



Candle Lighting Times

Wednesday, October 4	6:47pm
Thursday, October 5	7:41pm
Friday, October 6	6:45pm
Wednesday, October 11	6:38pm
Thursday, October 12	7:33pm
Friday, October 13	6:36pm
Friday, October 20	6:28pm
Friday, October 27	6:21pm

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'Super' Main Event October 25th

The anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws had been passed and the earliest concentration camps had opened in Germany when Superman first appeared on the cover of a comic book in the spring of 1938. The creation of writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster, two Jewish friends from Cleveland, Superman soon became one of the most popular comic book heroes ever to avenge evil. The Man of Steel would go on to protect the underdogs of society and save the world from villains in newspaper comic strips, TV shows, blockbuster



movies, video games, and of course, millions more comic books.

Historian Ralph Nurnberger, the featured speaker, will examine how Judaism inspired the creation of Superman at this year's Main Event Campaign kickoff. The Main Event is the community's annual opportunity to show support for our local and worldwide Jewish agencies that provide Jewish education, social services, Holocaust education and remembrance, youth, teen and college Jewish

identity initiatives, programs for combating anti-Semitism, Israel advocacy, and more. The Community Campaign is the primary source of funding for many of these services and programs in our community.



Dr. Ralph Nurnberger

Dr. Ralph Nurnberger is a widely acclaimed speaker who brings humor, relevant political insights and historical background to his presentations. He has appeared on radio and television programs as an analyst on political and international issues.

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Federations Provide Relief from Hurricanes

The rain began to fall in Houston on Friday, August 25th, as Hurricane Harvey made landfall along the Texas coast. Though slowly weakening in strength from a Category 4 storm, Harvey wasn't in much of a rush to go anywhere and stalled over the Houston metropolitan area for days, eventually leaving behind almost 52 inches of rain (perhaps more – the official gauge gave up working). By September 1st, one-third of Houston was under water; but a disproportionate 71% of its Jewish population lived in areas affected by extensive flooding.

Harvey had barely dissipated when Hurricane Irma began her devastating trek through the Caribbean, starting with the destruction of Barbuda on September 6th. She made her first landfall in Florida, also as a huge Category 4 storm, on September 10th and proceeded to make her way north through the state over the next 36 hours. While buildings built to new standards after Hurricane Andrew 25 years ago fared better than expected,

downed trees caused power outages for more than half the state's population (as of this writing, not all service has been restored) and storm surges from the massive hurricane caused unprecedented flooding in some places throughout the state.

Because Irma's track shifted west, most of Florida's largest Jewish population centers, which still suffered consequences of the storm, were spared from potential disaster. According to the Jewish Virtual Library, there were almost 655,000 Jews living in Florida in 2016, approximately 3.27% of the state's population.

Houston is the country's fourth largest metropolitan area and home to 51,000 Jews. Nearly every Jewish institution and Jewish-owned business there was im-

pacted by the hurricane in some way. Consider these facts about Houston's Jewish community after Harvey:

- 1,000 people were displaced from their homes
- 14% of Jewish day school students and 20% of day school staff have confirmed flooding
- 6 major Houston Jewish institutions suffered catastrophic flood damage, including three of the largest synagogues and a day school
- Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services, with one of the largest Alzheimer's care units in the country, experienced complete flooding on its first floor requiring relocation of residents

The Jewish Federations of North



Torah scrolls at the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas being prepared for the arrival of Hurricane Irma. The synagogue was damaged but survived the storm; the Torahs came through dry.

America (JFNA) immediately established a Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund to help meet urgent needs throughout the community including food, medicine, temporary housing, cleaning supplies and trauma counseling. The Federations' network of local and international partners allowed for a quick and effective response to this emergency.

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Houston shlichim (Israeli emissaries) help with one family's clean up

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Federations Provide Relieffrom page 1

In addition to helping provide for the most basic urgent needs, the Federations' Relief Fund also immediately allocated funds to send children to day camp so their distraught families could focus on recovery and rebuilding; made initial grants to synagogues to help congregants rebuild; is working with the Hebrew Free Loan Association to create a new Hurricane Harvey loan pool; and is working with Jewish Family Service and others to provide ongoing trauma support, housing, transportation and legal services.

Hurricane Irma also made landfall in Tampa, on Florida's west coast. "Tampa was very lucky, Irma was a low two when it hit," Alissa Fischel, Chief Development Officer for Tampa Jewish Community Centers and Fed-

eration (TJCCF) told us. "We have a few families that we are taking care of in Tampa who were impacted and will continue to do so as needs arise, but then we wanted to be sure that we were able to help other communities that got hit much worse than we did." Fischel said that TJCCF sent "a ton of stuff" to St. Martin and has more going to the Florida Keys.

According to Fischel, Tampa-area Jewish institutions were spared significant damage from Irma; the JCCs and synagogues found themselves mostly cleaning up debris from the storm. She said most people in the Jewish community fared well and there has been a "tremendous outpouring" from the community to the request for donated goods for other communities. "Everyone in Tampa felt

blessed that they weren't hit as hard as expected and wanted to make sure they helped anyone who had been," said Fischel. TJCCF coordinated with the other Tampa Jewish agencies to make sure that donated goods were distributed to as many hard-hit areas as possible.

JFNA's hurricane relief funds remain open for contributions as the needs created by these disasters are expected to last for years. The Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund provides specifically for the victims of Hurricane Harvey; the Hurricane Irma Relief Fund provides for victims of Hurricane Irma and, if necessary, victims of any other 2017 hurricanes. 100% of donations to both funds are used to help those impacted by the disasters. To donate, go to savj.org.

Your Campaign Dollars At Work Diversity in Israel

by Abraham Lebos

I believe cultural experience to be one of the most valuable forms of knowledge this world offers. This summer I had the incredible opportunity to travel for a month in Israel, encountering its rich culture both as a Jew and a human being.

