



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, September 5	7:27pm
Friday, September 12	7:17pm
Friday, September 19	7:08pm
Wed., September 24	7:02pm
Thursday, September 25	7:55pm
Friday, September 26	6:59pm

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JEA Annual Gala, Sunday, Sept. 21st

The final touches are being put in place on "Welcome to Nashville," the Southern soiree being held Sunday, September 21st as the JEA's annual Gala. Beginning at 6pm, the event promises an evening of food and fun where guests will sample an array of exquisite Bar-B-Q small plates accompanied by a large variety of authentic Southern sides, a Biscuit and Honey station sponsored by Savannah Bee Company, a Spiked Ice Tea bar, silent and live auctions, and live music.

Gala Chair Michelle Allan and Gala Logistics Co-Chairs Myndi Carter and Jessie Brinsfield have been working tirelessly to plan an evening that is guaranteed to thrill everyone. Skip Jennings, Skip Hinely and Tommy Holland — the Telfair Babies band — will be providing the music with a country flair.

Three local chefs will delight your palate with their culinary genius. Bryan Graves, Executive Chef at Congregation Mickve Israel, will be returning to assist with the gala once

again this year, and we are excited to announce we have two new chefs to add to our slate: Jeffrey Quasha, Executive Chef at MUMC, and Chef Daniel Berman, owner of A.Lure and Village Bar and Grille.

We will finish off the night with blissful sweet bites from our Viennese display featuring desserts prepared by community members. Dessert Co-Chairs Vickie Halperin and Elise Shernoff have recruited some of Savannah's finest bakers to please your sweet tooth, including Betty Lasky, Nina Finkleman and Rhoda Halperin just to name a few.

Our much-anticipated auctions will be bursting at the seams with prizes, thanks to our hard-working Auction co-chairs David Eichholz, Ricky Friedenberg, Doris Goldstein, Dayle Levy, Candy Lowe, Aileen Miller, Gail Robinson, Lori Robinson, Debbie Rotkowitz, and Aliya Rubenstein. The live



auction will be led by the always entertaining "auctioneers" Jeffrey Lasky and Joel Greenberg.

So put on your finest Nashville chic and let us *Welcome you to Nashville!*

Tickets can be purchased for \$100 each at the JEA (912-355-8111) or online at www.savannahjea.org. Tables of 10 can be reserved for 10 paid ticket holders. For questions or more information, please contact Anna Berwitz at anna@savj.org.

2014 Community Torch Run Announced

by Carol Towbin Greenberg

At a time of year filled with holidays from other faith traditions, wouldn't it be nice to do something to show your Jewish pride? Run, march, ride, cheer or sponsor Savannah Jewish Federation's Chanukah Torch Relay on Sunday, December 21st. Similar to a 1K or 5K race so popular today, this one has the added advantage of link-

ing the third oldest American Jewish community with a tradition that dates back to ancient Israel.

This year's co-chairs Frank Katz and Vickie Halperin welcome your participation and promotion of this fun, family event. Because Chanukah this year is closer to the dates when many people take a winter break, it may be easier to celebrate our Jewish holiday together as a community. So give yourself a break from your winter break plans, invite the out-of-town relatives and friends to participate and ask how you can get involved in the 5775 (2014) Chanukah Torch Relay!

Contact event secretary Carol Greenberg at 912-352-1238 or MStarArts@gmail.com for more details.

The Chanukah Torch Relay on Sunday, December 21st from 3-5:30pm will have four stations over a 4.8 mile

route. At each location, a table will be set up in front of the buildings and the participants (and their helpers) will receive gifts (like dreidels, gelt, candles, sufganiot, etc), a drink of water, and cheers from the waiting fans! Also at each location will be a donation box for gently used winter coats and blankets for our mitzvah project: Warm-up-Winter. The concluding candle lighting will take place by 5:30pm.

This is a family-friendly event and kids are encouraged to participate. Some people drive in their cars in caravan from location-to-location, others may just cheer at one location (using signs, pom-poms or other items they bring or create) and still others may walk/run some or all of it. There will be police protection along the route.

continued on page 4



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Wishing All a Year of Happiness and Good Health
We Hope to See You at the Annual Meeting on September 10th



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SWEET



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Steve Greenberg,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Basic Truths

During this time of the year, we are all provided the opportunity to reflect on each of our lives, our family, our friends, our community and our place in the history of the Jewish people. We are able to do this collectively and individually. If we use the time wisely, we can step outside day-to-day life for a time and gain a perspective that is often hard to come by. It is a time to be held precious.

Using the maxim of leading by example, I thus sat down and gave thought to a perspective I could offer the entire Savannah Jewish community. I was fortunate that my good friend, Leon Aronson, provided me some time ago with the substance of a speech he gave to a professional organization. He referenced an essay by Naturalist Milton Olsen called "The Behavior of Geese." I had been holding this material for the right time. I will summarize it and then add some closing thoughts. My thanks go to Leon for sharing this.

Geese fly in a "V" formation. As each bird flaps its wings, lift is created for the bird immediately following. The formation, in essence, allows all of the birds to fly further than each would be able to fly singularly. This natural event allows us to learn several basic truths.

Basic Truth #1. People who share common direction and a sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of others. In a community, we all lift each other.

Basic Truth #2. There is strength and power in numbers when traveling in the same direction as others with whom we share a common goal. Communities need many leaders willing to fly point.

Basic Truth #3. It pays to take turns doing hard jobs. In the "V" formation, the geese honk from behind to encourage the lead geese to keep up the speed. Community building and maintenance is hard work but it is worth every ounce of effort. Just look around and take in what our ancestors built.

Basic Truth #4. Those who are exercising leadership need to have active support. Communities survive because people care. Communities

grow because people recognize collective action means advancement. Communities have a future because people step forward, take on responsibility and invest in generations to come.

Basic Truth #5. We must stand by those among us in their times of need. For geese, when one is sick or wounded and has to drop out of the "V" formation, two geese follow the disabled goose and stay with him/her until the goose can resume flying or not be able to fly. We must stand by each other, whether it be in Savannah, Israel or anywhere in between. To stand apart is simply unacceptable. It is not what we are. It is not what we should be.

I have served as president of the Savannah Jewish Federation for a year. In that time, I have learned a lot, listened to many people and developed my own sense about this community. That sense can be best expressed in two more basic truths.

Joseph Telushkin, in his biography, *Rebbe*, on Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, refers to a simple message that should resonate to all of us at this time of year. It is: "Love your fellow, and not just those who agree with you."

The other basic truth is that this community has a bright and limitless future. Of that I am immensely certain. But that future will not land on our doorstep. It will take effort, commitment and true support of all of our current community leadership, as well as those to come. But more importantly, it will take each of you to believe in each other, to believe in the "V" formation and to believe in what we can do together, not dwelling on what we cannot do. Our people face challenges every day. This is a moment in time where we can face those challenges. We are all up to the task. We can build a future together – but it must be together.

So, the next time you look up in the sky and see geese, sea gulls, pelicans or any other birds flying in formation, stop and think for a moment about what it means. Then please remind yourself that, as the High Holidays emphasize, we are all flying in the formation of Jewish history. May we all endeavor to lift each other up in the coming year.

On behalf of the Board of Governors and staff of the Savannah Jewish Federation, I wish each of you and a sincere and meaningful *L'Shana Tova*.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

The Medium AND the Message

Over the last two months we have recommitted ourselves to building a vibrant and varied Facebook page. After hearing from consultants, reading dozens of articles on the subject in electronic publications, and, of course, listening to our constituency, we planned a strategy focusing primarily on JEA and Federation programs and services and of course, on the Savannah Jewish community. Some people told us that Facebook had become passé as parents and grandparents joined in, but there is no arguing with the fact that more than one billion people have Facebook accounts and check them regularly.

So we now use our Facebook page as a portal for sharing the community eNews and PJ Library monthly updates, as a repository for camp and preschool pictures, Shabbat prayers, and for sharing features on programs and services that are happening at the JEA and Federation. Have you "Liked" us yet? If not, you are missing out.

private messages from former Savannahians now in Israel, friends from around the country, and other Israelis thanking us, such as "Kol HaKavod Savannah JEA! Your support is very special to this Savannah lady."

Typically, any one of our messages reaches 1,200-1,500 people (as an organization page we get metrics that tell us "people reached" — not who, but how many). But at the end of July when we posted a graphic on "The Price of Hamas' Tunnels," we learned the true power of a message.

INSIGHTS SUMMARY

33 New Likes
1,344 Talking About This
43,592 Weekly Total Reach

The message was posted on a Wednesday afternoon. By the end of the day it had reached 1,100 people...I was so excited. By the next morning, it was up to 4,500, and then it took off, being shared and reposted by at least 55 other people. I watched with amazement as our weekly reach passed 10,000, then 20,000, 30,000, 40,000. By the end of the week we had a total reach of 43,592.

And if that wasn't enough, we had 33 new "Likes" of the JEA Facebook page in one week...33 more people who are following our messages, our programs, our Jewish community.

It was a great testament to the power of the medium and the message.

Within this edition of the paper you see High Holiday messages from our community rabbis, and leaders from Hadassah, the JEA, Federation, Rambam, Shalom School and JEA Preschool.

A few days ago I saw an ad created by the Jewish Federations of North America

that really spoke to me. The ad talked about the many different ways there are to "label ourselves Jewishly." It went on to say that labels don't matter, because in the end, we are all Jews — that's what matters. Now more than ever. No matter what medium we use to express it, it is a thought worth sharing.

May this be an even sweeter New Year with each of us standing together, united, as one Jewish community. Now that's a powerful message. *Shana Tovah*.



With the kidnapping and murder of the three Israeli teens and the resulting conflict in Gaza, our Facebook page took on another dimension: it became the portal for the timely updates from Jewish Federations of North America CEO Jerry Silverman and the daily reflections from JCCA Israel VP Leah Garber. During the course of the war we were able to post graphics from the Israel Defense Forces, Israeli Counsel, and other Israel advocacy groups around the country.

We received public comments and

New Year, New Beginnings



Arlene Ratner,
JEA President

As we approach the High Holidays I am reminded that this is a new beginning for each of us individually and communally. The JEA is on a new venture to engage the entire Jewish community and we can't do it without YOU.

We look forward to new and revised programming with Jennifer's careful and capable planning. Every Thursday at Lunch Bunch we offer an opportunity for you to be engaged by a speaker with a message that is current and important to our physical, mental or emotional health. This follows a delicious lunch prepared by our formidable staff and/or visiting chefs. As of this writing our kitchen is being re-koshered under the direction of Rabbi Slatos to ensure that everyone in the community can share in all of our events.

