

JEA Annual Meeting 7pm May 24th

The 105th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Educational Alliance will be held on Wednesday, May 24th at 7pm. Joel Greenberg will be stepping down after having served two years as President of the organization; Scott Samuels, who was President from 2009-2011, will be installed as President for a one-year term. Other executives to be installed are Robyn Carroll as President-Elect and Margie Levy as Secretary/Treasurer (replacing Gale Hirsh, who admirably served in that position for the past four years).



Volunteers prepare the JEA's new garden boxes

school's curriculum as well as in the After School and Summer Camp programs. Among the items being planted and used in the garden are biblical species and other Jewish symbols that will be incorporated into storytelling and Jewish holiday celebrations and observances.

The JEA's Sports and Recreation program is seeing a strong resurgence. Both T-Ball and the Swim Team have seen their enrollments double from last year.

Children's programming continues to thrive. JEA Preschool Savannah already is 85% enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year with limited spots remaining. The Preschool will be opening its seventh classroom this fall!

The JEA's After School program is at maximum enrollment with more than 110 children regularly attending each day. The program is one of the finest in the city, offering transportation from five public schools, stimulating programming, swimming, healthy snacks, homework help and service projects.

Because many weeks 'sold out' last summer, for the first time this year, returning families were given the exclusive opportunity to enroll their children in JEA Camp Savannah before enrollment was opened to the public. Many families took advantage of this opportunity and the JEA's summer camp enrollment for 2017 is off to a great start.

The JEA is proud to continue its collaboration with the Federation's Jewish Family Services program *Food For Thought* each Thursday. Staff

members from all departments enjoy helping to serve the weekly luncheon hosted at the JEA, sometimes attended by more than 100 people. It's a great partnership that both organizations hope to continue for a long time.

On Sunday, May 7th, the JEA is looking forward to hosting two events: the community *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* Celebration to honor Israel's Independence Day followed by an AIPAC Community Event featuring Stephen Berk. The *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* Celebration, from 12:30-2pm, will include delicious Israeli food and an Israeli-inspired performance from the Savannah Voice Festival. Berk, who will speak at 3pm, is the Henry & Sally Schaffer Professor of Holocaust & Jewish Studies at Union College in Schenectady, NY. He also has written about American Jewry and the civil rights movement and the Russian Revolution and the pogroms of 1881-1882.

The entire community is invited to share in the excitement of the JEA's achievements and the investiture of the new Board members at the Annual Meeting on May 24th at 7pm at the JEA. Dairy desserts will be served.



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, May 5	7:50pm
Friday, May 12	7:55pm
Friday, May 19	8:00pm
Friday, May 26	8:04pm
Tuesday, May 30	8:07pm
Wednesday, May 31	9:08pm
Friday, April 21	7:40pm
Friday, April 28	7:45pm



(left) Joel Greenberg, outgoing JEA President, (right) Scott Samuels, incoming JEA President.

Also to be recognized at the meeting for their service to the community on the JEA's Board are retiring Board members Michelle Allan, who fulfilled the maximum number of terms allowed; Sam Carroll, Ricky Friedenberg and Suzanne Konter.

The meeting also will feature the presentation of the President's special awards and the Henry Center College Scholarship to Emma Loncon and the Kay Becker Israel Scholarship to Tomer Locker.

As they all seem to be, it has been a busy year for the JEA. Improvements to the facility's security remain a priority. Exterior lights have been added around the building that not only add security but also enhance the building's appearance. Seventeen additional cameras have been installed throughout the facility and in May additional doors will be installed in the lobby that will secure that area from the rest of the building. All of these actions are considered best practices for a community center such as the JEA and are based on recommendations from law enforcement.

Some of the other projects underway include the planting of new garden boxes being used in the Pre-

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as of April 20, 2017
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LETTERS

T O T H E E D I T O R

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping us today. One of the tenets of Judaism that I identify with the most is helping others. Time and again, the Federation and the funds there have assisted me and others in need. It is always appreciated.

I wanted you to know how much I value your help. Thank you and may G-d bless you.

Regards,
Name withheld

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation:

On behalf of the American Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel, I would like to express our deepest appreciation for your gift.

DVI is a unique place where discrimination and separation are left behind and caring for those in need is all that matters. Its patients, ages four to 26, come from all the diverse backgrounds represented in Jerusalem and are referred to the clinic by the city's welfare services, homeless shelters, at-risk youth programs, shelters for battered women and their children, and other organizations.

Donors like you, and our dedicated dentist volunteers, ensure that the clinic is helping these underserved citizens; bringing hope, healing and peace through compassionate care. We see the results of your kindness and are inspired to work harder each day to meet the needs of the DVI clinic, so that there will always be a place for Jerusalem's disadvantaged youth to receive life-changing treatment.

Again, thank you for all you do for our kids. You are an important part of their lives.

Sincerely,
Scott M. Dubowsky, DMD, FAGD
President, Board of Directors

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation:

Thank you so much for your 'Overseas Investment Grant.' Your gift is very much appreciated!

Your support is so important to us and to the elderly and disabled whose lives are renewed daily through their participation at Yad LaKashish in Jerusalem. Among other valuable benefits, you give our artisans a monthly stipend to help them with their expenses and—maybe most importantly—you give them the opportunity to leave their often lonely existences and spend their days in a warm, invigorating social environment.

We are truly grateful to you for partnering with us in our efforts to help others help themselves. You are always welcome to visit Yad LaKashish, meet our elderly artisans and see firsthand the powerful impact of your support.

On behalf of everyone at Friends of Yad LaKashish, thank you.

Sincerely,
Carla Harman
President

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

It our pleasure to acknowledge your gift in support of relief efforts in the former Soviet Union. As always, we are grateful that the directors of the Federation have chosen JDC to be a partner in their philanthropic endeavors. Thank you for your continuing commitment and concern.

Stanley A. Rabin
President
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

Kitchen Committee Formed



For the past few months, a group of volunteers has been meeting regularly to help with improvements to the JEA kitchen – both to the physical facilities and to policies governing the use of the kitchen.

The committee is working with JEA staff, including Community Programming Director Jacqui Drazen, Executive Director Adam Solender, and Christian Levin, the chef for *Food for Thought* and other programs. JEA Board President Joel Greenberg has been overseeing the committee's activities.

Some of the projects the committee is working on are reorganizing the kitchen, 'spring cleaning,' labeling of all storage areas, replacing outdated implements and equipment, and creating an updated handbook for use by staff and caterers. The committee also will be working with staff and caterers to assure adherence to the JEA's Kosher standards.