A complexity exists in Israeli society due to its diversity, not only from non-Jewish citizens, but within the Jewish community itself. As I pushed through the crowds of the shuk, I could see in the same line of vision Orthodox Jews perusing alongside their more secular counterparts. Among the chaotic noise and wafting scent of fresh falafel from all sides there existed a peaceful unity that is not so commonly seen today.

I davened against the Western Wall in shorts and Tevas, while to my right a boy my age donned *tzitzit* and *payos*. In those moments I was simply a Jew among other Jews, our mother faith connecting us all. Despite Hebrew being the official language of Israel, I felt as if I was in a linguistic jungle. Wherever I happened to be, around me were languages being spoken that spanned the entire planet. Just while participating in "Rhapsodia," a youth event in which groups construct rafts to sail across the Kineret, I labored to the melodies of French, Spanish, Amharic, Arabic, Dutch and more, our common denominator being faith.

Yet Israel's melting pot is much larger than that of Jews. Arabs, Dru-

ze, Bedouins, Christians, and countless others belonging to every ethnicity and religion inhabit this small country. Externally, Israel is scrutinized as a dangerous and chaotic place stemming from this diversity and subsequent conflicting ideologies. However, I learned that it is the complete opposite.



Abraham Lebos at the Western Wall

The peace that exists in the face of variation is extraordinary. For such a physically small nation to house such a wide array of beliefs should be looked upon with pride and encouragement. I had the privilege of visiting Druze people, Bedouins, and a small Arab village. In the village, I participated in a coexistence activity with some of the school children. Through crude communication using

a mixture of English, Hebrew, Arabic, and hand gestures, I was able to connect with people seemingly very different than me. I discovered many to be the children of doctors and lawyers, existing in a social environment probably very similar to my own. We shared the same dreams of travel, education, and most importantly, peace.

The children of this village are not raised speaking Hebrew and many never learn, yet they still wholeheartedly identify as Israeli, for what the great country is today and all of her potential. This devotion proves something: Israel's diversification is not a detractor to be fixed, but rather an opportunity to be taken advantage of and learned from.

My time in the Holy Land was a medley of shwarma, hummus, Yemenite burritos, walks on old stone, and hikes on older mountains. I was able to further cement myself in this world as a Jew not only among other Jews, but among everyone. I extend my deepest thanks towards the Savannah Jewish Federation for helping me have this magnificent experience. I hope one day to be able to contribute in the same way, and allow another young Jewish mind the same opportunity.

Abraham Lebos, 17, is a senior at Savannah Arts Academy. He is the son of Mark and Jessica Leigh Lebos. Abraham traveled to Israel this past summer with Young Judaea Machon 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. See youngjudaea.org for more information on Young Judaea and its Israel travel programs.

Savannah Jewish News

Published by the
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www.savj.org

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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.



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.



PJ Library kids decorating Mezuzahs!



In August, PJ Library and PJ Our Way participated in Mezuzahs & Mosaics. Children had an opportunity to decorate their own Mezuzah with paint, mosaic pieces, and other craft supplies. After spending some creative time, children enjoyed a PJ Library story about Mezuzahs and learned about how the Mezuzah came to be.

SAVE
THE
DATE

**Sukkah Fest
October 8**



Check out PJ Our Way™ the Newest Chapter of PJ Library®

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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.



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



Savannah teens on their way to Regional Execs

Savannah BBYO teens have had a busy few months developing their leadership skills. In August, our teens attended Regional Execs with Eastern Region (North Carolina and Virginia Councils) to learn more about their board positions, how to be leaders, and grow as Jewish teens. A few weeks later, Savannah BBYO had a visit from BBYO Professional Staff Ellen Goldstein and Lauren Revenson who worked with chapter boards on program development and recruitment. We are very excited to see our Savannah teens use this new knowledge for BBYO!



MIT/AIT New Member Convention
Open to Grades 9-12
October 20-22



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.



BBYO Connect teens spent a magical afternoon on the Hogwarts Express!



Save
the
Date

November 4

Main Event.....from page 1

Nurnberger is a professor of international relations at Georgetown University, where he has taught since 1975, and is a partner in the Washington, D.C., government relations firm, Nurnberger & Associates, which was founded in 1994. He was named Professor of the Year by Georgetown's Graduate School of Liberal Studies in 2003. He currently teaches graduate seminars on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He served more than eight years as a Legislative Liaison for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and was the first director of "Builders for Peace," an Arab-American/American Jewish initiative established in 1993 with the encouragement of then-Vice President Al Gore to promote private sector investment in the West Bank and Gaza. In this capacity, he dealt with international leaders including Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, then-Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, as well as American and international business

and political leaders.

Nurnberger's articles have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Miami Herald*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Baltimore Sun* and numerous scholarly journals and magazines. His most recent book is entitled *Lobbying in America*. He has also advised numerous Congressional, Senatorial and Presidential campaigns on foreign policy issues, especially those related to the Middle East. He has experience as a Senate staffer and in various positions in the Executive Branch. In addition to all of this, Nurnberger was captain of his varsity tennis team as an undergraduate at Queens College.

What: SJF Main Event Dinner
When: Wednesday, October 25th, 6:30pm
Where: JEA, 5111 Abercorn St.
Cost: \$18/person
RSVP: savj.org or (912) 355-8111

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Chaim V'Chessed

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.

Life in Israel is complex at the best of times. It's a country full of red tape and constantly changing policies, confusing medical terms and inflexible systems. For English speakers, these challenges are further compounded. Language barriers, cultural differences and lack of connections make day-to-day complexities all the more difficult. And when crisis hits, the challenge can go from difficult to nearly impossible.

