

Savannah JEWISH LIFE

SUMMER 2024- VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

Non-Profit
Organization U.S.
PAID
Savannah, GA
Permit No. 207
POSTMASTER PLEASE
DELIVER BY
JUNE 1, 2024

Savannah Jewish Life
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405

Shalom Savannah

Adam Solender, Chief Executive Officer



As Spring turns to Summer, as school has ended and thoughts turn to camp and warm days at Tybee, it's hard to approach the season with the same wanderlust and innocence that existed only a few years ago.

Israel is still at a war with the terrorist group Hamas, Israel's relationship with our government is fraying, and our campuses are overrun with protesters who have encamped demanding disinvestment with Israel. What may have begun as a call for humanitarian support quickly morphed in to rallies featuring anti Zionism and antisemitism. We are not immune from the protests here in Savannah with groups gathering calling for a Palestinian state *"from the river to the sea."*

Children in our area schools have been the subject of antisemitic comments from fellow students. College students have come home for summer break with stories of being blocked from accessing campus, being kept in classrooms (for their own security), and living in an atmosphere of fear.

Our synagogues, which have taken security seriously and have been continually training with Federation's Director of Security, Brett Butler, are all, in the interest of best practices, "upping" their security posture. It is not often that you go to one of our institutions and not see a member of the police department or enhanced security.

At the very same time, other Houses of Worship in Savannah are coordinating with our Security Director to learn about best practices and how to be proactive in their security needs. Brett Butler is in constant contact with the Savannah PD, County Police, Homeland Security, and the FBI.

After all, hate knows no address.

What we are all experiencing is an erosion of our freedom which demonstrates how very fragile freedom is.

There are members of the community who feel uncomfortable going to synagogue or to gatherings; and when that happens we feel less free.

When the Nazis came to power, life became increasingly difficult for German Jews with the abridgment of freedom of religion and freedom of movement. It was the beginning of the Holocaust. And while few are directly comparing 1931 to 2024, it does feel like there are parallels as our lives have most certainly changed.

So, what can we do?

What could we be doing?

It's easy for us to say, but we need to get on with our lives and live proudly. We need to stand up for ourselves, for when we change our lives, when we choose to not participate in communal life, the terrorists win. We need to become more aware of our surroundings, take all the security classes being offered by the Federation, join in and support area security initiatives.

Go to camp. Enjoy the beach. Join others in prayer. Live your lives; do it with care and thoughtfulness.

Tybee is calling.



It's Easier Than Ever to Find Your Family's Stories

Unlock your family's history with ease! The Breman, home to the Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Archives for Southern Jewish History and The Savannah Jewish Archives, offers an online search feature powered by ArchivesSpace, renowned for its state-of-the-art search capabilities. Dive into your family's stories with our user-friendly online research tool. Start exploring today at TheBreman.org for free!



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



1440 Spring St. NW | Atlanta, GA 30309 | 678.222.3700

Table of Contents

02

Shalom
Savannah

Adam Solender, CEO



4-5

Anne
&
Emmett

6-7

Mazel Tov
Graduates



8

Don Kole
Honored

16

Perlman-Spear
Foundation Makes
Long-Term
Investment in the
Alliance

18

Obituaries



Jewish Educational Alliance
Preschool Savannah

24

Israel, What
IS?

26

Montag Art
Gallery

Published by the
Savannah Jewish Federation
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
912-355-8111
www.savj.org

Savannah
JEWISH LIFE

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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

Summer Issue- June, July & August- Deadline May 1

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: adam@savj.org

Anne & Emmett: A Light in The Dark

Michelle Allan, SJF Programming

Anne & Emmett is a widely praised one-act play that depicts an imaginary conversation highlighting the similarities and differences of the lives of Emmett Till and Anne Frank, reminding us of the powerful consequences of racial intolerance, bigotry, religious persecution, and the price we pay for silence and indifference. Janet Langhart Cohen's Anne & Emmett has been performed around the world including performances at the United States Supreme Court, NYPD Police Academy, Brown v. Board Center, Harvard Club, and The National Museum of African American History & Culture.

I learned of Anne & Emmett in the October of 2022 during a visit with family in Birmingham. After doing my research, I knew immediately that it was something that needed to be brought to Savannah. Fortunately, I had just started my position at the Federation. As soon as I mentioned it to Katie, our Arts and Ideas Coordinator, she shared my enthusiasm and together we made it our mission to make it work, produce it with the utmost integrity, remove as many barriers as possible for access, and reach as many people as possible. Historically, communities sell tickets between \$20.00- \$50.00. The first decision made was that the productions be free and open to everyone.

Joanna Walchuk was brought on to direct after the first meeting over coffee. She had read the script and was equally passionate about bringing this play to OUR community. After reaching out to schools, houses of worship and clergy, shows were scheduled at **St. Matthew's Episcopal Church** and **First Presbyterian**, both immediately agreed that this play was necessary. This left us with a total of six shows and three locations for a two-week run. After numerous rounds of auditions, an incredible and diverse cast of 5 signed contracts on January 23rd and had the first readthrough. The first show was invitation only and scheduled for February 24. With complicated schedules, it was not an easy task to rehearse with a full cast, but the commitment was unwavering. On opening night, the applause erupted, and the community was set ablaze with chatter of how powerful the show was. Kol hakavod to the talented **Austin Bradford**, **Sophia Sutton**, **Rabbi Samuel Gelman**, **Chip Lane** and **Ajae Michele** who brought such passion to their roles. Immense gratitude goes to Joanna, who is a force on and off stage, and **Maria Oliver** who expounded on the role of "stage manager" to include "chaos controller."

This production would not have been possible without the significant financial support from the **Dena Yaschik Bodziner Memorial Fund**, **Dayle and Aaron Levy** and an **anonymous** donor.

The success would not have been possible without the support of Adam, the SJF Board, Kauffman & Heinz, the numerous individuals that painted sets, put together costumes, wrangled props and every individual who attended.

I am overwhelmed with pride to say that the goal was achieved.

With the community response, we are planning a second run of "Anne & Emmett" in November. If you are interested in sponsoring, please reach out to me at programming@savj.org

1000
attendees

6
performances

3
locations



Janet Langhart Cohen's ANNE & EMMETT

Two Children. Two Stories. One Conversation.



Riveting! Well done!



"Thank you. This was a powerful play and was a testament to how arts should be used. I would love to support thought provoking and opinion changing pieces in the future. Please keep in touch for how we can best support the alliance and any future arts. My boys attend SAA and I wish they too would learn the importance of understanding the message that is conveyed from the stage. POWERFUL!"



"Powerful piece of theater. Gut-wrenching and inspiring. So proud of the JEA and Federation for taking the leadership role and presenting this play in Savannah. Bravo!"



"The message was stark and real. The acting was superb. It made me think about what more I can do in the community to foster racial and religious understanding. I so wish this could have been presented in local middle & high schools."

"Race, bigotry, oppression are more often silenced in the mainstream. This was group sociological therapy."

"My wife and I were visiting Savannah from Jacksonville FL and stumbled across the play. As African American Christians, it was a thought provoking experience to see how similar the struggles of Anne and Emmett were. Everyone from JEA was friendly and we went away feeling the world needs more exposure to events like Anne and Emmett."

"Seeing the play twice I watched it from stage left then stage right the second time. I wanted to see the performance from both aspects of the characters. Thank you for bring it to the community."

Mazel Tov 2024 High School Graduates

CALEB PINE



Caleb is the son of Amy Krissman Pine and Jonah Pine. He is the grandson of Sally Krissman. Caleb will graduate from Savannah Country Day School where he was a member of the National Honor Society, Model UN, Debate Club, and Students Celebrating Diversity. Caleb was guitarist for the SCDS Jazz Combo and co-founder of the Film Club. Outside of school, Caleb served on the Volun-Teen Board for the Ronald McDonald House of the Coastal Empire. He will attend the University of Pittsburgh where he plans to major in political science with a minor in film.