Members of the committee include: Barbara Abrams, Carol Greenberg, Rabbi Robert Haas, Gale Hirsh, Lynn Levine, Motti Locker and Elise Shernoff.

Savannah Jewish News

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SJF President: **Allan Ratner**
SJF Vice President: **Harvey Lebos**
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Matthew Allan**
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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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.

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Save the Date!

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.



Havdalah in Pajamas

For families with children 8 and younger

Saturday, May 13

7:30 pm

- ☾ Desserts
- ★ Musical Havdalah
- ☾ Wear Your Favorite Pajamas

- ★ Candle Making
- ☾ Spice Box Decorating
- ★ Build A Stuff Animal

Jewish Educational Alliance
5111 Abercorn Street

RSVP by Friday, May 5 to pjlibrary@savj.org or 912-355-8111

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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.



Congratulations



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



Year End Awards Banquet



Wednesday, May 17

7:00 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance
5111 Abercorn Street



Please RSVP by Friday, May 12 to Devra Silverman at engagement@savj.org or 912-355-8111



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.



For grades
5-8

Sunday,
June 4



Seders Teach in Many Ways

by Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator

One of my favorite things about Judaism is how the stories and teachings of Torah can always be related to something currently going on in one's life. If you look at the story of Passover for example, God commissioned Moses with a task of freeing the Jewish people and bringing them to the Promised Land. Not only is that a huge request to make of someone, but it can reveal serious insecurities in the person who was tasked with such a large order. Moses rightfully responded with excuses about his inabilities, weaknesses, and the impossibility of this matter. It is here in the story that we learn God always has a purpose, and each individual has a mission to accomplish, and this was Moses'.

I firmly believe that my mission in life, though not as heavy as Moses', is similar in that I have an opportunity to make an impact in lives of children and teens of all backgrounds and religions. I spent this past summer as JEA Camp Savannah's Cultural Enrichment Specialist, and got to showcase Jewish traditions and values in fun, relatable ways. I now have the privilege of spending one day a week with the JEA's Aftercare program educating the children on Jewish holidays, traditions and rituals.

Last month the Aftercare children learned about Passover by celebrating with a shortened version of a traditional Seder. I created a Haggadah that would resonate with this

age group and be interactive so all could be a part of the Seder. We celebrated the holiday using "Our Very Emoji Passover Haggadah" that used emoji stories, games, and drawing components to keep things light and fun. Each child had the opportunity to eat Charoset, as well as parsley from the plants they had been growing since Tu B'Shevat! I had such a wonderful feeling throughout the program watching the children saying the Kiddush over the grape juice and looking around the room for the Afikoman.

This was the first time I ever led a Passover Seder—one of many firsts I've enjoyed this year teaching Judaism to others. Though I have studied Judaism throughout my life, I have never been tasked with teaching it. I was pretty nervous about it, much like Moses and his insecurities of leading the Jewish people to freedom. A few days later, I would be tasked with a mission I never thought would be possible.

Kristina Martell, a JEA Camp Savannah Assistant Director, asked me to lead a Passover Seder for her local church youth group with the Haggadah I had made for Aftercare. She had enjoyed attending the Seder with Aftercare and wanted to replicate one at her church so the youth group she advises could learn about Passover and its rituals. I was a little unsure



JEA Aftercare students participate in their Seder.

about leaving my comfort zone of the JEA and teaching the story and rituals of Passover to a group of strangers, but I knew I could only grow as an individual and as a Jewish educator if I pushed myself, so I went.

The youth group was made up of middle and high school students, and all of them showed an interest in learning about the holiday. They were very respectful making sure each item was correct on the Seder plate. They had a number of questions during our time together so sometimes we got off track talking about Kashrut laws, the different movements of Judaism, holidays, and special rituals. They had a thirst for Jewish knowledge and it was my mission to teach them. After our Seder some of the teens and I talk-

ed more about Jewish opinions and the views of the Catholic Church on controversial topics. This conversation really made me take a look at the values we teach and the many differences within the Jewish community.

Both of these Seder experiences showed me that my purpose in life is greater than I expected. Every day I get the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, teaching them the lessons and values we learn from the Torah. I am pushed out of my comfort zone to become well versed and share my Jewish knowledge and experiences with those around me. Like Moses, I too have insecurities, but know that I have a mission to fulfill, and I hope that I can continue to grow and accomplish throughout my life.

Veterans Corner

by A.J. Haysman



Lt. Col. A.J. Haysman, Georgia Air National Guard, Retired; Commander, JWV Post #320

I trust everyone had a good Passover, and are racing towards the summer. (Of course it seems that in Savannah, we have a short springtime that lasts about it week.)

Your JWV post has been active so far this year. In March we honored our Vietnam era veterans with a presentation of certificates honoring their service.

We also caught up with our project of placing flags and flag holders on the graves of Jewish veterans at Bonaventure Cemetery. We were unable to place flags out in November because of the hurricane last year. Our make-up day in January



American flags freshly placed on the graves of Jewish veterans at Bonaventure Cemetery

also was rained out. However, in February, we placed over 350 flags and 350 flag holders out throughout the cemetery.

We hope to continue this tradition twice a year around Memorial Day and again near Veterans Day because experience has shown that the flags wear out about every 6 months. Please take a moment and visit your family or loved ones' graves at Bonaventure and check to see if there is a flag on it. We believe that we have identified all of the Jewish veterans' graves. If there is not a flag on your loved one's grave, please con-

tact me at ajhaysman@icloud.com or 912-596-3078. Only through your ongoing support of time and donations, can we honor the Jewish veterans who served this great nation in wartime and peacetime.

The next event we will participate in is Rambam Day School's annual 5K Run/Fun Run on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th. We will be working the final water station, so come out and support Rambam and as always, we can use the help and assistance.

Have a great month!



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.



Allan Ratner,
President of the
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Spending Wisely

A Federation Past President asked me recently why I don't write a column for the paper each month. My reply was, "I don't always have something

to say." THIS MONTH I DO!

The Federation annual campaign is wrapping up and we have raised almost \$1,100,000 at this time. This is a great amount for such a small Jewish community and it allows us to fund many programs for the local community as well as the global Jewish community.

As I am writing this, it was just announced that a 19 year-old male with dual Israel/American citizenship was arrested by Israeli authorities for allegedly making a majority of the false bomb threats to JCCs and other Jewish facilities around the world. This arrest doesn't account for all of the bomb threats, nor the cemetery and synagogue desecrations; there still is much anti-Semitism in the world to deal with. It is so unfortunate that one of our own, apparently a very troubled young man, created so much turmoil in our community.