Chaim V'Chessed's goal is to ease

the task of navigating life in Israel. The organization is staffed by multilingual experts who are equipped to provide English speakers in Israel with the answers, advocacy and guidance they so desperately need.

Chaim V'Chessed's range of expertise includes hospital assistance, governmental dealings, special education, kuppot cholim, infertility, bereavement and more. From the most

critical, even life-threatening issues to the obstacles inherent in just getting through each day, there is no problem too large or too small for them to help with.

It's challenging to live as an English speaker in Israel. Chaim V'Chessed believes that no one should need to navigate this challenge alone.



Bringing Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival Home

by Jennifer Rich

Sunday, October 29th, Mickve Israel will fill Monterey Square and the streets surrounding the Temple with the delicious scents of latkes, corned beef, Sizzling Sephardic lamb plus Gottlieb's Challah and all the tantalizing foods you've come to love. We'll fill the square with the sounds of Klezmer music, the sounds of adults kibitzing, children laughing, playing games and decorating cupcakes.

Congregation Mickve Israel is celebrating our 29th year of sharing Jewish delicacies, Jewish music and Jewish ruach (spirit) with the Savannah community and bringing it home to Monterey Square. It'll be a block party to remember! We know you'll love the location with plenty of room to sit, mingle, dance and of course, eat! With more room to move, we'll have a special kid's zone with games, activities and prizes and special space for our Community Partners – the JEA, the Savannah Jewish Federation, BBYO, Hillel and Second Harvest Food Bank.



Volunteers prepare Middle Eastern delights at the 2016 Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival

Entertainment this year will feature upbeat music from the Savannah Philharmonic, the toe tapping music of *Klezmer Local 42* and students from the Maxine Patterson School of Dance will lead us in a Klezmer dance.

Delicious food, good times with friends (new and old), sunshine and great entertainment — the Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival will be a day to remember. Join us in Monterey Square from 11am – 3pm on October 29th – we hope to see you there! For more information call Mickve Israel at 912-233-1547.

The Officers and Board of Governors of the Savannah Jewish Federation cordially invite you to the

74th ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance

Remarks from Federation President, Allan Ratner
Election of Board of Governors
Director's Report to the Community
President's Awards
Recognition of 2017 Campaign Leadership

Dessert Reception

All food served at the JEA is Kosher and under supervision of the JEA Kitchen Committee. Certified sealed Kosher meals available upon request.

Looking for something to do?
Check the Community Calendar
www.savj.org



Allan Ratner
President
Savannah Jewish
Federation

A Better World

I can't believe it has been a year since I was installed as president of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

Two hurricanes, two evacuations, horrific damage in Florida, Houston, and the Caribbean. And another storm on the way as I write this.

A new U.S. President. Whether you voted for him or not, like him or not, he is the President and I hope he does a good job. Just as I want the pilot of my airliner to have a great flight and land safely.

Bombings in London and Paris. Threatening gestures from North Korea, Iran, Yemen, and Russia. Plus many more events too numerous to mention.

What a terrible world we are living in. What's the use? Let's just crawl into bed, pull the covers up, and let the world go by.

Then a wonderful thing happened. On December 18th, my daughter-in-law gave birth to a little girl, Margot

Sadie Boryk Ratner (she needs a long name because "princesses" always have four or five names).

At nine months she doesn't do much yet, except smile, coo, eat, sleep, etc. But there is one other thing she does: She makes me smile, laugh, and cry with joy. She makes me forget about all the bad in this world and work to make it better — for her. She — and all the other children like her — are the reasons we strive so hard to make this a better world.

During this High Holiday season, don't think of all the bad in the world. Look at all the wonderful things you have to be thankful for. Your children, grandchildren, good health, friends. If you don't have all of these, pick the ones you do have, and try to make the others better. We all have things to be grateful for, and some we want to improve.

On Rosh Hashanah, let us reflect on the wonderful year we had, and on what we can do to improve in the New Year.

On Yom Kippur, let's pray for a better world for us all.

Peace and love to all.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJE

Can We Get Along?

"...to disagree well you must first understand well. You have to read deeply, listen carefully, watch closely. You need to grant your adversary moral respect; give him the intellectual benefit

of doubt; have sympathy for his motives and participate empathically with his line of reasoning. And you need to allow for the possibility that you might yet be persuaded of what he has to say." (Bret Stephens, New York Times, 9-24-17)

During this time of year when we take stock of who we are and of our relationships to and with each other, Bret Stephens' words gave me pause for reflection.

Just when I thought that it couldn't get worse, it does...and the discussion about the lack of discussion seems to be consuming us.

Emotional manipulation, distortion, and flat out lies seem to be the "new normal," and each of us has our own version of the truth.

And in reality, most of the polarizing topics of today that seem simple and clear are highly complex and nuanced. No matter where you are on an ordinary issue, you are bound to offend many of those around you.

It was not long ago that corporations would always stay neutral, but brands are now joining the political discourse. Corporations that weigh in find themselves praised and vilified at the same time.

Now, all of a sudden, it seems the immediate call often is for a boycott. You don't agree with another's values: boycott them...and it all goes viral in mere moments.

We don't need to look far back in our history to the 1930s when Jewish stores throughout Europe were boycotted, or the 1940s when the Arab League was founded, in part to "frustrate further Jewish development in Palestine by means of boycott against Zionist products." Today we have the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement — a global attempt to in-



crease economic and political pressure on Israel and make it a pariah in the eyes of many.

Polarization and disrespect are growing daily.

And now we are seeing this in Jewish community institutions. Many of us have read stories of people who feel uncomfortable in their synagogue if they have a differing point of view from their fellow congregants.

It is essential that synagogues, Federations, and JCCs provide safe spaces in which Jews of all points of view can feel comfortable. We all need to reaffirm our commitment to "Big Tent Judaism," a tent where differing points of view, differing political visions, and differing priorities can all coexist and learn from each other.

