



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, September 1	7:30pm
Friday, September 8	7:21pm
Friday, September 15	7:12pm
Wednesday, September 20	7:05pm
Thursday, September 21	7:59pm
Friday, September 22	7:03pm
Friday, September 29	6:54pm

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Seasoned Team to Lead Campaign

A highly experienced group has been announced to lead the next Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Community Campaign. Paul and Harriet Kulbersh will serve as chairs and oversee the general direction of the campaign,



Paul and Harriet Kulbersh

said Jamie Richman, Campaign Director. Returning this year to the Men's Division is the team of Co-Chairs Harvey Lebos and Matthew Allan. Linda Sacks also will take the lead again as Chair of the Women's Division.

Paul Kulbersh is a past President of the Federation and a former chair of the annual campaign; Harriet previously chaired the Women's Division and also served numerous years on the Federation Board of Governors.



Linda Sacks

Working with them will be the successful division chairs from the most recent campaign. Lebos is the current SJF Vice President and Allan is Secretary/Treasurer; they worked together last year at the helm of the Men's Division and both are veterans of previous campaigns. Sacks, in addition to leading the Women's Division



Harvey Lebos

last year, served many years on the SJF Board and in other campaign leadership roles.

"The needs, here at home and of our people in Israel and around the world, are substantial, but we are confident that with the talents of this experienced team and the generosity of our community, we will once again provide for all," said Paul and Harriet Kulbersh. "We look forward to working with the staff, volunteers and community for a successful campaign."



Matthew Allan

PJ Library Positive Impact Demonstrated

PJ Library has been part of Savannah's Jewish community for almost nine years. Thanks to the generosity of Jane Slotin, Nancy and Leon Slotin, the Cecile Richman JEA Fund and the Savannah Jewish Federation, each month age-appropriate Jewish-themed books or music are delivered free to children ages 6 months to 8 years old in Savannah and its five metropolitan county areas. And this past year saw the addition of PJ Our Way, a new program for 9-11 year olds where they can choose their own, free reading materials.

PJ Library in Savannah also includes more than 40 programs and events throughout the year for families to participate in, including holiday observances, Shabbat dinners, fun social gatherings and more. Currently, 102 children in the Savannah area subscribe to PJ Library.

Every three years, PJ Library hires a team of evaluators to learn about PJ Library families throughout North America and their experiences with

the program. The most recent survey was conducted in the fall of 2016 with more than 25,000 families completing the online questionnaire. For the first



time, PJ Library was able to share results with its local partners about families in their areas, giving a unique view into the impact PJ Library is having on participating families in the Savannah area. Here are some of the findings:

Families embrace the experience that PJ Library books and resources spark in their home.

- 91% are very likely to recommend PJ Library to family and friends.
- 97% of families are satisfied with their PJ Library books and resources.

PJ Library is a supportive parenting tool that helps families create Jewish moments and memories.

- 80% reported that PJ Library sup-

ports their family in having conversations about Jewish traditions, values, and/or customs.

- 96% feel that PJ Library supports their family in building upon or adding a Jewish tradition to their home life.
- 92% say that PJ Library helps their family think about what kind of Jewish practice they want to have in their home.

PJ Library inspires families to engage with and participate more in their Jewish communities.

- 30% say PJ Library influenced their family's decision to enroll children in Jewish nursery/pre-school.
- 33% say PJ Library influenced their family's decision to enroll children in Jewish day/overnight camp.
- 43% of PJ Library families reported attending events for families raising young Jewish children within the past year.

For the parents who have attended events:

- 78% connected socially with other adults, further extending their social networks.
- 91% are very likely to recommend them to a friend.

The beginning
of a New Year.
Blessings of health
and Prosperity
The holiday table
graced with challah,
honey, sweet apples,
and even Sweeter company.
Pomegranate seeds
rolling off the counter
Another chance
to begin
anew.



Have a sweet year. And share what Rosh Hashanah means to you.

#RoshHashanahPublix

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What does PJ stand for?
Pajamas! We know those special times of reading, dancing and singing together happen when your children are wearing their pajamas.

Who is eligible to register?

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

What's the cost?

