



December 2014 | Kislev – Tevet 5775, Vol. LXIX, No. 10



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 5	5:02pm
Friday, December 12	5:03pm
Friday, December 19	5:05pm
Friday, December 26	5:09pm
Friday, January 2	5:14pm
Friday, January 9	5:19pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 11

Israel Update with Ambassador Opher Aviran
Israel's Consul General to the Southeast addresses various important issues
see p5

Sunday, December 21

Chanukah Torch Relay
Savannah's classic event ending with a fun community celebration at the JEA
see p4

Thursday, December 25

Trading Places
Our annual day of service, lending a hand to our local non-profit neighbors
see p15

Saturday, January 10

Konter-Weiland Comedy Club
A special evening to laugh and enjoy each other's company
Watch for reservation details!

2015 Campaign Over Half-Way to Goal

by Jamie Cahn, SJF Campaign Director

The Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign is off to a great start, but we need you to bring us the rest of the way to our goal. As this paper went to print, donors had pledged \$602,085 to the 2015 Campaign, more than 50% of the \$1,150,000 goal that 2015 Campaign Chair Allan Ratner set for the community. And 31% of the pledges received so far represent an increase for the same gift last year.

"I am so gratified by the generosity we have seen in the early stages of the campaign," said Ratner, "but I know there is challenging work ahead of us. I am confident the community will respond to our call to answer the needs of our Jewish brethren – locally and globally."

Why is a gift to the Savannah Jewish Federation so important? The Annual Campaign is the life-blood for vital services and programs in the

Jewish community, in Savannah and abroad.

Your gift provides food and housing for needy Jews in Savannah through Jewish Family Services. Your gift helps keep the doors open to the JEA, the community center that is the home for all of Jewish Savannah. Your gift helps make Jewish education possible for every Jewish

continued on page 4

Konter-Weiland Comedy Night Returns Jan. 10

Three rising stars on the comedy circuit will be here to headline the 2015 Konter-Weiland Comedy Night on Saturday, January 10th. This will be the fifth time that the *Lawrence Konter and Bertram Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund* has sponsored a night of comedy for the community and the second time for the "JEA Comedy Club" format, featuring a comedy café-like seating arrangement and refreshments including an open bar and desserts.

Starring in the show this year are Moody McCarthy, who is described as having one of America's sharpest young comedy minds; Cory Kahaney, creator of *The J.A.P. Show*, an off-Broadway tribute to Jewish funny women; and Andy Pitz, a television and comedy club regular. McCarthy also will serve as the host for the evening.

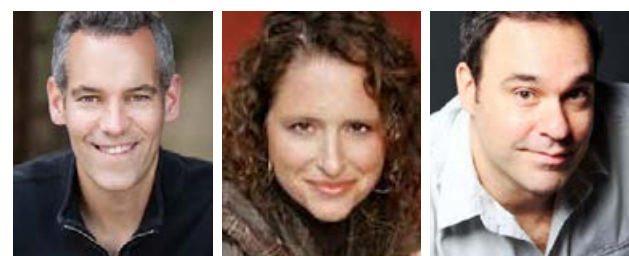
Marcy and Jerry Konter, founders of the sponsoring fund named for their fathers, stated: "It is our pleasure to again be able to bring everyone together for a good belly laugh, an evening of humor and fun, and to

have a chance to thank everyone who supports the Savannah Jewish community by being a member of the JEA, a donor to the Federation, or both."

The Konter-Weiland Comedy Night is free and open to anyone who either is a member in good standing of the Jewish Educational Alliance or has made a minimum contribution of \$54 (individually) to the 2015 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Seating is limited; tickets will be available beginning December 15th.

Moody McCarthy is in constant demand in the country's finest comedy clubs. He also has appeared on *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, *The Late Show with David Letterman* and *Last Comic Standing*. He has shared casino stages with some of the country's biggest comedy acts including Robert Klein, Lewis Black and Wanda Sykes.

Cory Kahaney, in addition to enjoying the success of the critically-ac-



Moody McCarthy

Cory Kahaney

Andy Pitz

claimed *The J.A.P. Show*, has had her own specials on Comedy Central and HBO and has made many other TV appearances, including on *The Late Show with David Letterman* and *Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson*. She is considered one of the top Jewish comedien-nes of today.

Andy Pitz is a regular in New York's best comedy clubs, including The World Famous Comic Strip Live, The Comedy Cellar and Dangerfield's. He, too, has appeared on Letterman's and Ferguson's shows and has a reputation for having one of the most hysterical, 'clean' acts around.

Watch your mail and the eNews for complete details on how to make reservations/obtain tickets.



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2015 SJF Community Campaign Update



Sherry Dolgoff receives her Lion of Judah pin from National Campaign Chair, Linda Hurwitz, at the JFNA General Assembly in November

The Jewish Community exists for you and because of you!

As of November 14th from 161 donors

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Steve Greenberg,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

1967

The photograph on this page is 47 years young. And, yes, the person in the center of the photograph is yours truly — with short hair, thick glasses, high water pants, wing tips and all of 17 years of age. I decided to use the photograph with this column, not because of me (*who on earth would publish a picture of themselves looking like I did?*) but because of the message the photograph conveys.

In 1967, the town where I grew up was just beginning to integrate the public school system. The judge of the Juvenile Court oversaw the typical teen age, small town cases like truancy, drag racing and fights. But, he also understood the movement of history. He understood that there was the potential, with integration, for the cases before his court to be much more serious with much greater ramifications.

The judge thus initiated a request to the two segregated high schools — one white, one black — to appoint representatives to a committee. I was one of those selected. That committee had what we thought was a simple charge. It was to visit each other's schools, talk at assemblies and discuss what was common between all of us. But our charge was really more complicated. The judge had a vision to show that young people of different races could work together. He knew by instinct that maintaining the status quo was not an option.

The five of us went about our committee business in earnest. We also had the support of our parents, who gave the green light for this picture to go in the local newspaper (another message from the judge to the larger community). Did we make a difference? I would like to think so, at least in the minds of a few people. But, the real answer was not in the outcome, but in the desire. The simple desire to do better.

The Savannah Jewish Federation has the same desire — for this community to do better. Our mission spans the entire community — every person, every congregation, every organization. We have an active and

engaged community with such a variety of activities. Many locales would envy what we have here — and they should. But just because there is positive motion does not mean we just sit back, close our eyes and enjoy the ride. A successful Jewish community is like a river, it has to be broad but it also has to be deep... and it has to be fed continually by many tributaries. Otherwise, one day it just dries up.

Our community and the leaders of every organization and congregation must face and address long term structural challenges, from the mobility of society, to changing demographics, to the nature of charitable giving, to how we communicate with each other. We must always welcome and embrace newcomers, not just upon arrival but on a continuing basis. We must reach out to existing residents and tap their experience and knowledge. We must encourage the development of future leadership, which in many ways is the toughest challenge.

To do all these things, we must be smart. We must work to have our local organizations and congregations partner with each other to maximize our resources. We must be smart



about fundraising so that we maximize the dollars in the community, and not compete with each other for slices of the same pie. And we must be smart enough to know that continuing the status quo is not progress. That responsibility lies on each of us but more to the point, it lies on all our community leadership — leadership that must look beyond today and really work to create a tomorrow for every Jewish person in this community. That is what leaders do.

In 1967, the juvenile court judge decided the photograph on this page could help the future. It still resonates with me today. Forty-seven years from now, in 2061, people will be able to look over thousands of digital pictures of our community. What message those images send is truly up to all of us.

Now, everyone ready? Smile and stand closer together.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Delegitimizing Israel

We were honored to have eighteen Israeli law enforcement officials as our guests at the Community Shabbaton a few weeks ago. One Israeli sat at each of the tables to share experiences with the Savannah community. After Shabbat services and a warm welcome from the event chairs, Peggy Harris and Carole Cohen, we enjoyed a lovely Israeli dinner made especially for our visitors.

After dinner it was time for Professor Robbie Friedman, founder of the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE), to talk about Israel, the recent Gaza war, and challenges faced by security forces in the country. Since 1992, GILEE has worked to enhance cooperation between police forces in Georgia and Israel. Every Israeli contingency that has toured Georgia has visited Savannah and many Savannah police have participated in GILEE programming (including our new Chief, Joseph Lumpkin). Dr. Friedman gave an overview of the recent war and the challenges it presented to those living in the Southern half of the country.

His presentation shifted to the “world view” and challenges from “without” when he asked, “*How many people in the audience know what BDS is?*” A sparse few attendees raised their hands. He repeated the question (thinking that the audience did not understand him), “*How many people in the audience know what BDS is?*” A scant few more hands were raised and my heart plummeted to the floor.

While there have been articles in the Savannah Jewish News, postings on our Facebook page, and numerous eNews articles about the challenges on campuses throughout the country, the message was not received or has not sunk in.

The concept of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) is and has been a valid method of protest for a long time. BDS is a “*neutral set of tools designed to disempower errant states through economic pressure and world condemnation of human rights violations.*” The Jewish community has supported the concept when the tools “fit the situation,” as in the case of South Africa in the 1980s and in Iran today.

What makes the anti-Israel BDS movement so very dangerous is that many behind it are attacking Israel's very right to exist as a Jewish state. By delegitimizing Israel, the BDS movement is seeking to isolate Israel as a pariah state and rejecting the

very notion of a two-state solution or any solution that ends with the continued existence of Israel.

Where is BDS most active? BDS organizers seek to garner support by appealing to the most gullible groups in the most vulnerable places including college campuses, churches, and human rights organizations: groups that traditionally are most deeply concerned with civil liberties and freedoms. Through distortions, outright fabrications, revisionism, and misrepresentations of international law, organizers seek to paint Israel as an apartheid state. Some even dare to compare Israel to Nazi Germany.

While supporters say their goal is to improve the prospects for Israeli-Palestinian peace, the end goal of the de-legitimizers/BDS activists is really to increase Israel's isolation in the world, hoping for the eventual disappearance of the Jewish state.

BDS events are taking place throughout the world and more frequently in North America, especially on our college campuses. In the many campus protests, criticism of Israeli policies often crosses over to attacks on its very legitimacy. Such criticism typically has to do with security, settlements, Jerusalem, etc. De-legitimization talk then goes so far as to fabricate facts, misrepresent international law, and demonize Israel's military, government, and society. We've all bemoaned the fact that many hold Israel to an unreasonable double standard when compared to almost every other nation in the world. The BDS movement takes it to the extreme.