One rabbi quipped that his position was to tread lightly and to encourage his congregation to pursue Jewish beliefs and values through political advocacy and engagement. Another stated that he "tries to stay pareve."

It's easier said than done.

There are those in the Jewish professional community who believe that the import of the moral issues preclude neutrality.

There is no right answer, but there are many questions:

How do we listen better?

How do we learn from each other?

How do we become more empathic?

How do we provide respect to those who we disagree with?

I wish I knew all the answers, but I don't, just the questions.

What I do know is what I have committed to in 5778: to listen more, judge less and continue to learn from those around me.

Mah Jongg Tournament Getaway

January 21-24, 2018

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I on Israel

Israel Responds to Hurricane Harvey

by Abigail Klein Leichman, ISRAEL21C

Editor's Note: All of the Israeli groups mentioned in this article — United Hatzalah, Israel Rescue Coalition, IsraAID and ZAKA — have been on the ground in Florida in response to Hurricane Irma and some also are in the Caribbean providing assistance.

Miriam Ballin's heart sank when she saw the water line — a calling card of Hurricane Harvey — ringing her former childhood home in Houston. But she couldn't linger. Urgent work awaited her as leader of the United Hatzalah Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit.

The voluntary six-person team of Israeli mental-health professionals landed in Texas [just a few days after Hurricane Harvey] on behalf of the Israel Rescue Coalition. It is one of several Israeli humanitarian-aid groups sending personnel to Texas.

Ballin, a family therapist in Jerusalem, had sent her five kids off to their first day of school the morning before she left. Her husband, a physician, encouraged her to go.

"I hadn't been back to Houston for years," Texas native Ballin told ISRAEL21C from the Dallas Convention Center, where the Israelis are giving psychological first aid to evacuees and relief workers.

"Houston was already in recovery mode when we arrived, but the mayor's office said we were needed in the surrounding towns of Beaumont and Port Arthur. They were still saving people from rooftops and could not get

supplies in and out.

"We headed out in the highest two SUVs we could get hold of, and joined the National Guard motorcade with other EMS volunteers in boats. On our left and right we saw 10 feet of water covering cars; we saw dogs on rooftops. It was really sad."

A US Army coordinator directed the Israelis to Jack Brooks Regional Airport in Port Arthur to help prepare evacuees for departure by air to a Red Cross shelter set up in the Dallas Convention Center. Over the next two days, a few hundred people were sent to the Israeli experts for psychological care.

"Some of these people had been stuck on buses for days and were shell-shocked. There were babies without food or diapers. There were [previously] homeless people whose situation ironically was improved because they got food and medical attention," said Ballin.

"One lady told us that she and her friend do childcare, and when the water started rising they put all the kids on air mattresses and floated them to safety. Another guy told us he watched the body of his elderly neighbor floating by. The whole place was on emotional edge; everyone was ready to burst into tears," said Ballin. "My team all shed tears at different times too. That was fine and healthy." When Ballin hugged an airport cleaner,



IRC team leader Miriam Ballin counseling a disabled Houston evacuee.

thanking her for keeping the place nice for the evacuees, the woman began crying. "She'd been feeling invisible," Ballin explained.

Psychotherapist Einat Kauffman guided children in creating models or pictures of their homes. "This helped them to express their feelings of loss and we were able to work from there. Some children spoke about their pets that were lost, others talked about being separated from family members. Our goal was to get them to open up about what they were feeling in a non-threatening and positive manner in order to be able to begin processing their feelings."

On Friday afternoon, unable to travel to the Houston Jewish

community for the Sabbath, Ballin and her team — half of whom are religious — stayed in the airport and gratefully made do with donated fruits and vegetables, kosher grape juice and tortillas. They spent their day of rest in a makeshift "clinic" in an airport hangar counseling more than 100 traumatized emergency medical services (EMS) personnel.

"Some of them have PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] and this experience exacerbated it. They were depleted emotionally and physically. They were lining up outside our door. Many were air paramedics who see the worst of the worst," Ballin related. She debriefs her own team often for signs of emotional fatigue.

In addition to basic psychological first-aid techniques, the IRC/United Hatzalah team sometimes employed a new approach recently pioneered in Israel, which transitions victims rapidly from paralysis to productivity by activating them mentally and physically.

"Our team provides the IRC with a new capability developed in Israel that no one else in the world is currently doing," said Ballin.

On Sunday [Sept. 3], the Israelis continued on to the Dallas Convention Center, where 2,500 evacuees were sheltered.

"An adorable little African-American girl ran down the hall and jumped into the arms of one of our team members — an amazing therapist and rabbi — when she recognized him as the one she'd spoken to in Port Arthur," said Ballin, who also was

continued on page 11

Israel's Opera Star

Opera fans not already familiar with her work should be on the lookout for Maya Lahyani, the up and coming Israeli mezzo-soprano. A native of Tel Aviv, Lahyani can be seen in the Metropolitan Opera's productions of *Elektra* and *Cendrillon* this season. She made her debut with the Met in 2014 in the role of Kate Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, the first Israeli-born artist ever to sing on their stage. She has performed with the Met during every season since her debut there,

including performances in *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto* and *Manon*.

Lahyani is an alumna of the prestigious Adler Fellowship of the San Francisco Opera, where she made her debut in 2010 as Wowkle in *La Fanciulla del West*. She received her Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Music from the Mannes College of Music



Maya Lahyani as Carmen - San Francisco Opera

in New York. She also has performed with the Seattle Opera Company, the Wolf Trap Opera, The Canadian Opera Company and others. Her concert work includes performances with the Jerusalem Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony and others.