ELLIE ABIGAIL RICH

Ellie is the daughter of Jennifer and Jason Rich. She will graduate from St. Andrew's School with an IB Full Diploma. Ellie has played violin for 10 years and was Concertmaster Violinist for High School Orchestra. During her time at St. Andrews, Ellie was co-captain of the Football and Basketball Cheerleading teams being awarded Most Valuable Player and Highest GPA of the teams. Ellie was President of the Art Honor Society and a member of National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Music Honor Society and French Honor Society. Outside of school, Ellie was a Lower School Camp Counselor, part of Civic Leadership Cohort II and Audio & Video Production Assistant for Congregation Mickve Israel and Eris Productions. Ellie will attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in chemistry.



JESSICA CLAIRE ELKIN



Jessica is the daughter of Lisa and Gary Elkin. She will graduate from Savannah Country Day where she was active in Mock Trial and received assorted awards for mock trial roles. Jessica was senior co-captain of the cross country team, Secretary of Model UN and Editor-in-Chief for the school newspaper, The Buzz, in addition to serving on the Discipline Committee. She was part of the Governor's Honors Program for Social Studies, National Honor Society and Cum Laude Society. Jessica received the Georgia Certificate of Merit and Minus Scholarship. Jessica worked with Shalom School as a madricha and JEA Camp Savannah as a counselor. Jessica will attend Wake Forest University in the fall to study history with plans to continue to law school.

OLIVER SOLOMONCEO

Oliver Solomonceo is the son of Michelle Solomon and Greg Ceo. He will graduate from Savannah Arts Academy where he was a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Green Club, and Tri-M Music Honor Society. Oliver played clarinet at Savannah Arts and participated in District Honor Band throughout his high school career and was accepted to All State his senior year. Oliver is an avid board game player. His board game group took up mah jongg last year using his great-grandmother's set and he's now a regular teacher at the Women of Mickve Israel Mah Jongg club. Oliver will spend the summer as a counselor at Eastern U.S. Music Camp and will enroll in Fordham University in the fall.



SAMUEL IAN ROBIN



Samuel is the son of Anne and Brian Robin. He is the grandson of Francine Robin and Sherwin Robin. Sam will graduate from Benedictine High School where he played basketball and was a member of the Bass Fishing Club. He will attend Georgia College in the fall and major in business.

SOPHIA GUTHRIE

Sophia is the daughter of Bryan and Leslie Guthrie. She will graduate from Islands High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society. At Islands, Sophie was active in Future Farmers of America and served as Secretary for the organization. She will attend Georgia Southern University in the Fall to pursue a degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders.



Mazel Tov 2024 College Graduates



HANNAH L BOBLASKY

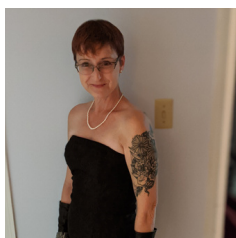
Hannah is the daughter of Joel and Susan Boblasky. She will graduate summa cum laude from Georgia Southern University with a Bachelors in Psychology. While at GSU, Hannah was a member of Chi Omega, the Psychology Honor Society Psi Chi and served as the Panhellenic Vice President of Inclusive Excellence. Hannah interned with Our Girls Rock Too!, Inc. She will attend graduate school at Augusta University in the fall as she pursues her career as a clinical mental health counselor.

JORDAN ALAINA JAFFIE



Jordan is the daughter of Jeff and Monique Jaffie and granddaughter of Arlene and Norman Jaffie. She will graduate summa cum laude from University of Georgia with a Bachelors of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences. Jordan was very involved with Hillel and served as co-chair of the Jewish Life Committee on UGA's Hillel Executive Board. During college, Jordan interned with Nightlight Christian Adoptions, taught 3rd grade religious school at Congregation Children of Israel and earned Presidential Scholar and Dean's List every semester. Jordan will pursue a career in social work and is particularly interested in child welfare.

LAUREE MORRIS



Lauree fulfilled a lifelong goal and received her Associates Degree from American Public University.

PHILIP T BOBLASKY

Philip is the son of Joel and Susan Boblasky. He will graduate from Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration. While at Georgia Tech, Philip was active in with Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity serving as New Member Chair and President as well as a member of the Panhellenic Executive Board.

Don Kole Honored

“To help a fellow man may be to tip the scales for the entire world.” Kiddushin 40:2



Don Kole, longtime community leader and supporter, was honored at the JEA Annual Meeting with the highest honor it has, The JEA Service Award. Awarded to individuals who represent “the best” of Savannah, Kole has been an active (that’s an understatement) leader in our community since moving here in 1955 when he married Savannah native, Kaye Robinson (of blessed memory) who he met while in Georgia with the US Army while at Fort Gordon.

Don has been a force in our Jewish community having chaired the Savannah Jewish Federation Board of Governors (1965-67), Jewish Educational Alliance (1974-77); he was awarded the Jack Malitz Levy Leadership Award in 1991, in recognition of that leadership

He has continued to be an active and engaged supporter; always offering a word of advice and encouragement. The Alliance and Federation were always a priority for Don, but his leadership extended far beyond the doors of 5111 Abercorn. He has served in leadership positions with Hospice Savannah, WSVH Public Radio, Union Mission, Savannah Historical Society, Live Oak Public Library, AASU Foundation, United Way of the Coastal Empire, C&S Bank, Candler Hospital Foundation, Savannah Housing Authority, and First Chatham Bank (among others).

Kaye and Don travelled extensively throughout the world, and in their travels, were “bitten” by the African Art ‘bug.’ With his offices filled (and over-filled), Don set out to create another legacy to the Savannah community: the Savannah African Art Museum. Home to Don’s collection of over 1,000 pieces of artwork from West and Central Africa, there are a variety of 19th and 20th century spiritual and ceremonial objects created from metal, wood, and ceramics, coming from 22 different countries. Often cited as “one of the hidden gems” of Savannah, the museum has free admission: a statement of how important Don (and Kaye) thought it was to provide access to the history of African life.

The officers and board of the Alliance could think of no person who deserves the recognition more than Don Kole an “or l’goyim-“ a light unto the people.



Don Kole, Ardis Wood and grandson, Zachary Kole.

JEA Continues to Invest in Security

As part of the Federation and JEA’s ongoing commitment to safety and security for all who share the JEA building, 3M Ultra 5800 Safety and Security Film was recently installed throughout the building on all glass surfaces. The product offers numerous safety/security advantages.

It provides enhanced protection against forced entry and vandalism by reinforcing glass windows and doors, deterring potential intruders and minimizing the risk of break-ins. Additionally, in the event of natural disasters, use of firearms, or explosions, the film helps to mitigate damage by holding shattered glass together, reducing the potential for injuries and maintaining the integrity of the building envelope. While not ‘bullet-proof,’ the film provides an additional layer of security, time to take cover, and time to prepare and escape.

Overall, investing in 3M Ultra 5800 Safety and Security Film enhances the safety and security of the building, safeguarding occupants and assets while offering peace of mind to everyone who uses the building.

It should be noted that this safety and security project is just one of many that leadership and Security Director Brett Butler have identified that will be completed in the coming months/years.

The cost of the 3M Ultra 5800 Safety and Security Film will be reimbursed from the federal government through a Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP). It is through the cooperation of the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Secure Community Network, that these grants funds were made available.



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



All meals are served with a salad, vegetable and dessert

Thursdays at 12:30 PM Jewish Educational Alliance

JUNE 6

Chelsea Sawyer

Hurricane Preparedness

JUNE 13

Larry Silbermann
General Manager,
WRHQ

JUNE 20

Katy Keyes
History and
Benefits of
Yoga

JUNE 27

Peach Hubbard
The Dolphin Project

JULY 4

Happy 4th of July!
No FFT

JULY 11

Tiffany Drabek
Autoimmune
Disorders and
Gut Health

JULY 18

Motti Locker
Israel Update

JULY 25

Michelle Allan
Tzedek
Project

AUGUST 1

Judy Odrezin
Deep Sea
Diving

AUGUST 8

Savannah
VOICE
Festival

AUGUST 15

Jill Cardenas
No Place For Hate
How to successfully
mediate any
situation

AUGUST 22

Joanna Morton
Laughter
Yoga

AUGUST 29

Adam Solender
"Goodbye.
Farewell.
Amen."

**Reservations are required by the
Tuesday before by calling
912-355-8111**

Savannah Jewish Federation 2024 Annual Campaign



You CAN help tackle the most important Jewish issues. Today. Tomorrow. Always.

