

Savannah JEWISH LIFE

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Shalom Savannah

Adam Solender

This time of the year we often speak about change; school days become camp days, cool nights transition to the sultry and muggy, the days become longer, and the road to Tybee becomes a single lane parking lot.

This Summer has many more changes than most. By the time of this publication JEA leadership is hoping that the new pool will be open. It has been a 6-month sprint to get to the end. The average lifespan for an inground pool is 25-30 years; our pool lasted 67 years as the original pool opened in 1955. When that pool was opened it was "state of the art" with high and low diving boards. It had a 13-foot well (to accommodate the high divers) in the deep end. This was a time before many people had pools in their homes and generations of Savannahians "lived" at that Outdoor Pool. That pool served Savannah well.

Flash forward to today with the new pool design. It is zero-entry and handicap accessible. It is more family friendly, has 25 yard lanes for Swim Team and has a maximum depth of eight feet. The different levels (steps) around the pool have been eliminated thus creating much more "usable" space and taking away many of the trip hazards.

As part of this same initiative, we have razed the (former) handball/racquetball court building (affectionately called "Fort Apache" (I don't know why)) which created all new greenspace on the property, are rehabbing the basketball court next to the pool, and are putting up a fence to secure the South end of the property.

Before the pool project came to the final stage, the JEA began construction on the President's Hallway and associated rooms in order to expand the Early Childhood Education program. Bursting at the seams, the Preschool will open one room in August, a second one in January, and a third the following August in order to meet the demand for the excellent program.

Ten years ago, who could have imagined that we'd be expanding capacity by 40%. In looking at the large pile of ceiling and floor tiles, cinder blocks, wall board and studs, a community member mused that he went to Preschool in the very same space many years ago. What goes around, comes around.



A third project that is happening concurrently with the others is the transformation of one of the racquetball courts to Studio J: a dedicated room featuring TRX stations, heavy bags, hand weights and more. In order to meet the demands of today's members, we needed to update and upgrade our facilities. It will be a great space for small group training, specialty classes, and individual training.

The Federation has been focusing on changing our community's awareness and preparation with its Community Security Initiative. This past month our Community Security Director, Brett Butler led five classes which had almost 100 people in training, has conducted preparation drills at the JEA Preschool and Rambam Day School and has had dozens of meetings with community members, law enforcement and government officials. Our goal is another change: greater preparation and awareness of security for our community members and institutions.

The fact is, this is nothing new, we are always changing, always challenging the status quo, always looking for new and meaningful changes and improvements as our community changes and grows. Now, if we could do something about the traffic to Tybee.

Have a wonderful Summer season.

Savannah JEWISH LIFE

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Letters to the Editor

Savannah Jewish Life is a community publication. Letters should be civil and considerate in tone and not contain personal attacks, random attacks on businesses, or defamation. All statements of facts must and may be edited for length, clarity, or factual content. The opinions expressed are always the writer's. All letters must include the author's full name, address, and phone number (only your name, and if appropriate, job title and organization or business name, will be published). No more than two letters from the same author will be published within 12 consecutive months. Submit letters to savannahjewishlife@savj.org. Savannah Jewish Life retains full and sole discretion about which letters to publish.

Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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



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To the Editor

Today, Jewish identity is under attack through universities. We are being denied embracing our rich heritage and identification. Jewishness is being attacked at the University level and the purpose of all this antisemitism is meant to make Universities fail on three levels:

- a) Campus antisemitism demands universities must find out who is responsible and pursue discipline
- b) Universities, have a legal obligation to support victims
- c) Why? Because those attacked must be protected so a single community remains welcome and can practice their God given freedom.

Jews must not be forced, by universities, to disallow their connection to embrace Zionism. Zionism is not a viewpoint. Antisemitism has morphed into any topic and seeks to pen it on Jews in order, by implication, to deny Jews their place in society, throw them out , prevent them from total participation by denigrating them.

Universities do not understand this is not engaging in politics and is not a political issue.

The Obama Administration erased the IHRA definition, through the State Department in 2010, by three definitions (examples.) Eventually,, this battle crossed over into antisemitism and gave those seeking to deny Jews their identity, even their right to have a nation . Jews are the only group that is subject to such exclusionary accusations for the purpose of erasing Jewish history, participation, practice.

The antisemitic goal is to rid the world of Jews. Our existence is a valid right. University systems must embrace rhetoric that supports Jews who embrace Zionism. When Jews are attacked those who attack them must be identified as having engaged in an anti-Semitic action. Jews must not be marginalized even if they define their identity as a Zionist or not.

Once this poison is allowed it will spread as a virus and eventually it will infect the entire society and that is the ultimate goal of the antisemites.

Today Jews are now even being identified as racist whites etc.

As for Jews we have an obligation to stand up and respond and not be meek so that we are seen as in support of all groups etc.. This is why I am asking for these views to be posted.

Dick Berkowitz

Savannah Supports Holocaust Remembrance

I'm pleased to inform you that the Downtown Neighborhood Association of Savannah has selected Savannah Jewish Federation as one of our 2023 Grant Recipients!

Congratulations and thank you for the tremendous work you do to enhance the downtown neighborhood and community.

With kind regards,

David

David McDonald
President
Downtown Neighborhood Association
Savannah, GA Inc.

Congratulations! The Cultural Affairs Commission Weave-A-Dream Subcommittee has recommended funding for the Jewish Educational Alliance's Savannah Community Holocaust Remembrance program.

Thanks!

CJ Bogle
Cultural Services Contract Coordinator
Cultural Resources



Investment By

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Your Campaign Dollars At Work



Savannah Jewish Federation

Editor's Note: Charged with raising, collecting and distributing funds, the Federation seeks to "advance the welfare of the total Jewish community." Each issue highlights some of the organizations that are beneficiaries of allocations from the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign.

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,



Thank you for your generous allocation in support of ADL Southeast. As a valued supporter, your community's contribution enables ADL to fulfill its mission "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment for all." Your gift provides us access to the tools and resources required to denounce hate in all its forms, and act with the rigor required to do so.

As we face a shocking rise in antisemitism and incidents of hate, ADL continues to respond by training community leaders on how to respond to such incidents, advocating for better laws and to protect marginalized groups, and proactively stopping hate before it grows through our award-winning anti-bias K-12 education programs.

Because of you, ADL is the world's leading anti-hate organization. Because of you, we are able to continue to make a difference. We are deeply grateful to you for joining us in the ongoing fight against hate.

With deep gratitude,

Eytan Davidson
Regional Director

Joel Neuman
Regional Board Chair



Savannah Jewish Federation CEO, Adam Solender (right), receiving a 5 year gift in recognition of service as Board President of American Friends of Israel Community Centers with IACC CEO Tal Basseches (center) and Liat Ellert, Head of Cross Sectors Collaborations.

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation,

On behalf of the American Friends Association for the Advancement of Community Centers in Israel, we gratefully acknowledge the Savannah Jewish Federation's donation towards integrating immigrants and refugees from Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus. During the ongoing strife in that part of the world this critical program saves lives and allows people to rebuild and move forward with their lives in our Jewish homeland, Israel.

We are honored by your support of initiatives undertaken by the community centers (Matnasim), the largest provider of social services in Israel.

Susan Bender
Treasurer

Community Corner: Yesod Spotlight

David Hoffenberg

Chief Operating Officer,
Memorial Health University Medical Center

What brought you to Savannah?

My job at Memorial Health and the fact I have family close in North and South Florida. I knew Savannah was a fun place and a diverse community, with a strong Jewish Community, which was important for me to have wherever I moved to.

What's your favorite restaurant in Savannah?

E-Tang or Ukiyo

What are you most excited about in the future career wise (any new projects or plans?)

I am excited to see how I can continue to make Memorial Health a better hospital and bring better care to this community.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am the youngest of 3. Have 2 older sisters (Rachel and Sarah), and my parents Beverly and Steve live in Littleton, Colorado where I grew up. I also have a niece and nephew who are very special to me. I have moved for school and work and am so happy to be in Savannah but miss my family. I am very family oriented, and Judaism is a very important aspect of my life as it has given me community, purpose, and a connection to G-D. I love this community and hope the more time I spend here the deeper the connection becomes.