Regarding what may become her signature leading role, Bizet's *Carmen* — she now has performed it four times — Opera Today wrote of one performance: "Maya Lahyani is a born *Carmen*. The demands of the role lie smoothly on her voice and she has strong resonance all across its range. Most of all, she created a charismatic figure that held the attention of every member of the audience. For a young singer who had only performed the title role of *Carmen* in two previous productions, her grasp of its intricacies was amazing."



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:

CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

October 2017

Events at the JEA

Sukkah Fest
Community Sukkot Festival

Sunday, October 8
2:00 – 4:00p.m.
Jewish Educational Alliance
\$5 per person *or* \$15 per family

Inflatables
Fall Snacks
in the Sukkah

Animals
Hay Rides
Face Painting

JEA Services Impacted by Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma devastated the leeward Caribbean Islands, Florida . . . and the JEA, too. Although it was downgraded to a tropical storm by the time Irma made its way through Georgia, the high winds and torrential rains had a big impact on the JEA. In the back ballfields, a tree fell, taking out four utility poles and a transformer. Georgia Power crews worked tirelessly to get our electricity back, but still the JEA was closed an additional four days after the storm had passed. A crew from Canada finally got our power restored! See the photos below.





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 7/28/17-9/15/17)

Andrew & Katy Acuff

Brett Brannen

John & Dorothy Brennan

Anthony & Joy Bryant

Bryan Chan

William & Erin Christopher

Carlos Colon & Caroline Daruna

Brody & Sarah Docar

Helen Downing

Joshua & Stefanie Hager

Clea Hernandez

Linda McQuiggan

Alexis Perryman

Elana Portman

Vernell Ross

Andy Shearer & Michael Fink

Robert Slipko & Renee Mongelluzzo

Gigi South

James & Laura Wanzel

Jacob & Sylvia Warner

David & Cameron Willard

John & Cindi Zanki



Food For Thought

Join us each Thursday at 12:30pm

September 28 <i>WWII Perspective</i> Heidi & Hank Reed	October 19 <i>Memorial Hospital Trauma Services Update</i> Dr. Jay Goldstein Thank you Memorial Hospital
October 5 <i>NO FOOD FOR THOUGHT</i> JEA is Closed for Sukkot	October 26 <i>Essential Oils</i> Margaret Clay
October 12 <i>NO FOOD FOR THOUGHT</i> JEA is Closed for Simchat Torah	November 2 <i>Live Music</i> Savannah Voice Festival

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.

JEA Donations

(August 1, 2017-September 15, 2017)

ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In honor of Harriet Ullman

Elaine Radetsky

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH FUND

In honor of Claire Jameson McGhie

Sally & Steve Greenberg

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Doris Levy

Arlene & Allan Ratner

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Gale & David Hirsh

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In honor of Elise Shernoff

Marsha & Chuck Bernstein

In honor of Larry Bernstein

Elise & Victor Shernoff

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Matiel Leffler

In memory of Ginger Kahn Stock

In memory of Jane Furchgott

Tony Center

DAVE & BUNNY CENTER CAMPERSHIP FUND

In honor of Marcy & Jerry Konter

Angie & Skip Weiland

JEA Youth Basketball

Registration begins November 2017

Open for athletes from kindergarten
to 5th grade!

For more information
please contact
Kirby Southerland
youthsports@savj.org



Health & Wellness

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Kathy Ackerman
Fitness Director

Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer in women, but fortunately has high survival rates. Many studies have been performed on the effects of exercise in patients diagnosed with breast cancer. There is evidence that exercise after the diagnosis of breast cancer improves

mortality, physical functioning, muscle strength, fatigue and emotional wellbeing. Breast cancer patients should be participating in some form of exercise, including both strengthening and aerobic exercises, for the most beneficial results.

Breast Cancer patients (Survivors) should consider exercising with a trainer for safety reasons, but also to receive the most benefit from their workouts. Exercising can be considered a complement to their medical treatment for

achieving physiological and psychological improvements and improving their quality of life.

Women who get regular exercise have a lower risk of breast cancer than women who are inactive. Regular exercise can lower breast cancer risk by about 10-20 percent, studies show. Being overweight can also increase the risk of developing breast cancer in postmenopausal women. Higher estrogen levels in women increase the risk of breast cancer. Being active may lower estrogen levels. Exercise may also boost the body's immune system so it can help kill or slow the growth of cancer cells.

Science has come a long way in helping fight cancers but it is in our control to help minimize the risk of cancer. Please let one of our expert trainers help you knock out cancer.

Contact me at fitness@savj.org or (912) 355-8111 for more information.

JEA Excels in National Fitness Challenge

This summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day), the Jewish Community Centers of North America (JCCA) held a national fitness competition for all JCCs. Members throughout the country logged their participation in running, walking, cardio machines, cycling (indoor/outdoor), swimming, group exercise classes, and personal training.

Nationally, we had two participants who were in the top three in the country in the JCC Professional Division: Kathy Ackerman who was the 1st place winner in walking miles and Adam Solender who was a 2nd place winner in personal training.

Overall JCCs competed against each other by size of city (Metro, Large Medium and Small). The JEA, despite our small city size is judged in the

Medium community category. We placed in the Top 3 in the every category except cycling:

Running - 3rd place
Walking - 1st place
Cardio Machines - 1st place
Swimming - 3rd place
Group Exercise Classes - 3rd place
Personal Training - 1st place

Congratulations to Fitness Director, Kathy Ackerman and all the JEA Members who participated in this national competition.

You rocked the JCC fitness world!!!