The anti-Israel rhetoric that has become so commonplace is more likely to hinder than advance a Palestinian peace process as people's positions become more hardened. The rhetoric of the BDS movement glosses over the intricacies and entanglements of the conflict, its history, and the power of terror. Yet despite the shortcomings of their positions, the extremists' attempts to blame Israel — exclusively — for the failure of the peace process seem to be gaining strength.

Singling out and blaming Israel is detrimental to any peace process. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an incredibly complex situation. There are those who truly favor reconciliation, two states living side by side, then there are those who thrive in the division created by boycotts (academic, economic, and political) as a path to “punish” Israel. The true path to a peace accord is through dialogue and will only come when both Israeli and Palestinian narratives are recognized.

Campaign.....from pg 1

child in Savannah. Your gift means that the Savannah Jewish News and the Federation's eNews and website can continue to be used to communicate with our community. Your gift means that important community initiatives like PJ Library and Young Jewish Savannah can continue their outreach to critical populations. Your gift provides funding for the annual Yom HaShoah observance, Trading Places and participation in the Martin Luther King Jr. event. Your gift ensures that our teenagers can participate in BBYO's identity building and leadership development programs.

Your gift keeps the Jewish community of Savannah linked to Jews in Israel and throughout the world through funding for Birthright Israel and the direct financial assistance we offer through our mini-grant pro-

gram. Our partner agencies, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) are on the ground with programs and services for Jews of all ages and abilities worldwide.

"Each gift received this year but not last, and every dollar increase over last year's gift, represents an opportunity to increase the reach of our services and maximize the impact of the Campaign not only for our Federation programs but also for those of our partner and beneficiary agencies," said Campaign chair Ratner.

The Savannah Jewish Federation relies on the participation of the entire Jewish community to make all of these programs and services possible. Help us reach our goal again this year and make all of this and more a reality.

To the Editor:

MorningStar says thank you.

Thank you to everyone who has donated time, resources and funds to the now 900 projects MorningStar Cultural Arts Group has accomplished since 1989.

Two of our legacy projects — Traditions* Recordings* Exhibits *Experiences (TREELoft) at the Bull Street Library, a selfie video archive project to help people connect with their heritage and with their city; and the Midtown Miracle Community Garden (MMCG), a dedicated herb and vegetable garden to benefit children through Kids Cafe — will

continue. These two projects still require financial support and your tax deductible contributions are welcomed.

After twenty five years of creative programming and charitable giving through cultural arts, MorningStar Cultural Arts Group be retiring December 11, but I wanted you all to know it was an amazing twenty-five years. Thank you, especially to my main supporter and cheerleader, Dr. Joel A. Greenberg.

Carol M. Towbin Greenberg
Founder and Director of MStarArts.org

The JEA Wants You

The JEA is looking for volunteers to join any and all of its committees. Arlene Ratner, JEA President, said: "Having our members participate in our committees is the single best way to be sure that our programs and services suit the needs of our membership. I hope that anyone who cares about the future of the JEA will consider joining one of the standing committees."

The committees for which the JEA currently is seeking volunteers are: Early Childhood Education,



Health and Wellness, Membership, Fundraising, Adult Programming, Building and Grounds, and Children's Programming. Committees are comprised of JEA members, Board members and appropriate staff.

"Please don't wait to be asked; volunteer today," Ratner said. If you are interested in helping out on one or more of the committees, Arlene asked that you call her at (912) 598-5080. "Your input, thoughts and ideas are necessary for the JEA's success," she said.

Our Next Issue of the SJN...

Will be our winter combined January/February issue, to be delivered in homes in mid-January.

The deadline for submissions is December 12th, 2014. Please send to sjnews@savj.org.

Please remember, all articles must be submitted in Word-compatible files and advertisements in PDF files.

Savannah Jewish News

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SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Margie Levy**
SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

The objectives of the *Savannah Jewish News* are to foster a sense of community among the Jewish people of Savannah by sharing ideas, information, experiences and opinions, and to promote the agencies, projects and mission of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

The *Savannah Jewish News* is published monthly ten times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 3rd of the month before publication. There are no February or August issues. All articles for the Winter and Summer issues should be submitted by December 8th or June 8th, respectively.

All submissions must be in MS Word format (articles) or pdf format with fonts embedded (advertisements). All color must be in the CMYK color format; all type in true black; photos in .jpg format.

Please send all SJN materials to:
sjnews@savj.org

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

Neither the publisher nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this paper. If you have questions regarding kashrut, please consult your rabbi.

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Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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



Come Celebrate Chanukah as a Community Chanukah Torch Relay December 21 Register Today :www.savj.org!

Frank Katz & Vickie Halperin, 2014 Co-Chairs

Be a part of this classic Savannah event: *Run, walk or be part of the caravan. Start at Mickve Israel, to Agudath Achim, to BBJ, and finish at the JEA for lighting the menorah and treats! Register online at savj.org or call/stop by the JEA to request a form 912-355-8111. Register by December 5th to get a free T-Shirt.*

After the Relay join us at the JEA for a Chanukah Party @ 5:30 pm!
Great food, Music, Arts & Crafts and more! \$10 per person, \$25 per family.
Call the JEA—912-355-8111 for reservations

Support this great event —Sponsorships still available!
Contact Vickie Halperin for more information:
richard@halperins.com or 912-354-6042

Ambassador Speaking December 11th

The economic ties between Savannah and Israel become stronger every year. With the growth of Israeli industry in Savannah – as illustrated by the arrival here of Israeli manufacturers Caesarstone and Haifa Group and the continuing vital associations between Zim and the Port of Savannah and Israeli contractors and Gulfstream – a strong relationship between Israel and the Savannah Jewish community is essential. Additionally, as world Jewry faces increasing anti-Semitism, our support of and our relationship with Israel helps to buoy our efforts against this frightening trend.

On Thursday, December 11th at 7pm, Ambassador Opher Aviran, Israel's Consul General to the Southeast, will speak at the JEA about the current geo-political situation between Israel and the United States, the relationship between the State of Georgia and Israel and the current state of events in Israel regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Savannah Jewish Federation Community Relations Council and the JEA ask that you join us for this important and interesting event.

Ambassador Aviran was appointed in August 2010 to serve as the Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States. In February 2012 the Georgia General Assembly honored him for his tireless efforts in strengthening the bonds between Israel and the Southeast in the fields of economics, academics, culture and politics. In October 2014, Aviran was promoted to the rank of Ambassador.

Ambassador Aviran holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in International Relations from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a Masters Degree in Political Science with a specialty in National Security Studies from the University of Haifa and National Defense College. He is joined in Atlanta by his wife, Talyah, and daughters, Adi and Noa. The Avirans' eldest daughter, Reut, is a professional dancer in the Netherlands.

The Savannah Jewish Federation presents:

An Israel Update

Featuring
Ambassador Opher Aviran

Israel's Consul General to the Southeast

Come hear about the current geopolitical situation in the Middle East and Israel's growing relationship with Georgia



**Thursday
December 11, 2014
7pm
at the JEA**



*A program of the
Savannah Jewish Federation
Community Relations Council*

SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday
February 1, 2015**

**Family-Friendly
Super Bowl
Viewing Party
on the big screen
at the JEA**

Call Anna Berwitz at (912) 355-8111
For more information



The chefs from Green Truck will be here to prepare all your vegetarian favorites!

\$18/person; \$36/family



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SAVE THE DATE!

Konter-Weiland Comedy Night

Join us on **Saturday, January 10** to
hear great Jewish comedy at the
“JEA Comedy Club”.

This **FREE** event is exclusively for
JEA Members and SJF Supporters.

Featuring:



Moody McCarthy



Cory Kahaney



Andy Pitz

Limited Seating!

Don't miss out on this great event.
Online and in-person reservations
starting December 15th.

Open Bar and Dessert Reception



Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Fun the Whole Time

by Jake Paderewski

I went to camp at Camp Coleman at the end of June. I went for 12 days and was in Cabin BIB. My counselors were Nate and Avi. I liked them a lot.

I was nervous at the beginning, until the 2nd or 3rd day, but I had fun the whole time.

I made a lot of friends. There were three Nates (one was a counselor), Matthew and Noah. My counselor Avi was cool.

My favorite activities were sports, swimming at the lake and the field trip to the water park. I liked the ropes course.

The food was good. My favorites were fried chicken and Apple Brown Betties, both on Shabbat.

My hair was too long, and people thought I was a girl.

I loved Friday Night Live. It was very funny.

I'm a little nervous about going back to camp next year, but I am excited.

Jake, 10 and a fourth grader at Savannah Country Day School, went to Camp Coleman for the first time this past summer with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation. He is the son of Amy and Barney



Jake Paderewski in his Camp Coleman cabin with his counselors



Jake (l) with two of his Camp Coleman buddies

Paderewski. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org.

The Savannah Chapter of Hadassah



Presents facts

to brighten each of your holiday nights:

Nes Gadol Hayah Sham:

Another Great Hadassah Miracle Happened There—

1. Hadassah Trained, Prof. Yoav Mintz is the current Director of the *Center for Innovative Surgery* at the Hadassah Medical Center.
2. According to the International Diabetes Federation, Professor Mintz developed a novel, non-surgical method to perform gastric bypass which **could cure** Type 2 diabetes.
3. There are more than 285 million cases of diabetes worldwide.
4. Diabetes could increase to 485 million cases by the year 2030.
5. Gastric bypass, effectively puts an estimated 80 percent of cases of Type 2 diabetes into remission.
6. Surgical risks are often too great to justify the operation.
7. Professor Mintz's procedure is aimed at achieving the same positive results without the risks of major invasive surgery.
8. The *Society for Medical Innovation and Technology* awarded its 2014 International Prize for Medical Innovation and Technology to Professor Yoav Mintz at its 26th international conference.

Donations to Hadassah come full circle to benefit donors!

Light a candle for healing. Donate today:

Jean Weitz

Savannah Chapter President and
Co-Chair National Hadassah Organizational Team
(912) 354-2409 or jweitz@hadassah.org



Four Questions for the rest of the year

Sam Slotin currently is completing a Jewish Environmental Fellowship on the Adamah Farm at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Falls Village, Connecticut. The Fellowship is sponsored by Hazon (which means vision), a New York-based organization whose programs give entry points for Jews of all backgrounds who are concerned about the environment and the world.

Sam, 22, had been attending Brevard College in North Carolina where he was pursuing a degree in Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education before he applied for this exclusive Fellowship. He also spent a gap year in Israel on the Young Judea Year Course program. Sam is a longtime passionate outdoorsman – his Bar Mitzvah party had a camping theme – and given the choice at the Adamah Farm of living in the house or a tent, he chose the tent.