Our Art Gallery enhances the hallways and brings attention to our

fabulous facility from the Savannah Morning News and other media. Presently we also are planning a permanent photographic exhibit of community members to reflect our Jewish heritage. A big thank you to Dick Hochman for suggesting this and volunteering to photograph this project.

There is always a class going on in the fitness area and the Senior Lounge welcomes weekly Bridge, Mah Jongg and Scrabble groups. If you have an interest, please let us assist you in making it happen. Silver Sneakers and adult swim provide needed classes for our adult population and we have other swim classes for all age groups. The Fitness Center is humming right along with the dedication of Stephanie and our intrepid trainers.

The first year of our new JEA Preschool Savannah has been a rousing success. As we head into our second year we see the happy and excited faces of our newest crop of Jewishly educated children. The staff of our preschool is the most dedicated group of people we can find. A mazel tov to Jodi and her team of inspiring teachers.

We just came off our most successful JEA Camp Savannah ever and we did it with fewer weeks to program. A todah rabah to DJ, Anna and Robin. And now that school is back in session, our popular Aftercare program provides a safe and fun after-school environment for children whose parents are at work. If you have children who need a place to go after school, you should definitely check it out.

The front office is going ever so smoothly with the leadership of Cheryl, Vickie and Sonja. Of course the first greeting as you come through the doors is a "welcome" from Risha, Sharon or Mike. We want all to feel our warmth and humanity.

Our facility is looking better, cleaner and more joyful through the auspices of Justin and his dedicated staff. A wonderful vibe is in the air.

The Great Gala is just around the corner so please plan to attend and bid your way to your heart's desire: dinners, art objects, desserts, day trips, weekend vacations and so much more. Anna is our little spark plug with the able assistance of Michelle Allan and her hard-working group of volunteers.

We are already preparing for our

next Shabbaton since the last one was such a wonderful and inspiring community event. Please put November 7th on your calendar for a family oriented night.

The JEA is humming along with the sounds of children, teens and adults taking part in our many activities. We look forward to a great Jewish Film Festival so plan to get some friends together, have a bite to eat and watch a movie. I promise that you will be thrilled and educated.

As always, a big thank you to Adam for all his guidance and help in getting it done.

There is so much to look forward to this year as we pray for peace and quiet for our Israeli family. May you and yours find a happy and healthy year in 5775.

L'shanah tova

Savannah Jewish News

Published by the
Savannah Jewish Federation
5111 Abercorn Street
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SJF Vice President: **Allan Ratner**
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Margie Levy**
SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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

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Savannah Jewish Federation **Mission Statement**

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

Torch Run.....from pg 1

You will not need to be running with the torch in order to participate. Cheer, celebrate or volunteer for the mitzvah project from stations set up at the synagogues and the JEA. Most volunteer jobs are for 15 minutes (up to 30 maximum). Volunteers are needed:

- To man the water and goodies tables;
- to make signs, pom-poms and other items to cheer on our runners;
- to decorate cars following the runners in caravan-style;
- to participate in the torch relay for all or part of the 4.8 mile course;
- to help organize and collect the coats and blankets for the "warm-up-winter" project.

This is a nice way to show pride in our Jewish community, our congregations, in the participants and bring a

little attention to the great job of the Maccabees from our Bible days.

Stations are in front of or at the corner of the institutions we honor. The schedule is:

- Gelt Station at 3:00 (CMI)
- Candle Station 4:10 to 4:30 (AA)
- Dreydel Station 4:30 to 4:45 (BBJ)
- Art & sufganiyot 4:45 to 5:30 (JEA)
- Communal Hanukkah lighting 5:08 to 5:15 (JEA)
- Warm-Up-Winter Mitzvah Project Coat bins will be at each location

Anyone can show up at the last minute to cheer at any and all locations, but to assure a safe event, if you want to run, walk or drive in the caravan you *must* register in advance with Carol Greenberg (912-352-1238 or MStarArts@gmail.com).

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS: Mazel Tov... to Linda and Morris Friedman on the birth of their granddaughter, Reagan Elizabeth Friedman. Reagan is the daughter of Dana and Paul Friedman of Greenville, SC, and little sister to Riley Jade Friedman. She was born July 28, 2014 (6 lbs., 15 oz.; 20")... and to Maxine and Don Patterson on the birth of

their granddaughter, Tamar Ruth Steinberg. Tamar is the daughter of Laura Patterson and Joel Steinberg of Chicago, IL, and little sister to Micah Leo Steinberg. She was born July 3, 2014 (7 lbs., 8 oz.; 20-1/2"). She also is the granddaughter of Judi and Neil Steinberg of Northbrook, IL.

To the Editor

The Savannah High Class of 1965 has scheduled their 50th Reunion for June 5 and 6, 2015, at The Embassy Suites in downtown Savannah. Our class had almost 700 graduates and we would like to contact as many as possible. We are asking your help in finding some of our classmates. Listed below are names of classmates for whom we have no contact information. If they would like to contact me for more information regarding the Reunion they can do so at the address below. (The females are listed by their maiden names.)

Charlotte Bellah (father was Milton Bellah); Lenny Daniels; Hedy Eicholz; Mark Gottlieb; Barbara Hershberger; Lawrence Stanley, Marsha Shindell, Judith Ann Volpin (family owned Volpin Lock and Key).

Thank you.

Bobbie (Barbara) Shelton
Savannah High School, Class of 1965 Reunion Committee | cameras47@yahoo.com | 912-656-8435

Do you love to write?

If so we're looking for you!
The Savannah Jewish News is seeking **VOLUNTEER WRITERS** to cover stories of interest to the Savannah Jewish community.
If you are interested, send an e-mail to sjnews@savj.org.

AA Honoring Gale & David Hirsh

by Ellie Galin

Traditionally, sisterhoods of Conservative synagogues across the country help support the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City and related institutions where many Conservative rabbis, cantors and other leaders receive their professional training. Funds raised are used for scholarships, to acquire modern equipment and to maintain and update the facilities. This fund raising campaign is called Torah Fund.

Previously, as part of AA's sisterhood Torah Fund event, a woman was selected to be honored, because

of her limitless efforts on behalf of the sisterhood, the synagogue and/or the Jewish community. This year, at Congregation Agudath Achim, the brotherhood (Men's Club) will join with sisterhood in the Torah Fund campaign. Because of the joint effort of sisterhood and brotherhood, the Torah Fund Committee has selected to recognize two people for their outstanding contributions. With pride we announce the honorees are Gale and David Hirsh.

The 2014 Torah Fund program and brunch honoring Gale and David will

be on Sunday, September 14, 2014, at Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah, at 10:30am.

Contributions for the Torah Fund in any amount are welcome. For a contribution of \$180 or more, the donor will receive a beautiful, Israeli-designed pin (which can be worn as a pendant). These pins are worn with pride and make thoughtful gifts. Please make checks payable to Jewish Theological Seminary (or JTS). In addition, contributions to help pay for the brunch are appreciated. AA Sisterhood has won recognition for raising significant funds for the seminars and we know this year's campaign will also be successful.

The entire community is welcome



Gale and David Hirsh

to attend, but we must have a count. Please call the AA synagogue office at 352-3747, or email to AgudathA@aol.com, to let us know you are coming so we can save a seat for you.

Cahn Joins SJF Staff



Jamie Cahn,
Campaign Director

The Savannah Jewish Federation is happy to welcome its newest staff member, Campaign Director Jamie Cahn, to the Savannah Jewish community.

Hailing from Charleston, SC, Jamie grew up at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim where she was active in NFTY activities and taught Hebrew School. She was and is a Jewish camp enthusiast having attended Camp Barney Medintz for seven years. Not having enough

there, she went on to be a counselor at URJ's Camp Coleman.

Jamie is a graduate of Indiana University and previously was the Program & Outreach Director of the Jewish Teen Initiative at the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. She worked with area youth groups, synagogues and independent youth organizations to bring them all together for learning, social, and cultural activities. Outreach, engagement and working with diverse groups are her forté.

Stop by the JEA to meet Jamie and show her some of our legendary Southern hospitality. She can be reached at campaign@savj.org.

On the Personal Side



Michael W. Stein

MISCELLANY: Mazel tov to... Michael W. Stein, who recently was named Executive Director of Oncology Services at Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC). Michael is the son Melinda and Steve Stein.

A Sincere *Todah Rabah* To the Contributors to the 2014 Jewish Family Services Friends Campaign *Friends Do Make a Difference!* (as of August 8, 2014)

Lynn & Dick Berkowitz

Nancie & Fred Clark

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In memory of Traci Finger

Jane Furchgott

Carollee & Alan Getz

In honor of Linda Zoller

Doris & Arnie Goldstein

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Peggy & Stanley Harris, Jr.

In memory of Meyer Denmark

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In memory of Mary W. Wexler

Franklin Williams

Sheree & Larry Zaslavsky

In memory of Hy Zaslavsky

And 6 other donors who chose to make their gifts anonymously

It's never too late to help. To make a donation to Jewish Family Services or the Tikvah Fund, please go to www.savj.org or call (912) 355-8111. Thank you!



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Rosh Hashanah Greetings from Our Rabbinical Leaders

A New Beginning



Rabbi Avigdor Slatus,
Congregation
Bnai Brith Jacob

“Enable us to return to you, O G-d, and we shall return, renew our days as of old.”

L a m e n t a t i o n s 5:21.

The prophet beseeches Hashem to aid and assist us in the process of teshuva; returning. We request Divine inspiration to awaken us from our slumber and help us to focus upon the purpose and mission of our lives. Just as the Shofar speaks to our souls and awakens the spirit, so too we pray that Heavenly guidance will direct us toward the proper path for a meaningful life. The concluding thought, “renew our days as of old” is difficult to comprehend. What is

the meaning of the “old” days and in what respect were they superior to the wonderful opportunities and conveniences that exist today?

Much has transpired within our Community this past year. Loved ones have been removed from us and new life and hope has come into existence. Our Community is blessed with many well intentioned, dedicated men and women who work diligently and selflessly for various organizations. Savannah is a unique Community with a strong, firm foundation in Judaism. The soul thirsts for knowledge and the refreshing stream of Torah classes offers something for everyone. Throughout Jewish history there has been one constant to not only survival but the ability to grow, thrive and perpetuate our faith and heritage from generation to genera-

tion.