A friend of mine also recently told me that they didn't think Federation is as important today as it was in the past. He asked, "Why do we need to support the JEA when the membership isn't all Jewish anymore?"

Then I went to a *Food For Thought* program today at the JEA and heard

Dr. Jeff Jenkins speak on his interactions with the Jewish community when he was growing up. For those of you who don't know him, Jeff Jenkins, PhD, assists at the JEA in the facilities maintenance department. Not because he has to, but because he wants to. He gave a very interesting talk about how Savannah's African American and Jewish communities supported each other when he was a young man.

With the Federation's support, the JEA is one place where interfaith interaction takes place every day.

The JEA's pre-school, after school programs and camp allow for social interaction every day, among children from all backgrounds, and all in a Jewish setting with programs based in Jewish values. With this interaction comes understanding. With understanding comes acceptance. With acceptance comes friendship. All this leads to less anti-Semitism.

And the same holds true for the interaction happening in the Health and Wellness Center, in Pilates classes, in Silver Sneakers classes and everywhere else throughout the JEA.

The money we raise for the Savannah Jewish Federation helps our community, our global partners at Jewish Federations of North America, and Jewish organizations around the world to teach respect and understanding.

If we educate one additional child or person of any faith to respect others, then we have spent our money well.



Adam Solender,
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Into the Light

By the time this edition of the Savannah Jewish News is published, Sarah and I, and a small group from Savannah (along with a similar group from Northern New Jersey) will be in Israel. It is a special trip designed for seniors: as opposed to typical trips, we will not start quite as early in the day, there are alternative 'tours' (less physically strenuous), more time built in at each location, and only one change of hotel over the twelve days. That's not to say that there won't be lots of walking (my wife is looking forward to getting in 15,000+ steps each day) and lots of schlepping, but it is a bit different in the pace.

Yes, we will be planting trees, visiting an Army base, scaling the Golan, taking a dip in the Dead Sea, touring Masada, the Old City including the Jewish Quarter, Western Wall tunnels and visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, experiencing the mysticism of Safed, walking Machane Yehuda on Erev Shabbat, the list goes on and on (doesn't sound like a "light trip," does it?).

What I am really looking forward to is experiencing Israel during Yom Hazikaron. We plan to begin the day with world famous Israel educator and leader, Avraham Infeld, a former president of Hillel International, founder of Melitz, a non-profit educational institution that fosters Jewish identity rooted in pluralistic understanding of Jewish life and the centrality of Israel, and director general of the Shalom Hartman Institute. He will frame the day with a discussion of *The Nine Days of Awe*—from Yom HaShoah to Yom Ha'atzmaut to teach us about the significance of these special days to Israel.

From there we will depart for Mount Herzl (Israel's National Cemetery) to pay our respects. Then we will head for the south and New Jersey's Partnership Region of Ofakim-Merhavim, where upon our arrival we will visit a bomb disposal unit to get a sense of some of the security challenges faced by the community located "in the shadow of Gaza." We will join local residents at the opening ceremony for their Yom Hazikaron observance, which begins with a siren promptly at 8pm followed by two minutes of silence to honor all those who have fallen in Israel's wars, as victims of terrorism, and in the line of duty.

The next day, we will join Israe-

lis to experience how the country moves from commemoration to celebration (of Israel's 69th year of Independence) when we visit the Ayalon Institute, tour Yad Vashem, and transition at the end of the day to join in Independence Day celebrations.

It is a unique experience for Americans to be part of the transition from mourning to celebration, from dark to light, from somber reflection to joyous festivities—and the whole country will be experiencing the same thing at the same time.

It was over 28 years ago that I went on a National Young Leadership mission to Israel with (my then community) Springfield, Massachusetts. I was urged to go as a young leader who had just led Super Sunday in the community. Little did I know that my soon-to-be wife was on the very same journey coming from her community in Boston.

She was sitting in front of me in the bus as we went through the hills approaching Jerusalem. Our guide was droning on and I put on my headphones to listen to music. I noticed the woman in front of me doing the same thing. Being the smooth operator that I am, I tapped her on the shoulder, "What are you listening to?"

"John Coltrane. You?"

"Simply Red. Do you want to trade cassettes?" (Yes, I know, that dates us.)

I was smitten.

The next morning we "found ourselves at the same table" (truth be told, I watched for where she was sitting and found a seat at that table).

Sitting there I heard her say to a waiter, "*Slich, mayim bevacksha*" (Excuse me, water please). Upon having her glass filled, she immediately responded "*Todah raba*" (Thank you very much). Wow. She is beautiful, funny, AND speaks Hebrew. I soon found out that other than "*Kama ze o'le?*" (how much does it cost?) and "*Eifo HaSherutim?*" (where's the bathroom), I had heard her full extent of her Hebrew. But I was love-struck.

It's been 28-plus years since Sarah has been back, and I'm looking forward to experiencing it with her all over again. The first time we experienced it together we were part of Young Leadership...this time it will be a part of a "Senior group." We'll be experiencing Israel at a very special time of the year.

I've been back many times over the years and each time has been life-changing, but never so much as when I met Sarah.

I don't think we'll be listening to Simply Red this time.

Attention 2017 Graduates



**Mazel Tov to the Class of 2017—
High School, College
& Post-Grad Students—
and Your Families!**

You are invited to submit your pictures and records of achievement for publication in our special graduation section of the June issue of the *Savannah Jewish News*.

To be included, please download the submission form from www.savj.org or pick one up at the JEA.

All submissions must be received by the absolute deadline of May 8th, 2017.

Listings will be published only in the June issue.

Return forms & pictures to: sjnews@savj.org or Savannah Jewish News



I on Israel

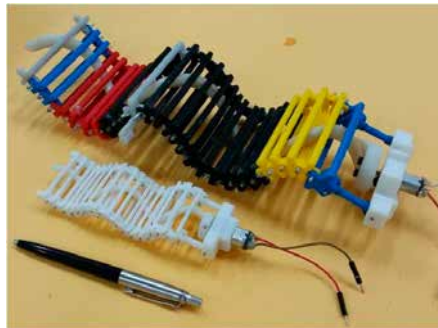
Fantastic Voyage

A tiny ingestible robot designed by scientists at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) may one day be able to slither its way through the small intestine, upgrading the effectiveness of the dreaded colonoscopy.