*Your donation combined with gifts from others in our community,
enables you to have the kind of impact that few can have on their own –
right in Savannah, in Israel, and around the world.*

Donate or Pledge to the 2024 Annual Campaign today! Call 912-355-8111 or go to savj.org

Renewal & Rededication

Carol Towbin Greenberg

Thanks to the dedicated effort of Steven Hollander, vice president of SJF, and Rochelle Frank of Rochelle Frank Designs, the badly weathered and damaged Children's Holocaust Memorial Sign was rededicated before Yom HaShoah. The beautiful memorial is attached to the original flower box created and donated in 2014 by Bob and Joanna Rich.



This is a project that grew from an idea planted in 2012 and dedicated in 2014. The history of the original dedication, presented in an article Higher Ground SJN April, 2014, begins: "Yes, it was January—and not Yom HaShoah-- yet the early appearance of our community's first yellow daffodil of the season, poking up right by the Children's Holocaust Marker was a cause for excitement! ...

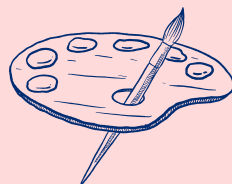
As a child that survived, there was no one more suited to design the memorial marker than local artist Rochelle Frank who was born in Germany and immigrated to Israel at the beginning of the state's inception, aided by the implementation arranged for by the Rich family—with so many members now actively involved in JEA and other Jewish community organizations...



The article continues that as part of a national project, the JEA Garden Club—an extension of our Buildings & Grounds Committee—hosted various groups to plant a gift of life, or Chai, to our community. So, in 2012 as part of our JEA Centennial commemorations, 324 (18 times 18) yellow daffodil bulbs were planted in the front of the building. The Savannah Jewish Federation joined groups throughout the country who honored the memory of the 1.5 million children who died in the Shoah with this living memorial.

Volunteers planting the bulbs included JWV, Hadassah and JEA members, but especially significant were the students from Rambam, Shalom School and the JEA winter camp, whose volunteerism helped connect them to the Shoah story. The article concludes that "In a time when so much of the daily news challenges us as Jews, this simple flower gave many pause to remark about this bright yellow star of hope."

After the horrors of October 7 and the hatred unfolding closer to home from our college campuses to our threatened communities right here in the United States, it is this writer's opinion that it is time to bury those issues that keep us as a Jewish community apart, and rededicate ourselves to remembering the destruction that hate can bring, so that the next time we plant flowers, it will not be just out of remembrance, but instead be out of pure joy.



JOIE DE
VIVRE

ART MARKET

SUNDAY 8.4.2024

NOON - 4PM

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

ARTIST DEADLINE TO APPLY

JULY 14

TO REGISTER VISIT [SAVJ.ORG/ARTSIDEAS](https://savj.org/artsideas)

Diving In: The Importance of Swim Lessons at Every Age

Sanny Contreras, Swim Lesson Coordinator

Starting swim lessons in childhood is crucial for building confidence, independence, and lifesaving skills. As kids learn strokes and gain confidence in the water, they become more self-assured in other areas of life too. Each lesson also teaches vital water safety skills, helping children navigate pools and beaches safely. Plus, starting young means kids are better prepared to respond to emergencies, reducing the risk of drowning. So, by beginning swim lessons early, children not only learn to swim but also gain important skills for staying safe in and around water throughout their lives.

However, it's important to remember that you're never too old to begin. The benefits of learning to swim extend beyond age, offering opportunities for personal growth, fitness, and safety at any stage of life.

Whether you're an adult seeking to overcome a fear of water or simply eager to acquire a valuable skill, starting swim lessons later in life can be incredibly rewarding. Our Swim Program welcomes learners of all ages, providing a supportive environment where individuals can build confidence, improve technique, and discover the pleasures of swimming. So, regardless of age, it's never too late to dive in and embark on the journey of learning to swim.



Happy First Birthday to the New Outdoor Pool

Kate Perry, Aquatics Director

On June 14, 2023, we officially opened the brand new outdoor pool. Filled with approximately 174,206 gallons of water and equipped with new features, it became a hotspot for anyone looking to cool off in the heat of summer. The most beloved change was the zero-entry slope leading into the water, and the splash pad within feet of the beach-like entrance. Some of our features didn't change – the slide remains a fun fixture for kids and adults alike. We wish the outdoor pool a very happy first birthday!



The pool is ready for you!



Life's A Dance

Callie Smith, Health & Wellness Director



There exists a faint memory of a young girl in her parents' living room, turning up the stereo knob so loud that the guitar intro to Kenny Loggins' song *Footloose* filled the house. As the intro builds, the young girl grabs her favorite baby doll by the hands and commences to spinning and dancing her way through the living room as the 80's hit bounces through the air. *Footloose* always ended with the young girl laying flat on her back, out of breath, staring at the ceiling with a happy heart. After a few moments to compose herself the young girl would jump up, hit the Back button on the stereo, and do it all over again. This could go on for an hour before the young girl's mom would stick her head in the living room and request that the young girl "*please pick another song!*" That young girl was me. From a young age, dancing has always been a source of joy. Whether it was high school prom, college formals, or family weddings, dancing seemed to always have a positive effect on my emotions, mind, and health.

In recent years there has been continuous research to support full-body health benefits of engaging in various forms of dancing. A recent article in the Sports Medicine Journal found that dancing has been shown to be equally as effective as other forms of physical activity at reducing anxiety, improving depression symptoms, and improving quality of life for people with Parkinson's. The article goes on to discuss that the research also showed valuable evidence that dancing was superior to other forms of physical activity when it came to improving memory, social cognition, general mood, and motivation. Another recent article in the PLOS One Journal found that participating in dancing could lead to significant improvements in body composition for people who were overweight or obese, specifically with fat loss and waist reductions. In addition to the benefits mentioned for physical and mental health, dance has been shown to benefit our social health as well as dance can aid in developing relationships, connecting people, and increasing feelings of joy and togetherness.

The JEA is proud to offer a variety of Fitness Classes for those looking to put on their dancing shoes: **WERQ** is a high-energy cardio dance workout, with the music backdrop of trending pop and hip hop music; **Ballroom Dancing** class introduces a wide variety of dances and techniques to improve your physical fitness and understanding of ballroom dances, and is friendly for participants of all ages and experiences; **Line Dancing** class will have you boot scootin' to classic and modern country, Motown favorites, and pop hits - no boots required!

WERQ:
MONDAYS @ 5:30PM

LINE DANCING:
TUESDAYS @ 12:15PM & 6:00PM

BALLROOM DANCING:
THURSDAYS @ 6:00PM & FRIDAYS @ 12:15PM



On The Personal Side

Mazel Tov To

To Margo Meyerhoff for raising funds to bring back the iconic tugboat on River Street. Margo is the daughter of Harriett and the late Eric Meyerhoff. Eric designed the first riverfront in 1977 and presented the first tugboat at the dedication.

To Donna Eichholz on the publication of her new book, "Together is the Best Place to Be: Recollections and Recipes Honoring Judy Byck"

To Zelly & Rabbi Zalman Refson on the birth of their son, Shua, on March 25th.

To Amos & Tzila Lemberger on the birth of their son, Meir, on April 13th.

To Don Kole on being awarded the JEA's Community Service Award.

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

To Rambam Day School's graduating 8th graders:
Esti Lob, Amelia Chapman
Dovi Nitekman, Hudi Rabhan
Matty Slatius, Zev Weinberg



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



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

WWW.SAVJ.ORG



GOOD NEWS!

CELEBRATING A SIGNIFICANT EVENT, SIMCHA, BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY? WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!

SUBMIT TO
SAVANNAHJEWISHLIFE@SAVJ.ORG



Savannah Jewish Federation

SHERRY DOLGOFF

HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST

HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ART

1st Place

Hong Tran
Chelsea Meager

2nd Place

Amiya Torres

3rd Place

Daniela Medina Gonzalez
Alden Landry



HIGH SCHOOL WRITING

1st Place

Alyssa Johnson

2nd Place

Ana Ramos Santos

3rd Place

Karl Anderson-Tremblay
Emma Gauthier

MIDDLE SCHOOL VISUAL ART

1st Place

Olivia Steimle
Jillian Schmid

2nd Place

Couper Howard

3rd Place

Griffin Roberts

Honorable Mention

Ethan Kenney



MIDDLE SCHOOL WRITING

1st Place

Ela Sykola

2nd Place

Marshall Pedigo

3rd Place

Baylis Borak
Zachary Ward

Kay Becker Israel Fund Awarded

In 2013, Laura and Larry Blumberg established the Kay Becker Israel Fund to provide scholarship/subsidy to teens on a peer group trip, 'gap year programs,' Yeshiva attendance, or a college program.