Jewish education, from the earliest moments of Abraham and Sarah who influenced an entire world to the cities, towns and villages throughout Israel, Europe, Asia and North America, Jewish education of true traditional Jewish values and mitzvos has been the amino acid of the nucleus of every Jewish community. When proper Jewish education is no longer a focal point of the Community, it is only a matter of time before synagogues close, Jewish centers are empty and those who truly care about being Jewish move to other locations.

Education has always been a priority for Jewish families, to learn the laws and principles that guide our lives, adding meaning to our everyday experiences. Moshe, the lawgiver, taught Klal Yisroel for forty years; Maimonides, authored his masterpiece Yad Hachazakah, organizing Jewish law throughout life. This is

the cornerstone of a successful Jewish Community, founded upon knowledge, inspiration and responsibility. Perhaps this is the meaning of the Prophet’s request that Hashem should “enable us to return unto Him, and renew our days as of old.” Renew our commitment to Jewish education, creating the primary ingredient for a successful future.

We stand at the threshold of wonderful opportunities for our children, grandchildren, and every Jewish organization within our City. A strong thriving Day School is the most important investment for our future.

May we be blessed this coming year with good health, peace and nachas and may we find the resolve to financially, emotionally, and morally support the education of our children and entire Community, helping to properly maintain this outstanding City.

A Time For Challenge



Rabbi Robert Haas,
Congregation
Mickve Israel

I freely admit it; I’m not a good singer. I don’t have a good voice, and everyone knows it. When my student congregation in Lake Tahoe hired a High Holiday cantor for the first and only time in its history and the leadership assured me that “they just wanted to try it out; it had nothing to do with my voice,” I understood they just wanted to save my feelings. So I took the news with a genuine amount of empathy for this congregation, who as a result of the flip of a coin, wound up with a student rabbi whose high notes sounded like a wounded calf. As a rabbi, my voice hasn’t been that much of a detriment to my career, because I’ve usually had the benefit of a cantor or cantorial soloist alongside when leading services.

The exception to this essential universal code of law and ethics comes when I lead a Shiva minyan. I remember one particular such service a few years ago, when we honored the memory of a beloved and prominent member of the Houston community. Although a member of the Reform synagogue, he held tight connections to several other synagogues and had volunteered in many a Jewish organization. As I stood there alone in front of the gathered group of people from

several synagogues, who could have foreseen the upcoming religious mayhem?

I began the service in the usual way, but then soon realized that every single person seemed to croon his or her own version of every single prayer. It was as if we all started as a group in the center of the Negev and then walked in completely different directions. No one wanted to (or was able to) walk with anyone else. The farther along we ventured into the service, the more people seemed to deviate into their own private, melodic worshipping world. I feared that mass hysteria might ensue, and we would disturb the sanctity of the moment. However, something unexpected happened. This service which might have morphed into a farce instead turned into a truly memorable time of prayer, as we all prayed independently...together, members of five congregations and three movements. I’ve never been especially confident at leading people in any type of musical affair, including services, and in this particular case, my area of weakness became a strength, as everyone chose to lead their own personal service. This moment of awkwardness became a moment profound beauty.

“Rejoice, O Israel!” sang Rabbi Aki-va in the house of study long ago, for you may be certain that on this day you shall be made pure.” We look to the High Holidays as a point in our lives in which our transgressions metaphorically dissipate, something

essential to every Jew. However, I hope that the changes in our lives at this time of year are not limited to the clearing of our slate of sins. Yes, we are expected to refrain from repeating the sins of the past, but shouldn’t we aim higher?

What changes can we make to improve the lives of our family, our friends, our community, or people in need? Sure, we shouldn’t repeat mistakes, but how about changes more systemic in nature? How about finding ways to improve personal areas of weakness? How about improving our ability to find meaning and beauty in places we’ve never looked before. The beginning of the Jewish year is more than a staging period when we erase the list of sins from our personal chalkboards in preparation for

the next year. It represents a time of year for introspection and alteration. We review our year, we make all sorts of changes, and we move forward in time.

As this New Year approaches and this past year fades away, I pray that each of us may find a way to challenge our personal weaknesses and transform them into new individual strengths. As the New Year approaches and the past year fades away, I pray that each of us will find meaning in the tiniest of moments, especially those moments which at first seem most desperate. As the New Year approaches and the past year fades away, I pray that we celebrate together, clean our slates together, and improve ourselves for the betterment of humanity together.



שנה טובה ומתוק

--A happy, healthy, new year filled with peace, in Savannah, in Israel, and in our world

The Officers, Governors, & Staff of the Savannah Jewish Federation

Steve Greenberg
President
Adam Solender
Executive Director

Rosh Hashanah Greetings from Our Rabbinical Leaders

The World Stands On Three Things



Rabbi Ruven Barkan,
Congregation
Agudath Achim

The synagogue has been the key institution that has nurtured the soul and sustained the body of the Jewish people for the past twenty-five hundred years. Since the destruction of the first Temple, the exiled members of the tribe of Judah (hence Jews) in Babylonia gathered together (the Greek definition of synagogue) to seek God's words (Torah), and they did so with awareness of, and gratitude to, God (prayer).

These three elements parallel the teaching in the Mishnah: The world stands on three things — Torah, Prayer, and Deeds of Loving-Kindness. This is the foundation upon which Judaism developed and it has preserved our people ever since. So too, today, it is our three vibrant synagogues that sustain Savannah's Jewish life. It is wonderful that we join together under the umbrella of the Jewish Federation to leverage our individual efforts into a communal force.

At Congregation Agudath Achim, this Jewish foundation is strong. We have a daily minyan (a gathering of ten Jewish adults) that meets every single day, morning and evening. For over fifty years, there have been minyan captains at our shul every weekday morning to ensure that we secure a minyan. I want to acknowledge the dedication of these captains, some of whom have been serving for over twenty years and one who has taken this responsibility over from his father: David Hirsh, Kenneth Sadler, Lynn Reeves, Ron Ginsberg, Michael Konter, and Bobby Isaacson. These are upstanding members of our synagogue and our larger community who lovingly take responsibility to see that there is a minyan every day.

We have also strengthened the evening minyanim. Jerald and Carol Cohen recently became the minyan captains on Monday evenings. In addition to the captains, it is the individual commitment of each member who regularly attends minyan that preserves communal prayer in our synagogue as a living and meaningful tradition. Like the mornings, we now have regular minyaneers who come

every single day of the week. All are welcome to join us any day, one time or on a regular basis. This is a wonderful way to begin and close the day, embraced by a community steeped in tradition.

This past year, a new model for studying Torah has engaged numbers of people in exciting new ways. A group of people with common interests form a group/chavurah to study Torah. Currently, we have established seven such groups which meet regularly on an on-going basis. This has provided opportunities to tackle the big questions of life from a Jewish perspective. Some classes focus on applying Jewish ethics to modern issues, others delve into issues of theology, and some are dedicated to studying our tradition's classic texts.

These study groups are in addition to our four open classes which anyone is invited to attend. Our Hebrew reading class taught by Davida Stockton has doubled in size and enthusiasm. Dr. Linda Sacks is teaching an additional class in Sun City for women. Also, our conversion class remains strong and open to anyone interested in exploring Judaism. Studying Torah has deepened and broadened the culture of the synagogue, inviting all of our members to pursue their Jewish journey.

The core of our synagogue is kindness. This is demonstrated by the warm welcome extended to anyone who shows up for services. It also includes the private and truest kindness displayed by our Chevra Kadisha and Mitzvah committees which guide and provide comfort for members through the mourning process. Similarly, our Bikkur Cholim committee diligently visits those who are ill, ensuring that nobody, including the care-taker, is isolated at such difficult times. This year, we initiated a Kaballat Shabbat program for our members at Buckingham which takes place every Friday at 11:00 a.m. Our most elderly and respected members have such kindness to share with one another and with all who visit them.

Our synagogue's kindness extends to the larger community through our Back Pack Buddies program. Our crew of over fifty volunteers, under the leadership of Ron and Samra Robbins, packs food for children in four schools, and supplies these children with books over the summer. In the coming year, our social action

committee will be exploring ways to leverage these efforts to tackle the social ills in our society from other directions as well.

These three elements at the heart of synagogue life — Torah, Prayer, and Deeds of Loving-Kindness — are vibrant and thriving at Congregation Agudath Achim. We hope that our

synagogue's contribution strengthens the efforts of the other two synagogues. In the coming year, may we rededicate ourselves to the mission of our respective synagogues to fortify the foundation of the world — the world of our synagogue, of Jewish life in Savannah, and of our most important ideals.

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SAVE THE DATE

IZZY EZAGUI, Keynote Speaker



Though he calls himself an "ordinary guy," Izzy Ezagui is anything but. American-born, Izzy first dreamed of joining the IDF after he and his family almost were victims of a terror bombing in Jerusalem while there for his bar mitzvah. He fulfilled his dream but lost an arm in combat during Operation Cast Lead. He fought his way back to full, active duty – something unheard of in almost any other army.

Please plan to join us to hear the story of his amazing journey.

Campaign Main Event

Thursday, October 23rd

7:00 PM



**The Strength of a People
The Power of a Community**

Wishing Family and Friends
A L'Shana Tova

Chuck & Marsha Bernstein
& Family

Melvin L. Haysman
Roberta Kamine-Haysman
Michelle, Kevin,
Avi & Eli Heyman
Rachelle, Brian,
Sophie & Evie Carmel
Herchelle & Adam Cohen

Wish Friends and Family
A Happy New Year!

