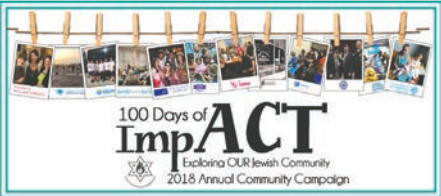


Community Chanukah Celebration Dec. 12



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 1	5:02pm
Friday, December 8	5:02pm
Friday, December 15	5:04pm
Friday, December 22	5:07pm
Friday, December 29	5:11pm
Friday, January 5	5:16pm
Friday, January 12	5:22pm
Friday, January 19	5:28pm



2017
Campaign
Update
\$514,284

as of November 15, 2017
from 138 donors

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A Publication of Savannah Jewish Federation

5111 Abercorn Street

Savannah, Georgia 31405

www.savj.org

Address Service Requested

Join us at the JEA on the first night of Chanukah for the Festival of Lights! On Tuesday, December 12th, we will have fun celebrating with the biggest fiesta the community has ever seen.

The festivities officially get underway with the lighting of the community menorah at 5:30pm outside the JEA front entrance. Please gather with us on the JEA front lawn. From there we will move into the JEA auditoriums to enjoy a delicious latke bar with lots of classic and creative toppings. There will be activities for the kids such as a Chanukah-themed piñata, dreidel competitions and cookie decorating. (All food served at the JEA



is kosher, not under supervision.)

As with every fiesta, there has to be dancing! The JEA dance floor will be set up for conga lines, Israeli dancing and today's favorite, the Cha Cha Slide.

We also hope to make a difference while we're having some fun. We are encouraging everyone to bring socks, undergarments or hygiene products (unused, please) to donate to Chatham County CASA. The mission of the Savannah/Chatham Court Ap-

pointed Special Advocates (CASA), Inc. program is to provide training and supervision to volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected chil-

dren who are under the jurisdiction of the Chatham County Juvenile Court.

Entrance into the Fiesta is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. We hope to see you there!

What: Fiestaval of Lights Chanukah celebration

When: Tuesday, December 12th, 5-7pm

Where: JEA, 5111 Abercorn St.

Cost: \$5/person; \$15/family

Lasky to be Honored with Levy Award Jan. 7

Jeffrey Lasky will receive the *Jack Malitz Levy Leadership Award* at a brunch in his honor on Sunday, January 7, 2018, at the Jewish Educational Alliance. Lasky is only the seventh recipient of the Levy Award since it was established in 1988, the highest honor given by the Savannah Jewish Federation.



Jeffrey Lasky

he said, Jeffrey shifted his attention to the Savannah Jewish Federation where he became involved in the annual campaign, served on the executive committee in various officers' positions and as President from 2011-2013. He currently chairs the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, the Federation's endowed giving arm.

Jeffrey still enjoys telling the story of the year he chaired the campaign: "I was known for giving lengthy speeches. At the kickoff, I went to the podium, said 'Good evening ladies and gentlemen' and held up a sign with our four-word campaign slogan and read it. It said, 'If not now, when?' And then I sat down. It was very effective and we raised a lot of money that year. People still remember that speech."

While serving the JEA and Federation, Lasky also chaired three rabbinical search committees at various times

for Agudath Achim synagogue, overseeing the hiring of Rabbi Jerry Potok, an interim rabbi and Rabbi Robert Wolkoff. He also served on the synagogue's Board at different times, "particularly while my dad was President," he said.

Lasky's volunteerism extends well beyond the Jewish community – at St. Andrews School, which his son Darryl attended, he coached basketball and served on the Board. He also was very involved at Royce Learning Center, which his son Stephen attended, serving on the Board and becoming its first two-term President. "I came

from a model of two-year presidencies and convinced them it made more sense and that I was willing to commit the time." He chaired a Long Range Planning Committee for Royce that oversaw the planning for the expenditure of \$1.2 million in SPLOST funds. "Some of the phi-

losophy that changed as part of that process is still in place and it was very gratifying dealing with an agency that does the kind of work they do," Lasky



The Lasky family at the wedding of Jeffrey's son Darryl to Mindy Gordon in 2015 (l-r): Jeffrey, Mindy, Darryl, Stacy, (Bubbe) Betty Lasky, Stephen



How the miracle of the oil
Family. Friends so close they have become family.
stories & laughter
YOUR GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S latkes
and spinning and spinning and spinning
the DREIDEL
RECIPE
GIFTS + GEL

Have a Happy Chanukah. And share what it means to you.
#ChanukahPublix

Publix

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Sign up TODAY
at www.savj.org

What does PJ stand for?

Pajamas! We know those special times of reading, dancing and singing together happen when your children are wearing their pajamas.

Who is eligible to register?

Families with children 6 months to 8 years old and at least one Jewish parent in the household, currently residing in the Savannah area.

What's the cost?

Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library® is **free** when your child is enrolled in the program. One subscription per child.

Happy Chanukah



-From
PJ Library



PJ Library and PJ Our Way presents

Menorah Workshop

Sunday, December 3

Design • Create • Paint a Chanukah Menorah

RSVP by Thursday, November 30 to Devra Silverman at pjlibrary@savj.org or 912.355.8111



Check out PJ Our Way™

the Newest Chapter of PJ Library®

PJ Our Way offers the gift of exceptional books with Jewish themes to kids ages 9-11 – Books that they choose themselves!

Sign up TODAY
at www.PJOurWay.org

What does
PJ Our Way
offer your child?



- Choose your **FREE** book each month
- Reviews and synopsis of authors and books
- Leadership with creating kids quizzes, polls, and video blogs



The Savannah PJ Library is made possible through generous support from the Savannah Jewish Federation, Jane Slotin, Nancy & Leon Slotin, and the Ceceile Richman JEA Fund.

For more information about PJ Library, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at pjlibrary@savj.org or 912-355-8111.

Savannah bbyo

MISSION: To create a pluralistic community of Jewish high school teens. More Jewish Teens, More Meaningful Jewish Experiences.



Savannah Jewish Federation

Beneficiary Agency

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Save the Date for



GLOBAL SHABBAT

DECEMBER 8, 2017 • 21 כסלו 5778



Left: Savannah BBYO at an Escape Room

Right: Teens leaving for Southern Region Convention



Happy Chanukah

From BBYO & BBYO Connect!



MISSION: To create a community of Jewish 5, 6, 7 and 8 graders through social and meaningful experiences that will serve as a gateway to continued involvement in Jewish life.

For more information about BBYO or BBYO Connect, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at engagement@savj.org or 912-355-8111.



Invites teens in grades 6-8 to

SKATE FEST

Saturday, December 16

6:30 - 9:30 PM

Cost: \$7 (includes session & skates)

Meet at Jewish Educational Alliance



RSVP by Wednesday, December 13 to Devra Silverman at engagement@savj.org or 912.355.8111

Lasky to be Honored.....from page 1

also has served on and chaired allocations panels for the United Way.

Managing partner and lead litigator for his law firm, Lasky Cooper Law, Jeffrey has taken many leadership roles in his professional world, as well. He has been President of the Savannah Trial Lawyers Association, Vice President of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, served on the Executive Committee of the Savannah Bar Association, and has served on the National Board of Trial Advocates' (NBTA). NBTA is the only legal organization whose membership is comprised of both plaintiffs' and defendants' attorneys and is by invitation only.

Lasky credits his community involvement to the influences of role models and special people in his life. "My first leadership position was President of Dixie Council AZA. Doc Cohen [his AZA advisor] convinced me to run on the bus ride to the convention in Augusta. I hadn't planned to, but I wrote a speech, ran and won," he said.

"Growing up I had a lot of very positive role models. Both of my grandfathers were very involved in their synagogues, one at BBJ, one at the AA. My Papa Nat [Weiss] at the BB was actually involved in what I think was one of the most difficult things they've ever done. When they built the [current] synagogue, they had to decide who was going to sit where – it was incredibly controversial – and they chose my grandfather to chair that committee, I think because of his personality; it was very hard to get upset with my grandfather. He was a very quiet man but did a hell of a job getting everyone their seats and it's still where everyone sits today.