Kay Becker was a Northern transplant from the state of New York and lived in Savannah for over 65 years. She was married for 44 years to Johnny Becker who predeceased her in 1992.

Though she had minimal exposure to her Jewish roots growing up, she developed a deep and profound love for Israel in her adult life. She was a life member of Hadassah, and nothing was more important to her than supporting anything and everything that would have a positive impact for Israel.

She made approximately fifteen trips to Israel after the age of 53. She also made it possible for her grandchildren to make meaningful trips to Israel for a one-year college program and a four-week program for high school seniors.



"We can think of no better way to honor her memory than to help make it possible for other Jewish young adults to experience their heritage in Israel," stated fund creators, Laura and Larry Blumberg.

This year's winner of the Kay Becker Israel Fund is **Shayna Rosen**, daughter/step daughter of Bina and Adam Pritzker.

A student at Bais Yaakov High School, Baltimore, Maryland, Shayna's essay, *"Why Israel is Important to Me"* spoke about *"Israel as a tiny by might country, filled with beauty inside and out."* She went on to state, *"There is a physical beauty to the land itself as well as historical and meaningful sights. Places like Masada, Kever Rachel, and the Kotel are some of the more popular and beautiful sights that I long to see, not just because of their breath-taking views and architecture, but also because of the connection I feel to these sights; the strength and steadfastness of our ancestors and their ability to die for their land."*

Shayna will be pursuing her studies at the Tiferet Center, a religious-Zionist school that aims to give its students an all-encompassing Israel experience that appeals to mind, body, and soul.

The family of Kay Becker and the JEA Board of Directors is proud to provide this \$5,000 scholarship to Shayna Rosen.

Guthrie Awarded Rubnitz Family Scholarship

In 2019, as the last male descendant of the Rubnitz family, David Rubnitz established the Rubnitz Family Scholarship to *"perpetuate the Rubnitz name and the rich family history as part of the Savannah Jewish community."*



This fund, one of the 129, that make up the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, was specifically established *"for the purpose of providing scholarships to member(s) of the Jewish community for post high school education."*

The Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah and the Governors of the Savannah Jewish Federation are proud to announce that this year's awardee is **Sophie Guthrie**. Fund creator, David Rubnitz stated, *"It is my great pleasure to have Sophie be the first recipient of the scholarship."*

During high school, she volunteered with Ronald McDonald House, Congregation Mickve Israel's Shalom Y'all Food Festival, Shalom School, and Camp Sunshine. You can often see her at the JEA Welcome Desk.

Guthrie, a recent graduate of Islands High School will be attending Georgia Southern University this Fall to pursue a degree in Speech Language Pathology.

Ensuring a Safe End of the School Year and Summer Vacation for Family and Kids

Brett Butler, Security Director



As the school year draws to a close and summer vacation looms on the horizon, it's essential for parents and guardians to prioritize their children's safety. Transitioning from the structured environment of school to the more relaxed atmosphere of summer requires careful planning and proactive measures to keep children safe.

Emergency room doctors have called the summer months "the trauma season," because of an increase in the numbers of patients they see. According to the CDC, approximately 2.7 million children in the United States are treated for accidental injuries during an average summer season, with nearly 3,000 of those children dying. The majority die from unintentional injuries. For children age 1-14, the No. 1 cause of death is accidents.

In conclusion, prioritizing safety at the end of the school year and during summer vacations is essential for ensuring a memorable and enjoyable experience for children and their families. By fostering open communication, reinforcing safety rules, and taking proactive measures, parents and guardians can help empower their children to stay safe and make the most of their summer adventures.

SUMMER SAFETY

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Open and ongoing communication with children about safety measures is crucial. Discussing potential risks, such as stranger danger, and establishing clear guidelines for their safety can empower children to make informed decisions.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Ensure children are aware of emergency procedures, including who to contact in case of an emergency and how to dial emergency services. Teach them their home address and phone number, as well as how to use a cellphone for emergencies.

REVIEW SAFETY RULES

Take the opportunity to review safety rules with children, including road safety, bike safety, and water safety. Reinforce the importance of looking both ways before crossing the street, wearing helmets while biking, and never swimming alone.

BUDDY SYSTEM

Encourage children to stick together with friends when walking to and from school or engaging in outdoor activities. The buddy system provides an added layer of security and reduces the risk of accidents or encounters with strangers.



Travel Tips



Plan Ahead

Whether traveling near or far, careful planning is essential for a safe and enjoyable summer vacation. Research destinations, accommodations, and activities in advance, taking into account factors such as weather conditions and local safety advisories.

Pack Wisely

Pack a safety kit containing essential items such as first aid supplies, sunscreen, insect repellent, and emergency contact information. Consider including a whistle or personal alarm for added security in crowded or unfamiliar settings.

Set Boundaries

Establish clear boundaries and guidelines for children, especially when exploring new environments. Emphasize the importance of staying together as a family, avoiding isolated areas, and seeking help from trusted authorities if needed.

Practice Situational Awareness

Encourage children to stay vigilant and aware of their surroundings at all times. Teach them to trust their instincts and speak up if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe in any situation.

Stay Informed

Stay informed about local customs, laws, and potential hazards at your destination. Educate children about cultural differences and safety precautions specific to the area, such as avoiding certain foods or respecting local customs.

International Travel Tips

- Make sure your passport and visa are up to date
- Check for health advisories and travel warnings and advisories
- Register your trip with the State Department:
- Stock your wallet with acceptable methods of payment
- Buy travel insurance

Perlman-Spear Foundation Makes Long-Term Investment in the Alliance

It was June 1, 2023 when the JEA Front Desk transferred a call, “*Phil Meeks is on the phone.*” Not knowing who Phil Meeks was, I answered the call, “*Hi, this is Adam, can I help you?*” And thus begins the story that will change the JEA for decades to come.

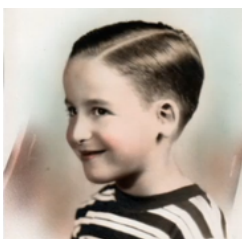
Mr. Meeks began to tell us that he was the nephew of Murray Perlman and was the executor of the Murray Perlman and Wayne Spear Charitable Foundation. He went on to tell me that he and two other trustees were tasked with awarding nonprofits with funds to further support their mission. Rather than gather annual submissions, make individual awards and gather reports, the Trustees decided to make three 10-year investments in Savannah non-profits in order to partner and make a significant difference.

We told Mr. Meeks that we certainly knew Murray Perlman and Wayne Spear as Murray had been a lifelong Savannahian and a member of the Alliance. He had previously made a generous testamentary gift from the Murray C. Perlman Trust to benefit the JEA.

As we came to learn, the JEA was far from the only beneficiary of his largess. Murray Perlman was an avid philanthropist during his lifetime and his generosity continues to make its mark. Passionate about preserving the history of his beloved Savannah, where he lived his entire life, he posthumously made \$50,000 gifts to 20 area nonprofits including the United Way of the Coastal Empire, Boys & Girls Club, Savannah Philharmonic, Jewish War Veterans and Georgia Historical among others.



Murray Perlman



Born in Savannah, July 26, 1932, to Morris and Helen Schwartz Perlman, the Perlmans were active supporters and participants in Jewish life for a century. Pictures of the family with their involvement with the JEA go back to the early

1910s---the very beginning of the Alliance and continued through the decades.

Murray Perlman attended Benedictine Military School and went to Spring Hill College in Alabama.

A noted collector of high-quality antique rugs, Murray was owner and partner of Savannah Galleries, which, in addition to the rugs, sold fine American, English, and French antique furniture. He and Wayne (whom he met in the mid-60s) had an apartment in New York City and traveled throughout the world. But, Savannah was home.



Wayne & Murray

They were life partners for almost a half century, and when legalized, wed in 2015.