Wishing Everyone a
Good and Sweet and Peaceful
New Year 5775

Sharon & Moises Paz & Family
Raanon & Erica, Judah,
Maayan & Leora;
Sivan & Hehoshua, Moshe Tovia,
Tehillah & Rena; Tamar & Daniel,
Meir, Naftali & Avigayil
David & Aliza

To all our Friends and Family
We Wish You Good Health
and a Happy Year
Ina & Art Altman

We Wish All
A Happy New Year
Billy & Paulette Bateman

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy New Year
Laura & Larry Blumberg

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy and Healthy
New Year

Mrs. Bernice Elman
Patrick L. & Brenda E. Salter

Wishing Friends a
Happy and Healthy New Year

Toby Hollenberg
Jeff, Melissa,
Jessa & Ellie Neil

May the New Year
Be Filled with
Health, Happiness,
Success and Peace
Throughout the World
L'Shana Tova

Sarah Denmark
&
Adam Solender

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Simone Center

Fred & Nancie Clark and Family
Wish You a Happy,
Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Cookie & Barry Gale
Wish the Savannah
Jewish Community
A Happy and Healthy
New Year

Wishing Our Friends and Family
A Year Filled with
Good Health, Happiness and Peace

Dayle & Aaron Levy
Chaya & Shraga Levy and Family
Michelle & Rich Levy

A Happy and Healthy New Year Wish
From Sandy & Skippy Goodman,
Marc, Karen, Ashley & Parker
Goodman
Jill, Ken, Ben & Carly Goldstein

Wishing all our Family and Friends
A New Year Filled with
Happiness, Health and Peace
Sally & Steve, Greg & Susan,
Matt & Karina Greenberg

Robert Friedman,
Vernon Mosheim & Family
Wish all our Relatives and Friends
A Sweet and Healthy New Year

Best Wishes to
Family and Friends
For a Happy, Healthy New Year
Margie Gordon

Wishing all our Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year!
John, Sue,
Ben & Gabe Adler

Happy New Year to Everyone
From
Marilyn & Jim Farley

Harriet Konter
Wishes all my Relatives
and Friends
A Happy and Prosperous
New Year

A Happy, Healthy New Year
To Family and Friends
Louise and Freddie Harkavy

Wishing All Our Friends
A Happy, Healthy New Year
Gale & David Hirsh

May this New Year
Be Filled with the Promise of
Peace, Health and Happiness
Sandy & Marcia Berens and Family

Happy Holidays
AM Goldkrand
Judith Goldkrand
Lucy & Joy Goldkrand Cheskin
Howard Goldkrand, Beth Coleman & BZW

Suzanne & Michael Konter
Wish all their Family and Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy New Year
Martin L. Karp & Family

The Board of Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob
Wish their Members and
The Entire Jewish Community
A Happy, Healthy
And Prosperous New Year

Wishing Family and Friends
A Sweet New Year
Filled with Health, Happiness and Peace
Doris & Arnie Goldstein

The Kulbersh Family:
Paul & Harriet; Brian, Jennifer & Alec
Dana, Eric, Ross & Alyssa
Wish Everyone a
Happy and Healthy New Year

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy, Healthy New Year
Diane Kuhr

Wishing Family and Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Malvina Leder

To all our Friends in Savannah
Wishing Happy New Year
George Dynin & Marlena Kemp-Dynin
Victory for Israel!

Wishing Everyone
A Healthy and Happy New Year
Jay & Courtney,
Hunter & Noah Goldstein

Stacy, Jeffrey, Darryl & Stephen Lasky
Wish all their
Family and Friends
A Happy New Year

Wishing a Happy and Healthy
New Year to All
Cathy & Irvin Levine

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy New Year
Betty & Larry Lasky

Wishing You and Yours
A Happy New Year
From Seaport Christian Counseling
Patrina Moss Johnson, Director

A Happy and Healthy New Year
Sharon & Bill Sand

A Happy and Healthy New Year
Marilyn & Bob Slagel

Kathryn Levitt
Wishes all my Friends
A Happy and Prosperous
New Year

Wishing our Family and Friends
A Healthy, Happy
And Prosperous New Year
Victor, Elise, Heather,
Jason & Kristina Shernoff

Sally & Herb Sanders
Wish all our Family and Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year

A Healthy and Peaceful New Year
To Our Family and Friends
Tami & Lenny Tishberg

Best Wishes for a
Happy, Healthy and Prosperous
New Year
Margie & B.H. Levy, Jr.

Dr. Arnold Tillinger
Wishes All
A Happy and Healthy Year

Ramon & Renie Silverman
Wish our Friends and Family
A Year Filled with Mazel
Wishing Friends

Irwin & Amy Trestman
Wish You All a Sweet New Year
And Pray for Peace in Israel

Wishing Family and Friends
A Happy New Year
Sarabel & Ross Stemer

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy New Year
Loyce & Dan Weil

Julie & Buddy Metzger
Wish all of our Friends and Family
A Happy, Healthy
And Prosperous New Year

Irvin & Joy Warshaw
Wish all a Healthy New Year
The Most Precious Thing We Have
Is Each Other

Aileen & Ira Miller
Wish all their Family and Friends
A Happy and Prosperous
New Year

Jean & Julian Weitz
Wish All
A Happy and Healthy
New Year

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Steve, Linda, Adam, Lauren,
Evan, Lizzie, Craig & Gus Novack

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy, Healthy
New Year
Jane Winter

A Sweet New Year to
The Entire Jewish Community
Friends One and All
Carol Offenbach

We Wish for All
A Year of Health, Happiness
Tolerance and Understanding
Sheree & Larry Zaslavsky

Wishing You and Yours
A Happy, Healthy and Joyful
New Year in 5775
Allan, Arlene and Brett Ratner
Scott, Jami, Skylar and Madelyn Ducker

Linda, Michael & Jonathan Zoller
Becca & Eric Stone
Wish Everyone a
Happy and Healthy New Year

Jodi & Kenneth Sadler
Wish all their Family and Friends
A Healthy and Happy
New Year

Best Wishes to All
For a Sweet & Healthy New Year
Lynn Levine

Wishing Friends, Family and
The Community
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Scott, Jared & Allison Samuels

Shana Tova
Happy New Year
Roni & Harvey Libow and Family

Wishing Family and Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Elaine Radetsky
Wishing Friends and Family

Wishing Y'all
Shanah Tovah Umetuka
Lilian Stoltzman & Family



**The Officers,
Board, and Staff
of the
Jewish Educational
Alliance
wish you a joyous
new year
filled with peace,
happiness and love**



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I on Israel

Investment, Economy Are Strong

Throughout the duration of the war in Gaza (we hope that as you read this the cease fire still is in place) there were many stories of Israeli resiliency. All one had to do was check their email or Facebook newsfeed to find someone sharing a story about how tough the citizens in the south were in the face of the incessant shelling, or about the humanity of the IDF field hospital established in Gaza to treat Palestinians, or about the simple pleasure a group of soldiers took from listening to one of them play a Jason Mraz tune on his ukulele while they took a break from the fighting. And we despaired how little, if any, attention stories such as these received in the mainstream press.

But one story that did manage to eke its way through was the story of the incredible strength of Israel's economy and technology sector during the war. Yes, tourism took a hit, especially with the temporary grounding of international flights into Ben Gurion Airport, but investment in Israeli stocks and tech start-ups remained strong and continued to attract the attention of the business world and press.

Using data compiled by the IVC Research Center in Tel Aviv, Bloomberg.com reported that during the six weeks between June 12 (the date the three Israeli teens were kidnapped) and July 24, 2014, \$598 million was invested in Israeli tech start ups, more

than twice the amount of private tech financing placed during the relative calm of the previous six weeks.

Major economic indicators held strong during the war. The shekel approached a three-year high and bond yields were at a record low. The Israeli stock market also held steady during the month of July with no major fluctuations in either the TA-25 index of large-cap Israeli companies or the expanded TA-100.

William Scholes, an assistant investment manager at Aberdeen Asset Management, told CNN Money that investors are more attracted to the "very potent growth story" in Israel and quality companies than they are worried about more turmoil.



Michael Eisenberg, a venture capitalist at Benchmark and Aleph, told Bloomberg: "...I have never seen such an outpouring of support for Israeli technology and startups... All of this pressure in Israel doesn't distract people. It makes them more resilient."

An App for That

As Hamas fired rockets from Gaza into Israel and the prowess of technology such as the Iron Dome missile defense system garnered the world's attention, Israelis' lives were being impacted by more personal technological developments as well.

Despite, or in some cases because of, the war going on around them, Israelis continued to innovate and thrive. Approximately 30% of Israelis age 15 and older use smartphones and applications, or "apps" as they are more commonly called, for use on these and tablets, continue to be developed or adapted.

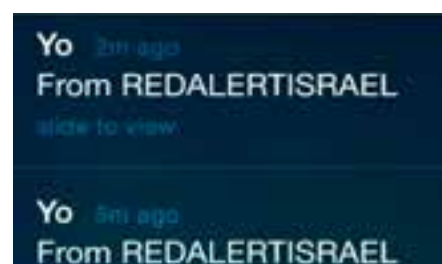
Red Alert is the cell phone app first developed during Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012 to supplement the "Red Color" emergency sirens that give citizens 15-seconds to seek shelter after the launch of enemy rockets. New apps that seek to incorporate and/or improve on Red Alert's capabilities include **Yo!** (from the creators of Red Alert and seemed to be a gimmick app but is quickly garnering Silicon Valley attention) and **iRon Dome** (developed by two Jewish college students – one in Germany, the other in New York – taking turns writing code while each other slept).

Wispa, an app described as "a virtual garage sale," added a category called "South Aid" that provides a platform

for users in the south to search for residents of other areas in Israel, especially in the relatively quiet north of the country, who have space to put them up for a few days and are willing to host them for a much-needed break from the blare of sirens and warfare.

Wispa also has been helping Israelis in other parts of the country get together with businesses in the south that have been forced to seek out new markets to survive. And it provides Israelis who want to help with lists of items needed in specific locations, responding to requests for assistance posted by residents of southern towns. The system has been used by hundreds of people on both sides – southerners seeking assistance and Israelis willing to help out.

Student interns participating in the ten-week Israel Tech Challenge developed a prototype of **Notifi** as part of the program's Hackathon. The app checks a user's location and then Twitter for messages on developing security situations – protests, robberies, fires, etc. – in the area. It coordinates that information with 'sentiment analysis' to determine the seriousness of a situation and sends appropriate warnings to users. The developing team said they hope to complete the app but demands of their real-life responsibilities haven't



allowed them the time to finish it yet.

LabStyle Innovations Corp. announced that **Dario**, which allows diabetics to use a mobile device app to monitor their blood sugar and gain insights into managing their disease, has been approved for sale in Israel by the Ministry of Health. Dario launched earlier this year in the U.K., Italy and New Zealand and is awaiting approval by the FDA here in the U.S.

However, some uses of mobile apps during Operation Protective Edge are providing controversy. The popular cross-platform messaging service **WhatsApp** has been a potential hotbed of rumors and source of panic. The app is estimated to be in use on almost half of all Israeli smartphones.

Given that users of the app create 'groups' with whom they share information, a sense of trust is generated regarding the information shared there.

The Israel Internet Association conducted a poll of WhatsApp users and found that 39% had received early news of soldiers' deaths, or other still-secret security information, via the app. Almost 75% regarded the information as reliable, and only 16% bothered to verify the information. 46% said that they forwarded "security secrets" along to other WhatsApp groups or to other social networks; only 21% said that while they believed the news, they did not send it on, and 15% said they ignored such messages altogether.