"Granddaddy Sidney [Lasky] was as or more active at the AA. He was treasurer – for life – of the Chevra Kadisha. I think he was also given the designation of treasurer for life of the Board, and was on the Board virtually all my life.

"My father also was very involved. He was, I think, the first PTA president at Savannah Hebrew Day School. He was involved on the JEA Board becoming First Vice President, and he was very active at AA synagogue, serving as President and as treasurer of the Chevra Kadisha. They've now asked me to take on that position so that there will be three generations – my grandfather, my dad and me – as treasurer of the Chevra Kadisha, the first time that has ever happened.

"The other factor that allowed me to do all that I have done, which I also saw modeled in my grandpar-

ents and parents, is my wonderful wife Stacy. Anytime someone takes on a leadership role, there are many responsibilities at home that fall on the spouse. Stacy was always my biggest supporter and always encouraged me to take on these leadership positions. She was my rock and was the person I leaned on when I came home excited or aggravated after a meeting. Yes, I was in the leadership positions, but she was right there side-by-side with me and I could not have done any of this without her."

Asked about his most meaningful achievements, Lasky recalled the two Long Range Planning Committees he chaired for the Savannah Jewish Federation.

"The Long Range Plans were very important, not only for what we ultimately decided to do. Some of it was right, some of it wasn't, but that's how long range plans go. But we as a community had open discussions about very difficult issues. Now things were out on the table and we were dealing with them."

Lasky was clearly moved as he talked about this last subject.

"My other great accomplishment was the preschool [JEA Preschool Savannah]. It has done everything we believed it would do and more. It has allowed us to find and nurture Jewish families and kids that otherwise I don't believe we as a community would have found.

"I'm still saddened over how some things turned out but I'm hopeful the rift that was caused by the decisions we made ultimately will one day be healed. I think we are a much better community together than we are separate but I thank God all of the organizations are thriving. So if we can get over all of the interpersonal relationships that suffered I think it would be good for the community. But the preschool is still something I take a lot of pride in. I tried very hard to make it work as one but it just did not happen.

"My parents taught me a lot of valuable lessons but the ones that made the biggest difference in my life were to always do what you think is right and always do your best. And that's been what I try and do every day; I do my best and what I believe is the right thing to do, both in my family life, professionally and for the community.

"I know my family is proud. You never know if your kids will follow in your footsteps, but I had great role models growing up and I have always tried to be a good role model for them."

Jeffrey is married to the former Stacy Faust. They have two sons, Darryl (Mindy) and Stephen.

The January 7th brunch in Jeffrey Lasky's honor will be at 10am at the JEA. After the meal, to be catered by Murray Gottlieb, a program is planned to honor Jeffrey. The cost is \$50 per person.

The Savannah Jewish Federation
Board of Governors
cordially invites you to the
**Jack Malitz Levy
Leadership Award Brunch**

honoring
Jeffrey W. Lasky

*for a lifetime of leadership, dedication, and love for the
Savannah Jewish community*

Sunday, January Seventh
Ten o'clock in the morning
Jewish Educational Alliance
\$50 per person

*The Jack Malitz Levy Award is the highest honor the
Savannah Jewish community bestows upon its leaders*

Food prepared and served by Murray Gottlieb and staff

RSVP: (912) 355-8111

Savannah Jewish News

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SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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Letters to the Editor

Letters should be no more than 250 words.

The *Savannah Jewish News* is a community paper. We request that letters be civil and considerate in tone. Letters may not contain personal attacks, random attacks on businesses or defamation. All statements of facts must be verifiable.

The *Savannah Jewish News* retains full and sole discretion as to which letters to publish. All letters may be edited for length, clarity or factual content. The opinions expressed are always the writer's.

All letters **must** include the author's full name, address and phone number (though only the name will be published).

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

Submit letters to sjnews@savj.org.

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.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Please Answer the Call

It's that time of the year in our country when people make their "end of year" contributions to organizations

that affect our community, our country, our world. There are thousands upon thousands of worthy organizations that feed, cloth, advocate, educate, and enhance the human condition.

In the "old days" we might have read about an organization in the morning or afternoon newspaper, received something in the mail, or picked up a brochure at the library, in synagogue, or at some public meeting. Often we learned about a social challenge when a community leader shared their passion about a need that they were introduced to. Today, we are inundated with information—computer appeals, text fundraisers, pop-ups on our screens, and, of course, fake news in all its glory.

How do you know who is a worthy beneficiary?

How do you know if your money is being spent wisely?

How do you know that your intention is being honored?

How much of your money is going to the cause that you intended?

The difficulty in answering all these questions, and more, has

brought up the rise of charity evaluators... organizations that closely monitor nonprofits' processes, procedures, use of funds, effectiveness, and transparency. The two most influential of those sites are Guidestar and Charity Navigator. Both of these sites cull information from publically available 990 forms and use it to evaluate and report information about the mission, legitimacy, impact, reputation, finances, programs, transparency, governance, and more of nonprofits. *(The IRS Form 990 is the reporting form that many federally tax-exempt organizations must file with the IRS each year. This form allows the IRS and the general public to evaluate a nonprofit's operations; it includes information on the nonprofit's mission, programs, and finances.)*

The Savannah Jewish Federation is proud to be among the top 10% of all nonprofits in the United States. Our Charity Navigator overall rating is 94.03 which makes us one of the top 5 in the U.S. And just as importantly, our rating for Accountability and Transparency is 100%. In today's day and age, our donors expect—no, make that demand—to understand the efficiency and meaning of their donation. We are proud to have "zero" deficiencies in this area.

For generations, the Federation

Annual Campaign has been the engine that funds social services, education, rescue and relief, local programming, and our commitment to our traditional overseas partners, the Jewish

"Who among us has not been affected by Federation-sponsored programs or direct services?"

Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Through these agencies we literally have rescued millions of

Jews, delivering them to Israel from hostile governments, anti-Semitism, and poverty. We have done what no other people have done... and we continue to do it today.

Locally, who among us has not been affected by Federation-sponsored programs or direct services? Sometimes I have to even remind myself... 140-plus young adults have travelled to Israel through our support of Birthright Israel. The program was not financed by Hillel at your student's college; it was you and me... PJ Library sends Jewish-themed books and tapes to children in our community from age 6 months to 13 years of age—month in and month out, creating Jewish discussions and experiences in the home. And, for the last two years, we have had many social/educational programs to fur-

ther engage those participating families... We fund dozens of programs at SCAD through our campus ambassador program and Hillel... We underwrite and provide programs like Holocaust Remembrance, Purim, Chanukah, and Sukkot family gatherings... And of course, the Federation Annual Community Campaign makes the JEA and all its programs possible. Quite frankly, without the Federation's support, the JEA would not exist.

Bringing it all back around... this is the time of the year where many of us make our commitment of support to worthy and needy organizations. This is the time of year when your phone will ring with a call from one of your friends or neighbors asking for your support of the Savannah Jewish Community Annual Campaign. It's not a robo call, it's not a hired agency, it's someone you know or might know in the community reaching out, friend to friend, neighbor to neighbor, to raise those essential funds that make our Jewish community run.

Please answer the call and give generously, knowing that your gift makes a difference, locally, nationally, around the world, and in Israel.

Please answer the call and give generously, knowing that your funds are being used efficiently and with great meaning.

Please answer the call. We are counting on you.



Allan Ratner
President
Savannah Jewish
Federation

A Job for Super Heroes

What a great campaign kick-off we had at the end of October! Attendance was HUGE! A group of super heroes — Superman

Paul Kulbersh, Wonder Woman

Harriet Kulbersh, Spiderman Harvey Lebos, AfikoMan Matthew Allan, Batgirl Linda Sacks, and me, Captain America — came to the JEA to spearhead the 2018 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Community Campaign.

Even though we just started, we already have raised almost \$500,000. In just two weeks! The response from our community is heartwarming. But now the hard work begins.

If you haven't already given to the 2018 Campaign, when you are called, please be a super hero, too, and give generously. We are fortunate because we have had so many new

and successful programs in Savannah, but as a result we require additional resources to fuel their growth. Most of our new financial commitments are for local programs that help build the future of our Jewish community.