Sam is the son of Susan and Frank Slotin (who recently visited Sam at the farm) and the grandson of Harriet Ullman and Vivian Slotin. (We interviewed him via e-mail due to the lack of cell phone service at the farm.)

What interested you in an Adamah Fellowship at this point in your life?

Being a Jewish male who grew up in a Jewish community, I loved being outdoors and involving myself in Jewish experiences. When I heard about this excellent opportunity to co-mingle my interests I immediately wanted to take part.

The daily Adamah experience has spiritual, educational and physical/work elements. Can you tell us just a little bit about what each of them mean to you?

Every morning, we start our day with prayer as well as silent meditation. It allows me to mentally prepare myself for the day's work ahead of me. Then we have a morning chore which could range from milking goats to collecting eggs from the chicken coop to transporting the community compost. I try to relate my daily work to Jewish concepts as the classes we take often have to do with connecting spirituality and the environment.

With the start of the new Jewish year, we began a year of Shemitah. (Shemitah is the Sabbatical seventh year when biblical tradi-



Sam with one of the Adamah Farm's young goats

tion says that fields should be left fallow.) Is it being observed on your farm?

In America, *Shemita* is not a concept that is widely practiced because according to *Halachah*, *Shemita* is only required in Israel. Here on the Adamah Farm, we incorporate *Shemita* lessons such as using what we already have.

It may seem a little early to be asking this, but how do you see the experience of your Fellowship affecting your future?

I realize that taking short cuts in an environmental aspect is only going to hurt the earth. We must care for it because it's the only world we have. I also realize that the Jewish concept of *bal tashchit* (do not waste) is very important in a farming aspect because sometimes you can reuse things. If there is anything I have learned that I will take into my life post-Adamah



Frank, Susan and Sam Slotin on the Adamah Farm

it is the importance of taking organic material and food waste and composting it. Not only does it eventually decompose and become great soil, but it is a much better use of resources than having it sit in a landfill.

Editor's Note: I always ask if there is anything someone would like to say that I haven't already asked about. If there is, it usually fits in with one of their other responses. Sam's response should stand alone:

If there is anything I could leave with my fellow readers it is this quote:

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

- Mahatma Gandhi

For more information about the Hazon Adamah Fellowship, go to hazon.org/adamah/adamah-fellowship/

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

The Survivor Mitzvah Project

As part of the 2014 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation reapproved the Mini-Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 mini-grants, with up to 20 being approved. Eighteen submissions were made this year and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

The Survivor Mitzvah Project is dedicated to providing direct and continuous financial aid to elderly and forgotten Jewish Holocaust Survivors scattered throughout Eastern Europe who are sick, impoverished, isolated and receive no direct financial aid from any other agency. These are people whose families and communities were destroyed by the Nazis, who now struggle to survive in their few remaining years, lacking the means to buy even the most basic of human necessities: food, medicine,

heat and shelter. Most live alone in harsh conditions. The Survivor Mitzvah Project (SMP), by bringing help quickly and directly to these survivors, helps ensure that they may live out their last years with some measure of comfort, support and dignity.

SMP resulted from the work, interests and concerns of several unlikely collaborators. Zane Buzby—a television comedy director by trade—during a hiatus from directing and producing sitcoms took a brief journey to Eastern Europe to find the birthplaces of her grandparents. In Lithuania, she met Professor Dovid Katz of Vilnius University who seeks out the last remaining shtetl Jews in Eastern Europe, brings them aid, studies their Yiddish dialects and documents their unique life histories on film.

Katz urged Buzby to stop along the way as she traveled and visit eight

elderly, isolated Holocaust survivors living in tiny towns and villages in Belarus and bring them food, medicine, Yiddish newspapers and American dollars. She found those visits life-changing and inspiring.

The survivors all were living in small huts, with little or no money for food, heat and medicine, existing only on what food they could grow, mostly potatoes. Buzby wondered how long these people, in their 80s and 90s, could continue to dig the earth and face the increasing challenges of illness and old age without any help. When she returned to Hollywood she was haunted by the survivors she had met. What would become of them? How would they last through the harsh winter? Who could they turn to? Buzby felt compelled to take action.

With the help of Professor Katz, who continued to discover more and more elderly survivors in Eastern Europe, and his associate, Los Angeles philanthropist Chic Wolk, SMP was born and the list of Eastern Eu-



Zane Buzby (l) with one of the survivors helped by the Survivor Mitzvah Project

ropean survivors in need soon grew from eight, to 35, to 120, and now to well over 1,000 Holocaust survivors in Lithuania, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Slovakia, and Latvia. And it continues to grow.

These are people for whom the war never really ended. Time is running out for them. It is the Survivor Mitzvah Project's mission to see that these elderly and forgotten people, who have experienced first-hand the horrors of the Holocaust, will not be alone and neglected in their final years.

My Jewish Uncle

Savannah artist Oksana Gruszką, who will be exhibiting at the JEA in January (see CenterPiece) remembers growing up with two uncles named Lyonya. As an adult she found out that one of her uncles was Jewish. The following is an account related by Ludmyla Sapp, Oksana’s mother, translated by Oksana and written by Larry Broussard.

Ludmyla (nicknamed Mila) grew up in the small town of Yarmolyn-tsi, Ukraine. Mila’s mother, Helena had eight children. Helena was a tall, strong woman and had a big heart. She also had the best singing voice in the city. Everyone loved to hear Helena sing.

During World War II, Mila’s father, Mykola, was off fighting the Germans in the Ukrainian army. Helena was alone taking care of their eight children. During the war the Germans took the oldest sister, Anna, to work as a crane operator in Germany.

One cold evening, when Mila was eight, there was a knock at their door around sundown. In the doorway stood a young boy with a very frightened look on his face. Thirteen-year-old Lyonya explained that he lived in a village about 12 kilometers away. That morning the Nazis had killed his parents. His older brother was off fighting in the war. He had been hiding from the Nazis all day and needed a place to spend the night.

Lyonya’s mother was Jewish and married to a Ukrainian man. They were both shot that day. He knew that he also would be killed if the Nazis found him. He had hidden in the fields and had left his home with nothing.

Helena’s heart ached for the desperate boy, but she explained that with eight children of her own, she didn’t have a bed for him. There was no room. She suggested that Lyonya try to find a family with fewer children. Lyonya hung his head and

walked away to try to find somewhere warm to sleep the night.

About nine in the evening, Lyonya returned. He was crying. Lyonya explained that no one would let him spend the night in their home. Everyone was scared of what the Nazis would do to anyone that helped him. Helena feared the Nazis, but her love for this needy child overcame that fear. She took him in.

Lyonya had not eaten most of the day and was very hungry. Helena gave him her spoon and he quickly warmed his belly with a bowl of hot borscht and slices of bread. Mila remembers that he ate a lot. That night, Lyonya slept in the bed with three of her brothers: Kolya, Jenya and her little brother, Lyonya, who was only two at the time.

Lyonya stayed with the family for a couple of days. He was helpful and played well with the other children. One day, there was a loud knock at the door. Looking out of the window, they saw German soldiers at the door. Helena whispered to Lyonya to hide under the boy’s bed. The soldier entered the home and told Helena that they were looking for a boy named Lyonya. Neighbors had informed them that he was here.

“Is Lyonya here?” the soldiers asked.

Helena looked at them, smiled and replied, “Yes, of course, Lyonya is here! Lyonya, come here.”

Little two-year-old Lyonya toddled into the room and said “Yes, Mama?” Little Lyonya was half dressed and wearing only a shirt and nothing else. One look and the soldiers knew this was not the young teenager they were seeking. It was also obvious that this half naked child was not Jewish. They left.

Three days later the German soldiers returned. This time, the children saw them coming. Helena instructed



Helena’s family sometime after the war. Helena is the first person on the left in the second row (with the white shawl). The Jewish Uncle Lyonya is in the center of the picture in the black cap; the younger Uncle Lyonya is just below him.

Lyonya to climb into the attic and hide in the hay. They stored hay in their attic. It served the dual purpose of feed for the livestock during the winter and also helped to insulate the family home from the bitterly cold winters. Today, it served a third purpose.

Lyonya tunneled into the hay to the farthest point in the attic. There he stayed motionless and hid himself from the Germans.

The soldiers searched everywhere. They used lanterns to look under the beds and behind the stairs. They even went into the attic and searched in the hay. But they did not find Lyonya. If they had found him, Lyonya’s life would not have been the only one lost that day.

Not finding Lyonya, the soldiers finally left. Life was stressful for a while. Lyonya and his adoptive family had to be vigilant if the soldiers returned to look for him.

Eventually the German army relocated. Lyonya remained and was protected by Helena and her children all winter and for the rest of the war. They all treated him as just one of the family. There was a big Lyonya and a little Lyonya. Now there were nine children.

After the war, Mykola returned

to his family. It was winter and he had no shoes. Years of walking in his boots, they had fallen apart. Walking in the snow, he now had frostbite on many of his toes. Anna also returned home safe.

In 1946 the Russians came and took everything of value from the Ukrainians. They took all the crops, livestock, and even the seeds to plant crops. Luckily, they left the family one cow. The only food that they had to feed the cow was the straw used to make rooftops. This straw was not very nourishing. The cow was so weak that it could not stand up. The family ate whatever they could find. This was how the family survived.

Lyonya had found work with the community farm. In the Ukraine, farmland was everywhere, but few people owned their own farm. The community owns the farms. The Russians took everything from the community farm. It was many years before the starvation ended.

Later, Lyonya worked in a seafood processing plant. He would bring home very special treats for everyone for the holidays. Lyonya got married and had a son and a daughter. He was always considered one of the family and he always called Helena, “Momma.”

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Jonathan A. Greenblatt

ADL Appoints New National Director

Jonathan A. Greenblatt is the unanimous choice of the 16-member succession committee to become the next National Director of the Anti-Defamation League, succeeding Abraham H. Foxman, who has served in the position since 1987. Greenblatt, 43, currently is Special Assistant to President Obama and Director of the White House Office of Social Innovation & Civic Participation.

The decision is the culmination of a two-year national search for a successor to Foxman, who is slated to retire next July, when Greenblatt formally will step into the role.

Greenblatt is a graduate of Tufts University and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University; he is the grandson of a Holocaust survivor who escaped from Nazi Germany. He has had a lifelong commitment to Jewish social causes, and his relationship to ADL started with a college internship and continued with his participation in an ADL professional leadership program.