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 - Aikido

Wednesday

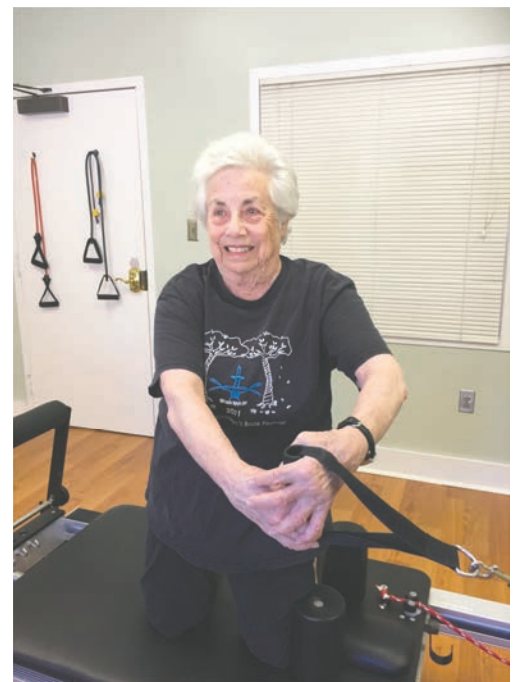
8:45 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
10:30 am - Silver Step
4:30 pm - Fast & Fit
6:00 pm - Shimmy Chic

Thursday

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



Children's Department

AFTER SCHOOL

The JEA After School program is available to children ages Pre-K through 8th grade. After School hours are Monday-Friday, 3:00-6:00 pm. Transportation is provided from Garrison, Charles Ellis, Jacob G. Smith, Savannah Classical Academy, Heard Elementary Schools, and Susie King Taylor School.

Registration for 2017-2018

Registration is open. Space is extremely limited. Please call for availability.

Activities include arts, baking, sports, games, homework help, computer lab, & more!

Registration packets are available at the JEA front desk & at savannahjea.org.



in the JEA Art Gallery



The Fiber Guild of the Savannahs

The Fiber Guild of the Savannahs is a group of fiber artists who meet regularly to share inspiration and techniques using a wide variety of fiber-related arts. Spinning, weaving, dyeing, quilting, knitting, basketry, rug making, paper manipulation, needle felting, and crocheting are just some of the crafts our members explore. We have a strong sense of community service and volunteerism. Our members demonstrate traditional pioneer crafts to children and families at the annual festivals at Oatland Island Wildlife Center. All persons—beginners, amateurs and professional fiber artists—are all welcome to join the guild.

Artwork available for viewing October 1-31, 2017
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception October 1st, 2-4 pm



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now 2017-18 School Year

- Enrollment for our 2017-2018 Preschool 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

Clean Up After Hurricane Irma

Thank you to Crystal and Ralph for helping to clean up the preschool storage area. Your assistance was greatly appreciated!

Preschool teachers came together the Friday after the hurricane - with no power - to re-organize classrooms and outdoor learning space, clean the outdoor shed, and prepare the garden boxes.



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.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

And So We Began a New Year...

And Hashem said, “Let there be light” and then the verse tells us that Hashem saw the light and that it was good.

Why would the Almighty look upon His own creation and describe it as good? One would think He would describe it as wonderful, perfect, awesome. Good seems so limited, so restrained from being descriptive. Yet, that is exactly the word chosen by the Almighty Himself.

I believe He chose that word because the light was created for man’s use and the Almighty wants us to exhaust our possibilities and reach our full potential with the opportunities the light shines upon. If man uses the light to see the good in G-d’s world, and all the possibilities the world presents to man through which he can grow in the ways of G-d; then this light can be described as awesome. However, if this light is used for us to only see our own perspectives more clearly and not see with clarity G-d’s purpose for the world and for us, then the light remains only good.

Each school year ends and we reflect upon its strengths and weaknesses and begin planning for the year to come. It is an ever evolving process and constant motion; because no matter how much we plan, G-d plans too and often His plans change what our goals need to be.

This year in Rambam Day School we have several new students, parents and staff members.

Together we have begun the year successfully with parents and students very happy and feeling superbly wonderful about their new home in Rambam.

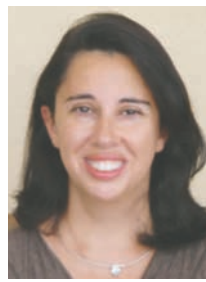
Every class is busy learning, however, I hear laughter and discussion amongst the various subject matters being learned and discussed. The atmosphere sounds healthy and productive; it feels safe and secure – I do believe Rambam Day School has already begun to make its mark for this school year and blaze a trail of success.

We’re excited with all our new staff and the impressions and influences they are already having on our students.

We have a new PE program through Crossfit which is really putting the children to the challenge as to exactly what can their bodies endure?!!!

We have a new class of children under two years of age to accommodate some of our working parents, who very much wanted their children to experience what goes on between the walls of Rambam. They are adorable, and I have to remind myself I have a job as principal of the school which requires me to do more than just play with the precious, little babies.

There are few joys greater than walking around Rambam Day School in and out of classrooms, listening, joining in the conversation, schmoozing with children and just experiencing the priceless delight of Jewish education being brought to light within the walls of Rambam Day School.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

Back for More

We have found ourselves once again in the hectic, yet fulfilling, times that are the High Holidays. These holidays, in Israel, are rooted in the

annual agricultural cycle to remind us of our dependence on the world and its gifts. This is especially true for the three pilgrimage festivals: Pesach, Sukkot, and Shavouot. On Sukkot, we celebrate our freedom (as we put up our temporary dwellings and remember the Exodus) but also the harvest, and we give thanks for the bounty, and nature’s gifts — at the time of the Temple each one would come to Jerusalem with offering from its crop.

On Simchat Torah, the joyful holiday ending the High Holiday season, we celebrate not what we have been given, but what we have accomplished. We recognize the achievement of this long period of repentance we have just been through and more importantly, we celebrate the completion of the Torah reading. On Simchat Torah, we read the last and the first of the 54 Torah portions. We end and we start again the cycle that same day. We do not dwell. Coming right back to Bereishit and the beginning indicates that we never “finish” nor

“graduate” as far as the Torah is concerned. A cycle that blends with our own life cycle.