Savannah Jewish Federation 2018
Annual Campaign Super Heroes

Our community is what is so important to us all. BBYO Connect, BBYO, PJ Library, Hillel, Young Jewish Savannah, the JEA, are all growing, and along with that growth comes a need for additional funding.

Unfortunately, there are other areas where needs are growing, too. Jewish Family Services and hurricane relief funding are two areas where the need continues to grow, and we must have financial support available to support those

in need. We cannot allow any of our brethren to fall thru the cracks. We must keep our social service funding at a level that makes it possible for us to provide emergency relief whenever it is needed.

This will be my only column that addresses fundraising, so again, I ask that you please give generously. Many times when we ask for a contribution to Federation, we are told, "Put me down for the same as last year." Please remember, "the same as last year" will not allow us to continue to fund all our growing programs at the level you have come to expect from your Federation.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support.

Learning to Lead

by Jordan Jaffie

This summer I was fortunate enough to go on the BBYO summer experience called CLTC. CLTC is a 12-day experience where Jewish teens learn how to become better leaders for their BBYO chapters at home and in their communities.

I had the option to attend CLTC at Bethany College in Bethany, WV, but I chose to go to a session that took place at Camp Beber in Mukwonago, WI. As someone who has never attended a sleepaway camp, I was excited to get a camp-like experience at Beber.

When I arrived in the Milwaukee airport, I was greeted by not only CLTC staff, but the people that would eventually become some of my best friends. We were all very excited to be going to CLTC, and most of our conversations that day reflected this.

On our first night at Beber we were split into our mock chapters. These were groups of around 12 that were similar to our BBYO chapters at home. Working with these mock chapters was great practice for when we returned home. I had many opportunities to practice leadership, such as planning a havdalah service for the entire CLTC community on Shabbat, or simply leading Birkat at lunch time. The encouraging environment at CLTC was clear from the first day; being a relatively shy person, I was surprised by my willingness to volunteer and share in front of my CLTC community.

Most days at CLTC began with

rotations that were lead by the leadership staff. We learned many different things, like how to give feedback, what types of leaders we were, and how to be better public speakers. These lessons are not only helpful in BBYO, but are also useful in life.

One of my main takeaways from my experience at CLTC was how to present myself as a strong and confident leader. This is very beneficial, as I will be serving my chapter

this year as N'siah (President) and my council as Mazkirah/Gizborit (secretary/treasurer).

By the end of my CLTC experience, I was sad to leave. I am so glad I went to CLTC. I made many new friends, and I cannot wait to see them again at International Convention. I talk to my CLTC friends almost every day and I agree with everyone who says CLTC is the best 12 days of your life. Through CLTC, I feel like I have grown as not only a leader, but as a person. I am looking forward to attending ILTC next summer.

Jordan Jaffie, 15, is a sophomore at St. Andrews School. She is N'siah (president) of Savannah's Wexler Clark BBG and the daughter of Monique and Jeff Jaffie. BBYO is a pluralistic Jewish teen movement; for more information, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator, at engagement@savj.org or (912) 355-8111, or visit www.bbyo.org.



Jordan Jaffie, second from left, with some of her CLTC friends

LETTERS

T O T H E E D I T O R

To the Editor:

My thanks to Lynn Levine and the SJN for writing such a beautiful article about the very special Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation (SJN, November 2017). Although small and rural, we had a full time Rabbi and our Conservative education was somewhat limited but still thorough and meaningful. The membership was committed to providing a Jewish education and Jewish presence for their children and they were successful. We're still returning and the promise we have to the Synagogue and to each other is to keep the Synagogue viable for as long as Jews are present.

If you would like to visit or learn more about Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation, please contact Penson or Claudia Kaminsky at kamolive@windstream.net (email) or by phone at 229-423-9280.

Sincerely,
Paul Kulbersh

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

We are writing to express our appreciation for your contribution to the Anti-Defamation League. We want to thank you for supporting our efforts to build on our legacy of fighting hatred and bigotry against the Jewish people and all others who are targets of discrimination.



It's hard to believe that even in 2017, the demonization of "others" runs deep. Jews, African-Americans, Latinos, Muslims and members of the LGBTQ community continue to be subjected to hate speech and hate crimes. Hatred is rooted in ignorance and fears. We make assumptions about others who are different and fear what is alien to us. The Anti-Defamation League works daily to teach people to embrace differences and celebrate diversity.

Since 1913, ADL's mission is the same: "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people...and to secure justice and fair treatments for all." Rooted in Jewish tradition and values, ADL calls for a society in which all communities are granted equal rights and freedom from discrimination. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to continue our broad programming, bridge-building, and advocacy efforts.

Thank you again, for confirming your commitment to ADL and our dream of a world without hate.

Allison Padilla-Goodman
Regional Director



Looking for something to do?

Check the Community Calendar at

www.savj.org

Exciting programs are added regularly,
check for new events each week!



Downtown 912.233.1163 • Oglethorpe Mall 912.238.2120
St. Johns Town Center, Jacksonville 904.527.2643
levyjewelers.com

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Hospital

As part of the 2017 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation reapproved the Overseas Investment Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 investment grants. We are pleased to introduce to you the grant recipients.

In 2006, the Second Lebanon War changed the rules of engagement—for the first time there were more casualties for civilians than for military personnel. Also, for the first time, doctors at Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa were forced to treat patients while under fire.

As missiles from Lebanon landed dangerously close to Rambam's facilities, the hospital's leadership made a bold decision. Never again would the safety of patients and staff be placed at risk from enemy attack.

In 2014, Rambam inaugurated the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Hospital – a 2,000-bed, fully equipped medical facility – the largest of its kind in the world.



Patient bays at the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Hospital

Serving in peacetime as an underground parking lot, within 72 hours the **Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Hospital** converts to provide essential medical services during both conventional and non-conventional attacks. Its three floors are equipped and ready to house operating rooms, delivery rooms, an intensive care unit, a dialysis center, and a large decontamination center for treating patients exposed to non-conventional weaponry. However, the underground hospital still is in the process of equipping itself for full capacity.

The overseas investment grant will help with Rambam's needs for hospital beds, equipment, and supplies, as well as fortified data and command centers that will ensure the underground hospital's ability to function fully during emergency situations.

Camp Barney Info Meeting

Camp Barney Medintz, the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta's (MJCCA) summer resident camp, will hold its Fall Information Session on Sunday, December 3rd at 1pm at the Jewish Educational Alliance. To RSVP, go to Camp Barney Medintz's Facebook page and click "Going" to the Event created for Savannah.

Camp Barney Directors will meet with prospective families, and answer questions about its 56th summer camp season in 2018. Camp Barney staff will present a musical media presentation, and refreshments

will be provided. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains in north Georgia, Camp Barney is situated on 540 wooded acres surrounding two lakes, just 75 miles northeast of Atlanta.

For boys and girls completing 2nd – 10th grade, Camp Barney offers two-week and four-week sessions. For more information about the two- and four-week options, or staff opportunities, visit campbarney.org; email summer@campbarney.org, or contact the Camp Barney office in Atlanta at 678-812-3844.



Savannah campers at Camp Barney Medintz

On the Personal Side

Mazel tov to... Eric Homansky, who was selected as the 2017 GAPERD (Georgia Physical Education Recreation and Dance) elementary physical education *Teacher of the Year* for the state of Georgia. Eric was chosen for his performance as an educator, role model and community leader and his dedication to his students, peers and professional organizations. He is employed by the Cobb County Public Schools in Smyrna. Eric is the son of Anita Homansky and the late Larry Homansky.



CELEBRATING A
Simcha?

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Engagements
Weddings
Births

We Want To Know!

Share your good news
with the
Savannah Jewish News!
Send the vital statistics to

sjnews@savj.org



**There are many
options for
charitable giving
when you do your
estate planning**



Thoughtful estate planning is one means to assure that you will provide for your family, your community and the Jewish people whenever help is needed in the future.

There are a variety of options that will allow you to create a plan that reflects your Jewish values, matching specific philanthropic objectives with the ongoing work of our Jewish Federation, the needs of the community today and the anticipated opportunities of tomorrow.

For more information and to explore options for creating your lasting Jewish legacy, please contact Adam Solender at adam@savj.org or (912) 355-8111.