His selection was announced on November 6th at ADL's annual meet-

ing in Los Angeles. Foxman, who was part of the succession committee, said: "I welcome the successful completion of the search process and the committee's choice of my successor, Jonathan Greenblatt. I'm confident that ADL will continue to thrive and grow under Jonathan's leadership and I look forward to working with him to ensure a successful and smooth transition."

"I am deeply honored to have been chosen to lead this vital organization as it begins its next century of service," Greenblatt said. "Since its inception, ADL has had a tremendous impact on making America a more inclusive society for all people while defending the rights of Jews to freely practice their faith and be full participants in society. I am incredibly excited by the opportunity of building on those great successes."

At the White House he has served on the Domestic Policy Council, providing leadership to the \$1 billion Corporation for National Community Service and helping to direct large-scale national service programs such as AmeriCorps. He has been instrumental in the design and development of breakthrough public-private

partnerships that empower disadvantaged populations, such as the "My Brother's Keeper" initiative.

Before joining the government, Greenblatt managed complex, decentralized businesses and nonprofit operations, including co-founding Ethos Brands, the business that launched Ethos Water, the premium bottled water that donates a portion of its profits to fund clean water programs around the world (later acquired by Starbucks). He also served as CEO of GOOD Worldwide Inc., an innovative media company that directly connected its subscribers to important causes and high-impact nonprofits. In 2009 he founded All for Good, a social enterprise that assembled one of the largest databases of volunteer opportunities on the Internet. It was acquired by Points of Light, the nonprofit founded by President George H.W. Bush and that manages the

largest network of volunteer centers in the U.S.

Greenblatt has taught social entrepreneurship at the UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management, is a Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute and has served on various nonprofit boards including the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles, KaBOOM! and water.org.

He is married to Marjan Keypour Greenblatt, an Iranian-American Jewish immigrant, who worked as an associate director in ADL's Los Angeles office for nearly eight years. They have three children.

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the nation's leading Jewish civil and human rights organization and is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

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SYLVAN BYCK, JR

25 May 2005

Interviewed by Toby Hollenberg

"[My father went to Waycross, Georgia] where he opened an electrical business. He had first worked for the railroad where he was very popular with the guys that worked there. Most all of whom were members of the Klu Klux Klan and which he was invited to join. When he told them that he couldn't join because he was Jewish, they said, "Oh, that's okay, we'll make an exception." At that time, the sheets that the KKK used allegedly came from a Jewish merchant in Savannah, Georgia."

"[My father] stayed in the electric business until, what, '48 or '49, and he helped, he was contacted by some of the local politicians, they wanted to do something for the black community and he was instrumental in forming a company with a man by the name of Reeves Worrell and they built a lot of single-family dwellings in, what is known as, Liberty City today. He also was instrumental in building Drayton Arms, Nelson Apartments, Chatham City Apartments and many other apartments throughout the State of Georgia."

I on Israel

Leading the Way in Food Security

The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing “when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.” The reality is that today, 13.1 percent of the world’s population is hungry. That’s roughly 925 million people who go undernourished on a daily basis, consuming less than the recommended 2,100 calories a day. The world produces enough food to feed all 7 billion people who live in it, but those who go hungry either do not have land to grow food or money to purchase it.

Yet Israel, a tiny country not even 70 years old, has contributed more to addressing the problems of food security than any other single nation. From its earliest days as a modern country, Israel has led the way with one innovation after another that not only addressed the needs of its own population but that was shared with the rest of the world to improve agriculture and food systems for all.

Even California, which leads all other states in farm income, recently turned to Israel for help. Earlier this year Governor Jerry Brown and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed a strategic cooperation agreement for Israel to help the state with its drought problems.

Here are *just a few* of Israel’s achievements in the area of food security:

Drip Irrigation

Everyone should know the story of how the young country revolutionized drip irrigation in the 1950s and 60s to make the desert bloom, but Israeli technologists continue to pioneer in that industry. The agricultural technology firm **AutoAgronom**, based on Kibbutz Ramat Hashofet near the high-tech hub of Yokne’am, recently was announced as the only Israeli winner in the 2014 MassChallenge start-up contest sponsored by the largest tech accelerator in the world, based in Massachusetts.

Combining irrigation and fertiliza-

tion into an agriculture tech method they call *fertigation*, AutoAgronom uses smart sensors attached to plant roots embedded in the ground to analyze soil conditions, weather, water levels, and nutrient levels in the soil, pest conditions, and more. Then using advanced algorithms, the system directs computerized water and pest control systems as to exactly how much of each to release and when to release it, for maximum positive effect. The technology saves farmers significant amounts of water and cuts down on the use of pesticides.

AutoAgronom was sold in September to Yuanda Enterprise Group, a Chinese conglomerate with interests in construction, electronics and environmental technology, for a reported



An AutoAgronom ‘fertigation’ monitoring system in action

\$20 million. The sale will bring the company’s advanced drip irrigation technology to the world’s most populated country.

But Israelis have not forgotten that sometimes simple solutions work well, too. **Tipa**, which literally means “drop,” is a straightforward drip irrigation kit that uses gravity for pumping water from a river or aquifer by hand, solar energy or diesel fuel. The Israeli Foreign Ministry’s MASHAV (Agency for International Development Cooperation) developed Tipa to transfer drip-irrigation technology to remote areas in Senegal, where basic amenities, even electricity, are lacking. Tipa has allowed 700 Senegal families to triple their crop production and the system now is being used also in Kenya, South Africa, Benin and Niger.

Food Protection

It is estimated that as much as 40% of all food grown or raised globally is lost (i.e. to pests and mold) or wasted, resulting in a financial loss of \$250 billion each year. Israeli companies are at the forefront of those providing answers to this devastating problem, again with both sophisticated and simple solutions.

Pimi Agro has developed a new formula for treating fruits and vegetables that would allow them to remain fresh and viable (edible) for up to 10 weeks, significantly cutting losses due to rot and deterioration during the transportation process.

Pimi Agro’s products are formulations based on 99.4% Stabilized Hydrogen Peroxide (STHP), which decomposes into oxygen and water, leaving no chemical residue. There are specific formulations for citrus, stone fruits like peaches and plums, potatoes, onions and sweet potatoes. The trick, said Nimrod Ben-Yehuda, CTO and co-founder of Pimi, was getting that other 0.6% of the formulation right – and that took him, along with researchers at the Technion and Hebrew University, 15 years. Pimi’s technology has half a dozen worldwide patents and has been tested under rigorous conditions in the US and Europe more than 150 times.

It’s the active ingredients in the additives – all natural and environmentally friendly, Ben Yehuda told *The Times of Israel* – that makes the difference. “Applying just hydrogen peroxide to fruits and vegetables would actually promote rot. It’s our enhanced formulation that turns water and oxygen into products that can greatly extend produce shelf life.” In tests, Pimi’s solutions were found to be 15 times more effective than other preservation and disease prevention systems, with 50% more citrus and onions available for marketing after



Workers load sacks of grain into a GrainPro Cocoon for storage

seven months in storage, without the harmful chemical residue left by the preservation systems currently in use – which are anyway less effective than Pimi’s system. The additives, categorized as edible acids, have been declared safe and organic by a host of international agencies, including the EPA and EU food safety agencies.

The Pimi solution also allows farmers to use much more sustainable growing methods. Because its shelf life is extended, produce can be transported in more environmentally friendly ways – trains, for example, instead of on trucks that contribute to traffic tie-ups and increase air pollution. Since there’s less loss, farmers can grow less, avoid overplanting, cut down on the use of fertilizers (another major pollution problem), and use less irrigation water, said Ben-Yehuda.

Wal-Mart, one of the world’s largest retailers, and SunPacific, one of the largest transporters of citrus in the US, are field testing Pimi’s products and Pimi has begun working with other large food producers, including PepsiCo, Frito-Lay, BASF and others. Customers are using Pimi products in Israel, the US, Germany, the UK, Canada, Japan and Russia. The company plans to develop products for additional produce, including asparagus, mushrooms and peppers, and is developing formulations for meat, poultry and fish.

Israeli-designed **GrainPro Cocons** are a very simple and inexpensive way for African and Asian farmers to keep grain fresh. The huge bags, which are water- and air-tight and impermeable even to rodents, w-

continued on page 18



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

December 2014



Children's Programming



Jewish Educational Alliance's
DAYS @ THE JEA

Do you find it difficult to take days off of work when your child is out of school? The JEA offers year-round vacation programming for children pre K-8th grade. Your child will enjoy Days @ the JEA as each are packed with activities such as field trips, swimming, cooking, sports and crafts!

What to bring:

- Swimsuit
- Towel (marked with name)
- Sack lunch (dairy or parve)
- Change of clothes
- Plastic bag for wet clothing
- Positive attitude, ready to have fun

What not to bring:

- Toys
- Electronics (cell phones, ipods and game systems)
- Microwavable lunches

Upcoming Days @ the JEA:

December 22nd-January 5th -
Winter Break - see the article to
the right for the daily theme!
January 19th - MLK Day

Member Prices: \$30.00 per day

Non-Member Prices: \$40.00 per day

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



discover **your** community



Jewish Educational Alliance's Winter Days @ the JEA

Themes for Winter Days:

December 22nd, 2014 "Polar Vortex"

- Ice Skating at the Civic Center and crafting a Chanukah project

December 23rd, 2014 "Pancakes and PJ's"

- PJ Party complete with pancakes! Donate a pair of pj's to be given in turn to Safe Shelter

December 24th, 2014 "A Marshmallow Menorah"

- Make your own menorah out of marshmallows. Enjoy a GAGA competition and make blankets to donate to a local shelter

December 26th, 2014 "Circus Chills"

- Circus obstacle course. Use your artistic skills to create your own cotton candy masterpiece

December 29th, 2014 "Sherbet Land"

- Mario Adventure in the frosty world of Sherbet Land. Mario Kart Tournament, Super Mario Smash Bros and a trip to the Clubhouse

December 30th, 2014 "Polar Bears vs. Penguins"

- Team games to capture the flag! Make homemade chilli to help feed a local shelter

December 31st, 2014 "Blizzard Bonanza"

- Celebrate the Noon-Year by making blizzards. We'll also make a special play dough that smells like ice cream

January 2nd, 2015 "Timber"

- Hot chocolate bar & kickball at Hull Park. Older campers will help maintain the Midtown Community Garden

January 5th, 2015 "Snowed In"

- Enjoy a movie in the theatre and then make your own snow!

Saturday Night Out

"A Sweet Eclipse" December 13th

The lights may be out for now, but don't worry - the treat you receive later will be worth the wait. We've created a live-action version of Candyland, fused with lights out dodgeball.