It is on this note that we end the month of Tishrei. Inspired and enriched by the religious experience and ready to face challenges with more courage and fortitude, knowing that we are part of a link in the chain which unites generations of Israelites with G d, through the Torah.

In Shalom School, we follow a similar path of recognition. We celebrate the gifts we have been given: friendship, students, teachers... We are grateful for the opportunity to enrich the lives of others. We also celebrate our accomplishments: a new mitzvah, learning a new prayer or a new Tanach chapter. And we, too, work in a cycle starting it joyfully all again, year after year.

We can all celebrate achievements; we all excel at something. Some people even excel at many things. The important lesson to remember is not to dwell on those achievements and to re-engage in the cycle. We complete and restart at Simchat Torah because our tradition is that no matter how accomplished we are, no matter how young or wise, there is always more to learn.

Wishing you a year rich in learning.

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

SJF GENERAL DONATIONS

In honor of Julie Hirsch
Rhoda Halperin

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FUND

In memory of Jane Furchgott
Sara Jospin
In honor of Sharon & Murray Galin
Ellen Byck
In memory of Lydia Katzman
Linda & Michael Zoller
In memory of Randy Bart
Arlene & Allan Ratner

TIKVAH FUND

A donation was made by
Helen Geiger
In memory of Matiel Leffler
Charlotte & Harold Black
In honor of Arlene & Allan Ratner
Doris & Arnie Goldstein
In honor of Doris Levy
Sara Jospin

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

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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



**CONGREGATION
AGUDATH ACHIM**

SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah GA 31405 912-352-4737
Agudatha@aol.com / Agudath-Achim.com

Saturday, October 7th
Shabbat Kiddush
Luncheon
in honor of Military
Families.

Join us in hosting families
of soldiers from
Ft. Stewart, Hunter AAF,
and other bases. For a
special holiday meal in our
Sukkah.



Sunday, October 8th
4 pm - 7 pm
Join us for a meet and
greet at the
Rabbi's house

Everyone is invited to
Rabbi Henkin's Sukkah
for nosh, schmooze, and
fun with your friends.

YOUNG JEWISH SAVANNAH

Sangria

IN THE SUKKAH

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

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

It Will Take More Than Time To Ease Their Pain

Help the Victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

Donate at savj.org

The Jewish Federations of North America

Savannah Jewish Federation

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

2017/5778 High Holiday Schedule

Erev Sukkot Service & Dinner in the Sukkah
Wednesday, October 4, 6pm

Sukkot Morning Service & Potluck Lunch
Thursday, October 5, 10:30am

Erev Simchat Torah Dinner followed by Consecration Service and Procession of the Torahs
Wednesday, October 11, 6pm

Simchat Torah Yizkor Service, Changing of Torah Covers & Potluck Lunch
Thursday, October 12, 10:30am

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

The Shalom Y'all ★ **Oy Yum!**

Jewish food festival™

Come to the Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival
October 29th, 2017 11am to 3pm in Monterey Square!

The 2017 Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Fest is October 29th from 11am to 3pm in Monterey Square and we'd love for you to volunteer!

Whether you love to cook, organize, serve food, or sell tickets, we've got a space for you!

Online registration is open at mickveisrael.org/foodfest

Operation Isaiah

September 18 -
October 20



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

- Isaiah 58:6-7

Isaiah was a prophet whose words are read on Yom Kippur each year. In this spirit, join your **Savannah Jewish Federation** and **Jewish Family Services** during **Operation Isaiah** by doing a mitzvah this High Holy Day session and donate food* to benefit the **Second Harvest Food Bank**.

Drop off barrels are located at:

Congregation Agudath Achim
Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob
Congregation Mickve Israel
Jewish Educational Alliance

***High protein food such as tuna fish, peanut butter, canned or dried beans are ideal items for donation to the Second Harvest Food Bank.**

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Pearl Seligman Friedenberg
Who died September 11, 2017

She is survived by her husband, Louis Friedenberg; her daughter, Sherry Ann Friedenberg of Atlanta; her son, Ricky S. (Barbara) Friedenberg of Savannah; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; her brother, Melvin (Barbara) Seligman of Atlanta; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sister, Roslyn Seligman of Cincinnati, OH.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or The Humane Society for Greater Savannah, 7215 Sallie Mood Dr., Savannah 31406-3922.

Randall "Randy" Kerr Bart
Who died August 17, 2017

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Davne Bart; two sons, Daniel Bart and Matthew Bart (Joanna Persio); his parents, Roger Bart and Elaine Bickford Bart, one sister, Pam (Larry) Pasternak; two brothers Tom (Julie) Bart and Roger Bart; his mother-in-law, Carol Bennett Davne; nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel, P.O. Box 816, Savannah 31402-0816; or Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah 31416-0190.

M. Keith Siskin

Judge M. Keith Siskin, 45, passed away Sunday, July 23, 2017, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

He was born December 10, 1971, in Savannah, Georgia, to Jim and Madeleine Siskin. A graduate of Savannah Country Day School and Vanderbilt University, he earned his Juris Doctorate, Cum Laude, from the University of Georgia, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the law journal. After years of successful private practice, Keith was first appointed Referee/Magistrate of the Rutherford County Juvenile Court, then to the Circuit Court bench, a position he held until his passing. He was an active member of his community, having served as President of the Rutherford/Cannon County Bar Association, and having been a member of the American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Judicial Conference, and Murfreesboro Downtown Barristers Lions Club.