Savannah Jewish Federation





Hope for Metastatic Cancer Cure

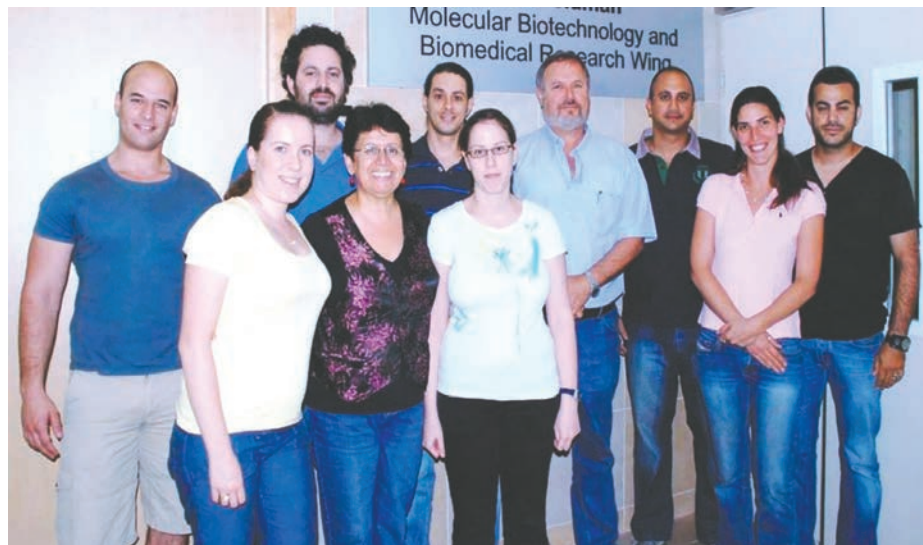
Professor Uri Nir, of the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences at Bar-Ilan University, and his team have made a significant discovery in their work with cancer cells. In research published in October in the journal *Nature Communications*, they announced findings that could lead to treatments to prevent the metastasis (spreading) of a cancer from its point of origin.

Nir and his team discovered FerT, an enzyme in the mitochondria of cancer cells not found in those of normal cells (mitochondria are the “power generators” of a cell). As metastatic cancer cells break free from their primary tumors, they face environments lacking nutrients, such as glucose, they need to survive and grow. The cells depend on FerT to spur the cancer’s mitochondria into high gear to produce energy when their environment lacks the necessary metabolic components for survival. FerT does this in one other human cell that must survive outside its place of origin: sperm.

“Like metastatic cells, sperm cells are unique in that they can also generate energy under very harsh conditions. Once they have entered the female birth canal, where there is no blood supply for them, they produce and expend enormous amounts of energy under very extreme or abnormal conditions,” explains Nir. “We found that very aggressive metastatic cancer cells looked for and identified this sperm-specific protein, learned how to produce it, and harnessed it in order to potentiate their mitochondria and produce energy under very harsh conditions.”

Using this information, Nir’s team developed a compound they called E260, which was tested in cultures and mice with metastatic tumors. E260 would enter the metastatic cells and then the mitochondria, where it bonded to FerT and disrupted the enzyme’s energy-generating activity to such a degree that the mitochondria effectively shut down.

Metastatic cells are known to be particularly stubborn and able to



Professor Uri Nir (fourth from right) and his lab team. Photo courtesy of Bar-Ilan University

detect damage to their mitochondria — even able to take steps to repair themselves. However, Nir found that when E260 attacked the FerT, the cells did not have the energy necessary to both repair mitochondrial function and maintain other cell processes at the same time, resulting in cell death.

“We have treated mice with metastatic cancer and this compound

completely cured them with no adverse or toxic effect that we can see. We have also checked several normal cells and they are not affected,” Nir said.

Nir and his team hope to begin E260 Phase I clinical trials within the next 18 months.

Next Stop... First Station

Originally opened in 1892 as the Jerusalem Railway Station—the terminus of the Jaffa-Jerusalem railway line—what’s known today as the First Station no longer is a working railroad station but instead is a popular destination for locals and tourists in Jerusalem. The station is a family favorite during the day and is known for its nightlife after dark.

The last train pulled out in 1998 and the station remained mostly shuttered until it reopened in 2013 as a dining and entertainment complex, with gourmet restaurants, cafes, boutiques, and event spaces for concerts, performances and even pilates classes. The First Station also hosts exhibitions, including a permanent one about its history.

The First Station is located between Jerusalem’s Old City and City



Diners enjoy their meals on the platform where the trains used to arrive at the First Station

Center, near the neighborhoods of the German Colony and Yemin Moshe. The station adjoins the Train Track Park, a 4.3-mile walking and cycling path built on the original route of the old Jaffa-Jerusalem train tracks. First Station is open seven days a week. For more information, see firststation.co.il/en/.

It was in the Mail

A main post office in Israel’s central region city of Modiin was the site of a break-in and vandalism last month. It was presumed that the burglars were after a treasure trove of packages in the facility as a result of Israelis taking advantage of early, on-line holiday shopping bargains. But the heist was interrupted by security guards and it was unclear if anything actually was stolen.

The post office serves as a central package sorting office and police found hundreds of packages torn open with their contents strewn about. Workers tried to reconstruct as many packages

as possible; the remainder of the items were documented and cataloged.

As in the U.S., online shopping has become very popular in Israel, especially as people there look to other sources to beat high local prices. The postal system was in the process of preparing for the annual holiday spike in online shopping by bargain-hunting Israelis.

The targeted postal center is a new facility; it was only two months old when the break-in occurred. It cost \$28 million and uses a high-tech automated system to sort and scan packages before labeling them for delivery around the country.





The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:

CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

December 2017



Children's Programming

WINTER BREAK - DECEMBER 18TH-JANUARY 2ND

Don't forget to bring a bathing suit, towel and lunch. Days full of fun games, friends, sports, art, crafts, field trips and more!

Winter dates available now!
To register, email kids@savj.org. For a complete schedule of activities, visit savannahjea.org



Dates: 12/18 - 12/22; 12/26 - 12/29
01/02; 01/15

Cost: Member Value Price
\$35.00 - 1st child / \$33.00 - 2nd child
Non Members
\$45.00 - 1st child / \$43.00 - 2nd child

Ages: Pre-K - 8th Grade



SATURDAY NIGHT OUT

ENJOY A NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN WHILE THE KIDS ARE HAVING FUN! YOUR CHILD WILL ENGAGE IN THEME ACTIVITIES, SNACKS, MOVIES, AND BUILD STRONG FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHER CHILDREN FROM THE COMMUNITY. PROGRAM IS OPEN TO CHILDREN FOUR YEARS OLD - 5TH GRADE. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY THE THURSDAY PRIOR.

Saturday, December 9th, 6:00-10:00 pm

JEA Member: \$25 single child or \$45 family

Non-Member: \$30 single child or \$55 family



Dec. 9 - Monster Mash - Campers must work together to locate the materials needed to stop the beast loose in the JEA. Be careful - it might just be a fellow camper! Snacks will be provided.

Registration forms are available at the JEA front desk & at savannahjea.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 2:00 pm to 4:00 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.

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 10/12/17-11/6/17)

Gwendolyn Broxton
Daniel & Ann Cooper
Noelle Guri & Mickelle Santangelo
Thomas Hedrick, Jr.
Jill Kinnear
Joseph Lindsey & Theone Karatassos
David & Patricia Seanor
Paul Sunderland
Julie Williams

JEA Donations

(October 12, 2017-November 6, 2017)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of June Arkin
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt

JEA BUILDING FUND

In honor of Kaye & Don Kole
Arlene & Allan Ratner

JEA GENERAL DONATION

A donation by
Maryanne & Thomas Hedrick

BERTHA & HYMIE KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Pearl Friedenber
In honor of Herb Sanders
Sally & Steve Greenberg
In honor of Harvey Kanter
Regina Platock
In honor of Herb Sanders
Regina Platock & Harvey Kanter
Harriet Konter

JEA FITNESS FUND

In honor of Geri Greenberg
Betty Lasky

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Madeline Rubin
Elise & Victor Shernoff



Food For Thought

Join us each Thursday at 12:30pm

November 30 Climate Change
Bob Schwartz

December 7 Historic Chanukah Story
Kelsey Bankert

December 14 Israel Update
Motti Locker

December 21 Visit from JEA Preschool

December 28 Short Films Presentation

January 4 Autism in Our Community
Patti Victor

January 11 HeartBeats for Life
Jeffrey Adams

January 18 Serendipity in Medicine
Linda Sacks

Visit with old friends and meet new ones, and enjoy a delicious lunch for only \$5,
followed by an educational speaker or performer.
Don't forget to make your reservation at the JEA desk or by calling 355-8111.

