community spirit, we anticipate a fantastic year at Shalom School. We invite all our families to join us in making this school year an adventure full of discovery, kindness, and laughter. Let's celebrate our heritage, learn something new, and, most importantly, enjoy the journey together.

Here's to a sweet, successful, and joyous year ahead. L'shana tovah u'metukah to all!

Federation Provides Additional Security Dollars

The Savannah Jewish Federation recently received a \$40,000 Emergency Security Grant from the Emergency Security Grant Fund of the Jewish Federations of North America.

Made possible by the partnership and support of The Tepper Foundation, this grant is aimed at addressing urgent increased security needs, and supporting collective efforts in building and strengthening essential community relationships. These funds support short-term additional security expenses for organizations providing services to early childhood aged children including Preschools, Day Camps, and afterschool programs.

SJF President, Linda Sacks announced that the Federation is providing \$10,000 each to subgrantees, Rambam Day School, Shalom School, JEA Camp Savannah, and JEA Preschool Savannah to address additional essential security personnel needs. Sacks stated, "The Savannah Jewish Federation is proud to be able to empower our youth programs with these additional personnel dollars. We want our families to know that the community is doing everything it can to assure the safety of our children and the institutions that support their growth."

As beneficiaries of the grant, Rambam Day School, Shalom School and the JEA will be able to provide enhanced police presence at their facilities.

Montag Art Gallery: Artist Spotlight

September: Youth Group Show

September 1-30, Reception: Sunday, September 22nd, 3-4pm



Youth Group Show
inspired by
Jewish Artist Icons
+
Grand Opening Reception
of the Montag Gallery

Local 3-12th graders will exhibit their inspired masterpieces in a group show the month of September. This special showing coincides with the grand opening of the Montag Gallery and will feature drawings, paintings, collages, photography and more inspired by some of the most iconic artists in history -- who all happen to be Jewish!

The reception will be held Sunday, September 22nd, 3-4pm and prizes will be presented. All are welcome to come and celebrate this special event.

October: Emma Creighton Hopson

October 1-31, Reception: Thursday, October 10th, 5-7pm

Emma Creighton Hopson is an artist and educator living and working in Savannah, GA. She earned a Master of Fine Arts in photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Her intimate images explore themes of identity and time as they relate to relationships and the social landscape. She works primarily with a view camera as a way to connect with the history and craft of photography and she embraces the medium's ability to affect perception. Hopson's work has been exhibited at Photo London, Atlanta Contemporary, Contact Photo Festival, The Do Good Fund, and Filter Photo among other venues. She was recognized as a Critical Mass finalist in 2021 and 2022 and received the Collinsworth Emerging Photographer Acquisition Fund Award in 2022 via The Do Good Fund.

Hopson's exhibition at the JEA will include photographs from her series *Wish You Were Here You Are*, which rejects patriarchal idealizations of the maternal by visualizing the nuances of being a mother. *Wish You Were Here You Are* also reflects on the illusory condition of photography and the disappearance of physical photographs. Her exhibition will also include new work from her ongoing series *First Light* which explores the concepts of hope, possibility, discovery and moments of clarity and connection.



November: Liza Crowley Judson

November 1-30, Reception: Thursday, November 14th, 6-8pm



Liza earned her bachelor's degree in studio art with a concentration in photography from the University of California, Santa Cruz. (Yes, she is a banana slug!) Teaching became her creative passion. Her teaching career has spanned from Japan, China, Northern California and Savannah, GA where she settled with her husband and daughter in 2006. Liza also earned a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction and is now the director of SCADextra, the University's academic resource hub at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). She loves to travel and take photographs of her adventures.

Of her show she says "These days I enjoy taking photographs with my phone versus my digital Nikon camera. I find that I can afford to upgrade my phone more frequently than I can my camera, and the ease of transport is much more convenient with a phone than a heavy camera bag. My photography most often focuses on the landscape or cityscape; they hold still, unlike humans. With each image, I make many decisions; questioning what the individual image is calling for. Does it need to be cropped for the best composition? Would the image be stronger in black and white, sepia toned or some other treatment of the color? This is where the experimentation comes in. I use Adobe Photoshop and the Snapseed app to edit my photographs. I feel the images speaking to me, and I mold them to be the best that they can be, versus bending them to one unique vision. Photographing while traveling is my greatest passion, because then I see everything with fresh eyes. I love the democracy of sharing my photographs via social media. More people can enjoy them this way, and I can receive immediate feedback. It has been over seven years since I have shown my photographs in a public setting. I hope you enjoy the show."