What's something you've found about the Savannah Jewish community?

How inviting and easy to connect with it really was. All parts of the community have welcomed me here and allowed me to feel like a part of the community very quickly.



What's your involvement in the Jewish community and/or secular community?

I have been a member of Young Jewish Savannah since I got to town and have made some amazing connections through it. I also had the opportunity to be a part of the Jewish Federation allocation committee, am in Cohort 3 of Yesod, and will be joining the board for the Savannah Sports Council this year.

What are your hobbies?

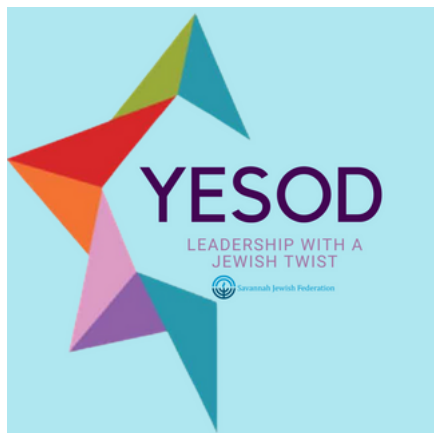
Outside of work I love to workout, golf, bike, play ice hockey, ski and travel. Love going to dinner with friends and going to the Ghost Pirates!

What's your favorite color?

Green!

What's your favorite childhood memory?

Spending time with my father, Steve Hoffenberg. Either driving to and from a hockey game listening to classic rock, or watching our favorite football team the Washington Commanders (Redskins) every Sunday together. Sports and quality time with him are what connected us most.



Yesod, the Hebrew word for foundation, aptly describes this vital initiative for the Savannah Jewish community. The goal of the Yesod Community Leadership Development Program is to support our community by aiding the development of excellent volunteer leadership.

Developing potential leaders is the most important factor in ensuring the long-term success of our community. Graduates of the YESOD Community Leadership Development Program will help shape the future of the Savannah Jewish Community.

The Yesod curriculum offers insights into personal and organizational leadership through a Jewish perspective. Course content merges Judaic text study, business skills, leadership theory and experiential application.

Learn more at www.savj.org.

Konter Becomes JEA President

Editor's Note: On Wednesday, May 17, Allison Konter became president of the Jewish Educational Alliance at the 11th JEA Annual Meeting. Below are part of her remarks.

We just celebrated the new, state of the art, JEA pool. The pool that was built in the 1950s was one corroded pipe away from no longer functioning. We have a bustling preschool community and more families in Savannah want to be a part of our engaging school. Our preschool continues to grow, and we are meeting enrollment demands by adding three new classrooms. There is demand for our fitness center to offer more than the basic facilities and group classes that we have offered for years. We are adding Studio J - a functional fitness room to push the fitness of our membership to a new level. In the near future, we will update our roof and HVAC system. While not as exciting as a pool, preschool, or fitness room, this renovation is essential for the survival of this building. We will soon update our auditorium, to again make it a state-of-the-art facility that is sought after in the greater Savannah community. We will replace our furnishings and communal spaces; to make our building more inviting for building community relationships. Finally, we will meet the challenges that our community faces with major security upgrades. While this is a more somber addition to our demands, it exists, and we will face it head on. These renovations cannot be completed without all of your support. When you are called upon to give, or to ask others to give, we need your help!

This moment in history is more than just building upgrades. It is also important to reflect on the JEA and recognize its place in the greater Savannah community. This building is a community center. The demand of our current times is inclusivity and openness. The Jewish community is not the only part of the Savannah community that utilizes our space. The connections that are made with the greater Savannah community in this center are ESSENTIAL to our relevancy and survival. Because of our preschool and children's department, my kids grow up with a generation in Savannah that knows about Shabbat, and has a great general understanding of what it means to Jewish. Savannahians are more familiar with Jewish values. In addition, we educate, host, and commemorate milestones for the greater community. This past year alone this building has hosted the Savannah Voice Festival, Black Heritage Festival, community lunches, voting services, Holocaust remembrance, a Martin Luther King, Jr commemoration, and many other events. While different than the Alliance of the 1920s or 1950s, the Alliance of the 2020s is equally as vibrant and essential in our community.



Three generations of the Konter & Sand families at the JEA Annual Meeting where Allison Sand Konter assumed the leadership of the Alliance

I have heard stories from my family members of all of the DIFFERENT ways that you can lead in this community. Leadership isn't simply serving as a President. My grandmother, Marilyn, who our family knows as Bubbie, was a regular burger flipper for lunches by the pool. My cousin, Sandy Goodman, led the Federation campaign for years, by hand. For her, there were no spreadsheets and emails. There were daily calculations of gifts and daily phone calls made to meet fundraising goals. There are many ways to give back. My dad is the go-to guy on JEA construction projects. He steps up and volunteers in this way, well after his JEA presidency ended. From these examples and so many more, I have learned about the dedication it takes to make a community stronger.

While we have reached a pivotal moment in the response to the changing demands of the 21st century, we are not finished. Our Capital Campaign is halfway complete. We need every community member to step up and solicit or contribute in order to for us to finalize the projects we have set out to accomplish. The projects are underway and are all a necessity for our survival as a community center. One project is not more important than another. They all fit together to complete the puzzle that Mark and Sam Carroll laid out years ago. The patterns are clear; in order to survive we must continue to adapt. It is my goal that we are setting a future in place now so that my kids can one day stand here during an Annual Meeting and acknowledge how the 2020 upgrades were the stepping stones to a new future. Our future is bright, our center is vibrant and strong. It may look different today than it did in 1920 or 1950, but one thing remains constant: our center meets the demands of the times. Let's work to keep it that way.

I am thrilled to step into JEA leadership during these exciting times.

How to Identify Phishing Scams and How to Avoid Becoming a Target

Brett Butler, Security Director



What is a phishing attack? This used to be an exclusive scam via email, where a cybercriminal would send a deceptive message that's designed to fool a user into providing sensitive information such as credit card numbers or to launch malware on the user's system. Now the scams have morphed to include texts, voicemails and other forms of cyber communication.

I think we can all remember the Nigerian King who was interested in having you send him thousands of dollars so he could send you millions as a reward for helping him recover his funds held by a bank. This sounds funny, and you may ask yourself how anyone could be fooled by this. But, as a former financial crimes Lieutenant, my unit investigated many of these email scams where the victims were professionals with advanced degrees. As the old adage goes, "if it's too good to be true, it probably is."

In a phishing scam, you might receive an email that appears to be from a legitimate business and is asking you to update or verify your personal information by replying to the email or visiting a website. The web address might look like one you've used before. The email may be convincing enough to get you to take the action requested.

But once you click on that link, you're sent to a spoofed website that might look nearly identical to the real thing—like your bank or credit card site—and asked to enter sensitive information like passwords, credit card numbers, banking PINs, etc. These fake websites are used solely to steal your information.

Another way to identify potential phishing emails is to look for the sender's email that is different than what you have in your address book. Also look for misspelled words in the subject line or other grammatical errors in the body of the email. Many times, these are obvious signs that this is a phishing email.

What To Do if You Suspect a Phishing Attack

The FTC recommends the following: If you get an email or a text message that asks you to click on a link or open an attachment, answer this question:

Do I have an account with the company or know the person who contacted me?

If the answer is "No," it could be a phishing scam. Go back and review the advice in How to recognize phishing and look for signs of a phishing scam. If you see them, report the message and then delete it.

If the answer is "Yes," contact the company using a phone number or website you know is real — not the information in the email. Attachments and links might install harmful malware.

A recent local example was at one of our very own synagogues here in Savannah. The administrative assistant received what looked to be a very real email from the Rabbi who asked her not to contact him as he was in a meeting. The scammer directed her to immediately purchase gift cards for several needy congregants and email the codes on the back of the cards. Thankfully, she deemed this as unlike the Rabbi to make such a request and she reached directly out to him to confirm the request.