The FIESTAval of Lights

Community Chanukah Celebration



Tuesday, December 12—5:00 - 7:00 PM

\$5 a person or \$15 a family

**Please bring socks or hygiene products to donate!*



pi Library

Menorah Lighting Latke Bar Games
Crafts Dance Party & More!





Health & Wellness

Improving Balance



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

In the ever-changing world of fitness, balance training seems to be a point of discussion more and more. Balance is the ability to distribute your weight in a way that enables you to hold a steady position or move at will without falling. Poor balance is a contributing factor to falls. According to the National Council on Aging, falls represent the leading cause for fatal and non-fatal injuries in older Americans.

The good news is that balance can be improved, and the pool is the perfect place to train. Because the water's buoyancy and resistance helps to support the body, exercises can be done without the fear of falling.

What are some exercises you can do to improve your balance? Check these out:

- Gait Training is simply walking practice. Typically, people who are afraid of falling may shorten their stride or resort to shuffling to keep their feet close the ground. The goal of gait training is to lengthen the stride and improve confidence while walking. Try walk-

ing forward and backward in the pool to start with, and as you get more comfortable, try to walk sideways or in random patterns.

- Core Strength Training targets the postural muscles of the trunk. Reduced core strength affects posture, which may cause difficulty with walking. Try a couple of these movements in the pool to improve core strength:
 - o Jumping jacks
 - o Spinal rotations
 - o Wide-leg jogging
- Deep Water Exercise is performed in water that allows the swimmer to remain vertical without the feet touching the bottom, typically with the use of a floatation device. These movements functionally train the core and help to improve posture. Some of these exercises include:
 - o Flutter kicking
 - o Bicycling the legs in a forward direction
 - o Jogging
 - o Seated swirl

For assistance with any of these exercises or for questions on how else the pool can help improve balance, contact Kirby Southerland at aquatics@savj.org.

New Fitness Classes this Month



Kathy Ackerman
Fitness Director

You've heard the term 'Cross Training.' If you want to experience cross training at its best, then check out our new, exciting Fitness Classes.

Cross training can strengthen your heart and your muscles. It can also make you more agile, which can help prevent injuries.

H.I.I.T. It Hard Wednesdays, 6:00-6:40 pm

Beginning December 6th (6-6:40 pm), join us for a Tabata workout designed to challenge your body! Tabata is a popular form of H.I.I.T. (high intensity interval training) that consists of eight rounds of six to eight exercises done for 20 seconds with a ten-second rest. Short and sweaty, studies have shown Tabata training to be one of the most effective methods to burn fat and build muscle at the same time.



This class is designed for those looking to take their endurance to the next level, and may not be suitable for everyone because of how challenging it is. Modifications for moves will be given, but the intervals are set.

Sunrise Circuit

Tuesday and Thursday Mornings, 6:15-7:00 am

Beginning December 5th, kick start your day in a fun, energetic group setting.

Circuit training is a fast-paced, body-conditioning workout method that combines several strength training and high-intensity aerobic exercises to create a circuit.

The class will consist of Cardiovascular, Strength and Agility training stations. The number of stations will change - some days four, some days five, six or even eight.

For variety, the class may sometimes be held in the Fitness Room and use its equipment or it may move outside.



Fitness Classes

Sunday

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



Monday

8:45 am - Firm It Up
9:45 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:45 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:15 pm - Fast & Fit
6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

Tuesday

6:15 am - Sunrise Circuit
9:15 am - Power Pilates
10:00 am - SilverSneakers Splash
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:45 pm - Shimmy Chic
7:00 pm - Aikido



Wednesday

8:45 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
10:30 am - Silver Step
4:30 pm - Fast & Fit
6:00 pm - H.I.I.T



Thursday

6:15 am - Sunrise Circuit
9:15 am - Barre Sculpt Express
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:15 pm - Fast & Fit
7:00 pm - Aikido



Friday

8:45 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Yoga Stretch

You will spend a pre-determined time at each station before continuing to the next one.

Stations will feature medicine balls, kettle bells, dumbbells, resistance bands, jump ropes, cones (zig-zagging for agility) jumping jacks, lunges and more.

You will be able to go at your own endurance pace, making it your workout.

Be ready to burn some calories, tone some muscles and wake up your body and mind!!

Whether you want to HIIT it hard, or you're looking to get in shape in a very social setting, these two new classes could be perfect for you. If you have any question please contact Kat Ackerman at 355-8111 or fitness@savj.org.



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now 2017-18 School Year

- Enrollment for our 2017-2018 Pre-school Year is open for 3 and 4-yr olds!
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

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



JEA Preschool Savannah will host an open house for prospective families on

**Wednesday, January 10th, 2018
at 10:00am**

- ◇ Tour the beautiful facilities
- ◇ Meet the dynamic teachers
- ◇ Receive Registration Information for Summer and Fall

Kindly RSVP by calling or emailing us at 912-355-8111 ext. 216 or preschool@savj.org



JEA Preschool Savannah admits students of any race, color, national, racial or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

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



December

in the JEA Art Gallery

Bob Friedman

Bob Friedman is a Savannah sculptor and painter. The former administrator and professor of sociology at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, Friedman came to his new avocation in 1997, when he attended a 'primitive firing' led by the late raku artist, Hal Riegger. (Raku is a type of Janese pottery traditionally used in tea ceremonies.) Soon thereafter, he attended courses in hand building and the wheel at Savannah's Armstrong Atlantic State University and expanded his horizons further with workshops at the Penland School of Arts, Penland, North Carolina; Arrowmont at Gatlinburg, Tennessee; Odyssey Center for the Arts, Asheville, North Carolina; the Salmagundi Club and Greenwich House in New York City. He is presently studying figurative sculpture at the renowned Art Students League in New York City.

Primarily self-taught as a painter, he began his studies under the tutelage of Savannah-based Sandra Branam.

From 2005 to 2008, he exhibited his works regularly at Chroma Gallery in Savannah. Since that time, he has also participated in juried shows in Georgia and New York. He maintains studios both in Putnam Valley, New York, as well as Savannah. His works are on permanent exhibit at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, and may be also found in private collections throughout the United States, Europe and Israel.

All proceeds from sales from this art show are being donated to the JEA.

Artwork available for viewing December 1-31, 2017

Join us for the Art Gallery Reception December 7th, 5:30-8 pm



JEA Art Shows

Are you an artist? Would you like to show your work in the JEA Art Gallery?

We feature artists from many different genres: oil painters, water colorists, sculptors, photographers, potters, quilters, textiles, mixed media, wood sculpture, mosaics and more!

Each show lasts an entire month and you may choose to have an opening reception. There's no charge to use our space, but we do ask for a small percentage of anything sold.

Having a show at the JEA is a great way to have your work seen, and to help your community.

Please contact Vicky at vicky@savj.org to inquire about available months for your show!



Sunday, December 17th, Celebrate the Chanukah season and be part of JCCs of North America Cycle for Good while raising money to benefit Backpack Buddies.

Participants across North America will be riding at the same time, cycling for a good cause and their own wellness.

We will meet at Tom Triplett Park on Hwy. 80 in Pooler. The time for our ride is 11am-12 pm. All ages are welcome to participate and we ask for a minimum \$10 donation.

Contact Kat for more information: fitness@savj.org or 912-355-8111, ext. 223.

Join the JEA

Join the JEA and you will be glad you did when you take advantage of our special member pricing, FREE classes and events! The JEA provides many different types of memberships to accommodate everyone.

Types of Membership include:

- Family Plans
- Couple Plans
- Senior Plans
- Young Family Plans
- Individual Plans
- Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

Visit us at 5111 Abercorn Street or online at www.SavannahJEA.org for more information!