When: 6:15-10:00 pm

Who: 4y-6th grade

Where: JEA



For more Saturday Night Out Fun, check out some of our upcoming dates:

January 17th - 6:30-10:00 pm - "It's a Jungle Out There" - Welcome to the jungle, where there's a lot of fun to be had and many games to be played. This event will be hosted by none other than the King of the Jungle. Participate fairly and with plenty of Ruach and he just may reward you with a prize.

February 7th - 6:45-10:00 pm - "Plungapalooza" - Can't wait for those summer days of lounging around by the pool or going for a swim? Look no further! Even though the weather may be cold, things are heating up inside the JEA. Join us for a pool party complete with pool games and supervised free swim. Dinner will be served.

Check www.SavannahJEA.org for more details

2014 Chanukah Torch Relay

Sunday, December 21st, 3-5 pm

Annually on Chanukah a torch is lit at the graves of the Maccabees in Israel in the presence of Maccabi leaders and Israeli dignitaries symbolizing the spiritual reunion of the Jewish people.

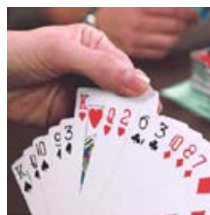
The torch relay that follows expresses the continuity of the Jewish people and our love for Israel, freedom and independence.

Help our Jewish community rededicate our participation in this most noble tradition.

Register to help, to run, to walk, to drive. The registration form and information are available at www.savj.org.



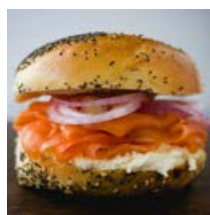
Adult Programming



Bridge - Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Scrabble - Wednesdays 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Mah Jongg - Mondays 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Thursdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Community Garden

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



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

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

Dec. 4th - Savannah Bee Company: Learn about how we're helping to protect the bees and taste the magic of Savannah Bee honey.

Dec. 11th - Savannah Jewish Film Festival: Enjoy a preview of the upcoming Jewish festival films.

Dec. 18th - A Chanukah celebration with JEA Pre-school Savannah.



Celebrate Hanukkah With Young Jewish Savannah!

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Bar • Food

4523 Habersham St.

Join YJS for an open bar, delicious latkes & great company!

Mitzvah of the Month:

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.



Keep warm this winter with
Young Jewish Savannah at



Thursday, January 8, 2015

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Byrd's Cookie Company

6700 Waters Ave

Featuring famous Byrd's cookies &
an adult hot chocolate bar.

Join Young Jewish Savannah for Pizza, Beer & Judaism



Young Jewish Savannah invites Jewish young adults to the JEA on the **third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.** to hang out and talk about Jewish topics with a modern twist!

Of course, pizza and beer will be provided!

If you are Jewish, in your 20s and 30s and want to meet new people, connect to the community and make a difference - YJS is where you want to be!

Young Jewish Savannah's (YJS) goal is to provide meaningful opportunities for engagement in the Jewish community through social and professional networking, community service, Judaic and leadership programs for Jewish young adults in their 20s and 30s.

For more information, call Jamie Cahn at 912-355-8111 or email yjs@savj.org.



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

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



Health & Wellness

Is Your Workout a Trend or a Fad?



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

One goal: fitness. There are countless ways of achieving it and every year they change. Only some last. Everyone's trying to sell machines and gadgets, and people buy them by the millions. Within three months, you find them in a closet or under the bed. We need to focus on things that are effective and going to be around for some time.

As it does annually, the ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine) surveyed more than 3,800 fitness professionals in Asia, Europe, Australia, Africa and North and South America to identify fitness trends of 2014. Here's a look at what was on top this year – and a few formerly hot picks that are cooling off.

High-Intensity Interval Training

These exercise programs typically involve short bursts of high-intensity activity, followed by a short period of rest or recovery – think P90X or Cross Fit. HIIT clocked in as the No. 1 trend for 2014, despite expert warnings about potential dangers such as musculoskeletal injury and cardiac events. I'm hoping it doesn't stay on this list. All kinds of injuries have been reported, and there hasn't been a single study on it. You should use lot of caution. Only people already in good shape should even consider this kind of training.

Body Weight Training

Don't feel like lugging equipment around? Body weight training requires only, well, your own weight, used as a form of resistance training – think pushups and pull-ups. It's an inexpensive, effective way to work out. It's kind of like back-to-basics exercise, and it started to emerge as a trend in 2008, when we started seeing a downturn in the economy and cost-free workouts became more appealing. These regimens can help you gain strength, build muscle, boost your heart health, increase flexibility and burn fat.

Functional fitness

Older adults and those recovering from injuries benefit from such strength-training regimens which imitate daily activities. A client who lost strength and stamina after several weeks in the hospital, for example, may struggle to cut his grass even with a self-propelled mower. His instructor will create a program mimicking the motions required for that activity. Or someone could desire to carry his own grocery bags out of the store instead of relying on a helper. The functional fitness solution: an upper-body strength training program geared toward lifting and carrying heavy bags.

Fitness programs for older adults

The baby boomer generation is aging into retirement, and many of these folks have more discretionary money than their younger counterparts. We recognize there's a period of time in the morning, typically between 9-11 a.m., and then between 2-4 p.m. when the older crowd is coming in. Our classes are modified so they're lower impact and can accommodate

someone who uses a cane.

Group personal training

During the recession, personal trainers began offering group options – training two or three people at a time. It's an appealing strategy that makes sense. The client gets significant discounts, and the trainer can work with three people at the same time instead of one. The group setting typically doesn't take away from the personal attention clients need and want, it actually adds to the session by having partners that push each other harder with each session.

Yoga

There's one reason why, year after year, yoga remains popular. The yoga folks keep re-inventing themselves. Even though the basic format is the same, they change it enough to keep people interested. Consider: antigravity yoga, which mixes yoga poses with acrobatics while suspended in the air; karaoke yoga, which aims to strengthen the limbs and vocal chords; and broga, which is geared toward men. That creativity keeps people coming back. Which brings us to...

What's out

Pilates, Zumba and spinning have all crashed off their thrones. So have stability balls, which tend to be stuffed in the closet these days. They just weren't creative enough. People got bored with the exercise and with doing the same thing all the time. These are perfect examples of fads, not trends. As for high-intensity interval training, body weight training and other work outs topping this year's list? Only time will tell what kind of staying power they have.

If your workout has been the same for the last six months or longer, it's time that you stop by to see me and let's discuss your training options. No matter what activity you choose to stress your body with, it's best to consistently change the frequency, intensity and time of your workouts.

JEA Donations

(October 4, 2014-November 3, 2014)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Nathan Siegel
Nancie & Fred Clark
In honor of Lillian Lowe
In honor of Jane Slotin
Marilyn Seeman

JEA BUILDING FUND

In honor of Merry & Richard Bodziner
Judy Byck

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Sanders Corbit
Christine & Wilton Persons, Jr.
Samuel Hochberger
In memory of Russell Fredrich
James Yeckley

Winter Fitness Classes

Sunday

9:15 am - Power Pilates
10:30 am - Total Body Blast
1:00 pm - Extreme Toning

Monday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Tuesday

9:15 am - Power Pilates
10:00 am - SilverSneakers Splash
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:45 pm - Zumba
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Wednesday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga Pilates Fusion
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
11:00 am - Aquasize
6:00 pm - Billy's Boot Camp
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Thursday

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

Friday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga
10:00 am - Aquasize

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH

In memory of Nathan Siegel
Fran & Myron Kaminsky

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Lilian Lowe
In memory of Nathan Siegel
Elise & Victor Shernoff

JEA DONOR DUES

In honor of Stephanie Greenberg
In honor of Ruth Katz
In honor of Jane Slotin
In memory of Meyer Denmark
Doris & Martin Greenberg



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enrollment Open for 2015

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

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

JEA Mazel Tots

An interactive parent and child music, movement and play class. It offers upbeat and fun experiences through a Jewish lens for babies and toddlers up to 24 months. Join JEA Preschool Savannah toddler teacher, Tara Swank, for singing, dancing, instrument playing, stories and a whole lot more!

When: Every Sunday at 10 am at the JEA

Fee: \$20 per month / Members
\$40 per month / Non-Members

For safety and planning purposes, paid reservations are required!

Space is limited to 12 families per session.



Since 2008, the Alef Fund has provided over \$10 million in scholarships to Jewish schools.

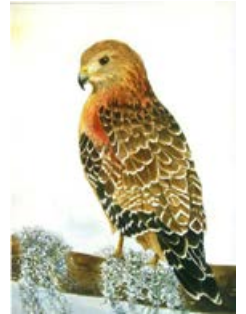
The process of reserving a state tax credit is even simpler this year. Go to aleffund.org to reserve your 2015 tax credit.

Complete your application and direct your tax dollars to the JEA Preschool Savannah! Visit www.aleffund.org.

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



JEA Art Gallery



December Artist: Barbara Davis

Barbara Davis is originally from Wisconsin, though she has spent the last 60 years in Georgia and Florida. She was introduced to painting through Decorative Artists in Jacksonville, Florida.

Barbara is proficient in oils, acrylics and watercolors, however, watercolors are her passion! Barbara says she likes the looseness and control of watercolor, as well as the convenience and challenge.

Birds and flowers are her favorite subjects.

Artwork available for viewing December 1-31, 2014
Art Gallery Reception December 4th, 4-6 pm



January Artist: Oksana Gruszka Harmouche



Oksana's earliest memories are of being two and trapped inside a body cast in a Ukrainian hospital. She spent the next three years immobilized in a hospital bed. The nurses took pity and gave her paper and pencils to help pass the time. She learned to escape the hospital with her imagination and her art.

At five, Oksana's cast was replaced with a brace. With no strength in her legs, she had to be carried home by her father. At school, Oksana's teachers noted her exceptional talent in art. At eight she was admitted to the Children's School of Arts in Ternopil, Ukraine. When she graduated she had two degrees: her high school diploma and a degree in Art. She continued her studies and received her degree in Art and Architecture in 1990.

Oksana worked as an architect for 15 years; first in Ukraine, then in the U.S. When the economy slowed, she returned to her passion for painting.

While Oksana was growing up in Ukraine, it was isolated from the outside world. Fashion was in a vacuum. From the first time she saw an Italian Vogue, she was in love with the beautiful colors, patterns and styles. The fashion of Vogue strongly influences her subject matter.

No matter the medium, Oksana always focuses on fine detail. The beauty, fragility and strength of women and flowers are recurrent themes in her work. Her paintings express her feelings that we should work to regain harmony with our surroundings.