The JEA, along with a select group of area non-profits, were asked to present a vision of what could be accomplished with the support of the Murray Perlman and Wayne Spear Charitable Foundation and on July 19, 2023 JEA President, Allison Konter and I shared a vision. We covered the “early years” of the original JEA, the transition to Abercorn Street, the 1980s era update of the facilities, and the current Capital Campaign to “Ensure the Future” of the Alliance.

“What was once the Jewish Educational Alliance, charter to assist immigrants acculturate and being a meeting place for the Jewish community has now become... The meeting place of the entire community steeped in Jewish culture and values.”

We shared the story of the development of JEA Preschool Savannah from an idea to reality. Founded in 2013, the program, steeped in Jewish tradition and values embraces diversity and welcomes children of all faiths.

We spoke about Camp Savannah, sharing a comment from one of our parents, “*Camp Savannah represents the diversity that all of Savannah aspires to. Camp is made up of Christian, Muslims, Jews, and other faiths: all together. It is a rainbow of identities. It is a kaleidoscope of cultures. It has children on the spectrum, less-abled, and those uniquely searching for who they are. All of our world should be more like Camp Savannah.*”

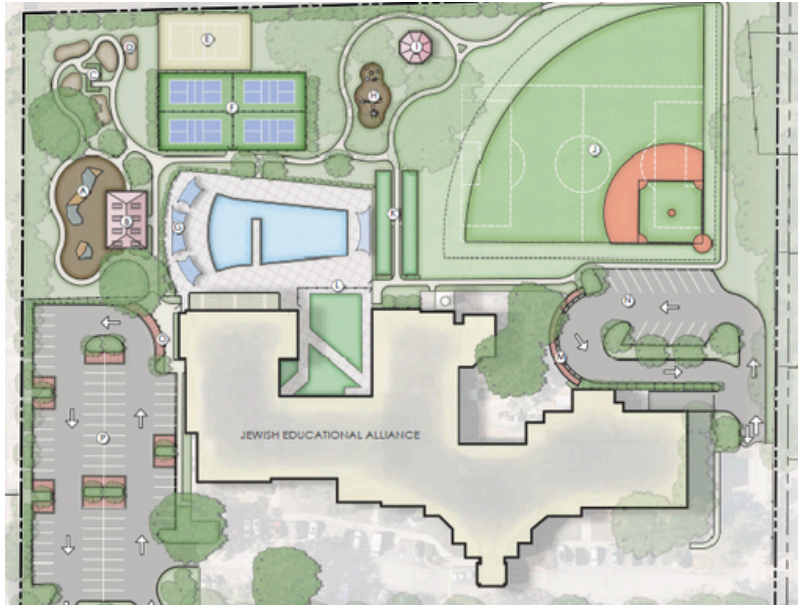
We spoke about our Aquatics department, the new Outdoor Pool, and the importance of our swim lessons providing an essential life skill to area youth. We shared about the importance of the JEA for area programs and organizations who depend on the JEA including the City of Savannah, as an election precinct, MLK commemoration/Black Heritage concert, Neighborhood Association meetings, Holocaust remembrance, Savannah Jazz Society, Midtown Rotary, and many more.

And then came the pitch, “*How do we cement the future?*” We proposed a series of projects for their consideration including

- An accessibility project to include a walking path on the perimeter of the property with paths from the building to newly constructed basketball/pickleball courts and recreation areas so that the less able among us have equal access to our facilities;
- Creation of gender neutral/family bathrooms/ changing rooms;
- Installation of audio/visual technologies to accommodate the needs of the community including hearing assist, visual presentation enhancements, and seating in the auditoriums;
- Expansion of parking lots to accommodate increased building usage;
- Installation of a large shade structure over newly created outdoor space; and
- A needed shade structure over the shallow end of the pool to provide for seniors and young families.

The three trustees asked a few questions and thanked us for our time telling us that they would get back to us in the very near future.

It was that very afternoon that the trustees let us know that their original intention was to provide \$1,000,000 to three area non-profits to accomplish their mission. They decided that the JEA would be one of the nonprofits, BUT, they only chose two organizations, each to receive \$150,000 a year for the next 10 years. They shared their desire to be a part of the progress, to receive an annual update, that they wanted to be partners in the vision that we had shared.



First Draft Conceptual Plan of the JEA Campus

With the commitment of the Murray Perlman and Wayne Spear Charitable Foundation, the JEA is poised to create a 21st century campus.

We have already worked with Thomas & Hutton Engineering to establish a Concept Plan for the campus which includes everything that we originally proposed and while it is far from finalized, it does give a great vision of what can and will be in the coming years.



It is thanks to Murray Perlman and Wayne Spear and their legacy of giving, that we will be able to take a dream to reality.

Obituaries

through 01/31/24

Ronald H. Cohen

Who died Monday, February 5, 2024

He is survived by his wife Mary K. Cohen, three children Rodney (Michelle) Cohen, daughter Rebecca Cohen Jacobson, and son Matthew Cohen. He is also survived by his brother Stevie Cohen, sister-in-law, Carole Cohen; grandchildren Alex (Ana) Cohen, Jake (Laura) Cohen, and Hanna Jacobson; numerous nieces, nephews, and close cousins, and his bones family of stepchildren Eli (Suz) Karatassos, Theone (Conan Linsey) Karatassos, Zack (Gillian) Karatassos, and step-grandchildren, Alexa (Michael Shoemaker) Dysch, Leonidas and Kostas Lindsey, Gabriella and Bianca Karatassos. Remembrances: JEA Preschool Savannah or the charity of your choice.

Donald H. Logvin

Who died Thursday, February 29, 2024.

He is survived by his wife Bobbie Logvin; sister Carol Logvin; children Debbie (Joe) Sistino and Gary (Vicki Schiel) Logvin; grandchildren Jamie (Steven) Richman, Megan (Mie) Gaudio, and Bryan (Cathy Lerner) Sistino; and great-grandchildren Luke, Micah, Cole and Blake; and many loving family and friends.

Remembrances: St Jude Children's Research Hospital or Congregation Mickve Israel Social Action Fund.

Marvin Smulevitz

Who died March 12, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Smulevitz, two children, David and Gertie along with their respective spouses Abigale and Emmanuel; brother Morris, sister-in-law Debbie; niece Erin and many family and friends.

Elizabeth Ray Arkin

Who died Wednesday, March 13, 2024

She is survived by her husband, Steven Arkin, children Sophie (Andy Halpern) Arkin, and Zach Arkin; sisters Peg Ray and Ellen Ray (Billy) Balser; and sister-in-law Beth Bosman.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim or Arkin-Clark Garden Fund at the JEA.

Mary "Chrissie" Reinert Kaplan Karp

Who died Wednesday, March 20, 2024

She is survived by her sons Evan and Michael Karp; siblings Sarah (John) Epstein, Joel Kaplan, and Adam (Robin Kaplan). Remembrances: The American Cancer Society or Congregation Mickve Israel.

Paula Kaplan Berger Fisher

Who died Saturday, March 30, 2024.

She is survived by her husband Paul E. Fisher, siblings Ellen (Mark) Stern, Jonathan (Sarah) Kaplan, Matthew (Laura) Kaplan, Shayle (Jin Soo Kim) Miller, Lynn Socol (the late Bobby), Robin (Dan) Stern, stepson Zachary (Naama) Fisher and much-loved nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, Chabad of Savannah, or Hospice Savannah.

Sonya Hirsch Diamond

Who died Sunday, March 31, 2024.

She is survived by her daughter, Debra J Diamond, son Gary J. (Nancy) Diamond; grandchildren Briggs Brewer, Mallorie, Morgan, and Hannah Dudley; many nieces and nephews, caretaker Janis Parsons and Fiona, Deidra, and Tasha. Remembrances: GA Hospice Care.

Stuart M. Robinson

Who died Saturday, April 6, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Lucille (Lulu) Doris Marlin Robinson, and three daughters Gail Debra (Robert) Kolosiekie, Toby Jill (Joseph) Goldstein and Karen Beth (Steven) Hairfield; three grandchildren Sara Fay (Shmuli) Goldis, Joshua Robert Goldstein and Alec Justin Zirkelbach and his one great-granddaughter Emma Yael Goldis, and one brother, Arnold Robinson.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah or Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob.

Francine Frank

Who died Monday, April 8, 2024.