For more information about upcoming shows and art programs and events, please visit savannahjea.org/artsideas

JEA Preschool Savannah

Jodi Sadler, Director



"One of the most famous and often quoted passages from Torah tells us that humankind was created in the image of God, B'tzelem Elohim. As God has no physical image, we need to look to other aspects of each human being in order to make sense of this idea. Being created B'tzelem Elohim unifies all of humankind, while at the same time distinguishing each human being from all others."

During the Professional Development Days at JEA Preschool Savannah, educators were introduced to the Jewish lenses created by the Jewish Community Center Association Sheva Center. The first lens that we explored was B'Tzelem Elohim – in the Image of G-d. This concept also includes the ideas of potential and dignity of human beings and how looking through this lens can inform our thinking about others including colleagues, families, and children.

We asked many questions in our exploration of this lens. What keeps us from living up to our potential? "Do we see the potential of each child and what does that look like for each individual?"



"Our amazement at our creative capacity, our competency, and our potential must extend beyond our individual selves. We must admit to this same Divine potential in everyone with whom we come in contact. It is easy to see those we love, our families and friends, as unique and valuable individuals. It is harder to see the image of the Divine in the stranger, the differently abled, the homeless or infirm, those of different nationality, faith, or philosophy."

Other questions we pondered: How can we learn or appreciate our power to be creative and courageous in sharing ourselves with others in our homes, classrooms, or communities?

When teachers look at their classroom environments, how might the classroom embody B'tzelem Elohim be designed?

In essence, B'Tzelem Elohim is a call to action. It is an affirmation of the potential within every human being and a directive to honor and uplift the dignity of all. By living in accordance with this principle, we not only fulfill a core Jewish value but also contribute to the creation of a more compassionate and just world.

The educators will be using this lens of B'Tzelem Elohim to guide their interactions with the children, families, and colleagues during their time together.

Rambam Day School

Ester Rabhan, Principal



We welcome the school year with several new students and families joining the Rambam family.

We also have new staff who have joined our family. Mrs. Marlene Rabinowich is our new art teacher.

Mr. Ari Levine from Charleston is our new Pre-K teacher. Ms. Malka Jonson from New York, is our new three-year-old assistant. New staff always bring heightened excitement as they bring new energy and new ideas. We look forward to a wonderful, successful 2024-2025 school year!

Our middle school schedule is changing this year to a block schedule. A block schedule means only certain classes are taught on certain days. These classes are for xxxxxx rather than the typical fifty minutes. This idea was suggested by one of our math teachers, Mr. Richard Epstein, and we believe this change will enrich our students' learning.

We are also adding another dimension to our student's learning experience; Mrs. Chavi Rabhan has received certification as an SEL Coach. With this new certification, Mrs. Rabhan will serve as our school's SEL Coach. Mrs. Rabhan will conduct classes for students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. These classes will help students develop better social awareness and communication skills. In-services will also be offered to faculty to help them understand and develop more skills for helping students. Integrating this program as part of Rambam's curriculum will better address the diverse needs of our students, preparing them to navigate the complexities and challenges of our society.

Rambam wishes students of all schools a happy, productive school year!!



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Children's program
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YOM KIPPUR EVE

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SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday nights 6pm
Saturday mornings 11am

Join us In-person or on YouTube



HIGH HOLY DAYS 2024/5785

SELICHOT | Saturday, September 28
EREV ROSH HASHANAH | Wednesday, October 2
FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH | Thursday, October 3
SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH | Friday, October 4
EREV YOM KIPPUR | Friday, October 11
YOM KIPPUR | Saturday, October 12
PIZZA IN THE HUT | Sunday, October 13
EREV SUKKOT | Wednesday, October 16
SUKKOT | Thursday, October 17
SUUKAH PALOOZA & CONSECRATION | Friday, October 18
EREV SIMCHAT TORAH | Wednesday, October 23
SIMCHAT TORAH | Thursday, October 24



Please check our website at www.mickveisrael.org or by scanning the QR code for the full schedule and details.
For security purposes we ask you to please bring your "Service Pass" to every High Holiday service. If you forget your pass, we will have extra passes at the Welcome/Will Call table located outside near the main entrance.

Members and their guests will be allowed to enter 30 minutes prior to service. Non-members will enter during the prelude.

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Jan 11: Dive-in Movie

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