Savannah Jewish FILM FESTIVAL 2018

January 24 - February 3

WED
JAN
24



6:00 PM | OPENING NIGHT
Hors D'oeuvres & Cocktails

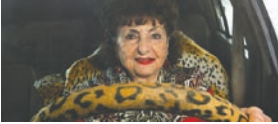
7:00 PM | FILM

THE TESTAMENT

Yoel discovers his mother carries a false identity. A mystery inspired by true events about a man who is willing to risk everything to discover the truth.

(Drama, 88 min | Hebrew)

THURS
JAN
25



12:30 PM | LUNCH
1:30 PM | FILM

BIG SONIA

A national treasure, Holocaust survivor, and diva, Sonia Warshawski, has just been served an eviction notice for her popular tailor shop in suburban Kansas City.

(Documentary, 93 min | English)

THURS
JAN
25



6:00 PM | DINNER
7:00 PM | FILM

CUBA'S

FORGOTTEN JEWELS

Marion escaped war torn Europe as a young girl with her family, evading Nazi capture and crossing the Atlantic to a tropical paradise.

(Documentary, 46 min | English)

SAT
JAN
27



7:30 PM | DESSERT RECEPTION
8:15 PM | FILM

MENASHE

In New York's Hasidic community, a good-hearted but hapless grocery clerk, struggles against tradition to keep custody of his son after his wife passes away.

(Drama, 88 min | Yiddish)



SUN
JAN
28



6:00 PM | DINNER
7:00 PM | FILM

PAST LIFE

Two sisters, the daughters of Holocaust survivors, investigate a taboo topic: the mystery of their difficult father's experiences in Poland during World War II.

(Mystery/Thriller 110 min | Hebrew)

TUES
JAN
30



6:00 PM | DINNER
7:00 PM | FILM

THE 90 MINUTE WAR

After decades of strife and failed peace talks, both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict decide to settle their differences on a soccer field in this bold satire.

(Narrative, 84 min | various languages)

THURS
FEB
1



12:30 PM | LUNCH, 1:30 PM | FILM

IN OUR HANDS:

THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM

The story of Israel's 55th Paratrooper Brigade and how Israel Defense Forces risked everything for the sake of their homeland. Includes firsthand interviews and historical reenactments.

(Documentary, 109 min | English)

THURS
FEB
1



6:00 PM | DINNER, 7:00 PM | FILM

THE WEDDING PLAN

When her fiancé bows out on the eve of her wedding, Michal refuses to cancel the wedding arrangements. An Orthodox Jew, she insists that God will supply her a husband in this hilarious, romantic comedy.

(Comedy, 110 min | Hebrew)

SAT
FEB
3



7:30 PM | DESSERT RECEPTION
8:15 PM | FILM

THE WOMEN'S BALCONY

When a charismatic rabbi enters their lives, some women in Jerusalem attempt to unite their neighborhood and preserve their traditions as they speak truth to patriarchal powers.

(Drama/Comedy, 96 min | Hebrew)

Savannah Jewish Film Festival Ticket Info

FULL FESTIVAL MOVIE ONLY PASS Includes Opening Reception

Community Members: \$100

JEA Members: \$80

OPENING RECEPTION & MOVIE

Community Members: \$22

JEA Members: \$18

Meals must be reserved 2 days in advance.

SINGLE MOVIE TICKET

Community Members: \$10

JEA Members: \$8

DINNER & MOVIE TICKET

Community Members: \$24

JEA Members: \$20

LUNCH & MOVIE TICKET

Community Members: \$15

JEA Members: \$13

MEALS MUST BE RESERVED 2 DAYS IN ADVANCE

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Platinum: \$750.00

(4) Full Festival Movie Passes

(4) Full Festival Meal Passes

(4) Opening Reception Passes

Silver: \$425.00

(4) Full Festival Movie Passes

(4) Opening Reception Passes

Gold: \$450.00

(2) Full Festival Movie Passes

(2) Full Festival Meal Passes

(2) Opening Reception Passes

Bronze: \$225.00

(2) Full Festival Movie Passes

(2) Opening Reception Passes



All movies screened at the Jewish Educational Alliance: 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah, GA 31405.
All meals are kosher, not under supervision. Certified sealed kosher meals are available upon request.
For information about becoming a sponsor, please call 912.355.8111 or email programming@savj.org.



Hadassah Conference January 6 & 7**Experience Hadassah
in Savannah
at****Southeastern Regional
Conference!****Joanna Rich**

Rich in Culture
Rich in Jewish history
Rich in

**HADASSAH**

**Savannah's own Joanna Rich will be
Installed as SE Regional President**

Jan. 7th 12:30 to 2PM

Havdalah, National Guests, Ice Cream Social,
Hadassah Programming, Kumzitz, Tours,
Exotic & Jewish Bazaar, Luncheon,
June Arkin Memorial Gift Presentation,
Hadassah Associates & Male Guests welcomed
On Sunday at Installation luncheon

EZ Registration and Volunteering:

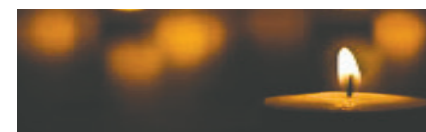
Email or call "Registrar Carol" for full schedule.

MStarArts@gmail.com or 912-352-1238**Savannah Hadassah member prices:**

- **\$20** inclusive-- All meals & events
- **\$18** Sunday Installation Luncheon only
- **\$10** discount to all volunteers
- **Weekend Free** to new life members
- SC members ask about **ride share**

Deadline RSVP 12/11 by check to "Hadassah"

Also 12/11 deadline for Hadassah donations for

June Arkin Savannah Hadassah Memorial Gift**Condolences***We express our sympathy to the families of:***Lena Feldman Solomon**

Who died November 11, 2017

She is survived by her son, Harold (Milly) Solomon; her daughter, Sydney (Steven) Ratnow; and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel Solomon.

Remembrances: Jewish Educational Alliance, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.

June Alper Arkin

Who died October 28, 2017

She is survived by her husband, Murray Arkin; her children; David and Eva Arkin, Lawrence and Lisa Arkin, and Jonathan and Marilyn Arkin; and eight grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brother, Melvin Alper.

Remembrances: The Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011; or Hadassah, P.O. Box 1100, New York, NY 10268-1100.

**The Savannah Jewish Federation
Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors****JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES
FUND***In honor of Doris Klugman*

Sara Jospin

TIKVAH FUND*In memory of Phyllis Finn**In honor of Julian Weitz*

Arlene & Allan Ratner

MADELINE H. RICHMAN FUND*In honor of Jamie & Steven Richman*

Mr. & Mrs. Logvin

CECEILE RICHMAN FUND*In memory of Jonathan Levy*

Arlene & Allan Ratner

**AM & JOHN W. GOLDKRAND
SAVANNAH HEALTHCARE
FUND***In honor of AM Goldkrand*

Scott Cohen

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

TIME TO ORDER MAH JONGG CARDS!

Attention Mah Jongg Players! It's time to order your 2018 Mah Jongg cards. The standard card is \$8.00; the large card is \$9.00. *The deadline for placing orders is January 15, 2018.* Make checks payable to the Agudath Achim Sisterhood and send to:

Judy Todtfeld
23 Sundew Rd.
Savannah, GA 31411

No extra cards will be ordered after January 15th;
be sure to place your order on time!
For additional information, contact Judy at (912) 598-1161.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Shine the Lights on the Truth

It seems like a roller coaster in school. So much going on – new students joining the RDS family and the students working hard and playing hard.

But in the midst of it all, there is one idea of which both teachers and parents need to be aware; and that is the real character of our students/children. We are very quick to excuse our children's behaviors because that's what parents should do right? Protect their children. And we are very quick to blame society, and media for our children's behaviors and yet, if it is our child whom we think is a target for other's being mean – no excuse in the world is good enough. We want the situation dealt with.

We as parents need to take a really close look at our children; an honest look. An unbiased look. We can blame media and society and on and on... And I ask you to answer these questions. Who is allowing our children to watch the media? Be exposed to Facebook? Who's not paying attention to the way our children speak to each other?