If a suspicious-looking message comes in from a known source, reach out to the person or company via a separate channel and inquire as to whether they sent the message. It is now the end of tax season, which means a whole lot of email scams will be sent out by cyber-criminals who will try to con you out of your hard-earned tax refund.

If you feel that you have been a victim of an online phishing scam, please contact the Savannah Police Department at their home page: <https://savannahpd.org/> and file an online report. If you live in Chatham County: <https://police.chathamcountyga.gov/>

If you have further security related questions or concerns, I can be reached at security@savj.org or at 912-355-8111.



Get Involved. Get Empowered. Get Trained.

Savannah Community Security Director, in cooperation with the Secure Community Network, is offering the three most important security trainings throughout the community, in preparation for a threat incident. Help protect yourself, your family, and our community by being prepared!

The three classes being offered are:

BeAware, SCN's Introduction to Situational Awareness

will teach you how to recognize suspicious or potentially dangerous behavior and threats, and what to do – whether you are in a synagogue, at school, a restaurant, concert, or going about your everyday activities.

Countering Active Threat Training (CATT)

is a comprehensive, hands on, training presentation to counter an active threat event including steps to survive: RUN, HIDE, FIGHT.

Stop the Bleed (STB)

offers training in basic bleeding control techniques such as direct pressure, wound packing, and tourniquet application. This course better prepares you to save lives by raising awareness of basic actions to stop life threatening bleeding following everyday emergencies as well as both man-made and natural disasters.

Each of the organizations warmly welcome guests from the community to all classes.

Wednesday, June 14, 2023	Situational Awareness	Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob	8:00pm
Tuesday, June 20, 2023	Countering Active Threats	Congregation Mickve Israel	10:30am
Wednesday, June 21, 2023	Situational Awareness	Congregation Agudath Achim	6:00pm
Tuesday, July 11, 2023	Stop the Bleed	Congregation Mickve Israel	10:30am
Wednesday, July 12, 2023	Countering Active Threats	Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob	8:00pm
Tuesday, July 25, 2023	Countering Active Threats	Congregation Agudath Achim	6:00pm
Wednesday, August 16, 2023	Stop the Bleed	Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob	8:00pm
Wednesday, August 30, 2023	Stop the Bleed	Congregation Agudath Achim	6:00pm



This is a program of the Savannah Jewish Federation Community Security Initiative. To find out more about the security initiative , find upcoming classes and to donate, visit www.savj.org.

Questions? Email security@savj.org

Persecuted Jews Find A Haven In Colonial Savannah

Editor's note: this article originally appeared in the Spring 2023 Bonaventure Bulletin, a publication of the Bonaventure Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah. For more information, please visit bonaventurehistorical.org.

Beginning in the twelfth century and continuing for hundreds of years, the Spanish Inquisition was one of humanity's most egregious examples of religious persecution. Hundreds of thousands of Jews—almost one-quarter of Spain's population—were expelled, tortured and executed. Even those who converted to Christianity—or pretended to convert in order to survive—were not safe. Some 150,000 Jews were forced to abandon their homes and possessions to settle in nearby Portugal—only to be subsequently expelled from that country.

Continuing their flight from the lingering malignancy of the Inquisition, many escaped to London where they could freely practice their religion. However, their indigent refugee status proved an embarrassment to London's Jewish elite. In response, three leaders of Bevis Marks, London's wealthy Spanish-Portuguese congregation, arranged generous financial support for General James Oglethorpe's new colony in Georgia. By facilitating their fellow Jews' emigration to the New World, they removed them from the public dole and neutralized the perceived threat to their own social standing.

With its cargo of 42 predominantly Sephardic Jews, the William & Sarah left London in January 1733, a month before Oglethorpe had even set foot in colonial Georgia. Some on board had survived the Inquisition by living as crypto-Jews, pretending to be Catholic but practicing their own faith in secret.

Among the immigrants was Dr. Samuel Nunez-Ribeiro, a physician who had been imprisoned during the Inquisition for his successful efforts to convert new Christians back to the Jewish faith. When the Inquisition returned with a vengeance in 1720, Dr. Nunez and others who covertly preserved their Jewish identity fled the country in large numbers. A specialist in infectious diseases, his skills would be highly valuable in the Georgia colony. Oglethorpe credited Nunez with ending an epidemic of yellow fever in 1733 and, in gratitude, granted extensive properties to his family members.

Also aboard the William & Sarah were eight Ashkenazic German Jews: Benjamin and Perla Sheftall; and brothers Abraham and Simon Minis and their families. Abraham was a farmer and merchant shipper who would supply Oglethorpe at Fort Frederica on St. Simons Island. His widow, Abigail, raised eight children, operated a popular tavern and went on to amass huge land holdings.

After a perilous voyage across the Atlantic, the ship landed on July 11, 1733, making Savannah the largest Jewish settlement in the New World. A beloved fifteenth-century Torah made of deerskin and a circumcision kit also made the journey.

With the freedom to worship freely, the intrepid group organized Savannah's first Jewish congregation, Kahal Kadosh Mickve Israel (Holy Congregation Hope of Israel), later shortened to Mickve Israel. At first they met in rented houses. A small wooden structure, built and consecrated in 1820, was later destroyed by fire.

By the mid 1800s, Savannah's growing Jewish population needed a permanent place to worship. The cornerstone of the present Mickve Israel temple on Monterey Square was laid in 1876 and the sanctuary consecrated in 1878.

Chevra Kadisha purchases lots in Bonaventure

In 1733, Oglethorpe set aside a small plot for Jewish burials just south of the city limits. Today, it lies beneath concrete and asphalt but a monument erected by the Mordecai Sheftall Cemetery Trust commemorates the site in the median at the corner of Oglethorpe and Bull Streets. Among the 16 individuals believed to be interred there is Andre Nunez, son of Dr. Samuel and Rebecca Nunez.



In 1765, Levi Sheftall purchased space at the foot of Spruce and Cohen Streets for the exclusive use of his extended family. Benjamin Sheftall was the first to be buried there. Mordecai Sheftall established a site near the present Savannah Visitors Center in 1773. By 1881, both sites had exceeded capacity.

Laurel Grove, a public cemetery established in 1850, was open to all creeds but its Jewish section was essentially exhausted by 1887. The same year, Mickve Israel requested the Evergreen Cemetery Company of Bonaventure add a Jewish section in its northeast area. The Evergreen group agreed to sell 10 or 15 acres at \$1000 per acre to be paid over a period of 10 years. In 1889, the land was withdrawn from sale, and in 1907, Evergreen Cemetery became Bonaventure municipal cemetery. In 1912, the Jewish Burial Society (Chevra Kadisha) purchased interment rights to 15 lots in Bonaventure's Section Q.

[Article continues on page 22](#)

A Giant: Herman Friedman

Adam Solender

Chief Executive Officer, Savannah Jewish Federation

Herman Friedman died February 21.

In the past few years, outside of the Jewish community relatively few people knew him, but his good works in and for Savannah, in Israel, and around the world benefited thousands upon thousands. There is almost no section of our community that Herman did not benefit from Herman Friedman's quiet philanthropy.

Why did people not know his name? While they were very active in organizations that were concerned with social services and needs, Herman (and Linda) Friedman gave anonymously. (I know he would be very uncomfortable with this article). It wasn't his style to look for accolades, he just wanted to make lives better.

I've met many people in my communal work career, with dozens of special individuals who define generosity and philanthropy, but none as unique as Herman. He was a force in improving and enhancing the human condition.... And it was not just one initiative, it was dozens, make that hundreds.... each different, yet each the same.

When he saw a need he addressed it.

When he knew there was someone needing support, he provided it.

It was not unique for Herman to read in the paper or hear on TV about a child who received a significant injury. He would immediately find out what they needed and provided for support. He never met the person and the person did not know the source of the assistance.

Herman was often under estimated; but to do so would be a mistake.