The movement of the SAW (single actuator wave-like robot), developed by Dr. David Zarrouk, a senior lecturer in the Mechanical Engineering Department at BGU and his team, was inspired by the way snakes move in nature. The SAW will have the ability to navigate forward and backward through the cramped terrain of the small intestine thanks to its unique wave-like locomotion. Eventually it will be able to analyze the digestive tube using a small camera attached to the snake-like robot, according to a report on the Live Science website. "The external shape of the robot is a 2D projection of a rotating helix. The result is a continuously moving wave. We can simply reverse the direction by reversing the direction of rotation of the motor," explained Zarrouk.

The SAW is constructed using interlocking 3D-printed pieces of plastic that resemble vertebrae.

"Despite the fact that researchers all over the world have been trying to create a wave movement for 90 years, we succeeded in finding a simple and unique solution that enables the robot to be built in different sizes for different purposes. For example, it



Prototypes of the Single Actuator Wave-like Robot

can be scaled up for search and rescue and maintenance or miniaturized to a diameter of one centimeter or less to travel within the human body for medical purposes, such as imaging biopsies of the digestive system," Zarrouk said.

He explained that the SAW's design makes it strong, easy to manufacture, reliable and energy efficient and thus able to travel long distances.

While the demo version is still too large to be used to examine the inside of the human body, it continues to be tinkered with and tested on a variety of contours. The Ben-Gurion team hopes to soon use the SAW to examine the internal organs of living creatures, such as pigs.

The ability to swallow a miniaturized adaptation will signify a revolutionary breakthrough in colonoscopies, which now can only analyze the large intestine and most patients find uncomfortable.

Student Film Sets Record

Roads, a student film made at the Steve Tisch School of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University has set the Guinness World Record for Most Awards Won by a Short Student Film. The twenty-minute gritty crime drama by writer/director Lior Geller tells the story of a young Arab boy who dreams of escaping his violent drug life and is aided by a traumatized Israeli ex-soldier. The short was nominated for a student Academy Award and played at more than 60 festivals in 36 countries, winning 24 awards, including top prizes at the Jerusalem Film Festival, the Beijing Film Festival and from the International Association of Film Schools.

The success of the short brought Geller to Hollywood where he currently is adapting *Roads* into an American feature-length film set in Washington, DC. Geller also has sold multiple screenplays including the true life spy thriller *Alone In Damascus* and is developing a TV series based on the biblical story of the Maccabees.

The short film's feature adaptation, currently titled *We Die Young*, is inspired by Geller's own experiences as a soldier and is described as a fast-paced crime drama taking place over the course of 24 hours in the brutal drug slums of DC, where a young Hispanic boy dreams of finding a new life for him and his younger brother. When a traumatized Afghanistan veteran comes into the neighborhood looking for drugs to escape his own reality, an unusual opportunity arises that will change both their lives forever. Geller is meeting with actors and potential investors now for a summer 2017 shoot.

One Israeli review of the short



Waseem Nur Habshi in *Roads*

film stated, "In Lior Geller's entertaining, fast-paced *Roads*, it's as if he threw into the Israeli-Palestinian cement mixer Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs*, *GoodFellas*, the Brazilian *City of God* and *Fresh*." The Jerusalem Film Festival jury said, "Lior Geller's *Roads* deals with political and social issues in a sophisticated and impressive manner, creating a fascinating cinematic experience full of energy and passion. The film had us glued to our seats."

Geller has said of the film's success, "While experiencing the short film's surprising reception, I witnessed the universality of what I had thought was a very personal story. From attending screenings in Arabic-Israeli neighborhoods to inner-city youth programs in Paris, I was amazed by how the tale of a boy who dreams of a better life outside the disenfranchised world he is born into, crosses all boundaries of culture and language. And how a soldier coming home faces similar obstacles and hardships, no matter where in the world 'home' for him really is, be it an Israeli sergeant returning from Gaza or a U.S. veteran coming home from Afghanistan."

Roads may be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/liorgeller/roads>.



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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

If you know about something new going on in Israel that you'd like us to cover, please let us know about it. If you are traveling to Israel, we'd love for you to send pictures of yourself at interesting places and/or reports on what you saw that fascinated you. Please send ideas, pictures and travel reports to sjnews@savj.org.



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:

CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

May 2017



Children's Programming



Days at the J



May 22nd - May 26th

8:00am - 6:00pm

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

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

To register, email kids@savj.org. For a complete schedule of activities visit savannahjea.org.

JEA CAMP SAVANNAH - JUNE 5TH-JULY 28TH!



JEA CAMP SAVANNAH - REGISTER NOW!

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 3/12/17-4/7/17)

Jennifer Brendle & Susan Brendle
Chris Brennan
Lisa Gartrell
Bianca Myers
Patrick & Katherine Smith
Anthony Stewart & Yarden Kessler

Summer Swim Team

Summer Swim Team is right around the corner!

Our fun and competitive summer swim team is returning for another year with the Savannah Coastal Swim League. Practices begin in early May for a season that runs through early July.

Swimmers ages 4-18 with any experience level are welcome! Pick up your registration form at the JEA front lobby.

Contact Kirby Southerland at aquatics@savj.org with any questions.

WANTED: Camp Counselors!

Teens - Are you looking for a summer to:

- Learn valuable life lessons
- Be introduced to new talents and friendships
- Enjoy weekends off
- Build your resume and leadership skills

The JEA is now hiring Junior, Senior and Specialty counselors.

Visit www.SavannahJEA.org/JEA_Camp Savannah and click on "Join Our Camp Staff" to download your application. Fill it out and return to the JEA front desk.

* Counselors must be rising Juniors in High School or older.



Food For Thought

Join us each Thursday at 12:30pm

May 4	Savannah VOICE Festival	May 25	Shavout: The Slany Torah Herbert & Teresa Victor
May 11	Lag B'Omer: Kabbalah Author, Stephen Geller	June 1	NO FOOD FOR THOUGHT In observance of Shavuot
May 18	Stroke Education Dr. Jay Howington	June 8	Jewish Symbols in Jewelry Part II Dr. 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 912-355-8111.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Israel's Independence Day

Sunday, May 7 • 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Jewish Educational Alliance

Cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family

Featuring:

- An Israeli Inspired Musical Performance from the Savannah Voice Festival
- Delicious Israeli Cuisine
- Placing notes in the Kotel (Western Wall)
- Writing Letters to Israeli Soldiers
- Israeli Dancing





Health & Wellness

New Year's Resolution in May!!

Yep, This is a Guilt Trip



Kathy Ackerman
Fitness Director

We all have good intentions in January (including myself). We are motivated, determined and excited for the prospect of a new year and a new healthy life style. We join the gym or return to the gym.