Because of the potential rumor and gossip problems, 41% said they thought WhatsApp had a "negative influence on society." On the other hand, 31% believed it to be a positive force, allowing users to "spread important news quickly." Either way, Israelis are in no rush to give it up.

Welcome to our new feature page, I on Israel. The "I" is for information and, we hope, interesting. We intend to use this space to bring you reports on the latest developments and trends in Israel. But this space is for you, too. If you know about something new going on in Israel that you'd like us to cover, please let us know about it. If you are traveling to Israel, we'd love for you to send pictures of yourself at interesting places and/or reports on what you saw that fascinated you. Please send ideas, pictures and travel reports to sjnews@savj.org.



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

September 2014



Children's Programming

Jewish Educational Alliance's AFTER SCHOOL Enrichment Program

- At the Savannah JEA, we believe that your child should have happy memories every day. We provide a foundation for their future, help shape their lives, and take part as your children grow and change.
- At the JEA's After School program, your pre-K through 6th graders will participate in activities such as swimming, sports, homework help, daily snacks, cooking, fitness fun, art, and much more!
- After School hours are Monday-Thursday, 3-6 pm, Fridays 3-6 pm. We pick up from Garrison, Charles Ellis Elementary and Jacob G. Smith Schools.



LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

Aftercare Prices: \$18.00/day plus transportation
\$75.00/week plus transportation

Member Value Prices: \$12/day plus transportation
\$50/week plus transportation

Register in person at the JEA at 5111 Abercorn St.
Phone (912) 355-8111. Email DJ Horton,
camp@savj.org

See What a Great Time All of Our Kids had at JEA Camp Savannah this Summer!



LIT's take a selfie at
Summer Waves



Pride Rock



Loving camp!



Relaxing at the JEA Pool



Dressing up as animals during
Week 1 - Pride Rock



Good times at SK8 city

JEA Camp Savannah 2015 starts June 1st.
We'll be in touch this winter with more details!

Join Us for the 2014 JEA Great Gala!

Welcome TO Nashville

AUCTIONS • FOOD • FRIENDS • MUSIC

SUNDAY
SEPT. 21ST
6 PM



Adult Programming



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



Community Garden

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



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

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

September 4th - A Conversation with Rabbi Barkan of Congregation Agudath Achim Synagogue

September 11th - "Rock n' Roll Trivia" with Bob Schwartz and Mike Strear

September 18th - "Ukelele Live" with musician Judy Odrezin

JEA Donations

(June 17, 2014-August 8, 2014)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Jack Stoltzman

Steve Myers

In honor of Zachary Silver

Sharon & Bill Sand

In memory of Sybil Barnett

Marilyn Seeman

JEA BUILDING FUND

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In honor of Kelly Gordon

In honor of Beth Roth

In memory of Hazel Katz

In memory of Sybil Barnett

In memory of Anne & Harry Richman

In memory of Morris Whitlock

Arlene & Allan Ratner

In memory of Meyer Denmark

Barbara & Ricky Friedenber

Cookie & Barry Gale

ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In honor of Arlene & Allan Ratner

Cathy & George Shriver

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

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Eva Odrezin

In memory of Sybil Barnett

Eva Odrezin

Jana Lewis & Joel Blair

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Matiel Leffler

In memory of Meyer Denmark

Jerry Rogers

In memory of Aaron Buchsbaum

Margie & BH Levy

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH

In honor of Peggy & Stanley Harris

Peggy Seessel

In honor of Arlene Ratner

Lynn Berkowitz

Carole Cohen

In honor of Toby Hollenberg

Lynn Berkowitz

Carole Cohen

In honor of Carole & Jerald Cohen

Peggy & Stanley Harris

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In memory of Betty Nathan

In memory of Edith Karpf

In memory of Stanley Feldman

In memory of Susana Brito

Miriam Center

In memory of Sybil Barnett

Tony Center

Karen Blumberg



discover *your* community



Youth Sports

JEA Tornadoes Swim Team Has a Great Year



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

The summer is almost over and the JEA is becoming quiet. The pool isn't busting at the seams with laughing kids. This brings the realization that swim team is finished for the year. Practices three to four days a week, a meet once a week, parental volunteers, and all the many things that have to happen for the kids to have a great swim team - these have come and gone with another great season had by all (parents included).

The Tornadoes have, for many years, been in the small teams division of the Savannah Coastal Swim League. Two years ago we had a big year with 85 participating swimmers so we were not sure what the numbers were going to be this year. We had 64 swimmers on the roster; some returning and some newbies. No matter the number that I give Coach Chris Whelan to work with every year, he and his assistant coaches manage to teach the kids the strokes and kicks, but they also make the kids want to come back each and every year.

Kristin Harward-Grant said, "Coach Chris is the best coach of any sport we have ever played hands down! We love his non-stress, have fun attitude!!" This is a huge testament to how much Chris loves what he does and wants to share his infectious attitude with the individual and team.

Many parents, myself included, place our kids in 'team' sports for many different reasons; some for skill building, some for team building and others for exercise. No matter the reason, we want the kids to learn and to excel in everything that they do.

Coach Chris has a way of encouraging the kids to do their best for themselves and for their team in a fun, loving way. I remember sitting at the scorer's table, running a meet, and watching our little swimmers run up and down the side of the pool cheering for their teammates. I loved hearing them come up and ask

what their times were. The most popular question was, 'Did I beat my time?' No matter what the answer, you could not take the smiles off of their faces. The kids would come out of the water after their heat with smiles of accomplishments.

Harward-Grant says that this can only happen because Coach Chris is "not like most coaches who are all about 'beating' the other teams."

Parent Whitney Shuman told me that because of Coach Chris's positive attitude and encouragement from the other swimmers, her two girls always looked forward to every meet and practice.

Lisa Jaye Young says, "JEA Swim Team has been our very BEST activity experience for the children in Savannah and I know I'm not alone in saying that :) Coach Chris knows how to talk with kids. He gets them."

Swimming happens to be one of those lifetime sports that is very forgiving to the body and joints no matter the age. Starting young with swim lessons, moving to swim team, school teams, and then competing in triathlons is the path that two of our swimmers have taken.

Kathleen O'Sullivan said that both of her kids have used their swimming skills to compete in triathlons. Liam competed with Garrison School of Performing Arts' Middle School Swim team. The foundation that the JEA Tornadoes has set gives her kids and others the proper foundation a lifetime of swimming.

"The parent experience is very positive as well, due to Stephanie Johnson's dedication and organization," says O'Sullivan. The experience is not only for the kids but for the parents as well. I strive to make sure that everyone involved has a positive experience, from the registration process to the end of the season banquet.

"All in all the JEA team is lovely and we thank you greatly for all your hard work," states Kristin Harward-Grant.

Thank you to all the parents for another wonderful and enjoyable season.



Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga
10:00 am - Aquasize
12:00 pm - Noon Basketball

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



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enrollment Now Open for Fall 2014

- Limited spaces still available 16-months through 2-years-old
- Half-day and full-day options
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for the toddlers and two-year-olds
- For full details, visit our website at www.savannahjea.org or call Pre-school Director Jodi Sadler at 912-355-8111 or Jodi@savj.org

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JEA Art Gallery



September Artist: Joe Ebberwein

Joe Ebberwein has always had an appreciation of beautiful art and relished his time at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Chicago Art Institute, or the Uffizi in Florence, standing in awe of masterpieces by Van Gogh, Monet, Renoir, Degas, Cezanne or Rembrandt, as well as the American Impressionists like Twachtman, Friesseke and Hassam.

Painting began as a hobby and soon became a passion when he began lessons at the home of a friend who graduated from SCAD. He discovered the satisfaction of taking a blank, white canvas and filling it with color, capturing the emotion of a beautiful ocean sunset, marsh landscape or a field of flowers.

A native of Savannah who loves the coast of Georgia and South Carolina, Mr. Ebberwein primarily paints landscapes of the beautiful coastal marshland where he lives, but has not limited himself to any one focus. Joe is continuing to explore his style through various mediums.

Artwork available for viewing September 1-30, 2014

Art Gallery reception September 7th, 3-5 pm

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 6/19/2014-7/31/14)

Kay Arnold
Scott & Talia Bogoniewski
Carrie Brown
Timothy Cameron
Patricia Craig
Sherry Deems
Jan-Michael & Tori Dimmit
Carolyn Donovan
Michael Hires
David & Jodi Holcomb
Tommy & Jamie Linstroth
William & Brenda Lyght
Kristin McPhillips
Janice Michaels
John & Allison Morgan
Benjamin & Amanda Payne
Risa Perl
Jean Santa Maria
Peter & Sharon Sicoli
Lawrence & Joanna Tavares
Vito Van
Robert & Lisa Wigger
Beverly Williams

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New Year Wish from Hadassah



Jean Weitz
President, Savannah
Hadassah

As we stand on the brink of this New Year 5775 our hearts are hopeful for a long lasting peace for all of Israel. The country has had a devastating summer.

Marcie Natan, National Hadassah President, recently visited wounded soldiers at the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower. She said that they were "so young, so upbeat and brave, so grateful for the care they are receiving at Hadassah Hospital." She saw the tears of relief in their mothers' and fathers' eyes, know-

ing that their children were getting the best care available. Savannah's nine decades of support of Hadassah Medical Organization has helped to insure that continued state of the art treatment is available in Israel, for all in need.

At this time, we pray for strength for the State of Israel and for their continued safety. May we all enjoy a year of blessings, happiness and the sustained strength of this beloved community

The Savannah Chapter wishes our communities here and in Israel a peaceful, joyous New Year.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu

Jean Weitz
President, Savannah Hadassah

Savannah AZA Update

by Gabe Adler

This summer has been all about transitions for David Finn AZA. As we say goodbye to two seniors, Isaac Friedman and Josh Goldstein, who have both contributed in major ways to the chapter, the chapter also welcomes some new leadership skills and ideas with Max Strauss and myself having attended the International Leadership Training Conference (ILTC) at Camp Perlman, Pennsylvania.

I met Isaac before joining BBYO and can personally say that he has kept strong to his values throughout the past three years that I have known him. Although seemingly quiet at times, it is not that Isaac does not hold strong opinions or is not passionate. Anyone who talks to Isaac about current events or Benedictine athletics knows that he is passionate, but he just chooses not to force his opinions on anyone, and does not let his views get in the way of his friendships. He will be attending Kennesaw State University next year and we wish him the best of luck.