She is survived by son, Steven (Barbara) Frank; daughter, Linda (Steven) Novack; grandchildren, Jared (Leann) Frank, Brook (Anthony) Amo, Allison (Andrew) Badger, Adam (Lauren) Novack, Evan (Elizabeth) Novack, Craig (Becky) Novack; and nine great-grandchildren.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel or Hospice Savannah.

Howard Cohen

Who died Friday, April 12, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Cohen; children Michael (Sheryl) Cohen, and Mitzi Cohen; grandchildren, Dallas (Brad) Sellars, Nova (Eric) Oglesby, Michael H. (Isabel) Cohen, William Cohen, Carolyn Cohen; great grandchildren, Navah Sellars, Zarah Sellars, Jordan Sellers, Cohen Oglesby.

Remembrances: Benedictine Military School or the Paul Anderson Youth Home.

Fran Lesser Sussman

Who died Friday, April 26, 2024.

She is survived by her children Amy Sussman and John (Danielle) Sussman, grandchildren, Sophie (Shaw)Hamrick and Claire Sussman; sister and best friend, Gail Wexler, and nieces Lynn (Tom) Alexander and Jan Wexler.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel or Hospice Savannah.



"As my fathers planted for me,
so do I plant for my children."
- Taanit 23a

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

Donations made 02/01/2024-04/30/2024

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Bruce Walker

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Harriet Meyerhoff
In honor of Sharon Galin
In honor of AM Goldkrand
In honor of Dayle Levy
Toby Hollenberg & Michael Bonder

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In memory of Ronald Cohen
In memory of Michael Kaplan
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In memory of Esther Schmier Rubenstein
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In memory of Mike Strear
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Sally & Steve Greenberg

The Jewish Educational Alliance Gratefully Thanks Those Who Made Donations

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Elise & Victor Shernoff

ETHEL COHEN MEDIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Lucy Gottlieb
Lorry & Chuck Palefsky

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

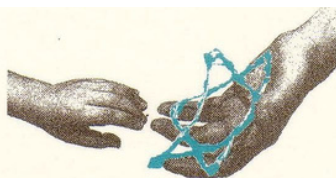
In memory of Tony Shafer
April & Tony Center
Harry Center
In honor of Tony Center
Vicki & Harry Center & Rosie
In memory of Liz Arkin
In memory of Ralph Lorberbaum
Vicki & Harry Center

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH

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Marilyn & Jonathan Arkin
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Deborah & Gary Webb
In memory of Sonya Diamond
Steven Arkin
In honor of Skippy Goodman
Sharon & Bill Sand



JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SAVANNAH

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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SEASONAL PASS

3 MONTH PASS* TO THE JEA

Seasonal Single	\$250
Seasonal Couple	\$285
Seasonal Family	\$333

- \$25 Registration Fee
- Use of Health & Wellness center including fitness facilities, pools, lockers rooms & classes
- Payment due at sign up
- Not eligible for member pricing or financial assistance

SAVANNAHJEA.ORG



JEA BIRTHDAY PARTIES



**Make your child's birthday
unforgettable with our exciting party
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**Choose from laser tag, pool parties,
or sports-themed celebrations.**

**For more information and to book
your party online, scan the QR code.**



Questions? Contact Jared Sclar at
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SUMMER DAYS AT THE 

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WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT, CAMP IS IN!

4 YEARS OLD - 8TH GRADE

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RDS Has Been Busy...

Ester Rabhan, Principal

I want to congratulate our eighth-grade graduates; Esti Lob, Amelia Chapman, Dovi Nitekman, Hudi Rabhan, Matty Slatius, and Zev Weinberg. Our eighth graders had a magnificent 8th grade trip to Disney World with Mrs. Diane Robinson, (their science teacher) and Rabbi Jeffrey Gordon (one of their Judaic teachers).

Our school had it's annual Chanukah Program, Chanukah Night in the Museum. Our first through eighth grade classes took the audience through Jewish history with songs and an interactive museum. We had a full house of almost 200 people. The performance was created by Mrs. Chavi Rabhan, Mrs. Rena Maccabee, and Mrs. Diane Robinson. The costumes brought the actors and actresses to life as well as their amazing performance. Mrs. Kristie Duncan, our art teacher, assisted with bringing the set to life with amazing backdrops.

We had a Purim carnival open to the public with horse rides, a bouncy house, Purim projects and hamantashen. Live music accompanied all the fun! All our pre-school students baked hamantashen with the middle classes. The comradery between the tiny tots and the older children was priceless.

Our kindergarten class had a lemonade stand to raise money for some educational items they wanted for their classroom. They also have a wonderful garden they planted outside next to the fourth grade garden. Between the two gardens there are at least 8 things growing; string beans, mint, sunflowers, and squash just to name a few.

Elementary classes had a variety of things going on. One class made bottle rockets while learning about the solar system. A class went on a shark tooth and fossil hunt. Classes made colonial crafts and embroidery, and did fabric dying using food scraps. A trip is planned for the Marine archaeology ship wreck excavation.

In science class, middle school students dissected a pickle to learn how to use the instruments and then dissected a chicken wing and owl pellets.

Each 8th grader was required to make a human body theme park. They had to choose one of the five body systems, for example the digestive system or the respiratory system, and then create rides that

demonstrated how the system they chose works.

Sixth grade was learning about the planets and each student had to create an alien with features that made it possible for it to live on a specific planet.

A few weeks ago, our school came alive with the buzz of mathematical adventure as students from across the middle school spectrum gathered to immerse themselves in a world where math and fun collide!

Mrs. Prince's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students designed a math carnival that offered a plethora of games and challenges that not only entertained but also enlightened us about the myriad applications of math in our daily lives. Every activity was an opportunity for students to flex mathematical muscles while having fun.

We witnessed firsthand how math transcends the classroom, infusing joy and excitement into every equation. It was a testament to the creativity and innovation of our students.

Pre-school had a model seder with their parents. It was the cutest interactive seder.

Our middle school students have an in-school science fair judged by professionals. Hudi Rabhan won first place, Miri Maccabee won second place and Tehila Singer won third place. Unfortunately, this year they did not place in the Regional Fair.

Our annual eighth grade play took place on Sunday, May 5th with a full house at the Savannah Children's Theater, directed by Mrs. Kelie Miley, assistant directors; Mrs. Chavi Rabhan and Mr. Richard Epstein. They performed the, "Comic Book Artist".

According to the most recent PEW study, three-in-ten Jewish adults under the age of 30 say it would "not at all" be important to them for their grandchildren to be Jewish. Rambam Day School is doing its part to decrease this number. It is incumbent upon each one of us to make sure our very own people don't contribute to what the Holocaust set out to accomplish.



Mah Jongg and More

Robin Rackoff



We all have a natural pace to our lives. I walk fast, talk fast, and make fast decisions. Not all of my decisions are great, but they sure are fast. Along with my husband, a fast decision-maker as well, we have bought cars and houses in the blink of an eye. One of my children is an “apple didn’t fall far from the tree” kid. He finishes meals so quickly that I wonder if I forgot to feed him. My other offspring moves through life in a slower, more measured manner. As a child, she would just be finishing her appetizer as the waitress would be clearing our plates and bringing the check.

All this need for speed spills over into my Mah Jongg game. I like to be well-paced and moving at a good clip. Knowing what you will discard before you pick your tile does wonders to move the game along. I get very frustrated if I end up playing with slow players.

I know a couple contemplating “Divorce by Mah Jongg.” She taught him to play two-handed (Siamese), and she can play a fast game. He ponders and studies each move and that drives her crazy. I offered advice that I never thought I’d give: Get rid of the Mah Jongg set!

I have to run, so until next time, Maj On!

CALLING ALL YOUTH CREATIVES IN RISING GRADES 6-12

This summer unleash your creativity and talent for a chance to have your masterpiece exhibited at the grand re-opening celebration of the Montag Gallery September 22nd, 3-5pm.

This inaugural event will feature paintings, collages, photography, and more inspired by an iconic Jewish artist.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top finalists.

Entry Deadline is July 31st.

<https://www.savannahjea.org/artsideas>

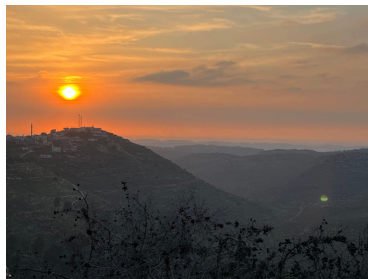
Israel, What IS

Sabrina Rabhan

I am really not so worried. I am hopeful. I can't help but smile at all the different types of Jews I had the pleasure of meeting, seeing and being amongst during my trip to Israel.