Oksana uses a technique developed by the Flemish masters. It uses seven layers of paint to create transparent fabric-like veils, to capture the colors under the skin and to produce realistic faces. This technique is time consuming with each layer having to dry before progressing to the next. The paintings can take months to finish.

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

JEA Preschool Savannah Fall Festival

In October, the children had many hands-on learning experiences during our Fall Festival.

They explored gourds, pumpkins, and leaves in the sensory table, hunted for fall objects in the piles of hay, and tossed bean bags into the pumpkins while enjoying the beautiful weather outside.



New JEA Members

The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset!
(New Members as of 10/7/14-11/3/14)

Megan Gwatney & Kate Mercier
Luke Higgins
Deuk Lee

Laonardo & Chelsea Merchan
Josh Morton & Patricia Richardson
John & Brandi Olenyik
Abraham Park
Randy & Amy Zurcher

The JEA and Savannah Jewish Federation present
the Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial



SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

January 21st - January 31st, 2015

Wednesday, Jan 21st

6:00 pm Opening Night Party
Live Music, Great Food &
Cocktails
7:00 pm Film



Run Boy Run

The true story of a Polish boy
and his solitary struggle to
outlast the Nazi occupation

(Drama, 108 min)

Thursday, Jan 22nd

12:30 pm Lunch/1:30 pm Film



The Sturgeon Queens

Hattie Russ Gold and her sister
Anne Russ Federman share the
fastinating story of their family's
famed lox and herring emporium
on New York's Lower East Side.

(Documentary, 52 min)

6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Film



24 Days

The dramatization of the
kidnapping and torture of
Ilán Halimi, whose ordeal
prompted a national outcry
against anti-Semitism in France.

Eva Locker hosts Q&A after.
(Drama, 110 min)

Saturday, Jan 24th

7:30 pm Dessert/8:00 pm Film



Quality Balls: The David Steinberg Story

The son of a Winnipeg Rabbi
becomes one of Canada's greatest
comedic exports.

(Doc-Comedy, 88 min)

Sunday, Jan 25th

6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Film



The Jewish Cardinal

The true story of Jean-Marie
Lustiger, the son of Polish-Jewish
immigrants, who became the
leader of the French Church.

Rabbi Haas and Ret. Bishop Boland
lead discussion after.
(Drama, 90 min)

Tuesday, January 27th

1:30 pm Film



Igor and the Crane's Journey

Uprooted by divorce, a young
Russian boy struggles to adjust
to a new life in Israel while
tracking a wayward crane.

(Drama, 90 min)

6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Film



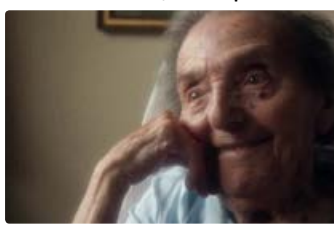
Above and Beyond

In 1948, a group of WW II pilots
volunteered to fight for Israel
in the War of Independence,
turning the tide of the war and
laying the groundwork for the
Israeli Airforce.

(Documentary, 89 min)

Thursday, Jan 29th

12:30 Lunch/1:30 pm Film



Afternoon of Shorts featuring *The Lady in # 6*

The world's oldest piano player
and Holocaust survivor shares her
remarkable secrets to longevity
and happiness.

(Shorts program 75 min)

6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Film



Omar

A tense gripping love story and
thriller about betrayal- suspected
and real- in Israel and the
Palestinian territories.

(Drama, 98 min)

Saturday, Jan 31st

7:30 pm Dessert/8:00 pm Film



The Outrageous Sophie Tucker

Sophie Tucker was the first woman
to infatuate audiences with her
bawdy, brassy style. The film
retraces her 60 year fantastic
show biz career.

(Documentary, 96 min)

SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL TICKET INFO

Full Festival Pass

Admits one person to all films & Opening Night Party

Community Members: \$100.00
JEA Members: \$80.00

Purchase your full festival pass online at
www.SavannahJEA.org or at the JEA.

**Purchase Festival Passes and meal/movie
tickets at www.savannahjea.org
or Stop by the JEA!**

Please contact Jennifer Rich at 912-355-8111
or programming@savj.org for more
information about becoming a festival sponsor.

Single Movie Tickets

Community Members: \$10.00
JEA Members: \$8.00

Purchase your tickets (movie only) at the JEA
beginning 45 minutes prior to each screening.

Meal & Movie Tickets

Community Members: \$24.00
JEA Members: \$20.00

Purchase your tickets online at SavannahJEA.org.

Paid meal reservations must be made at least two days
in advance. (No meal walk-ins can be accommodated)

Opening Night Party & Film

Community Members: \$22.00
JEA Members: \$18.00

Additional Information

• The Full Festival Pass is for
MOVIES ONLY. Payments for
dinner reservations are made
separately.

• All movies are screened at:
Jewish Educational Alliance
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405

• All meals are kosher, not
under supervision.

• Certified sealed kosher meals
available upon request.

Sponsor the Festival!

Platinum: • \$750.00

(4) Full Festival Movie Passes
(4) Full Festival Meal Passes
(4) Opening Cocktail Party Passes

Gold: • \$450.00

(2) Full Festival Movie Passes
(2) Full Festival Meal Passes
(2) Opening Cocktail Party Passes

Silver: • \$425.00

(4) Full Festival Movie Passes
(4) Opening Cocktail Party Passes

Bronze: • \$225.00

(2) Full Festival Movie Passes
(2) Opening Cocktail Party Passes



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

From Grandparents to Yiddish...

Grandparents are such an important part of a child's life. We want them to be part of our school as well. That is why this year, on November 2, our younger Shalom School students hosted our first ever Grandparents Breakfast. And, because not all of our students are fortunate enough to have a grandparent living in town, we extended our invitation to Special Friends as well.

In the Torah, the first time we see grandparents play a role is in Genesis 48:20. Just before Jacob died, he called all his sons for a final blessing. As a special reward to Joseph, who remained righteous throughout his imposed exile, Jacob calls forward Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Menashe, and gives them a special blessing, as well as two portions of the Land of Israel. Jacob's blessing was that Joseph's sons — his grandsons — should be a blessing: an example to the Jewish people for all time. From that day forward, they would become role models for Jewish children everywhere, as they represented respect and love for one another.

In the spirit of that blessing, we started our morning program with our guests blessing their grand-

children (or special young friends). Next, our pre-K and kindergarten students lead us in the *Motsi* blessing over bread that formally opened our breakfast. After a delicious buffet of waffles, eggs, bagels and lox (you would not host your grandparents without lox!) our first and second grade classes sang a medley of Shabbat songs and *Alef Bet* songs. To conclude this special morning, our guests were invited to pose for a photograph with their young host so we could make sure to have a keepsake of this special occasion.

As our younger students were busy entertaining their guests, our older students were practicing singing a song in Yiddish. Lead by Madeleine Blank, the students were working to be prepared to perform "*Oyfn Pripetshik*" at the JEA for the Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) commemoration event on November 6.

Working through generations and looking for a broad approach to Jewish education within our community is at the core of our school's values. That's why hosting our grandparents in one room, discussing a Torah portion in another and singing in Yiddish in yet another room is a great part of what Jewish education is like at the Shalom School.

Zie Ga Zink to all!



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Rambam Happenings

Our Better Together program (a funded program for students to get to know and work with senior citizens) is off to an amazing start. Our 8th graders visited the seniors at Buckingham South before Rosh Hashana and ate apples and honey together. The eve of Yom Kippur there is a mitzvah to eat throughout the day so our bodies are full and we'll be able to fast more easily. The 8th graders visited the residents of Buckingham and shared all kinds of treats with them on Erev Yom Kippur.

The children are preparing to go to Buckingham South and interview several residents to learn what it was like to live in the 20th century. The interviews will be videoed and used for an end of the year video presentation. The interview itself is to be a learning experience for the children; they will learn how these seniors lived, what they did for livelihoods, where they lived, how things were different then from now. Just as important as their learning experience, the children will continue to strengthen their bond with the residents.

For the Shabbos Project, two families cooked up a storm and ate the Friday night meal at Buckingham with twenty residents who chose to join them for this Shabbos meal. One of the families had an eighth grader and not only were the residents so excited to see this young lady but this eighth grader requested which two seniors she wished to sit between.

We are in the midst of planning a special Chanukah celebration

for the residents of Buckingham. The eighth grade is truly appreciating what this program has made possible. Thus far, I would have to say the lives of the young and the elderly have been touched.

Our Runners Group which is available for fourth through eighth graders is a group (supervised by several adults) that runs. They run several times a week and participated in the Turkey Trot 5K which benefits the United Way. Fifteen children and friends of RDS ran on Thursday, November 27th in Daffin Park. Our group will continue to run and hopefully participate in some other races.

We had a class learning about appreciation and finding the good in others. They went around in the middle school building without any other students being aware and put nice thoughts on each person's locker. Everyone was trying to figure out who had put all the comments on the lockers while simultaneously appreciating what was said about them.

Rambam is proud of all the various learning experiences that our students participate in which in turn touch their lives and become a part of their growth as young adults and Jews.

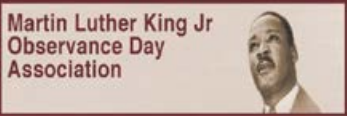


A photo collage of the Rambam eighth graders and their new friends at Buckingham South.

Annual Musical Salute To MLK, Jr.

Tuesday, January 13th, 2015
7pm at the JEA

Free and Open to the Public



Live Oak Public Libraries presents the **TREE Loft** at the Bull Street Library,
a dynamic interactive space showcasing our communities.

(**TREE Loft**: Traditions, Recordings, Exhibits, Experiences)

How does your personal story connect with our communal Savannah narrative?
Come explore the new space devoted to telling your tales, listening to the experiences of others and connecting these individual histories with the resources provided by your Live Oak Public Library.

TREELoft: The First Bloom (until 12/11/14) showcases contributions of the Savannah Jewish Community
Activities and events designed for the library novice to the more mature patron.

Need help conducting the photo, narrative or video "selfie, or want tour info? MStarArts@gmail.com

MStarArts.org

"This program is sponsored in part by the City of Savannah,
Department of Cultural Affairs' Weave-A-Dream program."





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To benefit JEA Preschool Savannah:



For more information: www.aleffund.org
or call Jodi Sadler or Adam Solender at (912) 355-8111

To benefit Rambam Day School:



For more information: www.rambamdayschool.org/georgia-tax-credit.html
Or call Freddie Rabhan at (912) 352-7994



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

little miracles — our young children.