Although Josh's involvement in BBYO could not always be consistent due to other commitments, his impact was irreplaceable. There is no example more evident than this year's Spring Convention. Both Josh's storytelling abilities and his knowledge for Dixie Council BBYO tradition shined, along with his charisma and humor. Josh's vivid stories at the LIVES ceremony were some of the highlights of the weekend. His insight and advice on the bus ride home, and also his BBYO career itself were much appreciated by Max and me. Josh will be attending the University of Massachusetts next year and we also wish him the best of luck.

Max and I would love to follow in the footsteps of two such great leaders, and ILTC has given us the tools to do so. Max is a senior this year at Savannah Arts Academy. He has held the positions of chapter Godol and Moreh, Dixie Council. He currently is chapter Moreh and Council S'gan. When first asked about his ILTC experience, he had trouble putting it into words because of the sheer magnitude and depth that a "Perlman Summer" contains, which cannot be done justice by a few short sentences. Besides the leadership skills that Max mentioned he can't wait to bring back, he emphasized the connections he made: "I was able to create a second family in those two and a half weeks, which in turn made it extremely hard to leave. As I start my senior year, I continue to think of my memories from ILTC and the friendships that will last me a lifetime."

Although Max and I did not have identical ILTC experiences, we both agree that the memories we created are priceless, and the friendships we forged will hopefully last a lifetime. We both believe that while at Camp Perlman we, alongside Melanie Ourhaan (Wexler Clark BBG N'siah and Dixie Council S'ganit), helped put Dixie Council as well as Savannah on the map in the International order. Max and I cannot wait for the opportunities that this year await us not only on the chapter level, but also on the Council level, and we plan on taking full advantage of them.

Gabe Adler, a senior at Savannah Country Day School, is Godol (president) of Savannah's David Finn AZA and Dixie Council AZA.



In preparation for Rosh Hashanah, we spoke with DeShawn Edwards, a produce team member at Savannah's Whole Foods Market, about how to select the all-important apples for our holiday observances. DeShawn, a native of Stone Mountain, GA, actually has a degree in Electronics Engineering from Savannah State University, but has so enjoyed his experience with the customers and leadership in the produce department at Whole Foods that he has decided to stay on there a little longer. Here's some useful information he shared.



DeShawn Edwards checks the apples at Whole Foods Market

The custom of using apples to dip in honey at the Jewish New Year came from our forbearers selecting a fruit that was just ripening at this time of year. But now apples are available year-round. Are there any particular varieties that will just be 'coming into season' in time for the holiday?

Yes, there are a few that we should be starting to see right about that time. Honeycrisps should be coming in September – they're a crowd favorite. And we're just starting to see Jazz and Braeburn apples; they should be more available.

What are the differences between organic and non-organic apples?

It's a pretty big difference. Apples are one of the fruits where it can make the most difference. They tend to use a lot of pesticides on apples, things that aren't good for the human body. Organic apples won't have any of that. They are going to be free from pesticides, free from any type of modification. Organic apples are more pure. Some organic apples have wax like non-organic apples do. It's there for the look and for preservative benefits.

First of all, when we go into the store to buy apples, what do we need to know?

Of course you want an apple that's not bruised or soft. You want a hard, firm, bright apple. That's what you want to look for. Whatever color it is – whether its red, green or yellow – make sure there's no scarring. Everyone wants a perfect apple.

Can you talk about what apples are best for use in baking in cakes and pies?

Usually for cakes you want to use something that's sweet, like either a Pink Lady apple that has crispness to it or a Honeycrisp. But it's a personal preference, some people like Granny Smiths, which are tart. It can depend on what kind of a cake or pie you are making. Typically people choose a sweeter apple but when you're pairing with cinnamon, you might want to go with Granny Smith or Golden Delicious.

TERMITOLOGY:

The art of controlling termites

Termite Factoid #130

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Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

As I look back at the Jewish history we have taught, I realize how its various aspects are connected to our future and to the last event of Israel's history.

We have taught about the Kings of Israel like King David, a king with a complex personality. According to tradition, King David was a fearless warrior, but we like to remember him as a poet, wandering around playing the harp. There were many King Davids during this last Israel war: many young people who planned to spend their summer nights playing guitar with friends but had to lead their battalions to the front instead. Many brave fighters who had to write a different kind of poetry, their friend's eulogy, and who cried shamelessly when reading it in

front of thirty thousand newly found family members.

We have taught about the geography of that land. About how close the borders of Israel are and how many neighbors this country has. Nothing like a hands-on experience to understand what small means: we all have found out that no place was out of reach for the enemy's rockets and that each of the four borders has its own relationship that must be monitored or nurtured.

We have taught about the People of the Land: about their diversities and impressive achievements, and about the social split of the society. This summer, we have found out how the Israelis put all their differences apart to come together as one people. There was no more secular versus Orthodox, Sephardic versus Ashkenazi or left wing versus right. All came as one when asked to join in prayer for three kidnapped teenage boys. All came as one to bury those same boys and the

soldiers that fell in the weeks that followed. Crowds of 20,000, 30,000 and 100,000 kept gathering for the sole purpose of supporting and comforting each other.

Like the previous wars that have filled our history, this one did not affect our values. We have all cried and prayed for the other side, for their children and their pain.

So many lessons we'll have to pass on to our students from such a time! As we start another school year, the history we teach has another chapter. We'll remember and teach to the next generation how once more Am Israel, the People of Israel, came together as one to take care and draw strength from each other. How the Midot (values) that shape our beliefs have not only been kept but also strengthened in such a time.

In a weird way, this summer has strengthened my children as well: they shivered thinking about boys nearly their age being captive; they walked hours to go to those three boys' funeral when the bus could not come closer to the cemetery; they

screamed in horror when sick revenge stroked at an innocent young Palestinian; they shook at the sound of the first siren at camp and learned to look for the shelter when going on a field trip; they learned the personal history of so many fallen young soldiers; they found out that those soldiers were always, in such a small country, one of their friend's relatives. None of those did I ever plan for them to experience but they are stronger for it and their ties to Israel are of a different nature now.

With this New Year, I hope for the Israelis and the Palestinians to finally know peace and for all Jews around the world to be able to come together as one more often.

Wishing all humankind to know health, happiness and security.

Shanah Tova



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

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CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL
Rabbi Robert Haas
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Steve Greenberg Adam M. Solender
President Executive Director

Why twice a year is not enough



Remember that feeling?

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

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

Think what you're missing:

- The joy of renewing your spirit and energies in a circle of warm and friendly faces
- The comfort of sharing your joys and sorrows in a community of friends
- The excitement of learning and growing with like-minded adults
- The gratification of helping others in your congregation and community
- The satisfaction of passing on your faith and heritage to coming generations
- The fulfillment of connecting to our tradition through worship in a congregation of active members

Experiencing all this with people who share your feelings about life and faith.

There's a congregation near you of people who share your way of living in the world, who look forward to answering your questions about membership, who'd be happy to help you discover

why twice a year is not enough

L'SHANAH TOVAH! 5775
Savannah Jewish Federation

And Let Us Say...



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

We are living through days of turmoil, anxiousness, concern and prayer for our brethren in Israel. We are living each of these days as the approach of the Jewish New Year lies in wait just around the corner. We would be remiss if we didn't stop and contemplate what our enemies were diligently plotting against us to take place on these High Holy Days. And as we contemplate I am sure uppermost in our minds are all that we have done as individuals and as a community to beseech G-d's mercy. This avenue of thought surely paves a wonderful path for entering the High Holy Days. And to this we say AMEN!

Let's ponder this word *Amen* to which we give great credence upon hearing a blessing whether recited in Hebrew over a mitzvah or stated by an individual wishing for us or others good fortune. The word Amen is an acronym for the words – *E-l Mel-ech Ne'eman* – Faithful G-d and King. If one is going to recite words or even one word with conviction they should make sure to understand to what they are making such a strong acknowledgement. To G-d. To the source of all things we declare, You are our Faithful King.

Consider how often we are faced with the opportunity to say Amen to words that implore the Almighty to fulfill a request, answer a prayer, shower us with mercy, to give us insight, to give us hope.

Over the summer Rambam was pre-

paring to face the challenges of a new school year; the challenge of excelling in our academics through new and innovative means, the challenge of Jewishly educating young people living in a society that more often than not contradicts the very ideals for which Judaism embodies, the challenge of ensuring that our students are well inculcated with knowledge in both their Judaic and secular studies, the challenge of assisting our students in understanding arguments of such great magnitude that lives are lost, the challenge of impressing upon our students the importance of outstanding character, the challenge of impressing upon our students the significance of continuously striving to know more both in their secular world and within their heritage, the challenge of encouraging our students to take pride in who they are and to possess that pride so strongly that nothing can take it away, the challenge of preparing our students to be all they can be and to take seriously their responsibility to pass the knowledge of their Judaism to the next generation.

Rambam has its work cut out for it and we have some wonderful plans (some still in the planning stages) of how we intend to go about our treasured responsibilities. We have karate, creative dancing, Zumba, iPads, art (and an art production), a middle school play, a middle school trip, plans for new technology, a debate team (debating with students from other schools), a running group, soccer, flag football, a garden club and the list goes on. It is our sincerest determination and commitment to make this year the best year yet; and let us say Amen!

What I Didn't Know



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

I knew it would be intense. I knew it would be exhausting. I knew it would be a long time away from home. What I didn't know was that it would be transformative for my personal and professional lives.

My Jewish Early Childhood Education Leadership Institute (JECLEI) experience that took place in New York City for two weeks this summer provided me with many Early Childhood and Jewish learning opportunities. Studying Jewish text in traditional and creative ways, experiential learning about children and play, documenting children's experiences, singing and dancing through a Jewish lens, building communities of practice were just a few of the things we undertook together. Many of the sessions were led by rabbis from the Jewish Theological Seminary, staff from Hebrew Union College, and teachers from Bank Street College of Education.

Our teachers are great thinkers of our times, wonderful individuals who pushed us intellectually and emotionally, but most of all amazing human beings. It was a real privilege to be able to learn *with* them. The most important piece of this entire experience was that I could bring the learning back to the children, teachers, families, and community of JEA Preschool Savannah. I want to pay it forward in order to create Communities of Best Practice. We have many communities within our JEA world; staff, Board of Directors, members, Preschool Savan-

nah and the list could go on and on. How do we create these communities to be the best they can be?