January 2nd we start the journey to our new healthy body. You're killing it, working out four times a week, you're

gaining energy, losing weight, feeling better and looking better. Then February comes along and you're going to the gym once or twice a week. Your schedule is just so busy. March comes along and you make it to the gym maybe once a week. April blows by and you never made it to the gym. You're just so tired and stressed from work and the kids.

Most of the New Year's resolutions have been consumed by our everyday life: work, kids, travel

time, household obligations, the list goes on and on. We are simply just too busy to work out. If this sounds like you, HIRE A TRAINER! Even if it is just for four sessions to kick-start your good intentions.

A trainer can help you stay motivated to exercise. Trainers can set up a complete exercise schedule that includes all the activities you need; cardio, weight training, stretching, balance and flexibility. They can help you maximize your time while keeping you within your personal limitations.

Yes, you are investing money in your exercise, but you're also investing time. There is nothing better than a standing appointment that you invested your hard-earned money into to get you motivated! It's much harder to slack off when there is money involved.

So, let us help you get motivated and back on track with your resolution.

Introducing Kathy Riley, the JEA's New Personal Trainer



Kathy Riley
Personal Trainer

We are very blessed to have some of the best Trainers in Savannah here at the JEA. We are adding Kathy Riley to that list. She is a petite ball of fire; ready to kick start her JEA career and kick start your butt.

Says Kathy, "Fitness has always been my friend. I have enjoyed creating my

own workouts since my teens and now I want to share that joy with others. I love all aspects of

understanding the body and keeping it healthy, whether it is through my extensive background in massage therapy, healthy living, or 25 years of fitness training. During my 12 years as a home educator, I have motivated my family to care for their bodies through a variety of exercise and healthy eating. Now that they are older, I have had the opportunity to begin my career as a Certified Personal Trainer through NASM, and Group Fitness Instructor through IFTA. I also have a certification in TRX through IFTA and a Silver Sneakers certification."

Please welcome Kathy!

Swimming Lessons at the JEA



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

With every Spring comes the gentle reminder that Summer is not far behind. Then comes the not-so-gentle reminder that we live in Coastal Georgia and being around water is almost unavoidable from May-September. Are you prepared for your kids to be around the water? Are your kids confident

not only in chest-deep water, but in water that goes well over their heads?

Drowning is the second highest cause of death in Georgia among children under the age of 12. This can be easily prevented with the right precautionary measures. Swimming lessons aren't just a fun activity for our kids to participate in - they teach a necessary skill that can be the difference between life and death. Swimming lessons begin as early as 6 months and can

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

9:15 am - Power Pilates
10:00 am - SilverSneakers Splash
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:45 pm - Zumba Glow
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club
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 - Total Body Blast

Thursday

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

Friday

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



continue as long as needed until all skills are fully developed.

Swimming lessons at the JEA are offered based on YOUR availability! We understand that life is busy! We are available for swimming lessons for all ages six days a week at any time. For more information about swimming lessons for you and your family, contact Kirby at aquatics@savj.org or 912-355-8111.



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now 2017-18 School Year

- Enrollment for our Summer Program has begun for 12 months and walking through 4-yr olds!
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for toddlers and 2-year olds
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

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

Upcoming Events

Coming Soon - Summer Camp!
"Cruising Through Summer!"

Weeks 1 & 2: Clown Fish Cove
June 5-June 16

Weeks 3 & 4: Jolly Jurassic Island
June 19-June 30

Weeks 5 & 6: Ice Age Imaginarium
July 3-July 14

Weeks 7 & 8: Tiny Tastes of Israel
July 17-July 28

- Hours are 8:00am-6:00 pm
- \$5 Snack Fee per week
- \$50 Registration Fee

Cost:

JEA Members - \$175 per week
Non Members - \$215 per week

See www.SavannahJEA.org
for more information

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.

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE 105TH ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017 | 7:00 P.M.
JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

INSTALLATION OF SCOTT SAMUELS AS PRESIDENT
INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD & OFFICERS
RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS
SPECIAL PRESIDENT'S AWARDS
YEAR IN REVIEW
DESSERT & ICE CREAM RECEPTION



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents the
Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin
Levy Memorial Concert

Featuring the dynamic music of
The Fabulous Equinox
Orchestra

Sunday, May 21
Jewish Educational Alliance
Concert 2:00 p.m.
Doors Open 1:30 p.m.
(dessert reception during intermission)



This concert is made possible by the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah.

JEA Donations (March 11, 2017-April 7, 2017)

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Harvey Goldberg
Ann & Steve Harris

ETHEL COHEN MEDDIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Harvey Goldberg
Chuck Palefsky

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Sara Rigel

In honor of Arlene Ratner

In memory of Harvey Goldberg

In memory of Ronald Kronowitz

In memory of Selma "Peewee" Weil
Miriam Center

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

A donation by John Wilcher

*The entire Savannah community
is cordially invited to the
105th Annual Meeting
Jewish Educational Alliance
Wednesday, May 24th at 7pm*

Installation of Officers and Board of Directors
Recognition of retiring Board officers and Directors
Special Presidents Awards
Year in Review

*In accordance with Article 6, Section 3, of the JEA constitution, the
Nominating Committee, chaired by Arlene Ratner, presents the following
slate for nomination to the JEA Board of Directors:*

President:	Scott Samuels	Past Presidents:	Joel Greenberg
President elect:	Robyn Carroll		Arlene Ratner
Sec/Treasurer:	Margie Levy	SJF President:	Allan Ratner

**Current Directors serving
2-year term ending 2018**

Preston Feiler
Sally Greenberg
AJ Haysman
Garrett Kaminsky
Dayle Levy
Scott McGhie
Aaron Tillinger

Nominated for a 2 year term ending 2019

Naomi Bhandari	Allison Konter
Dan Chapman	Lisa Mackowiak
Lauren Fins	Stanley Rosenberg
Cookie Gale	Sharon Sand
Peggy Harris	Larry Silberman

Four Questions

for the rest of the year



Dr. Stephen Gordon

May is Jewish American Heritage Month and in keeping with this year's focus on American Jews in Medical Research, we spoke with

Dr. Stephen Gordon, M.D., about his experiences as a medical researcher. Steve is a retired physician with a specialty in obstetrics and gynecology though he still participates in drug studies as the Regional Medical Director/Investigator for Southeast Regional Research Group here in Savannah.

What interested you about medical research versus a 'standard' medical practice?