Before supporting an organization, Herman pored over the organization's 990s (a financial report required for non-profit organizations). He knew what percentage of the donation went for serving the public, he knew the salary of the CEO, and knew how much overhead the organization had. He wanted every dollar he contributed to go for helping people.

To really understand the man, I share this experience with Herman:

About seven years ago I sat down with Herman to talk about an incredible opportunity: Jewish Federations of North America was planning a Mission to Spain and Israel for lifetime lead contributors. Federation's national office called me to offer Herman the opportunity to be a part

of this very special trip of only 18 people from around the country. It began with a flight from New York to Madrid to learn of the Golden Age of Jewry. It included an intimate dinner with King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia at the Zarzuela Palace.

From Spain, the journey went on to Israel. The group was staying at the King David Hotel and included special tours in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa. The trip was to end with a special dinner with Prime Minister Bibi and Sara Netanyahu in Jerusalem at the Prime Minister's residence.

I told Herman that this was a very unique journey that doesn't happen very often and a special invitation was extended to him.

I said, *"This will be a great opportunity to see programs in Israel with your own eyes. This is something that only a handful of people get to experience. What do you think?"*

Herman didn't say anything.

I asked, *"Herman, when was the last time you were in Israel?"*

Herman looked at me and quietly said, *"I've never been to Israel."*

I was stunned.

"Herman, I've known you for fifteen years and over that time you have generously supported dozens of social service organizations in Israel. You have never been to Israel?"

Herman looked at me and calmly stated, *"I don't need to go to Israel to know my responsibility as a Jew."*

He was a giant of a man.



Sylvan Byck, Jr (l) and Herman Friedman at AIPAC meeting in 1999

MAZEL TOV TO THE GRADUATES!

Adam Rothschild Byck

Adam is the son of Edwin and Melinda Byck. He will graduate from The University of Alabama summa cum laude with a BS in Business Administration. He served as Risk Manager and Head of Scholastics and was a member of Pi Kappa Phi. Adam is also a Red Hat Graduate and Presidential Scholar. He will begin a position with Equitable in Jacksonville, Florida.



Allison Samuels

Allison is the daughter of Scott and the late Ashley Samuels. She will graduate with a Masters of Science in Health Administration from Georgia State University with a 3.9 GPA. While pursuing her degree, Ashley worked full time at Emory Healthcare and was a member of Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Society.



Amanda Burnham Kronowitz

Amanda is the daughter of Lowell and Hilary Kronowitz. She will graduate from Savannah Country Day School where she was a member of the National Honor Society and active in chorus and theatre. Outside of school, Amanda was a lifeguard and active in BBYO, Savannah Children's Theatre, Ronald McDonald House, lacrosse, and served on the Planned Parenthood Teen Board. She will attend Hobart and William Smith Colleges in the fall.



Ellie Neil

Ellie is the daughter of Jeff and Melissa Neil. Ellie will graduate from Savannah Country Day School where she was a member of the Cum Laude Society and Co-founder of the SCDS Welcome Club. Ellie was active in cheerleading, UTime, Inspiritus Tutoring, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and The Ronald McDonald House. She will attend Elon University in the fall where she will major in Psychology with aspirations of becoming an Occupational Therapist.



Emma Loncon

Emma is the daughter of Lori Loncon and Chuck Loncon. She will graduate with honors from Vanderbilt University with a Masters of Education in Human Developmental Counseling. She was a member of Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honor Society and will begin a position as a school counselor at Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts.



Jared Rosenberg

Jared is the grandson of Stanley and Brenda Rosenberg and the son of Michael and Jodi Rosenberg. He will graduate from West Ashley High School in Charleston, SC. where he achieved High Honor Roll. Jared is an Eagle Scout. He will attend Trident College.



Jordan Ruben

Jordan is the daughter of Jesse and Degi Ruben. She will graduate cum laude from Savannah Country Day School where she was a member of National Honor Society and received National Merit Recognition and a UGA Certificate of Merit. Jordan was active with One Love Club, Interact Club, and NCSY. Jordan has danced ballet for 15 years. She will attend Georgia Tech in the fall to study Environmental Engineering.

Mandy Salmon

Mandy is the daughter of Richard and Nadine Salmon. She will graduate from the University of Pennsylvania: Perelman School of Medicine with her M.D. Mandy served as the Anti-Racism and Bias in Medical Education Coordinator for the Medical Education Club at PSOM, Education Chair of the ENT Interest Group, volunteered with Family Connects Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania, was a volunteer with Medical School Admissions, Vice President of the Medical Student Government, and was the Agnew Surgical Society Mentorship Chair. Mandy also volunteered as a patient coordinator for the Centers for Surgical Health, helping disadvantaged patients navigate the medical system. Mandy obtained a certificate in Medical Education, Global Health & Ethics and Medical Spanish, and an Agnew Surgery Certificate. She also won an American Scandinavian research scholarship to conduct research in Copenhagen, Denmark. Mandy will be moving to Portland, OR to complete a residency in otolaryngology.



Nathan Luskey

Nathan is the son of Debby and Barry Luskey. He will graduate from Carnegie Mellon University with a Masters in Computer Science. He will be working in Washington, DC for a start up company.

Nina Luskey

Nina is the daughter of Debby and Barry Luskey. She will graduate with her Medical Doctorate and Masters in Public Health from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha and Gold Humanism Honor Society. She will begin her residency in Chicago at the University of Illinois at Chicago Ear and Eye Infirmary.

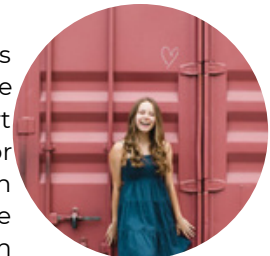
Richard Epstein

Richard is the son of Donna and the late Jay Epstein. He will graduate from Georgia Southern University cum laude with a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry. Richard has been very active with the Savannah Children's Theatre. He will return for the 6th year as staff at Camp Barney Medintz this summer. Currently exploring graduate school options, Richard would like to pursue a career in a medical lab, research lab, or pharmacy.



Sarah Koegler

Sarah is the daughter of Jeff and Stayce Koegler. She is a graduating from St. Andrews School as a full IB diploma candidate. Sarah lettered in four Varsity sports and was the co-captain of the basketball team her junior and senior years. Sarah was an active part of the Literary Magazine all four years of high school, serving as head editor her senior year. She interned for H5H Productions in the summer of 2022 and has performed in Coffee House since 5th grade. In addition to maintaining Headmaster's List her entire academic career, Sarah received the Gray Solana Emerging Leadership Award. Sarah will attend the University of Vermont and pursue Film & Television.



Shaina Rotker

Shaina is the daughter of Amy and Bobby Rotker. She will graduate from Islands High School. Shaina was active in Future Farmers Of America, Marching Band, Girl Scouts and Oatland Island Leaders Program and 912 Freedom School (DEEP). Shaina held the position of Uniform Quartermaster and Music Librarian and received Superior ratings in the GMEA Solo and Ensemble Competitions. Shaina plans to pursue a career in psychology.



Sophie Arkin Halpern

Sophie is the daughter of Liz and Steven Arkin. She will graduate with her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from The University of California Los Angeles and begin her career as a Clinical Psychologist in Atlanta.



On The Personal Side

Mazel Tov To

Elliot Palefsky, who was installed as the new Exalted Ruler of the Savannah Elks Lodge 183.

Allison Konter, who was installed as the new President of the Jewish Educational Alliance.

Jessica Leigh Lebos, on the publication of her new book, *The Camellia Thief & Other Tales*.

New Mickve Israel Executive Director, Bob Greenberg.

New Cantor, Rachel Kohlbrenner, who will be joining the leadership of Congregation Mickve Israel on July 1st.

Jennifer Rich, in recognition of her serving the Savannah Jewish Community for over a decade.

Lucile & Kayton Smith, on their 50th anniversary.

Liz Eicholz, on her cover and feature in Savannah Magazine

Peggy & Stan Biner, on the birth of their granddaughter, Elinor Louise, on March 22nd.