For my JEA Preschool Savannah community, I began with creating Professional development activities for our teachers. We learned about active listening, reflective thinking, and working with natural materials. I was able to transfer the activities I had done in JECLEI to our program. I am excited to continue the professional development learning throughout the year with my wonderful teachers.

In preparation for Rosh Hashanah this month, the children will be experiencing the holiday through their senses. They will taste the apples and honey, listen to shofar blasts, and smell the fresh baked challah; all in anticipation of helping to create a happy, healthy start to the New Year for themselves and their families.

Rabbi Tarfon says, "*The day is short, the work is great.*" The days fly by when running a Preschool and there is much work to do. However, I will take each day as an opportunity to share what I have learned with our teachers who will then teach our children.

My JECLEI journey has just begun. When you see me, ask about my experiences. I would love to share my stories with you. Wishing you a healthy, happy, and peaceful new year!

Celebrating a simcha?

(Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, engagements, weddings, births.)

We want to know!

Share your good news with the Savannah Jewish News
Send the vital statistics to
sjnews@savj.org



Operation Isaiah Food Drive

September 22, 2014 - October 20, 2014

Drop Off Locations: JEA, Congregation Agudath Achim,
Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob,
Congregation Mickve Israel, Rambam Day School

Perform a mitzvah and help provide food for those in need!

Tuesday, September 22nd marks the beginning of the Annual Food Drive of the Savannah Jewish community known as *OPERATION ISALAH*. The New Year is a time for self reflection and thinking about those less fortunate. Team up with the **Savannah Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Services** and the **Second Harvest Food Bank** to help provide food for those in need.

The food that is donated is distributed through Second Harvest Food Bank and Backpack Buddies.



Bonnie Strongin

School Ties

"You may be accepted, but it doesn't mean you belong."

Jews are an invisible minority. We do not wear our ethnicity on our faces with

the slant of an eye or the color of our skin or the texture of our hair. You cannot tell what I am by passing me on the street. I remember being startled when I went to Hong Kong and I got off the plane, a stand-out in a sea of amber faces that didn't look like mine. I didn't belong, and I couldn't pass.

Released in 1992, *School Ties* is set around 1955, just a decade after the end of World War II, America is rumbling with casual anti-Semitism. It has even crept into the vernacular with expressions like "Jew him down" and "you people." It was acceptable to keep us out of clubs, communities, jobs.

Enter David Greene, our protagonist. A high school senior, he is not the stereotype of a kid who will be passed over and quietly accept insult or injury. He is handsome, athletic, a winning quarterback, bright, challenging, and he'll look you in the eye when he fights back...and he *will* fight back.

Opening in the blue collar town of Scranton, PA, the color is bleak and tinged with grey, compliments of camera stylist Freddie Francis. He has de-saturated, or drained, the scene of color to reflect a hand-to-mouth way of life. The shot includes the local cemetery; you begin here, you end here. No way out.

Except for David. He has received the golden ticket, a full scholarship to St. Matthew's Academy, a Protestant prep school in Massachusetts. If he keeps up his grades, all he has to do is win football games, and Harvard will open its doors. *That and no need to tell anyone he's a Jew, he was advised by Coach.*

And so his journey begins. He has entered the Land of Oz. Here autumn is aflame, bursting with gold and reds. Saturated color, thanks to Mr. Francis; symbolizing success, wealth, the promise of a glorious future.

St. Matt's, "a land of wide lawns and narrow minds," where who you are



Brendan Fraser, Chris O'Donnell & Matt Damon in *School Ties*

matters more than what you are. Shot on location at Middlesex School in Concord, MA, the lush landscape sparkles with church spires and school assemblies begin with Christian prayer.

Bunking now with the school's elite who hurl Jew jokes, the sons of privilege who have attended St. Matt's for generations. What's a boy to do but hide that he's a Jew? "Fit in," said his dad. "Don't say more than you have to," said the coach. And so he does...until he's found out, because he is, after all, a Jew.

Charlie Dillon, the conflicted pivotal character, played by Matt Damon, has discovered from a loose-lipped alum that David is a Jew. The world turns upside down. David's friends turn on him; he loses his girl, the pale blond Dillon wants; he suffers slurs and insults from the boys who had been his friends. A swastika is hung above his bed with the words 'Go Home Jew.' And his roommate Reece [Chris O'Donnell] says, "YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD THE TRUTH."

A good movie makes you reflect and question.

Should David have told the truth? Should he have admitted he is a Jew from the beginning and risked not getting into Harvard by having his ambition waylaid by bigots? Is his 'crime' that he is a Jew or that he lied?

If the odds are stacked against your child because he is a Jew, if the alternatives are Ivy League or a Scranton hand-to-mouth existence, what would you say to your son?

...Really?

See you at the movies,
Bonnie

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

My First Summer at Camp

by Sophie Rich

I spent one month this summer at Camp Coleman, a Reform Jewish camp in Cleveland, GA. My favorite part of camp was archery, arts & crafts and *menucha* (rest). Archery was one of my favorite parts of camp because we got to draw our own targets and sometimes even shoot balloons. In arts & crafts, I learned how to do wood burning and we made dog tags in metal working class. *Menucha* was one of my favorite parts of camp because I could play cards games with my friends and write letters to my friends and family.

My favorite Jewish part of camp was Shabbat. I liked Shabbat because everybody dressed in white, there was a fun service, a lot of singing and dancing and a Friday Night Live show after dinner. At camp, I learned a lot of new things about Judaism. I learned about prayers and I also learned more about Torah.

At camp I met lots of new friends. Some of my new friends were from other cabins and most of them from my cabin. They were really nice and for most of them it was their first year going to Camp Coleman, like me.

I really enjoyed camp and really ap-



Sophie Rich (r) and her new friend Maddie enjoy a cool summer treat at camp

preciated the scholarship from the Savannah Jewish Federation!

Sophie, 11 and a sixth grader at St. Andrews School, went to Camp Coleman this past summer with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Jason Rich. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org.



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Book Review

True Stories are Best

by Sherry Dolgoff

Oscar Hammerstein said it best (and students of mine have heard this before): “You’ve got to be taught, before it’s too late. Before you are six or seven or eight. To hate all the people your relatives hate. You’ve got to be carefully taught.”

Anti-Semitism is the oldest form of hatred known to mankind and it is being taught all the time. It is the most long-lasting and often most extremely virulent hatred. Anti-Semitism emerges from the depths of human consciousness to wreak its horrors on Jewish people. It was this kind of hatred that Adolph Hitler perpetrated and exacerbated before and during the Holocaust and it continues today, as we have seen much too frequently these recent months.

Sitting on Top of the World, narrative nonfiction by Steven Richards, tells the story of Kurt Walker Wagner and his mother, Ilse Ettlinger Walker, a young Orthodox Jewish woman, who marries and has two sons with the Protestant Julius Walker, in Germany in the early 1930s. Kurt grows up with his maternal grandparents in a loving Jewish home. He and his grandfather are exceptionally close and that relationship impacts all of Kurt’s life. Kurt doesn’t learn until

years later that he has an older brother in Germany and a father who was a Nazi.

We think we know what happened during the Holocaust. However, much of this story I had not known before reading this book. This is not just another history of the period. The story is compelling on many levels and kept me reading intently until the end. I didn’t know about the early “evacuations” of Jews labeled as undesirables. When Ilse, her parents and son Kurt were shipped to Camp de Gurs in France in a cattle car packed with Jews I thought I knew what would happen, but I didn’t.

Gurs, in southwestern France, was not a concentration camp. The atmosphere was radically different from an extermination camp: there were no executions or displays of sadism on the part of the guards. However, because of the conditions at the time, some Jews did die there. Gurs had been built years before as an internment and refugee camp, close to the front but outside the range of the enemy artillery. It served to accommodate soldiers while they were awaiting their trench assignments. Residents were crammed into shod-

dily constructed barracks where they slept on sacks of straw placed on the floor.

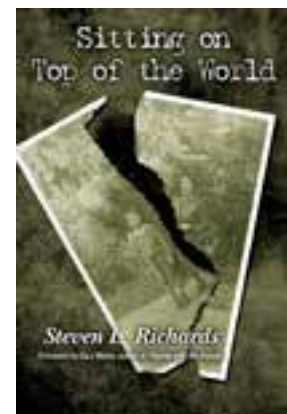
Food was scarce and poor in quality; there was no sanitation, running water, or plumbing. The camp had poor drainage. The area received a great deal of rain, which made the clay campgrounds permanently muddy. There were rudimentary toilets, not very different from the sort of troughs that would be used to feed animals. Disease was rampant and impossible to control. Most of the people who had been sent to Gurs as undesirables were later sent to Auschwitz and their deaths.

There is not usually a “silver lining” when reading about this subject. However, in *Sitting on Top of the World*, there is. The Children’s Aid Society, the Quakers, the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Aid and Rescue agencies worked to get many children placed in families in England and the United States. These social workers were unsung heroes, indefatigable in their efforts to save as many children as possible. Their work saved the lives of many lucky children, including Kurt Walker Wagner, who was sent to America.

Kurt faces many challenges in America. He eventually is placed with Isadore and Belle Wagner, who serve as foster parents. The Wagners are wonderful people who have dreamed

of having children for years, but it never happened for them. When they meet, Kurt has some demands of his own. He tells them that he must live in a kosher home and have a Bar Mitzvah because he gave his word to his Grandfather, Isack Ettlinger, and he was determined to keep his promise. The Wagners, warm and loving people, agreed to the terms Kurt set out, joined a synagogue, and later watched with pride as Kurt read from the Torah and gave his Bar Mitzvah speech.

The very best thing about *Sitting on Top of the World* is that it is a true story. I learned so much that I didn’t know about the placement of foster children during the war years, their difficulties trying to “fit in” and become Americans, and the heartache of losing the people most important to them, but going on. After so much tragedy, Kurt and the Wagners become a family, bringing joy to all three.



Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

BEATRICE GOODMAN

INTERVIEWED BY GAIL ROBINSON

MAY 1999



You know, even when my children were growing up, the JEA was a great part of their lives. ‘Cause their Hebrew School was in there and everything. Any kind of program was in the JEA. Everything. The boys belonged to clubs, they belonged to, they did everything there. When they went off to college they really didn’t come back to the JEA. But then they didn’t come back to Savannah either too much. Not until they were family.