I recently learned a valuable lesson when I was working with a group of two year olds. As part of my JECLEI program, we had read an article about open ended materials and creativity for the young child. I wanted to experience what that meant for our children at JEA Preschool Savannah. So, I planned a lesson and spent some time with a group of children outside on a beautiful fall morning after the celebration of all of the Jewish holidays.

Their class had been exploring community helpers and their favorite part was the construction workers. So, I took the lead from the children. I designed my lesson around their interests. I read a story about repairing the hole in a road and then gave them some sponges, Styrofoam blocks, and one small truck for each of them. As I documented their play through pictures and text, my favorite statement came at the end of our time together.

Our Little Miracles

One child was rolling a tow truck in the rocky dirt area and said, "Ms. Jodi, I'm going to build a Succah!" How that statement made my heart sing!

Our goal of teaching our children about our Jewish traditions and celebrations was being learned, retained and transferred to their play explorations! Sometimes it may seem that young children are not listening or understanding what is being taught, but they are just like the sponges they played with on that crisp morning. They are absorbing what they see and hear from their parents, teachers, and friends every day.

So as we enjoy seeing the lights of the Chanukah candles, the sounds of the Chanukah music, and the smells of the Chanukah latkes, let's remember the miracle of the Jewish people and the miracles in our daily lives, the young children at JEA Preschool Savannah and in our homes.

Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah!



Many thanks to Melanie Ourhaan
for handling the table set up.



Asher Kolman, Gabe Adler &
Nathan Luskey staff the booth

BBYO at the Jewish Food Festival

The BBG girls and AZA boys had a great turnout at this year's Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival. They greeted hundreds of people at the event with an information table about their favorite Jewish youth organization and did face painting for children.



Gabe Adler,
Dixie Council and
local chapter
Godol, with two
young girls who
really enjoyed the
face painting!



BBYO Connect met Sunday, October 12th, for Laser Tag at Frames-n-Games

Pictured left to right:

Standing: Nate Batchelor, Sophie Rich, Allison Samuels-Wexler Clark BBG MIT Mom, Sarah Lily Javetz, Nina Kolman, Marc Javetz, Collette Karnibad, Isaac Lichtman, Blake Strauss, Jarett Karnibad, Philip Boblasky, Richard Epstein, Max Strauss-David Finn AZA Moreh; seated: Noah Linfoot, Nathan Pritzker

The next BBYO Connect event is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 22nd, a Scavenger Hunt that will begin at Mickve Israel.

BBYO Connect is the BBYO experience made just for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students offering social and meaningful experiences that will serve as a gateway to continued involvement in Jewish life designed to help bridge the gap between immediate pre- and post- Bar/Bat Mitzvah and high school programs. For more information, contact Jill Strauss at (912) 844-5588 or jill.strauss@savannahmagazine.com.



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In honor of Biff & Jerry Montana
In honor of Joanne Hochman

Harriet Meyerhoff

Contributions to the Savannah Jewish Federation may be made on our secure website at www.savj.org or by calling 912-355-8111.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Frances Rose Levow
Who died November 2, 2014

She is survived by her husband, Lawrence Levow; her daughters, Judith Dellert of Savannah and Melissa (Alvin) Jones of Manhattan, NY; her step-daughter, Wendy Levow of Blairstown, NJ; three grandchildren; and her sister, Suzanne (James) O'Grady of Hewlett, NY.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah 31416-0190 or a charity of one's choice.

Nathan Siegel
Who died October 26, 2014

He is survived by his daughter, Barbara S. (Dr. Philip) Schwartz, of Savannah; one son, Dr. Alex M. (Lauri) Siegel, of Philadelphia, PA; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Miriam "Mickey" Lasky

Siegel, his son, Jeffrey Lee Siegel, and two brothers.

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

Stephanie Lynn Rubin
Who died October 11, 2014

She is survived by her parents, Elsie and Rabbi Saul Rubin and one brother, Lance Hayes Rubin.

Remembrances: Savannah-Chatham Humane Society, 7215 Sallie Mood Dr, Savannah, 31406; or Congregation Mickve Israel Museum Fund, P.O. Box 816, Savannah 31402.



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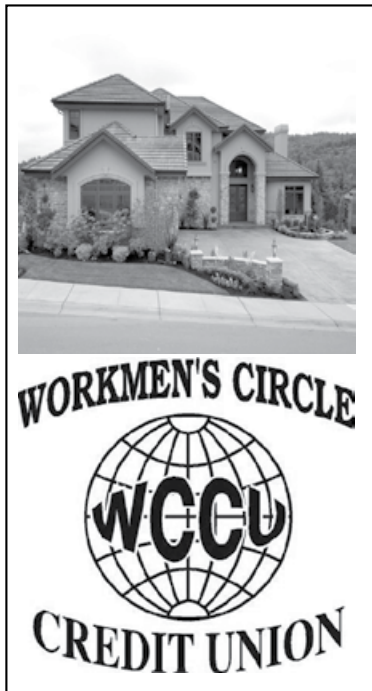
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LASTING LEGACIES

A family legacy can truly impact a community and its programs. For example, the Saturday evenings of outrageous laughter we've enjoyed with top-tier comedians, including the one next month, would not have been possible were it not for the Lawrence Konter and Bertram Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund.

And then there are the ongoing programs that benefit the community week in and week out. For example, the Thursday "Lunch Bunch," which meets every week (except on holidays and during Passover), has been providing hot, nutritious, kosher meals and an entertaining, educational program to the young-at-heart (no matter what one's chronological age) for about 20 years, and still at the price of \$5. How can programs like this do it? With the help of funds generously established to support their specific services, funds like the *Abe and Ethel Kamine Fund for Senior Meals*.

Originally from New Jersey, Abe Kamine's military service brought him and his wife south and Ethel decided they were not going back. Abe, a veterinarian and pharmacist at the University of Georgia Veterinary School, decided he had enough with the politics of university life and asked his friends he'd met through Bnai Brith, Manny Lewis and Bill Wexler, if they thought Savannah could accommodate another vet. They said yes and in 1951 Abe brought his family here and thanked Lewis and Wexler every time he saw them afterwards.

Ethel worked full-time managing Abe's office. He was a general practitioner of veterinary medicine. "Now everything is very specialized, but my father did it all," said their daughter, Roberta Kamine-Haysman. "He had an operating room in his office that was so up-to-date that people would joke that when they ran out of space at Memorial they would come use his."

Both Abe and Ethel were full participants in Savannah Jewish life. Abe was active in the Jewish War Veterans, the JEA and served on the Board at Congregation Agudath Achim. Ethel was active in Bnai Brith Women and Roberta especially remembers the "bowls and bowls" of potato salad and cole slaw she made each year for their booth at the Coastal Empire Fair. Abe also was very patriotic

and considered it an honor to go to Bonaventure Cemetery and replace worn flags on the graves of veterans. Since his death in 1997, Roberta has assumed that tradition, doing so on the anniversary of his birthday. Last year, when Abe's birthday fell on a Sunday, a number of their family members joined her for this mitzvah.

The *Abe and Ethel Kamine Fund for Senior Meals* was established by Roberta and her husband, Melvin Haysman, shortly after Ethel's death in 2000. "When my father died, my mother basically died with him. She had round-the-clock help, so I would ask them to take her on Thursdays to the lunch at the JEA. It got her out. She never wanted to go but it was something I could get her to do that wasn't just sitting at home. And she would never admit that she enjoyed it but she did," said Roberta.

"Going to the lunches was an outing for her; she would get to see some of the people she knew. Whether she ate or not (I think most of the time she brought her meal home and the sitter probably ate it) it was an opportunity the JEA afforded for her to get out and be with other people.

"After she died, I felt like it was something that needed to be continued. Not everyone could afford the five dollars," Roberta continued. "The lunches were an outing for her, not for the meal but for the camaraderie, the socialization. We wanted to help to continue to provide a meal and a program and an outing for people who otherwise are homebound."

Support from the Abe and Ethel Kamine Fund for Senior Meals assures that the Thursday Lunch Bunch program remains affordable and accessible to all who wish to participate in it and is a lasting tribute to two honored members of the community.

Create a Fund

A designated fund can benefit a specific purpose dear to your family or the community at large. Funds can be created and activated now or established with a bequest or other financial instrument. To discuss establishing a Lasting Legacy for your family with a fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, contact Adam Solender at (912) 355-8111 or adam@savj.org.

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Bonnie Strongin

Keeping the Faith

Didja hear the one about the rabbi and the priest? No, not that one. This one. *Keeping the Faith*, Edward Norton's deft directorial debut, stars Ben Stiller, Jenna Elfman and Edward Norton in a very enjoyable laugh-out-loud moment.

It defies genre. It is at once an old-fashioned screwball comedy, a romance, a buddy movie. It is light-hearted in tone. Yet it asks serious questions about the choices we make about faith and about the secular world vs. the religious world.

But you miss the boat if you don't realize its bedrock is *FRIENDSHIP*. About friends who go way back together and change along the way, and whose relationships must bend with time as we become different people from different worlds with different needs. It's about forks in the road, the choices we make, the regrets we have, the questions unanswered.

Should I have...? Why didn't I...? Can I still...?

Visually and musically, it is homage to New York City. Permission was given by *The New Yorker* magazine for the font used in the titles. And what more perfect than to

open to the words and music of *The Heart of Saturday Night* written by Tom Waits? Classically-trained Elmer Bernstein, who has the knack of making new music sound like old standards, composed the original soundtrack. Cinephiles, remember it is music that creates "the emotional architecture" of a story.

Brilliant cinematographer Anastos Michos photographed the many aerial shots in winter when the air is crisp, not hazy. Long shots of cityscapes feature iconic New York symbols such as the Chrysler Building and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Almost everything was shot on location, emphasizing the upper West Side where Stiller and Norton grew up. Temple B'nai Joshua was used because it had a low *bima* for ease in egress.

Important to the film, today's woman is captured by characters Anna, the high-powered exec who would juggle love with business; anchorwoman Rachel, who is off to the mid-East and sees no barrier; and Ruth, the mom who can admit she is wrong and see past her generation.

Keeping the Faith tackles religion—the film's hot topic. The off-screen advisers were a priest and a rabbi. Do the rules of the church need to change with the times? What does the film say about the church vs. the secular world? What happens when

priests fall in love? Is there a price to pay for assimilation? What about intermarriage—the other hot topic of the story? And we are left with the belief that "Faith is a hunch," as Norton's character Father Brian says, a connection to God.