Keith is survived by his wife, Sheri; their daughters, Micah and Shae; his parents, Jim Siskin and Madeleine Varner; his stepmother, Dianne Siskin; his younger brother, Brad Siskin; his maternal grandmother, Sara Deich; and many other relatives, friends, and colleagues.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation via CrohnsColitisFoundation.org/chapters/georgia or postal mail at Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, Georgia Chapter, 2250 N Druid Hills Road, #250, Atlanta, GA 30329.



Israel Responds.....from page 6

able to help some of her own relatives affected by the storm.

Wearing bright orange Israel Rescue Coalition t-shirts, the team is visibly Israeli. "People are blessing us and thanking us for coming so far to help them. We were able to contribute a tremendous amount to people's emotional wellbeing," said Ballin. She expects her team to return to Israel by the end of the week.

Other Israeli groups in Houston

The IRC team's arrival from Israel was preceded by a team from IsraAID and followed on Sunday by eight members of ZAKA search-and-rescue organization. Another six ZAKA volunteers are expected today.

On previous overseas missions, ZAKA helped recover victims of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Typhoon Haiyan. In Houston, the volunteers are assisting with cleanup, repair and food delivery in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Orthodox Union.

"As a humanitarian organization, we help all those in need, regardless of religion, race or gender," noted ZAKA Chairman Yehuda Meshi-Zahav. "Today, our team contacted Pastor Becky Keenan from the Gulf Meadows Church, and we are working with the Christian community in the area as well. It was particularly meaningful for Pastor Keenan that a team from the Holy Land has come to offer help."

ZAKA team leader Jackie Wertheimer told ISRAEL21c that they've been welcomed warmly. Two Houston Jewish families are hosting them.

"Everybody is very surprised and happy that such a big team from Israel came to help them. And we were surprised to find so much to do," he said.

"To see such a disaster happen to so many people is really shocking.

You see huge stores like Target closed because they're all flooded," said Wertheimer, a Jerusalem father of three young children. "We committed to staying 10 days at least. Fortunately or unfortunately, we Israelis have a lot of experience and know how to help."

Two professional Israeli medical clowns were to leave for Houston on September 7th to offer a second round of psychological assistance to hurricane victims.

Tsour Shriqui, CEO of the nonprofit Dream Doctors Project, told ISRAEL21c that the clowns' 10 days in Houston will be coordinated by the Israeli Consulate in Texas.

"We have really specific ways to do interventions and we're always ready for humanitarian missions abroad," Shriqui said.

In the past, the Israeli Foreign Ministry has helped Dream Doctors find local partners for missions to countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Haiti and Nepal. In Israel, 100 Dream Doctors are on staff in 29 hospitals.

Aside from neighboring Mexico, Israel (population 8.5 million) is the only foreign country to send volunteers after Hurricane Harvey to Texas (population 28 million).

In cooperation with IsraAID and an American-Israeli moving company in Maryland, the Israeli Embassy to the United States sent several truckloads of supplies from Washington, DC, to Houston on Tuesday.

Israel's Diaspora Affairs Ministry is sending \$1 million in emergency aid to Houston's Jewish community.

"The Jewish State is measured by its response when our brothers around the world are in crisis," Minister Naftali Bennett said. "For years the Jewish communities stood by Israel when it needed their help; now it is our turn to stand by Houston's Jewish community."



Sarah Thompson,
JEA
Preschool Teacher

new garden project.

Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest celebrated this month. Another name for Sukkot is Chag HaAsif (Festival of the Ingathering), representing a time to give thanks for the bounty of the earth during the fall harvest. For JEA Preschool Savannah children, this time of year will be when they will plant a variety of items in the school's new garden and see firsthand the bounty of the earth.

This garden project is a new program for the children, and yes, the children will get dirty. For many years, there has been a dream of a garden for the JEA, and now that dream is coming to fruition. The seeds have been sown, the labor applied, and now the children are ready to reap the benefits of a school garden.

A garden holds so many possibilities for a child. We are lucky enough to have been given a curriculum from the JCC in Asheville which provides many learning opportunities in a garden as well as Jewish values that tie into them. Each class has been given their own garden box, and children and teachers will work together to keep their plants healthy and thriving. Right now we are in the early stages.

Sprouts for Students

JEA Preschool Savannah teacher Sarah Thompson is the guest columnist this month for Jodi Sadler. Sarah teaches Ayalim A, one of the three-year old classes and she is the lead teacher for the JEA's

Classes are beginning to germinate their seeds in the classroom, where children are responsible for planting, watering, and observing the plants' growth. When the seedlings are strong enough, the students will plant their biodegradable pods into their garden boxes outside and tend to their sprouts until maturity.

As our garden takes root, composting will be introduced. Children will learn what food products are safe to put in our composting bin. With

much patience and dedication, we will have nutritious plant food to add to our garden in the upcoming years.

A garden is not only a valuable teaching tool, but an opportunity for children to expand

their horizons. If a child is invested in the process of growing, they are more likely to try it than if it was simply placed in front of them. During the spring of 2017 we tested out the garden with a few easy to grow plants. I witnessed a child with a very limited diet try every vegetable we pulled from the garden because he had taken care of those plants and was excited to try the fruits of his labor. Children who normally did not want to get their hands dirty eagerly plunged those same spotless hands into the dirt to pull weeds, pinch off "suckers," and harvest ripe fruit and vegetables. They would then proudly march those dirt encrusted hands laden with cucumbers, radishes, or carrots and present them to all who could see what they had done.

We are proud and excited to present a new chapter in our children's enrichment, and yes, your child will get dirty.



Preschool class at work in the garden

EXPERIENCE THE POWER



WE
GOT THE
POWER



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FREE
TRIP!

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- Full contest details at Hadassah.org or contact Joanna Rich at Joanna@chirphealth.org
- Winners to be announced at the Washington, DC Conference in May

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Savannah Jewish Federation