I would like to see the JEA play a much bigger part in everybody’s life. It’s still part of mine, ‘cause, I’ll tell you this - when my husband died and they called, I was at Michael’s then and they called up and, this was about 6 or 7 months later, and they asked me would I be on the Board. Now I had been on the Board of the Alliance in 1955 I think it was, something like that. That was the first time I had been on the Board. That was when they had the first eppes essen. Do you remember the old eppes essen?

The annual meeting - they called it the eppes essen - and they had all kinds of food, it was a buffet dinner and what not and they had the installation of officers and what not. At that time we used to get 350-400 people, it looked like to me any way, and that was when we were in this new building here. That was the first time I was on the Board. And then, after Abe died and they called me and asked me would I be on the Board and I said, “I don’t know what in the world they want with me.” But I said “Sure, I’ll do it.” You don’t know what a godsend it was.

The archives holds an excellent collection of oral histories. Other excerpts appear in our publication, *Voices of Savannah*. Questions, comments? Please contact archivist, Katharine Rapkin at 912-651-2125 or at rapkin@georgiahistory.com

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

**Congregation
Agudath Achim's
Family invites you and
your family to our
High Holiday
Services
All are welcome!**



**We wish you all
Happy, Healthy and
Sweet New Year!!!**

High Holiday Schedule

Thursday, September 25th, Rosh Hashanah

9:00 am - Services
10:30 am - Shofar Blowing
10:45 am - K'Toni & Jr. Congregation
11:00 am - Sermon
4:00 pm - Tashlich (at the back of the Heard Elementary)
followed by Mincha at the Rabbi's house

Friday, September 26th, Rosh Hashanah

9:00 am - Shacharit
10:30 am - Shofar Blowing
10:45 am - K'Toni & Jr. Congregation
11:00 am - Sermon
7:15 pm - Mincha

Friday, October 3rd, Kol Nidre

6:50 pm - Candle Lighting
6:55 pm - Mincha
7:10 pm - Kol Nidre

Saturday, October 4th, Yom Kippur Yizkor

9:00 am - Shacharit
10:45 am - K'Toni & Jr. Congregation
12:00 pm - Sermon/Yizkor
4:30 pm - Study with our Chazzan, Rabbi Moshe Silvershein
5:15 pm - Mincha
6:15 pm - Neilah
7:30 pm - Maariv
7:43 pm - Shofar/Havdalah

Sunday, October 12th Sukkot

Open Sukkah at Rabbi's house
5-7 pm

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It's a Funny Thing



Melinda Stein

Morris tells his teenage daughter Emma, "There are two words I'd like you to remove from your vocabulary. One is 'awesome' and the other is 'gross.'"

"Okay," replies Emma, "what are the words?"

Miriam had lived a good life, having been married four times. Now she stood before the Pearly Gates.

The angel at the Gates said to her, "I see that you first married a banker, then an actor, next a rabbi and lastly an undertaker. Why?"

"Well," Miriam replied. "It was one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go."

A non-Jewish fellow named Brett walked into a Jewish bakery and smelled the fine smell of challah baking and couldn't resist. He brought one up to the cash register.

"Ninety-five dollars," said the attendant.

"Ninety-five dollars?!" Brett asked, flabbergasted.

"Five dollars goes for the challah and ninety dollars goes to support Israel," the attendant replied.

Not wanting to look like he didn't support Israel and desperate to try the challah, Brett agreed.

The next week Brett was passing the bakery again. He saw a bobka that looked amazing.

"Two hundred and twenty-five dollars," said the attendant.

"You've got to be kidding!" Brett responded.

"Five dollars for the bobka and two hundred and twenty goes to Israel."

"But I just want the bobka," Brett replied. "If I want to give money to Israel that should be my choice."

"If you don't want to support Israel, we don't want your business," replied the attendant.

He paid the money. And it was worth it.

The next week it was rugelach.

"Four hundred and fifty dollars," said the attendant.

"What?"

"That's the way we do things. We support Israel and if you don't like it, you can leave," said the attendant.

"I want to talk to the manager because this is crazy," said Brett.

"Have it your way," said the attendant. And he yelled, "Israel, this guy here wants to talk to you!"

Q: Did you hear about the enterprising rabbi who's offering circumcision via the Internet?

A: The service is called E-MOIL.

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L'Shana Tova

May your name be inscribed in the Book of Life for a sweet, happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

from Rabbi Robert Haas, the Board of Adjunta, and the members and staff of Congregation Mickve Israel.

SAVE THE DATE!

**26th Annual
Shalom Y'all
Jewish Food Festival**

**October 26, 2014
Forsyth Park
11am - 3pm**

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Sign up at bit.ly/1xczXGm**



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Abbreviated tours of our Sanctuary (with items from our museum) will be offered Monday - Friday from 10am - 12:30pm & 2pm - 4pm while the museum is under construction.

**Holiday Office Closings:
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**For a complete schedule
of High Holiday Services &
Events, contact Kayla at
912-233-1547, ext 301 or
kayla@mickveisrael.org.**

*Everyone is welcome to join us for our services and events! Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter by contacting kayla@mickveisrael.org, or by texting CMI to 42828.
For more information or to RSVP to an event: call 912.233.1547 or visit mickveisrael.org*

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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Marvin Longwater

Who died August 11, 2014

He is survived by his wife, Sandra Longwater; two sons, Adam (Karen) Longwater and Lance (Ashley) Longwater; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Jan Longwater Shadowens.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405.

Meyer Denmark

Who died July 17, 2014

He is survived by his daughter, Sarah Denmark (Adam Solender); his son Michael Denmark (Terri Cooper); two grandsons; his sister Betty Monroe; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis Penn Denmark, and son, David Denmark.

Remembrances: Savannah Jewish Federation Tikvah (Hope) Fund, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405 or a charity of your choice.

Sybil Seligman Barnett

Who died July 13, 2014

She is survived by her daughter, Janis (Lee) Javetz of Savannah; two sons, Gary (Harriet) Barnett, of Atlanta and Rick Barnett of Savannah; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman Barnett.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or Jewish Educational Alliance, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or Hadassah, 50 West 58th St., New York, NY 10019.

Mary Ellen Lynch

Who died June 28, 2014

She is survived by her parents, Dottie and Joel Lynch of Savannah; her brother Bill (Lane) Lynch; and two nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother, James Lynch.

Remembrances: Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation, 2002 Bull St., Savannah 31401; or The Telfair Academy of Arts, P.O. Box 10081, Savannah 31412.

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For complete information about Hadassah, visit www.hadassah.org and Contact Jean Weitz 912-354-2409 jweitz@hadassah.org for info on how you can **CONNECT!**



*The Officers and
Board of Governors of the
Savannah Jewish Federation*

*Invite you to attend
The 71st Annual Meeting
of the Federation
Wednesday, September 10th
7:00pm
Jewish Educational Alliance*

Pursuant to Article VI, Section I, C, the Nominating Committee puts forth the following slate for consideration at the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Meeting to be held on September 10, 2014:

Officers

Steve Greenberg – President
Sherry Dolgoff – President Elect
Allan Ratner – Vice President
Margie Levy – Treasurer
Jeff Lasky – Immediate Past President
Linda Zoller – Past President
Arlene Ratner – JEA President

Scott Center
Skye Cossio
Daniel Eichholz
Susan Jaffie
Harvey Lebos
Jack Levine

Nominated for a 2-year term ending 2016

Lynn Berkowitz
Edwin Byck
Morris Geffen
Benjamin Karpf
Mark Konter
Stacey Schlafstein
Larry Zaslavsky

Nominated for a 1-year term ending 2015

Charlotte Black
Ron Robbins

Continuing a 2-year term ending 2015

Matthew Allan
Steve Berwitz

Committee Members

Jeff Lasky, Chair
Matthew Allan
Skye Cossio

Sherry Dolgoff
Joel Greenberg
Harvey Lebos

Michael Konter
Sharon Sand
Jean Weitz

LASTING LEGACIES

In honor of her work and to perpetuate her memory...

Ashley White Samuels moved to Savannah in 1995. She'd met her husband, Scott, at the University of Georgia and they had briefly lived in Augusta. Together they returned to his hometown to make a life and raise a family.

Once settled in Savannah, Ashley and Scott became active in Jewish communal life. They both served on committees and on the Board of Directors of the JEA (Scott eventually became President). Ashley soon developed a real passion for children's programming and for a number of years chaired the Children's Committee where she worked tirelessly to fulfill one of the JEA's missions of instilling strong Jewish identities in the community's children. She chaired Kids' Day two consecutive years. Everyone who worked with her on the committee and its various projects recognized, admired and was infected by her commitment and enthusiasm to her endeavors.

"She always knew the JEA was a special place for me growing up and she always wanted the same for our kids and any other kids who wanted to be at the JEA," Scott Samuels said. "When our kids were younger she was always involved with the Children's Committee and wanting to do things that enhanced the programming at the JEA."

Scott talked about what the JEA means to his own children: "The JEA was and still is a place of comfort for Allison; she calls it her 'happy place' right now. It was always a place where my kids could go and be comfortable and feel safe and feel like it was theirs. My kids took ownership of the JEA because they knew how important it was to have a place like the JEA, with programming for kids."

Ashley was a fiercely devoted mother to Jared and Allison and wife to Scott; a kind and warm friend, a hard-working professional and perhaps most visible of all, the ultimate Georgia Bulldogs fan. She died this past December 31st after a long and brave battle with ovarian cancer.

In June 2014 Scott established the Ashley Samuels Children's & Youth Activity Fund with the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah. It is a design-



Ashley and Scott Samuels

nated fund whose annual income will be used to support children's programming at the JEA.

When asked why he chose to set up this particular fund, Scott said, "When Ashley died, I knew this was what I had to do – it was a no-brainer. I could have set up something for cancer, or women's cancer or something else, but I knew this was more important to her, being able to provide for kids' programming."

"When Jared was born and we set up our will, never thinking we would use them at this stage in our lives, we had always planned that we would have a fund set up for children's programming because of how important the JEA had been to me growing up and how important it was to our kids in their development."

He went on to say, "Ashley always felt the JEA was a special place. Even through rough times in the community, she knew how important the JEA was because it was the symbol of Judaism in Savannah."

"Ashley always felt like this was her home. Once she moved here, everyone accepted her as part of the Savannah community. Ashley always felt at home and comfortable here and always wanted good things for Savannah and the Savannah Jewish community."

Create a Fund

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



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We are there to help a distressed family regain their footing. To rescue and rebuild after a catastrophe. We make sure a Holocaust survivor isn't deserted, and that no one who is disabled is without assistance.

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