Proud parents are Chana and Jake Snow of Hamilton, NJ.

Tova & Jonathan Javetz, on the birth of their son, Jacob Herman, on April 24th.

Rachael & Malcom Currie, on the birth of their son, Asher Malcom, on April 25th.

Sissy and Joe Hoffman, on the b'nei mitzvah of their grandchildren, Sam and Ada Ben-Yehuda of Chevy Chase, MD, on March 18th. Sam and Ada are the children of Jenna and Gadi Ben-Yehuda.

Shannon Celiz, daughter of Katie and Christopher^{obm} Celiz, who will become a bat mitzvah on June 17th.

Bay Borak, son of Gregory and Jennifer Borak, who will become a bar mitzvah on June 24th.

Sam Karpf, son of Ben Karpf and Suzy Wallace, who will become a bar mitzvah on August 19th.



Obituaries

through 4/30/23

Henry Gerald "Jerry" Coleman

Who died Tuesday, November 22, 2022

He is survived by his life companion, Susan Bruce, sister, Linda Coleman Friedman; brother Nathan C. Coleman; and two nephews, Jeremy R. Friedman and Paul J. Friedman.

Lyn Ingram Goldberg

Who died Thursday, February 9, 2023.

He is survived by his wife Adrienne Sue Condon Goldberg, sons Ryan Goldberg and Darron Goldberg; grandson Dylan and Jack Goldberg; sister Jill Medlinsky, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Herman K. Friedman

Who died Wednesday, February 22, 2023

He is survived by his daughter Debora (David) Wildey, son, Charles (Barbara) Friedman, and four grandchildren.

Danyse Greenwald Edel

Who died Tuesday, February 28, 2023

She was predeceased by her son, Ken, and is survived by her husband, Julius; daughter, Cathy (Philip) Solomons; sister, Peggy Good; brother, Dr. Herbert Greenwald; granddaughters, Delia (Adam Shapiro) Solomons, Danyse (Matt) Cail, Claire (Paul) Musial, and Lauren (Christopher) Gaspard, as well as four great-grandchildren and many devoted nieces and nephews.

Gail Carol Levites

Who died Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Jessica Miller Mullnix

Who died Wednesday, March 22, 2023

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Patrick C. Mullnix; parents Julian and Judy Miller; brother Jordan Miller of Charleston, SC., uncles, Martin (Laura Lynn) Miller; Jerry (Joyce) Latimer of Carrollton, GA.; and David Latimer, of Carrollton, GA.; her aunt, Ellen (Arnold J.) Goldberg of Shellman Bluff, GA.; cousins, Jana (Preston) Feiler; Stacy (Jay) Silverstein of New Orleans; John (Elizabeth) Latimer, Gary Latimer and Jerry "JJ" (Kim) Latimer Jr. and Kent (Shawn) Megorden, all of Carrollton; Jason (Daniella) Latimer of Santa Monica, CA; Kay (Ed) Staten of Crestview, FL; and Kathy (Rob) Corey of Readfield, ME.; and her loving canine companions Sage and Hatch, who remained at her side daily.

Donations: The Living Vine Christian Maternity Home, 535 E 54th Street, Savannah

Irvin Jack Warshaw

Who died Tuesday, March 28, 2023

He is survived by his sons Michael (Kathleen) Warshaw, Stephan (Carol) Warshaw, and Benjamin (Deborah) Warshaw; daughter Arlene (Jay) Gould, and five grandchildren.

Donations: Parkinson's Foundation

Rita Evelyn Trotz

Who died Friday, March 31, 2023.

She is survived by her sons Jerry Harris, Joseph (Amy) Trotz and Seth (Cynthia) Trotz; and grandchildren whom she adored, Zachariah, Gabriel, Caleb, Samuel, Noah, and Eliana, as well as by her loving nephews and nieces.

Donations: Congregation Mickve Israel, 20 E. Gordon Street, Savannah, GA 31401.

Stephen Schneider

Who died Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

He is survived by his brother, Mark Schneider; children Stacy Schneider Ritchie, Rose Schneider, and Michael Schneider.

Donations: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31405.

Joel F. Spivak

Who died Saturday, April 8, 2023.

He is survived by his wife Jacqueline, children Mark and David; grandchildren, Kyle, Daniel, Care and Brett; sister Gail; nephews Bill, Kenin, and Wayne; nieces Adrienne, Marlene and Heidi.

Sara A. Deich

Who died Monday, April 10, 2023

She had five children children, Madeleine Varner, Michael Deich, Myra (Jerry) Portman, Margie Adler, and Dr. Matthew (Cheri) Deich: 13 grandchildren, Judge Keith (Sheri) Siskin, Brad Siskin, Lauren Deich, Kari Leigh Arflin, Jeremy Deich, Harry (Elana) Portman, Leah (Daniel) Green, Dr. Brandon (Monica) Adler, Jason Adler, Jared Adler, Gabriella Deich, Jonah Deich, and Chloe Deich; and six great-grandchildren, Kadence, William, and Ava Arflin, Ayelet Portman, Ezra Portman, Netanel Portman, Chana Green, Benyamin Green, and Racheli Green. She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Kathy Miller and 2 nephews: Jack Miller and John Miller.

Donations: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31405 or the charity of your choice.

Ronald Eidell

Who died Friday, April 14, 2023.

He is survived by his wife, Nina, four children- David, Kara, Adam, and Daniel; three grandchildren.

Donations: Congregation Mickve Israel, 20 E. Gordon Street, Savannah, GA 31401: Rabbi's Discretionary Fund; Savannah Philharmonic; or Nancy & JC Lewis Cancer Center.

Galina Khasid

Who died Saturday, April 15, 2023.

Merrill A. Levy

Who died Saturday, April 15, 2023

He is survived by He is survived by his sons Alan (Tracey), Robert (Annie), Bert (Linda), grandchildren Matthew, Tessa, Katie (Daniel) Rice, Michael (Melissa) Levy, Max Levy, Sam Levy; three great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Donations: Congregation Mickve Israel, 20 E. Gordon Street, Savannah, GA 31401.

Lois Rosenstein

Who died Monday, April 24, 2023.

She is survived by her children; Barry Rosenstein, Nancy R Power, and Lynn R (Larry) Whelan; her grandchildren, Jessica Power (Geoff), Freddie Power, Stephanie P Herren (Jeremy), Andrew Whelan (Addie), and Morgan Whelan, and her great-granddaughter Maddie Herren.

She is also survived by her brother Dr. Sanford I (Sandy) Rosenthal (Nancy), and her brother-in-law Alan Shear; nephews Jeff Rosenthal, Matt Rosenthal (Tricia), Brian Rosenthal (Lori), Jay Shear, and niece Stacey S Samler; great nephews Marc Rosenthal, Owen Rosenthal, Asher Rosenthal, and great nieces Colleen Rosenthal and Emmie Samler.

Donations: American Heart Association – South Tower Suite 400, 10 Glenlake Parkway NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30328



Please Join for **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

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

Thursdays at 12:30 PM
Jewish Educational Alliance

JUNE 1

Chatham County Elections

JUNE 8

Savannah Tree Foundation

JUNE 15

JUST (JUSTICE UNITES SAVANNAH TOGETHER)

JUNE 22

Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA)

JUNE 29

Organization and De-Cluttering

JULY 6

Dedicated Senior Medical Center

JULY 13

Savannah Philharmonic

JULY 20

First City Pride Center

JULY 27

Tisha B'Av - NO Food for Thought

AUGUST 3

Savannah VOICE Festival

AUGUST 10

"On The Streets Where We Live"

AUGUST 17

The Camellia Thief:
Jessica Lebos

AUGUST 24

Common Hand Problems

SEPTEMBER 8

Community Security:
Brett Butler

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



All meals are served with a salad, vegetable and dessert

SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION



80TH ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 | 7:00 PM | JEA

STATE OF THE FEDERATION
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
PRESIDENTS AWARD
RELECTION OF GOVERNORS
REMARKS FROM LINDA SACKS, PRESIDENT
YESOD COHORT 3 GRADUATION

JEAN CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

DAYS AT THE J

FALL/WINTER 2023

8am-6pm
PreK - 8th grade

Summer
July 31-August 15

Fall Days
Sept 1, Oct 6 & 9, Nov 7 & 10

Thanksgiving Break
Nov 20-22

Winter Camp
Dec 18-22, 27 - 29 & Jan 2

www.savannahjea.org



Rhinestone Cowboy

JEAN GALA

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER

70

Featuring

MUSIC



DINNER



LIVE &
SILENT
AUCTION

Mah Jongg and More

Robin Rackoff



No more pencils, no more books - is that still sung on the last day of school? Times change, and so have summer vacations. I know some children who will fly off with their families to visit the Saints: Saint Kitts, Saint Thomas, or Saint Lucia. These kids might learn to waterski and windsurf.