I finished my residency at University of Pennsylvania in 1970 and went into practice in Atlanta. By chance, when I was chief resident, we had to do a research study and I was interested in the association between urinary tract infections and premature labor so I wrote up a protocol to see if we could tell if there were pregnant women who had a predisposition for urinary tract infections and if we treated them could we decrease the rate of prematurity. We ended up studying 1,200 pregnant women, it was a good study and I wrote a paper on it. If you know anything about residents, they want to spend more time in the operating room than doing research, but as it happened the paper caught the attention of a drug company – the results were pretty impressive.

But then I left Philadelphia and went into practice in Atlanta and started getting calls from drug companies asking me to do studies on their new drugs so I started doing that as part of my practice. That just grew and grew. The research activities became equal to the other part parts of the practice, which was pretty busy. So when all the HMO stuff started, I sold my practice to a public company and started my own research company which became very successful. I sold that to another public company thinking I was finished but they kept asking me to stay on, for about 20 years.

Can you talk about some of the different research projects you've worked on?

I enjoyed the research because it was a chance to work on new drugs and we did a lot of definitive work, for instance on the estrogen patch, and Norplant, the implantable contraceptive, and also a lot of work on an antibiotic that at that time didn't have name. But that was a very important study on the use of prophylactic antibiotics in hysterectomies and that paper ended up being the basis for recommendations of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists for pretreatment with antibiotics before abdominal hysterectomies.

I worked on every birth control pill developed by Ortho Pharmaceutical. Also, I've done a lot of work on the treatment of endometriosis with Lupron and Zoladex.

What have been some of the most satisfying or gratifying aspects of your career?

Helping people with infertility issues – helping someone get pregnant who wasn't able to – either through the use of drugs or artificial insemination or whatever. In the early years, of course, we didn't have in vitro fertilization. It's very nice when someone comes up to you and says they have a child because of what you did for them. And also my work studying endometriosis.

But over the years you could see a shift. There became more emphasis on quality of life drugs, like the ones dealing with sexual dysfunction. That's the biggest change in medical research I've noticed over the years.

Given the constraints of the proposed new Federal budget, what do you see as the future of medical research?

I believe the budget has an 18% decrease in the National Institutes of Health budget. If you recall, a short time ago, Congress passed a significant increase in the medical research budget. So I don't think that part will pass. If it would pass, I think it's a disaster, but because of Congress's actions in the very recent past, I don't think it will pass. But it's going to be interesting.

You are the Missing Piece!

Regional Conference Attendees
April Haas, Frances Lowery Wilson,
Joanna Rich, Jean Weitz with
National President Ellen Hershkin



Join us for another exciting year!

Contact Jean Weitz
912-354-2409

jweitz@hadassah.org

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



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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
Friday 7:00 a.m. & 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

❧❧❧ HAPPENINGS AT AA ❧❧❧



SAVE THE DATE FOR AN EVENING OF DANCING & FUN

2017 AA ANNUAL GALA

Sunday, June 4th

**Honoring Backpack Buddies
Featuring The Headliners**

Tickets

\$136 for 1 ticket

\$272 for 2 tickets

\$300 for 2 tickets and 3rd chance on Raffle

Evening includes:

Silent & Live Auctions

Raffle & Dinner

This year our booklet will celebrate Backpack Buddies.

To buy an ad or a greeting, contact the office.

Part of the proceeds will be designated to Backpack Buddies.

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

Exotic Location Summer Shabbat Series with Mickve Israel

Join us this summer as we celebrate
Shabbat in congregants' homes for
services and potluck dinners.

It's a fun and social way to Shabbat!

To request the schedule of locations,
please contact info@mickveisrael.org
or 912-233-1547.

Scholar in Residence Shabbat

with journalist,
historian, and author

Marc Leepson

Friday, May 5th, 6pm
Saturday, 6th, 11am



The Congregation Mickve Israel History and Heritage
Committee welcomes Mr. Marc Leepson as our 2017
Scholar in Residence.

Mr. Leepson is a journalist, historian, and the author of
nine books including *Saving Monticello: The Levy
Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House That Jefferson
Built*.

Uriah Phillips Levy is the great, great grandson of Dr.
Samuel Nunez. He purchased Monticello from Thomas
Jefferson's family and is credited with restoring it.
Uriah Phillips Levy and Monticello are a featured
exhibit in our museum.

Saving Monticello will be a primary focus of Marc
Leepson's talks with us on Saturday. The topic for
Friday's talk is to be announced.



Melinda Stein

It's a Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

Doctor Levenson was going to a dinner where he was invited to give a talk, and he scribbled some notes for himself, but when he got up to speak, he couldn't read his own handwriting. In a panic, he scanned the audience and called out, "Is there a pharmacist in the house?"

"My son is something else," Jean Finkelstein told her friend Cynthia. "He traveled to Las Vegas last week in a \$25,000 car and returned a few days later in a \$100,000 vehicle."

"Wow! He won that much money?" Cynthia asked.

"Well, not really," said the mother. "He went in our car, but had to return by bus."

Myra phones her husband at work, "Steve, do you have time for a chat?"

"Sorry, darling, this is not a good time - I'm about to go into a board meeting."

"But this won't take long," Myra says, "I just want to tell you some good news and some bad news."

"Just quickly tell me the good news."

"Oh all right then, the good news is that the air bag on your new Lexus works really well."

A lady riding a bus in Jerusalem was reading a newspaper article about life and death statistics. Fascinated, she turned to the man next to her and said, "Did you know that every time I breathe somebody dies?"

"Really?" he said. "Have you tried mouthwash?"

Professor Markowitz was teaching a graduate level class at New York University. On the mid-term exam he included a huge amount of complex material. As tension in the room built, people were moaning and gasping aloud.

The following week Professor Markowitz tossed the graded papers on his

desk and announced, "Class, after I left here last week, God spoke to me. He said, 'Thank you, Professor. I haven't heard from some of those people in years!'"

"Just relax," the hospital staff kept telling David, but it was to no avail. David's wife was in labor and he was a total nervous wreck.

After what seemed like an eternity, a nurse came out with the happy news. "It's a girl!" she cried.

"Thank God, a girl," said David. "She'll never have to go through what I just went through!"

Rachel called her pediatrician in a panic. Dr. Goldstein's secretary picked up. "I need to speak with the doctor. It's an emergency. My baby has temperature of 104!"

The doctor overheard the phone conversation and said to the secretary, "104 sounds awfully high. Find out how she's taking the temperature."

"Mrs. Epstein, the Doctor would like to know how you are taking it."