"Two Micks and a Yid," says Anna (Jenna Elfman). It is Jake's conflicts that drive the plot... and provide the comedy. He falls in love with a Gentile and loses his friend Brian, the priest who also loves her; he is about to lose his job; his mother has not spoken to his brother Ethan who has an interfaith marriage—it would happen to him.

With the story's focus on a Rabbi's possible interfaith marriage, I asked Rabbi Robert Haas of Temple Mickve Israel about the subject:

Q. Can rabbis marry outside the faith?

A. Yes. Once you have been ordained as a Rabbi, you have the choice. There may be repercussions though, such as loss of employment or dismissal from an organization. However, the Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox seminaries do not ordain rabbinical students if they are married to a non-Jewish spouse.

Q. Regarding the interfaith marriage of a Rabbi: Does it make a difference if the rabbi is Reform, Conservative, or Orthodox?

A. The Conservative and Orthodox movements follow the laws found in Halacha (law code) which forbids intermarriage (although the Conservative Movement has changed quite a bit.) Therefore, it's not even a question. The Reform Movement takes a more liberal stand in only requir-

ing us to follow all the ethical laws, while being more lenient on the following of all the religious laws.

Q. What ramifications are there for rabbi's DATING outside our faith?

A. It's impossible to know all of them, but a rabbi would seriously jeopardize his or her opportunities to serve a synagogue as a rabbi. There may also be stigma attached and sanctions from his or her governing rabbinical organizations.

Q. Does a congregation play any part in the decision-making for hiring the rabbi?

A. The rabbi has the choice to marry whomever he or she wants. However, the congregation can determine whether he or she will remain as the Rabbi of the synagogue. I do know of a few rabbis [in interfaith marriages] who are currently working for congregations.

Q. What differences are there between a pedestrian interfaith marriage and an interfaith marriage for a Rabbi?

A. That's the real question that the Reform Movement's rabbinical school has been discussing for a while now. If Reform congregations are welcoming to interfaith couples, is it hypocritical to hold the rabbis to different standards? On the other hand, shouldn't the rabbi set an example for everyone by marrying someone from the faith community?

Enjoy your laugh-out-loud moments and have a happy, loving holiday season.

See you at the movies,
Bonnie

Trading Places is back! Do a mitzvah this holiday season!

Trading places is a Savannah Jewish Federation program that provides volunteers from our Jewish Community to non-profit organizations on Christmas Day, giving our non-Jewish friends and neighbors the day off to celebrate with their families.

Trading places is open to volunteers of all ages and is a great way to teach Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) to the entire family. With a variety of volunteer opportunities available, lend a hand and a little of your time on Christmas to help our Greater Savannah community!

Sign up Today by contacting Jennifer Rich at 355-8111 or programming@savj.org.



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

December Services

- Dec. 5: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- Dec. 6: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Dec. 12: Kabbalat Shabbat Choir Service, 6pm
- Dec. 13: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Dec. 19: Family Service & Hanukkah Celebration, 6pm
- Dec. 20: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Dec. 26: Holiday Shabbat Service featuring Cantor Bill Wood, 6pm
- Dec. 27: Shabbat Morning Service featuring Cantor Bill Wood, 11am

Everyone is welcome to join us for our services and events!

Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter by contacting kayla@mickveisrael.org, or by texting CMI to 42828.

For more information or to RSVP to an event: call 912.233.1547 or visit mickveisrael.org

Thank you

Mickve Israel would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the 200+ volunteers who helped make our 26th annual Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival such a success.

We cannot put on such a wonderful event without the help and participation of everyone who worked for months on sponsorships, logistics, food preparation, volunteer coordination, phone calls, and so much more.

We appreciate all of our sponsors, volunteers, supporters and attendees!

Thank you so much!

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL'S
HANUKKAH CELEBRATION



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 6PM
Bring your menorah and join us as our children light the candles!



CONGREGATION
MICKVE ISRAEL

Ranked Georgia's #1 Tourist Attraction by Parade Magazine!

Tours of our newly renovated museum will be offered starting in early December. Check our website for the opening date!

Monday - Friday
10am - 12:30pm
& 2pm - 3:30pm

12/24 - Morning tours only
12/25 - Temple closed

For a complete schedule of Services & Events, check our website at www.mickveisrael.org

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah GA 31405 912-352-4737
AgudathA@aol.com / Agudath-Achim.com
Rabbi Ruven Barkan

Shabbaton
Rabbi-in-Residence
Rabbi Sara Zacharia
Friday & Saturday,
December 5th & 6th 2014

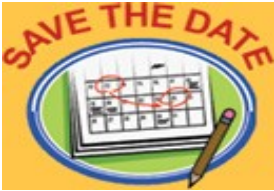


Join Us for our Hanukah Party



Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m.

\$10 per person \$25 per family



Scholar in Residence
In Memory of
Ernie Friedman
Friday & Saturday,
February 27-28, 2015
Professor
Richard Friedman

SHABBAT SERVICES:
Friday 5:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday 9:15 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon
Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

DAILY SERVICES:
Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm, Monday & Thursday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm
Tuesday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm
Friday Shacharit 7:00 am

It's a Funny Thing



Melinda Stein

An American tourist in Israel found himself needing to get rid of a large supply of garbage from his recent stay at an apartment. After a long search, he just couldn't find any place to discard it. So, he went down one of the side streets to dump it there.

He was stopped by an Israeli police officer, who said, "Hey you, what are you doing?"

"I have to throw this away," replied the tourist.

"You can't throw it away here. Look, follow me," the policeman offered.

The police officer led him to a beautiful garden with lots of grass, pretty flowers, and manicured hedges. "Here," said the cop, "dump all the garbage you want."

The American shrugged, opened up the large bags of garbage, and dumped them right on the flowers. "Thanks for giving me a place to dump this stuff. Is this Israeli hospitality?" asked the tourist.

"No," the policeman replied. "This is the Iranian Embassy."

Morty Goldstein decides that he wants to be a competitive yachtsman so he scrounges together all the money he has and buys himself a sailboat. When he enters his first race, he looks around at all of the new and expensive boats of his competitors and realizes that he needs to do something, so he names his boat the "Bad News."

When the competition asks why he would choose such a strange name, Morty replies, "Because as everybody knows, bad news travels fast."

Koby from Haifa passed away and unfortunately was sent "down below." He was amazed however, to discover lush vegetation, running streams, waterfalls and beautiful fruit trees everywhere. Everyone seemed happy.

"You look surprised," said a resident.

"Yes I am," replied Koby. "I expected this place to be horrible — fiery and exceedingly hot. But all I can see are trees full of every kind of fruit, beautiful flowers, vegetables, lush grass and water everywhere."

"Well," said the resident, "it used to be like you thought, but then a few Israe-

lis started to arrive and they irrigated like crazy!"

Abe goes to see his boss and says, "We're doing some heavy house-cleaning at home tomorrow and my wife needs me to help with the attic and the garage, moving and hauling stuff."

"We're shorthanded, Abe," the boss replies. "I just can't give you the day off."

"Thanks, boss," says Abe, "I knew I could count on you!"

One guy says to another guy, "Here's a really good one. Mandelbaum and Rosenshtern were talking one day..."

His friend interrupts him, "Always with the Jewish jokes! Give it a rest! Why do all the names in your jokes have to be Jewish?"

The first fellow starts over again, "Okay, so Hashimoto and Suzuki were talking one day at this Bar Mitzvah..."

A customer comes into Friedman's Furniture Warehouse and wants to pay for his purchase by check. The clerk just looks at him and points to the sign on the wall:

"There are two very good reasons why we won't take your check. Either we don't know you, or we DO know you."



Time to Order Mah Jongg Cards!

Attention Mah Jongg Players! It's time to order your 2015 Mah Jongg cards. The standard card is \$8.00; the large card is \$9.00. The deadline for placing orders is January 26, 2015. Make checks payable to the Agudath

Achim Sisterhood and send to:

Betty Lasky

402 Wheeler St

Savannah, GA 31405

No extra cards will be ordered after January 26th; be sure to place your order on time! For additional information, contact Betty at (912) 355-2017.

THE 11th ANNUAL *Shalom New York*

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Food Security.....from pg 10

ere invented by international food technology consultant Shlomo Navarro, but now are manufactured on a former American Navy base in Subic Bay, Philippines, and are marketed by an American company headed by a man whose family fled Paris just hours ahead of the arrival of the Nazis.

Subsistence farmers in developing countries tend to store their crops in baskets or bags, with no protection from bugs and other contaminants. The Cocoon stores the crops safely, even in extreme heat and humidity. In fact, when Typhoon Haiyan ravaged the Philippines last November, crops stored in Cocoons were spared from destruction.

One Potato, Two Potato
Hebrew University Professor David Levy has developed new strains of potatoes that grow well in hot, dry climates such as the Middle East and can be irrigated by saltwater. These varieties are successful enough to be grown as cash crops in areas where

potatoes previously never could be grown. Levy told ISRAEL21c that he hopes his research and the potatoes eventually can be used to build bridges between Israel and its neighbors.

At Israel's Volcani Agricultural Research Center, Dr. Akhilesh Kumar is working on a way to keep potatoes fresh for long periods of time without putting them in cold storage. Kumar came to Israel in 2010 from India on a temporary scholarship but stayed because of the opportunity to do this research. He sees solving this problem as a key to addressing disparities in food security in his home country, where farmers who grow potatoes must sell them all immediately (because they cannot store them) at a low price, and months later are forced to buy them back for sustenance at a much higher price. India is the second largest producer of potatoes in the world. Kumar believes Israel has the proper technology and they are close to a breakthrough for applying it on a large scale.

Vital Statistics

in physical therapy and works in private practice. Justin, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Rick Martin, has a degree in biomedical engineering and currently is pursuing his MBA while working at Boston University as a financial analyst. They will make their home in Boston.

BIRTH: Mazel tov to... Larry and Judy Odrezin on the birth of their grandson, **Gilbert Wyatt Odrezin**, and to great grandmother Eva Odrezin. Gilbert arrived a few weeks early on September 27, 2014, to parents Bram and Nicole Odrezin and big sister Charlotte, of Homewood, AL, and all are doing just fine. He also is the grandson of Jan Shevin and Maurice Shevin of Birmingham, AL.

WED: Stephanie Rachel Greenberg and Justin Matthew Martin were married Sunday, November 9th, in Forsyth Park in Savannah with Rabbi Robert Haas officiating. Stephanie, the daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Joel A. Greenberg, received her doctorate

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Caprese Latkes recipe and photo courtesy of Joy of Kosher with Jamie Geller magazine (Chanukah 2011) for this and more great recipes visit JoyofKosher.com/Caprese

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