The non religious, special forces, Gush resident who took us on wild jeep ride, who told us not to take the almonds we picked into his front door because Terumah (tithes) had not been taken from them, and why would someone try to get 'around' a mitzvah when it is obvious the blessings we receive by doing them.

The Torah observant reservist who took us to the Rachel's Tomb, which he calls Fortress of Rachel- why? Because nearby Arab villages kept throwing stones and bullets at all the visitors, and Israel did not want to punish any innocent Arabs so they built a wall with a watch tower to protect both of her citizens.



The Gush, all the way to the Mediterranean Sea

The farmer who had just come back from four months of complete silence as a tank commander the day before, who showed us the valley where David slew Goliath, adjacent to his state of the art, above- ground crops which grow UP via a string and a vine.

The F16 flight instructor from Hertzilyah who comes from a family of pilots but hates flying. He joined the K9 brigade for his army service but now helps train pilot recruits in debriefing. He says because he knows so much about them and dislikes them so, he is the perfect person for this job.

The Chayalim, new, veteran, and back in duty. The 50 and over reservists protecting their towns while the younger men are all fighting. All knowing that protecting their Jewish brothers and sisters is a treasure.

The seminary teachers who want all the students to stay in Israel, ESPECIALLY at this time. Living this life of camaraderie, of love for each and every Jew, feeling like they belong and they are a part of all this. This is a lesson that only Hashem can teach and that each student in Israel now will hopefully teach the rest of us.

The Torah students walking the roads of old with happiness, love of their fellow Jew, holding up the world with their diligence in Torah learning, giving us something worth protecting and living for.

And the beauty? The beauty is knowing that every single person has their part to play in this world, at this time. Every person you come across deserves the benefit of the doubt, and never judgement; always put yourself in their shoes (which is impossible because you can never truly know what is in one's heart) before you decide what they should or shouldn't be doing. We are ALL in glass houses and, hence, should never throw stones. That is the hope and the lesson I learned. That feeling I got from every inch of the holy land of Israel. As one resident told me after I asked what they needed MOST...he said, You. Just being here. You can volunteer at an army base or sip cappuccino in your hotel lobby, but by being here, you are giving us hope in this unending war.

I thought (and maybe felt from past experiences) that as a religious Jew, I might be prejudiced against. False. I thought as a broken- Hebrew speaking American, I may be scoffed at, false. Every single person I made eye contact with, I smiled at and received a smile in return. I made an effort to exude love and positivity, to be a receptacle and not a repeller. I wanted to be a part of this life. And the effort was mutual.



Sabrina's daughter, Chana Raizel, and husband, Ephriam in the Machne Yehudah Shuk

There is always a way back. To become the right kind of person. Bridges that have been burned CAN be rebuilt. Purim and Yom KiPUR-IM teach us that bridges that have been burnt can be rebuilt. In Shoshanas Yaakov we said, 'this is our hope in every generation'. There is no such thing as too late, as impossible, it's all over. Never, ever. In Israel now, bridges are being rebuilt left, right and center.

Israel, What IS continued on page 28

JEA Preschool Savannah

Jodi Sadler, Director



As we bid farewell to the 2023-2024 school year, I am delighted to reflect on the incredible time the children, teachers and families experienced as a preschool community. With the excitement of summer just around the corner, it's the perfect time to celebrate our successes and look forward to the adventures that lie ahead.

Over the past year, we've seen our children blossom and flourish in ways that have exceeded our expectations. They mastered new literacy skills, formed meaningful relationships with each other and their educators, and learned those very important social and emotional skills. I am so proud of their accomplishments and the dedication of our educators and administrators who have played an integral role in nurturing the children's growth.

This past school year included a successful Art Bash Fundraising event, numerous enrichment classes for the children, swim lessons, microsportz, basketball, music and movement, just to name a few of the activities offered to the preschool children. The children learned about the Jewish holidays through hands on experiences including the blowing of the shofar for Rosh Hashanah, eating in the Suckah and participating in the Passover experience as well as participating in our weekly Shabbat celebrations and Havdallah gatherings.

As we transition into the summer months, the safety and well-being of our children remain our top priority. Swimming in the outdoor pool and water play will be an integral part of the summer days at preschool.

In conclusion, I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of serving as your preschool director and witnessing the growth and achievements of our children each day.



**PreK
Graduation**



Passover Experience

Montag Art Gallery: Artist Spotlight

June: Dell Belew

June 2-30



2024 marks 49 years since Dell began her art journey. Dell says, “Although I have exhibited various styles in past shows, referring to myself as the chameleon, this year I am exhibiting only the newest of my works that are primarily abstract.”

“Although many people do not like abstract painting, the paintings do have a message/a life; it is usually a message unspoken to the artist at its inception. I randomly apply paint or whatever substance I have chosen, and I keep moving paint around until it tells me what it is. A fundamental example is my painting in this year’s exhibit titled *The Organ Recital*. I hung the 4’x 5’ painting on a wall in my living room to complete it. Even though I liked the colors, I could not be satisfied

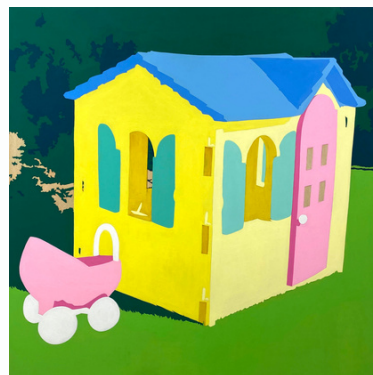
with the final result—that is, until the day it introduced itself to me. I worked on it during the 2 weeks prior to impending cancer surgery. My spirit, as it turns out, had been painting my subconscious thoughts about the upcoming invasion of my body by surgeons who would be removing the cancer. My spirit was looking into the beauty of the human body and marveling at the fact that even though our bodies are invaded, the body has an awesome recuperative quality because it is ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’(Psalms 139).”

July: Joanna Silver

July 1-31, Reception: Thursday, July 11th, 5-7pm

In her creative practice, she delves into a nostalgic realm untouched by digital intrusion—a time when children’s toys were portals to boundless imagination, free from the grasp of algorithms and screens. This exploration is fueled by a fascination with artifacts from this era, which often become the subject matter of her paintings and prints. In the joy of reminiscence, she confronts the sobering reality of how these objects often have perpetuated gender stereotypes, prompting reflections on themes of family, home, and the intricate narratives of aging and beauty.

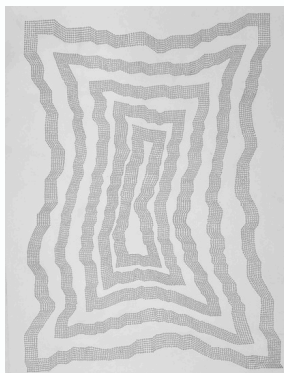
The vibrant palette pays homage to the architectural and design aesthetics of her upbringing in Miami, infusing each piece with a sense of place and nostalgia. The art becomes a vessel for reclaiming lost moments, piecing together fragments of memory like a puzzle.



Through her practice, Silver invites viewers to join her on a journey through layered narratives where universal themes intersect with personal reflections. Amidst personal struggles and societal pressures, this work serves as a vessel to confront societal norms sold to young girls in the form of play houses, vanities, and other domestic-themed items. Each artwork embodies a convergence of hope and disappointment, highlighting the contrasts and complexities embedded within seemingly innocent objects.

August: Adam Levison

August 1-30, Reception: Thursday August 8th, 5-7pm



What seems obvious from a distance, upon closer inspection, may reveal intricacies and beauty beyond expectation.

This body of work, composed collectively of hundreds of thousands circles, indicates texture and movement that perhaps is only perceived, inviting the viewer to consider one’s repeated actions toward a desired result, and visualize both cohesion and structure in unity.

Grandson of beloved JEA member, artist and community advocate, Rene Lehrberger, Adam Levison is an artist based in Savannah and the founder of Circle House Sav, a new community and event space near Daffin Park.

What A Year!