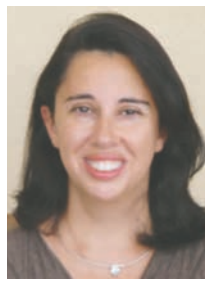
A mother emailed me and told me that for a Chanukah gift, her daughter asked if she could find her a friend. Now that's a heart breaker.

No matter how many programs Rambam has on bullying and how many classes and discussions we have about how kids should treat each other and no matter how many school projects we involve children in where they learn about team work, kindness, giving, respect,

tolerance... We are up against what parents allow. The way children speak to their parents, the way parents defend their children as if they do no wrong – these are hard battles for us to win. Rambam Day School is inundated in character building. And you know what? We will keep working on these lessons diligently because we won't give up no matter the odds. However, parents need to look with clarity at what they are exposing their children to and decide, are we going to work with our child's school or see how challenging we can make their job? In the end, who suffers the most? Our own child? The other child? Or both?

The real gift of Chanukah is not the latest piece of technology. During the time of the First Temple in Jerusalem, holiness and prophecy were found everywhere. You could actually see miracles manifested before your eyes. During the Second Temple (when the history of Chanukah took place) there was no prophecy and no Holy Ark in the Temple, but the strength of our people was seen in our unity. We cared for each other. We cried for one another. It was when we reached the new low of petty bickering, humiliating and eventually even hating one another that we forfeited our Divine grace. Our oneness was lost and our magnificent Temple eventually destroyed.

Our Sages teach us that by loving one another again we have the power to bring redemption and see the Temple rebuilt. Rambam Day School hopes to assist our students in the rebuilding of the Holy Temple.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

8 Days of PR

Hanukkah is a fascinating holiday. We know the story all too well: The Jews were mistreated, revolted, and defeated the much larger and better out-

fitted Greek-Syrian army. They later found the Temple destroyed and only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. Instead it lasted eight days, and ever since there has been an eight-day celebration to proclaim the miracles.

For eight days, we light a hanukkah (different from a menorah, it has nine branches instead of the menorah's seven). We eat fried food (even so the Israeli Ministry of health has come up with a public condemnation of the traditional Suvgniot/donuts). We sing Maoz Tzur, we play dreidel and get Gelt, and often gifts are exchanged. But the real Mitzvah of Hanukkah has very little to do with all the above, the real mitzvah is to "publish" the miracle. To light candles for eight days and place the hanukkah by our window, or in a room easily viewable by the outside. The rabbinical discussion of publicizing the miracle even goes into great details as to where exactly should Hanukkah candles be lit whether one lives on a high floor or on the street level. The rabbis also mandate that the candles' light is not to be used to

provide light for any other activity, even Torah study, as the real and sole purpose is of publicizing the miracles.

We strive to make our students cherish their Jewish roots, to give them an education that will make them proud of their Jewish identity. Another way to reinforce that sense of pride is by sharing publicly our Simcha and sharing parts of our history. Opportunity for public expression of our religious identity is not common in the world we live in so we need to give our children those opportunities whenever possible. We are already placing mezuzahs on our doorways, building Sukkah in our yards and walking around in costume on Purim, but Hanukkah is the opportunity to shine even more. By lighting our Hanukkah we not only illuminate our own home with the light and warmth of Torah; Hanukkah is the opportunity to illuminate the neighborhood and the community at large. So, this Hanukkah let's be loud and bright when we light our Hanukkah by the window so all can see and all can know about the miracles of Hanukkah. So for eight days, our children can feel the strength of the Maccabees.

Wishing you a bright eight days.



Savannah Teen Weekend

January 19-21, 2018

Open to Jewish teens Grades 8 - 12 • Make New Jewish Friends from Across the Southeast • Organized Home Hospitality • Fun & Transformative Jewish Programming • Exciting Saturday Dance & Program • All Meals Included!

Cost: \$50. Registration opens November 1 at www.savj.org

For more information, contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator, at 912-355-8111 or engagement@savj.org

The Savannah Teen Weekend is made possible through support from the  Savannah Jewish Federation



Supports Local Jewish Education Scholarship Funding

You can help create scholarships for local Jewish education programs and receive a dollar-for-dollar Georgia income tax credit and a Federal tax deduction

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

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



CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

9 Lee Boulevard • Savannah GA 31405 • 912-352-4737
agudatha-achim.com
Rabbi Steven Henkin

SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday 9:45 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon
Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm, Monday 7:15 am & 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm
Friday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm



**Join us for our Hanukkah Party, Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 pm,
\$10 per person, \$25 per Family, RSVP to the AA office, 912-352-4737.**

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

We have docent-led tours of our museum available
from 10:00am - 3:30pm Monday - Friday.

For a complete schedule of services & events,
check our website at www.mickveisrael.org

*Thank
You*

MICKVE ISRAEL WOULD LIKE
TO EXTEND OUR SINCEREST
GRATITUDE TO THE
THOUSANDS OF ATTENDEES,
THE 200+ VOLUNTEERS AND
ALL THE INCREDIBLE
SPONSORS WHO HELPED
MAKE OUR 29TH ANNUAL
SHALOM Y'ALL JEWISH
FOOD FESTIVAL SUCH A
TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL'S



Hanukkah Celebration

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
DINNER AT 6PM, SERVICE AT 7PM

COST OF DINNER:

MEMBERS - \$6 PERSON / \$12 FAMILY
NON MEMBERS - \$8 PERSON / \$16 FAMILY
RSVP TO 912-233-1547

Savannah Photograph Collection

by Lindsay Resnick

The Cuba Family Archives at the Breman Museum is pleased to announce that we are beginning the process of indexing and importing the Savannah Jewish Archives General Photograph Collection onto our online catalog.

This process will provide researchers easy access to all of the photos in the General Photograph Collection on the Breman's online catalog.

Throughout the years, volunteers have generously given their time and knowledge to identify as many people as possible in each photograph, and we are adding those identifications to each of the more than 6000 photographs in the collection.

This will be a long-term project that will take time, but over the next few months, an increasing number of photographs will be available on the Breman's online collection catalog at <http://archive.thebreman.org/>.

Also, we are asking for your help! If you come across a photo with an unidentified person, and you know who that person is, please let us know so we can keep our catalog as accurate as possible.

If you have questions about this process or anything relating to the Savannah Jewish Archives, or if you are interested in donating materials to the Archives, please

contact Lindsay Resnick, archivist, at lresnick@thebreman.org.



JVM 0005: JEA Fund Drive, 1931



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



BNAI BRITH JACOB SYNAGOGUE PRESENTS

Shalom New York A Royal Crown Affair

LIVE CONCERT FEATURING

2017 BEST
LOCAL
JAZZ
BAND/ARTIST



WITH



TRAE GURLEY
2017 BEST
LOCAL
VOCALIST

KOSHER BUFFET • OPEN BAR

HI-TECH PRIZE RAFFLE

BBJ FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

SUNDAY, THE 10TH OF DECEMBER
AT 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
CONCERT AT HALF PAST 7

TICKETS: SINGLE \$150 • PAIR \$300
CORPORATE TABLE SPONSORSHIP: \$2,500
TABLE SPONSORSHIP: \$1,200

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Camp is Really Fun

by Shaina Rotker

My third year experiencing Camp Coleman was awesome. I had so much fun, making friends and trying new things. Shabbat is awesome. Everyone dresses in white and eats fried chicken, couscous, and Apple Brown Betty.

I want to go back so I can make new friends, try new things, eat really good food, and learn more about different activities and other stuff. One of my favorite things is Super Sloppy Night. We actually had a Harry Potter Super Sloppy Night! I LOVE Harry Potter! Some of the things I signed up for are arts & crafts, ceramics, archery, mountain biking, roller hockey, ropes, and campscape.

The pool and lake were also really fun. The Blob, the slide, the diving board and the trampoline were really fun. Even though basically everything was fun, the best part of camp was the friends that I made. Camp is my other home.



Shaina Rotker clowning around at Camp Coleman

My Tsofim year was really fun. Chofesh and Mandatory Optionals (mand ops for short) were really fun. The 4th of July was awesome. The song sessions at the end of Shabbat are really fun. Once or twice we do the late wake up. Making lanyards is also really fun. The maximum amount of strings that I can do are six strings. The music that my counselors play to get us up is also really good.