When their family vacation ends, some will head to Soccer Camp, Arts Camp, or Technology Camp. They will learn skills they will use their whole lives.

That couldn't be more different than the summers of my mother's childhood, one hundred years ago. She would leave home at first light each day, armed with a pail and a sack. It was her job to walk to the farm a quarter mile away. There, the farmer would ladle milk into her bucket, and she would gather eggs from under the hens and place them in her bag. After paying the farmer two pennies, she would carefully walk home. Then she'd help her mother cook and clean. She learned skills that she would use her whole life.

My childhood summers in Brooklyn in the 1950s and early 1960s were footloose and fancy-free. Up and out at 8 AM with my best friend by my side, we'd ride bikes and "swim" in the twelve-inch-deep pool in my yard. The high point of the day was when we heard the bells of the Ice Cream truck. Our mothers would wrap a dime in a paper napkin and throw it out the window so we could buy Creamsicles. And after dinner, I'd sit with my friends, all of us barely into double digits, and play Mah Jongg. Ten years old and already knowing craks from bams and green dragons from reds. I learned skills that I would use my whole life.

Let's enjoy those lazy, hazy, crazy days of the Savannah summer, and until next time, let's Maj On!



Savannah Jewish Federation

SHERRY DOLGOFF HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST

In memory of Sherry Dolgoff's lifelong commitment to educate and advocate on the issues associated with intolerance, xenophobia, hate, and bias and her dedication to "Always Remember"

High School Visual Art

1st Place Mila Pavicevic, Savannah Arts
2nd Place- Sophia Perez, Savannah Arts
2nd Place- Zoe Wagner, Savannah Arts
3rd Place- Eva O'Donnell, Savannah Arts
3rd Place- Sabrina Inga, Savannah Arts

High School Writing

1st Place-Hemalni Balasundaram, Savannah Arts
2nd Place-Hannah Park, Savannah Arts
3rd Place-Zoe Wagner, Savannah Arts

Middle School Visual Art

1st Place- Ansley Cheshire, Hancock
2nd Place- Chase Literati, Hancock
3rd Place- Avery Nein, Hancock

Middle School Writing

1st Place- Maggy Bluestein, Pinewood Christian
2nd Place- Kennedy Elrod, Pinewood Christian
3rd Place- Ridge McCall, Pinewood Christian

Music Composition

Samuel Barrow, Savannah Arts
Harmon Shinall, Savannah Arts

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATED!

Montag Art Gallery: Artist Spotlight

June: Kitt Dobry

June 1-30, Opening Reception June 8th, 5-7pm



Kitt Dobry is a local artist specializing in oils, watercolor and graphite. She has a BFA in both illustration and art history from Moore College of Art and Design. Notably, she was the first woman in Moore's illustrious history to successfully complete a second major with Illustration. She also minored in graphic design, to round out her skill set. Following college, she worked a variety of in-house design and illustration jobs while also freelancing. Kitt has since established herself as a local artist specializing in portraits, whimsical animal paintings and still lifes. She continues to show multiple times a year while taking on limited freelance work while she raises her son and daughter. Kitt is a member of the American Portrait Society and National Watercolor Society.

July: Robert Segall

July 2-31, Opening Reception July 13th, 6-8pm

Robert Segall is a native Savannah artist specializing in oil paintings of landscapes and seascapes. The majority of his subjects have been inspired by the coastal areas around Savannah. He is also a portraitist, does commissioned architectural renderings, and abstract paintings. Among the instructors he has worked with are local artist and glassmaker, Carl Fugerousse, and Charlotte Segall (his niece), a renowned professor at the Pratt Institute in New York.

His works have been displayed at the Jepson Institute, as well as a number of local galleries, group exhibitions and private homes.



August: Two Friends And A Brush Gabriel Drabek & Tommy McMillan

August 1-31, Opening Reception August 3rd, 5-7pm

Tommy McMillan is a painter who lives in Statesboro, GA. He was born in Tifton, GA, and grew up in Ocilla, GA. He is a graduate of Shorter College where he earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance. He is a musician who has worked in music all of his life. Tommy studied painting with Kyung Ai Mock in Brunswick, GA. He



later studied drawing and painting with Jeff Lemieux, Professor of Art at Coastal Community College in Brunswick. He moved to Statesboro in 2013, and is continuing his art studies at Georgia Southern University.

Gabriel Drabek was born and raised in Savannah, GA. His parents surrounded him with music and art as his father, Michael, is a drummer, and his mother, Tiffany, is a sculptor and potter. The greatest inspiration to create art from a very young age came from the hours of family reading, pouring over beautifully illustrated books with exciting stories about people and animals. During high school he



won numerous art competitions, including being the semi-finalist for Governor's Honors Program and the Gold Key Recipient for Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. At Georgia Southern University, where he is pursuing his BFA, he has received multiple scholarships. Although he has worked in pencil, charcoal, watercolor and acrylics, his favorite medium is oil.

My Camp Story

Maiya Tolman



Last summer, as soon as I got off the bus from camp, I said to my mom, next year I want to go for a full month! I had such a good time at Camp Barney Medintz.

Shabbat is so much fun it is really nice when you feel the breeze sitting in the chapel. When I came home, I could not stop singing the birchat.

This year, I was in the same cabin as last year but with two new kids. This year we were old enough to go on a campout but it rained out so we made tents on our beds. The top bunks put blankets on the rafters and the bottom bunks put blankets on the mattress of the top bunk [there were bunk beds].

This year at camp we got to do so much more. One thing was the Bob Ross art project where we got a canvas and they gave us a tutorial on how to do it. It was a blast!

Another thing was the camper kitchen where we went in and made treats like cake, cookies, pastry, donuts, and more. I made chocolate cake and vanilla frosting donuts.

I also played in a tennis tournament but I lost really badly.

Lastly, the color war was super duper fun. I was on the yellow team. If you can't tell

I had a blast at Camp Barney Medintz. Thank you so much for this experience.

Maiya, 10, is the daughter of Tova & Jonathan Javetz. Maiya went to Camp Barney Medintz last summer with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation made possible by your generosity during the annual Community Campaign. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org.

SUMMER

with
PJ Library

Life is
better with
ice cream!



PJ Library

Help us beat the summer heat
with a cool ice cream treat!

Sundae Fundae

Sunday, June 11, 2023
3:00-4:00pm
Cold Stone Creamery



JEA Camp Savannah R.O.C.K.S!

Camp Spirit is quickly filling the hallways as Summer 2023 is quickly approaching. We are really excited to expand our offerings as we bring back the popular Day Trekkers Camp, where campers are treated to daily excursions around Savannah. Artrageous Adventures and Ultimate Sports Camp are the newest explorative half day options for campers of various ages. There is so much excitement building around the hallways of the JEA as we prepare for our BIGGEST and BEST Summer yet!

We are so excited to announce that Julia Slater and Makayla Taylor will be joining the JEA Camp Savannah Leadership Team this summer!



Makayla is currently pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education at Georgia Southern. She has been employed as a Camp/Aftercare Counselor for the past four years and is very excited to step into the leadership role this summer.

Julia grew up in Collingswood, NJ, and graduated from Westminster Choir College with honors in Music Education and Administrative Studies.