Mark Schwartz, President



The 2023-2024 year at Shalom School has been incredible, filled with learning, prayer, services and emphasis on Hebrew development for students. More than sixty children from across the Savannah area enrolled in the yearlong religious school education. As part of the year experience, children from grades Kindergarten to seventh grade have been immersed in Jewish education.

Throughout the entire year, Shalom School attendees have learned about various Jewish holidays, life cycle events and explored ways in which Judaism integrates into life for young persons. In addition to the classroom teaching Shalom School has started to explore ways in which Jewish learning can take place outside of the classroom. With nontraditional events such as Holiday Fair and newly added annual tradition of color competition, students expanded their horizon's learning both inside and outside of the classroom. Students also engaged in art programs, held a special day for Grandparents/Special Friends as well as held other special programs throughout the year.

One of the newly added sessions at Shalom School was the addition of thirty extra minutes of Hebrew learning for grades 3-7. The goal of the additional 30 minutes was to begin Hebrew for children in 3rd and 4th grade, reinforcement in 5th and 6th grade and continuous Hebrew for B'nai Mitzvah preparation seventh grade. The Hebrew additional weekly is especially paying dividends for children as they prepare for the B'nai Mitzvah as they are more prepared for leading prayer and being more fluent in Hebrew during their studies. Additionally, children in 3-fifth grade were categorized in their Hebrew ability by Principal Eva Locker. During their weekly Wednesday session, children were able to practice prayer, learn new prayer and better familiarize themselves with Hebrew letters and concepts. While this is the first year of the additional 30 minutes, Shalom School plans to continue this implementation and revise objectives and milestones for each grade moving forward.



Kindergarten learning about Lag B'Omer during the Spring Holiday Fair

As a result of the increase Hebrew learning at Shalom School, the students led services for the Shalom School Community twice during the 2023-2024 school year. These student lead services are always a wonderful way to highlight the great advancement that each grade makes throughout the year. Students in the younger grades led Shema and those in 6th and 7th grade lead more advanced prayers. Prior to the start of the service there was a snack and schmooze that provided social opportunity for the students and their families to enjoy.

During the last Sunday Session in May 2024, students and parents enjoyed a field day color competition. The entire Shalom School was divided into teams to compete in Judaic oriented competitions to crown the winner of the color competition for Shalom School 2024. At the end of the color competition, parents and students enjoyed a kosher lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs and all the fixings.



2nd Grade working hard on their Pesach projects.

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With the addition of Cantor Rachel Kohlbrenner from Congregation Mickve Israel, students have more immersive Jewish experience in melodies and Judaic songs than ever before. Cantor Rachel continues to assist all grade levels in learning songs and prayer and is a welcome addition to the faculty at Shalom School. Along with Cantor Rachel there were other new staff at Shalom School this year and we hope that each new Staff continues to teach at Shalom School for many years to come. [Continued on next page](#)

Shalom School continued from P27

All the remarkable success of the students at Shalom School, none of this could happen without our teachers, many of whom have been teaching for many years. In the coming year, we are exploring the potential for innovative programs for teenage Jewish children at Shalom School. If you would like to help and teach at Shalom School or even be a volunteer and join our staff, please reach out and we would be happy to discuss this opportunity.

As we close the 2023-2024 school session, we are already preparing for 2024-2025. Added registration systems, and an update to the website are currently being developed. More experiential Judaic learning is on the way and as Shalom School grows, so does the vast educational opportunity for Jewish learning at Shalom School. Come join us!



Purim Parade!



Fall Youth Soccer



Start planning your fall sports journey here at the JEA! Join us for Fall Youth Soccer, kicking off on September 9th and running until October 30th, offering sports skills, games, and more for ages 5-10. From dribbling and passing to shooting and teamwork, your child will develop essential soccer skills while having a blast on the field. More info/ register at the link below.

<https://www.savannahjea.org/youth-soccer>

Questions? Contact Coach Jared at Enrichment@savj.org

Israel, What IS continued from page 24

A popular Israeli activist admitted the problem of our divide is arrogance, that there isn't another side to the story. Before October 7, all would have said all bridges were burned. To make a blanket statement, to sink so low to not give anyone who doesn't see or do things the way you do, the benefit of the doubt, can seem irreversible. That bridge was about as burned as it could get, and it is 100% unburned now. When the day is done, we belong to Hashem. The bond is forever. And to show this, we are bonded to each other. And Hashem will never, ever let us get lost. We thought the relationship was temporary and it was over. We were at Achashvairosh's party like everyone else, but they do not belong to Hashem like we do. And them being there is fine, but WE didn't belong there. Because we chose Hashem, we have a history as a people together. We went through Mitzrayim, we went through the Geulah and we understand the concept of Teshuvah (repentance) and coming back. We understand that having different strengths makes us stronger, not weakens us. The gravity of our ego had pulled us down very far.

But our bridges are being rebuilt. We are recognizing the greatness in each other. And only then does Hashem's Shechinah rest among us.



Swearing in of hundreds of new IDF recruits wanting to protect Israel and her people

Sabrana Rabhan, adult and child educator, Savannah Kellel, can be reached by phone at 912-604-2847 or email at Sabrina@RabhanRehab.com

Nosh Time

As a branding professional, Lee Ann Homnick, founder of New Kosher Asian Takeout NOSH here in Savannah, has spent more than 30 years in hightech. She has worked with corporations such as Motorola and over 40 Israeli startups reach their communications goals with laser precision.

By leveraging thought leadership content, Lee Ann has helped organizations understand their own DNA and then helped them to connect to their ideal customers by sharing their expert advice.

Lee Ann's pivot to chef from branding is a natural with her Georgia family roots. She was raised receiving cooking advice by every member of her family. Her maternal grandmother, Irma Eichholz Ginsberg, met her husband Harry Ginsberg at the JEA downtown in 1934. Irma was known for her flaky raisin strudel (just ask Ronnie Ginsberg and Don Kole).

Lee Ann's paternal grandmother born in Fitzgerald, Ga, Pauline Goldenberg Moskovitz, was known for her killer cinnamon buns and flaky buttermilk biscuits.

Lee Ann grew up near Washington, DC where her father, A. Lee Morse and Mother, Jane Ginsberg Morse (Rosenblum) were both creative cooks and moved for Lee's law career in the Federal Government. As their eldest, Lee Ann attended the University of Virginia, but summers were spent in the Georgia kitchens of her grandmothers.

Memaw Pauline, along with her mother Bessie Tatel Goldenberg, and their housekeeper, John Emma Crawl were a formidable team--all sporting sugar cubes in their cheeks and rolling pins in their Manchester, Ga kitchen producing stellar chicken pot pies, fried red snapper, and fiery red-centered peaches by the bushel in pies, crisps, and crumbles.

Though Lee Ann has been working on a Kosher Asian cookbook for forever, encouraged by her 3 daughters while they lived in Jerusalem, the time was never right for a kosher Asian explosion in Savannah in the past 2 years... Until now.

With fewer than 100 families that keep kosher out of the house, the Savannah kosher community may still be too small for a kosher pizza shop with a fixed menu. While Murray and the entire Gottlieb family have done an admirable job caring for the gustatory needs of Savannah for generations, is there room for a creative kosher Asian food venture in Savannah? Maybe, if the menu changes often!!

While her younger brother, Tom, became a chef at the Peter Kump Culinary school and worked at the Union Cafe in NYC, Lee Ann has enjoyed rolling beautiful

sushi since she took classes at the Natural Foods school and the Peter Kump Culinary school in knife skills, Fish Carving, Sushi, and vegetarian food prep. Lee Ann has also trained with a Chinese chef in dumpling making and run sushi rolling classes and programs in Jerusalem and NYC. Not having come from a family that kept kosher out of the house (or in), Lee Ann is able to make kosher versions of Asian dishes taste like the real deal!

For more information and to test the current Nosh menu served as takeout from the BBJ Kosher kitchen at 5444 Abercorn at 73rd St., contact Lee Ann Homnick via Whatsapp at 912 707 7771.



Congregation Agudath Achim

AA Annual Gala

SUN
9 JUNE
5:30PM



A Night of **MAGIC**

Featuring
David Jowers

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Raffle prize: \$3000

Reserve Tickets by June 3

Call the office at 912-352-4737

Go to
agudath-
achim.com/product/gala/

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5:30 pm Pre-oneg

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