Services are pretty fun on Saturday morning. Tefilahpalooza is also fun, depending on where we go. Even though we will leave camp some time, our memories will always remain.

Shaina, 12, is the daughter of Amy and Bobby Rotker. Shaina went to Camp Coleman this past summer with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation made possible by your generosity during the annual Community Campaign. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewish-camp.org.



Ed Wexler, Col. USAF (retired), who was featured in Four Questions in last month's issue of the Savannah Jewish News, was officially inducted by the Veterans Council of Chatham County as their 2017-2018 Veteran of the Year. The "sashing" ceremony took place on October 29th. *Kol Hakavod* to Ed and thank you for your service!



Sign up today and receive a top-rated Jewish book or CD FREE, every month!

This is the perfect way to share time with your children, share our heritage, and learn the rich values of Judaism.

The PJ Library in Greater Savannah is available to children 6 months to 8 years old and is a gift of the Ceceile Richman JEA Fund, Jane Slotin, Nancy and Leon Slotin, the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Go to www.savj.org to register for The PJ Library. It's FREE!

9-12 years old? Sign up for PJ Our Way!



A Friendly Reminder...

The next issue of the Savannah Jewish News will be our combined January/February issue. The deadline for all submissions is December 11th. Please send all materials to sjnews@savj.org.

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Sharing Tzedakah

Noah Westreich, of Youngstown, Ohio, had been saving Israeli shekels and wanted to donate them to Tzedakah in Israel in honor of his recent Consecration at Temple El Emeth. However, no one he knew was planning a trip to Israel anytime soon. He learned that Devra Silverman, originally from his hometown,

would be going to Israel just a few days after his Consecration, as part of her Merrin Teen Fellowship Program. The two met up in Ohio this past Simchat Torah, and Noah made arrangements with Devra for his shekels to be donated to Tzedakah



Devra Silverman with Noah Westreich on Simchat Torah before joining her Merrin Teen Fellowship group in Israel

while she was in Israel.

A few days later, Devra's Merrin group visited the Shanti House, a



Devra presents Noah's shekels to the Shanti House director

kibbutz for at-risk children and teens, many of whom have suffered from emotional and physical abuse, been abandoned, or had problems with drug addiction. Children at Shanti House are given a safe, loving home, schooling and counseling, and teens receive preparation for army service and college. The Shanti House director was thrilled with Noah's donation and was very appreciative.



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

Happy or Sad Tears

During the Preschool's recent Rock and Read Book Fair event I had a conversation with a grandmother of one of our students. She and her husband had just returned from a trip abroad and had been gone for an extended time. Upon her arrival back home she was excited to see her two year old grandson. During her time away, she had engaged in all of the technology to keep them connected; FaceTime, What's App, and Skype.

When she arrived home she immediately went to see her grandson. The minute the child saw her, he began to cry. Grandmother was taken aback. What had she done? Why was he sad to see her? She thought he would be happy seeing her after she'd been gone so long.

I began to share with her what I had learned from a recent webinar that my teachers and I participated in as part of the JCC Sheva Learning Pro-

gram. The webinar was entitled *The Long Goodbye-Separation in Early Childhood Classrooms* with Susan Glaser.

I had learned that separation is a process and can be an extremely emotional experience at any age. Her grandson was crying because it was so emotional for him to see her. This was his way of expressing himself. Often times at preschool we also see children crying or bursting into tears when they see their parents at the end of a long day. Emotions can be very strong, even in the very youngest child.

So the next time your child begins to cry when you think it doesn't make very much sense know that it could just be their way of expressing strong emotions within them.

As the Chanukah and winter holidays are drawing closer, many families may be traveling to see loved ones or may have friends visiting them.

These separation ideas may be valuable to remember as people come and go during this busy time of year.

Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah!



young jewish
savannah

We want to get to know you!
New to Savannah and want to get connected?

Want to help plan events?
Have ideas you want to share?

Just want to hang out?
Let us take you for coffee!



We want to hear from you!
For more information about
Young Jewish Savannah
call Jacqui Drazen at 912-355-8111
or email yjs@savj.org.

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 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.

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

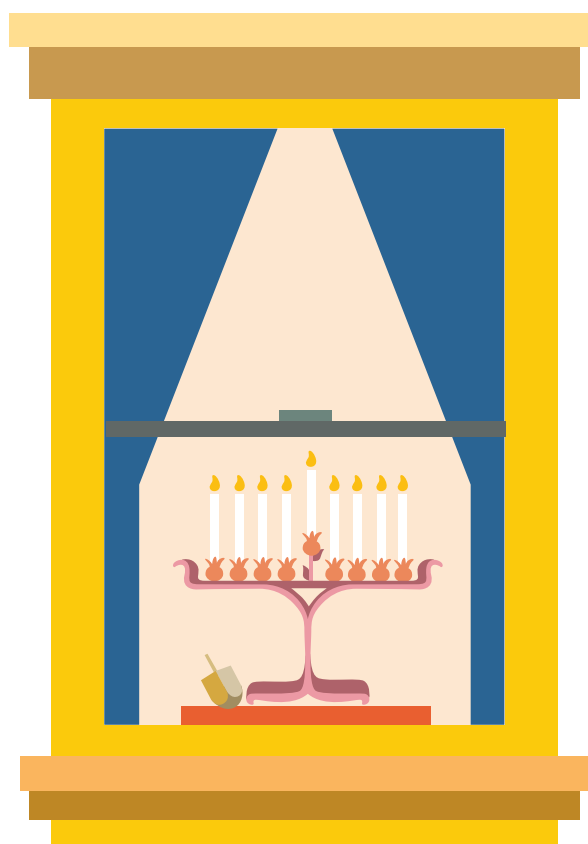
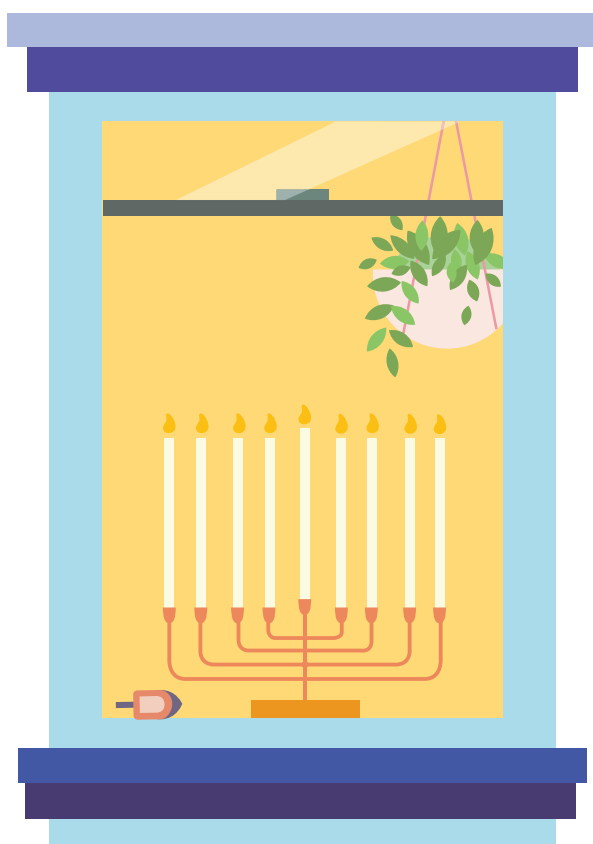
 **Savannah Jewish Federation**
Beneficiary Agency
Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Young Jewish Savannah's Vodka Latke

December 14 • 7:00 pm • Bar Food

Bring unused socks, undergarments or hygiene product to
donate to disadvantaged youth





FIND YOUR LIGHT

And share it with those who need it most. You have the capacity. Just like the candles you add to the menorah, you can bring light, warmth and comfort to those who are struggling without them. * Your gift to Jewish Federation delivers relief and brightens the lives of thousands of people at home, in Israel and in more than 70 countries worldwide. * Find your light. Federation will help it shine.



Savannah Jewish Federation