"Tell him I'm pretty worried, but I'm holding up."



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ב"ס



NCSY TRI Chapter Magical Weekend



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Time for Learning and Connecting



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

It was five days filled with meaningful learning and building relationships. This was my third JCCA Professional Conference as ECE director.

I attended plenary sessions where I heard from Kevin Tripani about the Power of Community and Kustya Kimlat, the Business Magician, who taught us about effects, methods, and results when working with people.

However, the best sessions for me were the ones which were from our Early Childhood Education (ECE) job track. That is where I learned the most about children, families, and our Jewish heritage.

The heart of the ECE track was the Sheva framework. At previous conferences, I learned about what Sheva was and could list the core elements and the Jewish lenses and I knew why it was important for children, teachers, and families. However, I didn't know how to implement these ideas. After my time at this conference, I learned a great deal about the how. As I've grown as a professional, listened to my colleagues, and delved more into the Sheva readings, I am excited and ready to share these BIG ideas with my preschool community.

The Sheva framework consists of seven principles that are important and relevant when working with young children and families. The two principles that I plan to convey as we begin this journey are "Children as constructivist learners, and "Teachers as Professionals". These big ideas

are ones that will take time to learn through reflective thinking, questioning, and studying together as a team of teachers.

There were a few other highlights for me at this conference.

First, I reconnected face-to-face with my Sheva learning community, the Fig Group. We have been meeting virtually for the past two years and have studied and supported one another. It was nice to actually see these wonderful colleagues and strengthen those relationships, welcome our new Fig members, and meet new colleagues to include in my sphere of support.

Next, the idea that stood out to me was that many of our ECE learning sessions were lead by our own amazing, passionate, and smart colleagues from around the country. Also, our leaders at the national level, Mark

Horowitz and Mackenzie Noda, are the foundation of our ECE community and I am thankful to them for the support they give us in our JCC/ECE work.

Last, I was also able to connect with my fellow professionals from the JEA and have fun with them outside of our work environment. We shared new ideas, ate good food, and had some quality social time together.

I returned home with renewed enthusiasm for working with children and families at JEA Preschool Savannah and an appreciation for colleagues, both near and far. Thank you for this valuable opportunity to attend the JCCA Professional Conference!



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Being There...

Rambam Day School's faculty has experienced many personal challenges this school year. Like with all families, when a member of your family is

having a difficult time, everyone is affected. Our most recent challenge has been the toughest. We have a teacher who will be out for the rest of the year and we scrambled to cover his classes; but not just to cover them, to make sure learning would continue as he would want it to — top notch. Everyone who was available pitched in and made it happen. Our colleague can recuperate knowing his students are in beloved hands and hearts that are dedicated to making sure the students learn.

What should one think or do when a friend and colleague is confronted with a difficult situation? We all rallied together as we seem to always do no matter how serious or not so serious the situation may be. We believe that a friend in need needs to

know that others care and are willing to make sacrifices on their behalf.

Isn't that what teaching is all about? Sacrifice. No two children are the same and that means you may have several children in a class that don't all learn the same. On whom does the responsibility fall to make sure they all learn? The teacher. It's no easy task, however a true teacher embraces the challenge with love, respect and devotion, for a true teacher looks upon every child as their own.

What would I want a teacher to do for my child? Is there any other way to look at one's students? They look to us for guidance, safety, security and love. We must look to them with a deep desire to provide all that and more.

So too for colleagues — we are family and we must feel when our "right arm" needs attention and be there.

We teach our students this idea — caring for another person. It's a fundamental, golden rule — we are all in this together and so, we will all work together to make it work for each other.



Eva Locker,
Principal,
Shalom School

Getting Ready for Shavuot

Shavuot is a really interesting holiday. Shavuot is the celebration of Am Israel receiving the Torah but Shavuot

is also the fiftieth day of counting the Omer, which we begin to do on the second day of Pesach.

Two separate holidays but one common character: Moses. Moses, a man who was born a slave, raised a prince, humbled by Hashem and chosen for the incredible task of liberating a nation. When the liberation was complete, thousands upon thousands of people looked to Moses for guidance. For forty more years Hashem still had a plan for Moses' life, culminating in receiving the commandments.

So, what does Shavuot really symbolize? Is it yet another reason to celebrate freedom from bondage or is it the receiving of the Torah alone that is celebrated?

As it appears that both events are

intertwined it is important to remember that we are still, as individuals, held by a certain type of bondage. Do our jobs keep us from enjoying family life? Do our weekly stressors cause us to put our synagogue participation on the back burner or is even our *neshama*, our soul, fully engaged while praying at services? Our children have the same plight: do sports, a heavy schedule and homework sometimes keep them from being fully engaged at important moments.

This holiday, let's remember what it means today to be freed from slavery and that only once liberated are we deserving of the gift that was made to us on Mt. Sinai. As we celebrate another Shavuot let's do our best to liberate ourselves so we can better commemorate the receiving of the Torah, the most precious gift all.

Wishing you *Chag Shavouot Sameach*

The Savannah Jewish Federation encourages you and your family to participate in the richness and beauty that our synagogues have to offer.



Why twice a year is not enough

Remember that feeling?

Renewing your connection with the warmth of community, the richness of familiar tradition, the joy of celebration?

It doesn't have to be just twice a year.
You can share those feelings, and more,
all the rest of the year, too.



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Rabbi Avigdor Slatus
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Savannah, GA 31405 | 354-7721

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

Rabbi Robert Haas
20 E. Gordon St.
Savannah, GA 31401 | 233-1547

Growing Responsibility

by Benny Schachter



Benny Schachter

A few weeks ago, Rambam Day School students planted a garden with the assistance of residents at Buckingham South. Our hope is to learn different skills from this gardening experience. The sixth grade goes to Buckingham twice a week to tend to the garden and talk to the seniors. We call this collaborative program Better Together. The garden project is just one part of our collaboration with Buckingham residents. It is our hope that we will learn to share, to be responsible, and to better understand nutrition.

So far, the sixth grade has been sharing gardening jobs like watering, weeding, and tending to the soil. When we interview the seniors about the garden, we also take turns. One of the residents who is actively involved in the gardening project is Ms. Rosen. She said, "When I started gardening, I learned sharing and I hope you do as well." This gardening experience has helped us learn how to share and work together.