Julia is a certified teacher who has worked as an educator for five years. She is excited to be working with the kids and staff at the JEA.



For more information of JEA Camp Savannah or JEA Children's programming, visit www.SavannahJEA.org or contact DJ Horton, JEA Children's & Camp Director at camp@savj.org

Ruach (Spirit)

Open-mindedness

Chesed (Kindness)

Kehillah (Community)

Sportsmanship

23-24
SCHOOL YEAR

JEA Before & After School Program

Open to all children PreK-8th grade

Visit our
website for the
growing list of
schools we
service!

DIFFERENT & ENGAGING ACTIVITIES DAILY!
WEEKLY SWIMMING, CULINARY,
SPORTS AND REC., S.T.E.A.M.,
OUTDOOR PLAY, ARTS & CRAFTS
& SO MUCH MORE!

www.savannahjea.org

WELCOME TO THE

Chinedu & Nkolika Amadi

Mohamad & Wahida Aziz

Devin Bagli

James & Courtney Bonney

Beth Bosman

Nicholas & Hallie Buchanan

Koalita Cade

Andrea Farkas

Samuel Glenn

Sean & Amber Hogan

Matt Jones & Sarah Voorheis

Tom & Tammy Kenkel

Jonathan & Kyla Marquez

Daniel Quinn & Chelsea English

Winfrie Richardson &

Susan Sawyer

Jose Samaniego

Michael Schalk & Laura Mulder

Michelle Schimunov

Ralph & Lauren Schultz

Erik Selander & Ellen Harris

Shlomo & Nicole Slatus

Jason Stark & Samantha Platta

Noah & Ashanti Tabakin

Bradley & Meredith Thompson

Joshua Walker & Leslie Webb

Rodger & Eileen Winchell


JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

POOL GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

SUNDAY
JUNE 25
3:00-5:00PM

JEA NEW
OUTDOOR
POOL

Featuring:

BBQ PARTY - FUN GAMES -
MUSIC & MORE!

SEASONAL PASS

3 MONTH PASS* TO THE JEA

*Summer
seasonal
includes
Memorial Day
thru Labor
Day

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

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

SAVANNAHJEA.ORG

Continued from page 10

Five years later, the Jewish Women's Burial Society (B'noth Hessed Shel Emeth) bought rights to six more lots in the same section. Over the next decade, Jewish individuals and organizations purchased additional lots in Sections Q and P, which became informally known as the Jewish Section. In accordance with Judaic customs, a separate gate was installed, built by G.B. Little Marble and Granite Works of Savannah.

Remembering the Holocaust

Bonaventure's Jewish Section is home to one of the cemetery's most sacred sites: the Holocaust Memorial, erected in 1950. Its top surface is covered in stones, seashells, marbles and bits of glass placed by those come to mourn and honor the memory of Holocaust victims. The marker bears this powerful inscription:



"Here lieth a third of the ashes of 344 cremated sacred souls, victims of the Nazis, including the remains of Schmul, son of Y'Cheel Szczerkowski who was killed on the third of Nison 5765 – Mar. 17, 1945. Brought here from Alem, Hanover, Germany."

Saving Monticello

Savannah Jews have figured prominently in all aspects of commercial, cultural and political life since before the American Revolution. Mordecai Sheftall became the highest ranking Jewish officer of the American Revolutionary forces, attaining the rank of Deputy Commissary General to the Continental Troops in South Carolina and Georgia. He and his son were captured by British forces and imprisoned in Antigua but eventually traded for two captured British officers.

Moses Nunez acquired substantial land holdings, learned the Cherokee language and served as the governor's interpreter. In 1768, he was appointed Searcher of the Port of Savannah. Another Nunez descendant, Raphael Moses, arguably the father of the peach industry in Georgia, planted peach orchards and developed the technology for shipping fruit to far-off markets.

One scion of Savannah's colonial Jews left an indelible mark on American history. Uriah Phillips Levy, the first Jewish commodore in the US Navy Commodore and descendant of Sephardic Jews aboard the William & Mary, purchased Monticello in 1834 and famously restored the former home of Thomas Jefferson from a state of decay. He even put in working order the seven-day clock that had been made to Jefferson's specifications in 1793 and restored a two-wheeled carriage that tradition claims to be the one Jefferson rode to Philadelphia in 1775 for the Continental Congress. Thanks to Levy's efforts, Monticello thrives today as a fitting memorial to one of America's founding fathers.

An influx of German-Jewish immigrants to Savannah in the mid-nineteenth century further enriched the community. One of them, Herman Myers (1847–1909), was a prominent businessman and Savannah's first Jewish mayor. In addition to his civic service, Myers helped organize and served on the board of multiple local banks and railroad companies. His mayoral administration was marked by many public improvements including 15 miles of paved roads, an enlarged waterworks plant and the erection of Savannah's City Hall, "the finest south of Richmond, Virginia" according to the Savannah News. Known for his integrity, modesty and approachable manner, Myers' death was mourned by the entire city.

The contributions of Jewish Savannahians continue to this day in law, medicine, government and business, too numerous to detail in this limited space.

Historic Savannah synagogues

Mickve Israel still occupies its 1878 Gothic-style synagogue on Monterey Square, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its pointed arches, barrel vaults, stained glass and soaring cupola were designed by the renowned Henry G. Harrison to reflect the fashionable architecture of the Victorian era. It is the third oldest—and only purely Gothic revival—synagogue in the US.

A museum on the second floor contains the Torah scroll brought to Savannah in 1733 and letters from US presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Bush and Bill Clinton. There are also documents and artifacts going back to the founding of Congregation Mickve Israel, the American Revolution, the Civil War and the founding of the Girl Scouts of America.

At 120 Montgomery St., a unique landmark with a striking arabesque façade and keyhole windows was once the home of B'nai Brith Jacob, the South's oldest continuously operating Orthodox congregation. Classified as an exotic revival, it features stylistic motifs such as intricate carvings and Moorish-style domes. Decommissioned as a synagogue in 1970, it was used as the site of the Saint Andrews Independent Episcopal Church until 2002. The Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) acquired the building in 2003 and repurposed as a student center in 2006. It continues to imbue Savannah with a flair of fin de siècle Orientalism and to inspire new generations of designers and architects.

Today, B'nai Brith Jacob synagogue is located at 5444 Abercorn St. and is distinguished by a spectacular hand-painted mural on the back of the sanctuary. At approximately 60 feet long and 40 feet high, it is possibly the largest work of hand-painted synagogue art in North America.



This is us, or a bit of it...

Eva Locker, Principal

Shalom School is a supplementary religious school dedicated to teaching Jewish youth from both our conservative and reform congregations about their culture and religion. We meet on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, where our sessions usually include collaborative classroom work, art projects, and special-themed days.

The school focuses its curriculum on Torah, Jewish holidays, Jewish values, history, Hebrew, and prayers. Our Sunday mornings always start with a camp-style service, when our music teacher and the students take turns leading prayers in a fun, engaging way. Throughout the year, our school also celebrates Jewish holidays with special programs. For Hannukah, students prepare songs, dances, and skits to perform for their parents. Purim is the occasion to bake Hamantaschen together and take part in a Purim play. For Passover, we host a school-wide mock Seder, so students are fully prepared for the real Seders with their families. But the most anticipated event of all is Color War! A day where students split up into teams and compete in challenges based on the year's theme like "Jewish Mitzvot & values" or "Bible Heroes".

While our younger students learn while having fun, our older students have classes and discussions about ethics, Israel's history, or community involvement. Half of the school year is dedicated to Holocaust education, culminating in an educational trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC. Our students typically join in pre-K and often stay with us till they graduate high school even working as teacher's aides in our classrooms starting in 8th grade.

Shalom School is proud to offer an inclusive, encouraging environment for our students to learn about all facets of Judaism. If you have younger children, we invite you to join our Tot-Shalom events. If you want to take part in educating the next generation or are just curious to know more about what we do, email us at theshalomschool@gmail.com to come and visit.

Thank You to congregations Agudath Achim, Mickve Israel, and the Savannah Jewish Federation for making Shalom School possible.

For more information on Shalom School, contact Eva Locker at theshalomschool@gmail.com or visit www.theShalomSchool.com.



It's That Time Of Year...

Ester Rabhan, Principal

We would like to wish a hearty mazel tov to our two eighth grade graduates. It has been just Esther Safer and Tzvi Rabhan since the middle of the fifth grade. We had a lot of families move away from this class, and they dwindled down to two. Having only two students in a class can be very challenging for both teachers and the students. While we did combine Esther and Tzvi with other classes, these two families have shown their incredible dedication to Jewish education. How easy it would have been to use the "excuse", I need more diversity for my child. I applaud these two families who were willing to go to whatever extreme necessary to ensure their child received a solid secular education and an extensive Jewish education, all the while knowing their child's emotional wellbeing was just as important to us.

Jewish education is a necessary link for our heritage to be transmitted from generation to generation. Rambam Day School is committed to giving an excellent education to every student. This dedication is backed by a Board of Directors determined to ensure the financial means necessary to make this possible.

Thank you to our families, parents, supporters, and Board of Directors!

For more information on Rambam Day School, contact our office at 912-352-7994 or by email at office@rambamdayschool.org or visit www.rambamdayschool.org.



Esther Safer (left) and Tzvi Rabhan (right)

Taking Care of Our Own

Jodi Sadler, Director



Jewish Educational Alliance
Preschool Savannah

*Tikun Olam, repair the world
For those we love
Tikum Olam, repair the world*

This is the chorus of a song we sing at Shabbat in our preschool community. Taking care of those we love is what we do at JEA Preschool Savannah. Because the middle name of our organization is "Educational" we strive to support our teachers on their educational journeys. These opportunities include supporting teachers financially so they can earn their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, providing an internship placement for individuals who are currently enrolled in an Early Childhood Education program, or assisting individuals in finding a new path in the ECE profession.

Here are a few testimonials from currently employed teachers about how JEA Preschool Savannah supports them in their efforts to improve, learn and grow as ECE professionals.

We are proud of the culture of success we continue to create at JEA Preschool Savannah. These teachers are working with our youngest learners each day. Consider planning a visit to our program so you can see first-hand, all of the wonderful and special teachers we have.

The JEA preschool thinks constantly of moving their teachers forward within the preschool and community. I personally have wanted to continue my education for a long time and whenever it was brought up, the JEA was so supportive of my goals. They even helped me find the program that was right for me!

The help and community I have received at the preschool and the JEA have helped move me forward in my personal and professional life. With the support of the JEA, I was able to earn my CDA - an early childcare teaching credential that will allow me to grow and move forward with in our program.
-E.

Completing my internship at the JEA is something that I enjoyed doing. The teachers and administrators are accommodating and are always open to hearing my ideas. I am glad I have chosen to spread my knowledge throughout the JEA Preschool. -S.

JEA Preschool Savannah's teachers and administrators are empowering me to take on more responsibilities in the classroom at a pace that I'm comfortable with. They are helping me to reach my goal of becoming certified to be a lead teacher.
-R.



The Doobim class (pre-K) made BIG donations to Meals on Wheels and to the Humane Society for Greater Savannah with their Tzedakah money!

Their donations will help provide a year of hot lunches to a neighbor in need and their money will be put to good use for the animals at the humane society and the kids are very happy to donate!

Check out those giant checks! Each kid signed it!



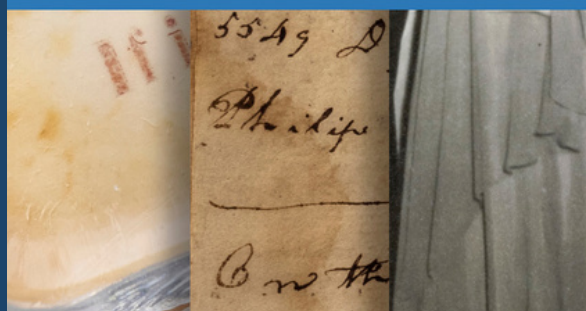
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Savannah Jewish Federation

SAVANNAH JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL 2023

was a success!

Thank you to the generous sponsors who made it possible:

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Linda & Stephen Sacks
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Stephen Wagner
Linda & Michael Zoller

and **THANK YOU** to all of the artists, hosts, organizations,

volunteers, and patrons who participated this year!

Congregation Mickve Israel

Special updates

Jennifer Rich, our Executive Director, is stepping down to allow more time for the needs of her family. Special thanks are in order for her nearly 8 years of service to the Mickve Israel community and especially for how she steered us through the Covid epidemic. We wish her all of the best in her future endeavors.



We welcome our new Executive Director, Bob Greenberg and his wife Cherie to Savannah. Bob comes to us with a wide range of experience as an administrator and educator in both Jewish and non-Jewish nonprofits. After 15 years as a middle school history teacher, he moved into educational administration, serving as a Head of School at N.E. Miles Jewish Day School in Birmingham, AL. Over the past 12 years, he has served as Executive Director at two congregations, Temple Beth-El in Birmingham, and Synagogue Emanu-El in Charleston, SC.



In July, we welcome our first Cantor! Cantor Rachel Kohlbrenner comes to us from Pennsylvania with her husband Erik and their two school aged daughters, Abigail and Hannah. Cantor Rachel grew up in Miami and was actively involved at large Reform synagogue through the Day School, NFTY (youth group) and choir. She graduated with her BA in Jewish Studies at the University of Florida. She was ordained as a Cantor at the HUC – Jewish Institute of Religion Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in 2009. Since 2018, she has served as Cantor at Shir Ami in Newtown, PA. and prior to Shir Ami, she served as Cantor and Director of Youth and Family Programming and Outreach at Central Synagogue – Beth Emeth in Rockville Centre, NY.

Join Us! SHABBAT SERVICES **Fridays** 6 pm **Saturdays** 11 am
JUDAIC CLASSES, FAMILY EVENTS & MORE
CMI 290TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE SAT, JULY 8

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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www.youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah

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MICKVE ISRAEL

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SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE



AA Annual Gala

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 | 5:30 – 9:00 PM

\$136 - 1 Entry Ticket | 1 Raffle Ticket

\$300 - 2 Entry Tickets | 3 Raffle Tickets

Additional raffle tickets can be purchased separately

Open Bar | Dinner | Auction | Raffle | Fun

Tickets: www.givebutter.com/AAgala2023



RABBI SAMUEL GELMAN ADAM FINS – PRESIDENT

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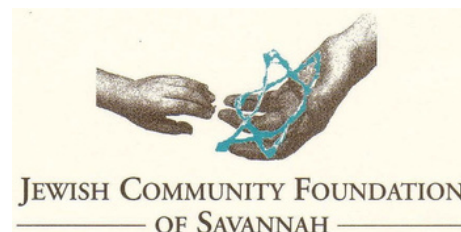
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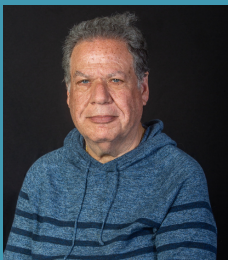
"As my fathers planted for me,
so do I plant for my children."
- Taanit 23a



Donating to a Savannah Jewish
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cycle event, honor the memory of
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Visit www.savj.org to see a
complete list of funds
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Savannah Jewish Federation

Summer is Here!



"Camp Taught Him the Greatest Jewish Value of All."

Oliver is one of just three kids in his grade who will have a bar mitzvah this year. To the rest of his classmates, he constantly has to explain what being Jewish means. It can be a bit lonely, to say the least.

**But thanks to Federation, he has found a
Jewish home at summer camp!**

And camp itself is only the beginning. The effects of those summers last long after August goodbyes. Later in life, Jewish campers are more likely to support Jewish causes and take on leadership roles in their communities.

Give Today!

*Consider endowing your gift to ensure a
strong Jewish world for generations to come.*



Savannah Jewish Federation

www.savj.org