In addition, we have been trying to be responsible, but it's not going great. The hose has been taken away on numerous occasions due to spraying people, purposely overwatering the garden, and being inappropriate with the hose. Although we have not been very responsible, everyone has room to grow. I will try to be more responsible. When our class talked with our principal, Morah Ester, she said, "I want everyone to learn to be more responsible." I must admit, we have become more responsible and

trustworthy. So, with that thought, I guess we are slowly learning.

The last thing that we hope to learn from this collaborative gardening experience is about better nutrition. For example, our school has a 5k race coming up for Memorial Day, so we as a school are trying to learn about better nutrition. As a school, one of the things we have done to learn about better nutrition is to change our canteen choices. We no longer offer candy and chips for canteen. Now, we are experimenting with choices like dried fruit and baked chips. At first, this was not such a popular change with the students, but slowly, we are beginning to make healthier choices. Another example of how we will learn more about nutrition is to harvest our gar-



Morah Ester Rabhan and the whole school help with the garden ribbon cutting2

den and plan a Harvest Dinner so everyone can enjoy our fruits and vegetables. In addition to changing our canteen to promote better health, our school thinks that it may affect our sports teams in hope they will be better next year. We will have better nutrition next year thanks to our school's new exciting changes.

The Better Together gardening project has taught us some valuable lessons. The garden has become a tool that has taught us about sharing, responsibility, and nutrition. These are all lessons that will help us throughout our entire lives. In addition, this garden is no ordinary garden. It has also helped to educate and bring together a very diverse group of ages. We have learned and continue to learn from our friends at Buckingham and this amazing garden.

Editor's Note: Rambam Day School continues to participate in Better Together, their project started in 2014 that affords students the opportunity to be part of daily life at Buckingham South. Better Together strives to enrich students' understanding of and sensitivity to the role senior citizens play in society and community. This essay is from Benny Schachter, a sixth grader at Rambam and the son of Julia and David Schachter.

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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:



Ruth Gershowitz Yermovsky
Who died April 16, 2017

She is survived by two daughters, Susan Seidman of Atlanta, and Hol-lye (Billy) McAdams of Savannah; one son, Harvey (Marilyn) Yarmon of Augusta; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Yermovsky, and her son-in-law, Irv Seidman.

Remembrances: Waycross He-

brew Center, 610 Screven Ave., Waycross, GA 31501.

Herman Lewis Cranman
Who died April 2, 2017

He is survived by his wife, Helen Schmalheiser (Small) Cranman; one daughter, Lynn C. (David) Reeves of Savannah; two sons, Paul (Karen) Cranman of Savannah, and Roy Cranman of Atlanta; ten grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Matthew Jason Cranman, and a brother, Alvin Cranman.

Remembrances: Matthew J. Cranman Holocaust Teacher Education Fund, c/o Savannah Jewish Federation, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405-5214.

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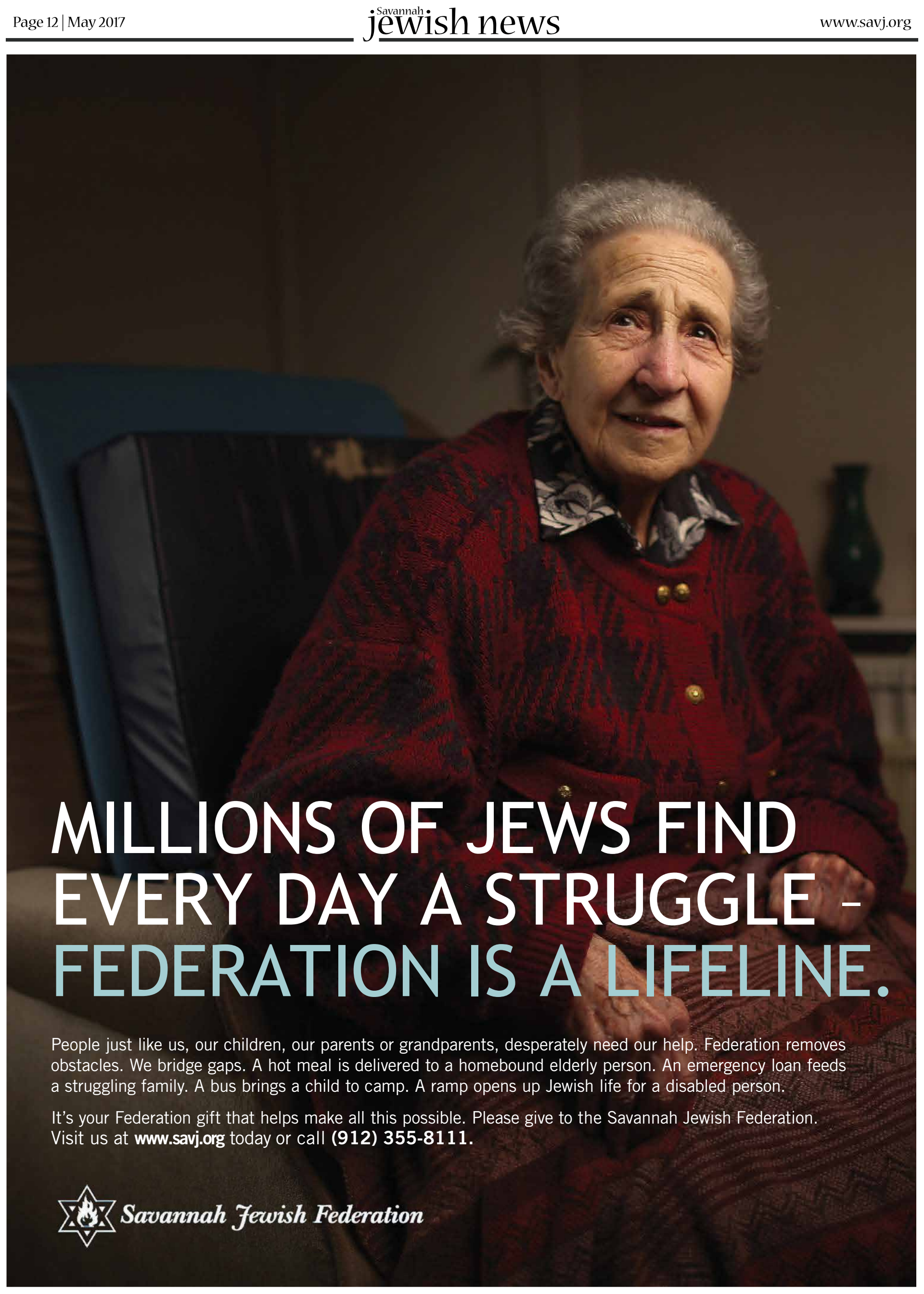
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Planting herbs in the garden



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