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

Sign up TODAY at www.savj.org



Children enjoying popsicles at
Popsicles at the Park



Sunday, October 8
PJ Library
Celebrates Sukkot!

PJ Library invites all young Jewish Families to
Splash Into Shabbat
Friday, September 15
5:30 p.m.
Jewish Educational Alliance
Outdoor Pool
Dinner ♦ Swimming ♦ Songs ♦ Crafts ♦ Stories ♦
RSVP by Friday, September 8 to Devra Silverman at pjlibrary@savj.org or 912.355.8111
This event is FREE due to a generous grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the support of the Savannah Jewish Federation



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

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

Sign up TODAY at www.PJOurWay.org

Our Way™ The next chapter of PJ Library... for kids ages 9-11
Party Like It's 5778
Sunday, September 24
1:00-2:30 p.m. ★ \$6 per kid ★ Star Castle
550 Mall Blvd.
Spend your Sunday afternoon with PJ Our Way as we skate our way into the New Year! Hang out with your friends, eat some pizza, and Party Like It's 5778!
RSVP by Tuesday, September 19 to Devra Silverman at pjlibrary@savj.org or 912.355.8111



Happy New Year!
From PJ Library & PJ Our Way

the Ceceile Richman JEA Fund.

For more information about PJ Library, please contact Devra Silverman,

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



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



Savannah Jewish Federation

Beneficiary Agency

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Fall Calendar of Events

David Finn AZA

Sep. 10 - Exec Board Meeting
Sep. 14 - Chapter Dinner
Sep. 24 - Program
Sep. 26 - IC Kickoff Party
Oct. 1 - Lovin' Spoons Recruitment Social
Oct. 14 - BBYO Program
Oct. 15 - Chapter Meeting
Oct. 28 - SRC Prep Program & Sleepover
Nov. 5 - Exec Board Meeting
Nov. 16 - Chapter Dinner
Dec. 2 - BBYO Chanukah Party
Dec. 10 - Chapter Meeting

Dixie Council Conventions

Oct. 20-22
MIT/AIT New Member Weekend
Nov. 10-12
Southern Region Convention w/ Atlanta Council
Feb. 15-19
International Convention, Orlando, FL
Mar. 23-25
Kallah w/ Atlanta Council
TBD
Spring Convention

Wexler Clark BBG

Sep. 10 - Exec Board Meeting
Sep. 16 - BBG Program
Sep. 26 - IC Kickoff Party
Oct. 1 - Lovin' Spoons Recruitment Social
Oct. 14 - BBYO Program
Oct. 15 - Chapter Meeting
Oct. 28 - Chapter Dinner
Nov. 5 - Exec Board Meeting & SRC Prep
Nov. 18 - Chapter Dinner
Dec. 2 - BBYO Chanukah Party
Dec. 10 - Chapter Meeting

L'Shanah Tovah!

**Happy, Healthy, and
Sweet New Year!**



**From Savannah BBYO and
BBYO Connect**



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

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

bbyo Connect Invites Jewish teens in grades 6-8 to
Rosh Hashanah Buzz
Sunday, September 17
1:00 p.m.
Savannah Bee Company
104 W. Broughton Street
Honey Tasting 🍯 Bee Awareness 🐝 Test Bee Products 🍯 Rosh Hashanah Program
Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 13 to Devra Silverman at engagement@savj.org or 912-355-8111

Exploring My Jewish Roots

by Charlotte Ada Jung

My trip to Israel was absolutely amazing!

I spent ten days across the country with Birthright and it was literally the trip of a lifetime. I had the opportunity to meet other Jewish people from around the world and we connected automatically because we are "mischpacha" (family).

We traveled to many places and did many things in Israel like hiking down Mount Arbel, visiting the holy city in Tzfat, riding a camel, floating in the Dead Sea, going to the beach, going to see the Western Wall, and more.

My favorite thing we did would have to be visiting the Western (Wailing) Wall. After all, it is the most holy place on earth and you get to connect with Hashem on another level. So many happy Jewish and even non-Jewish people were there, dancing and singing and praying next to the Wall. It just felt really amazing to be able to have felt that connection in an amazing place.

I'm so thankful to have had the experience of a lifetime and to be able to explore my Jewish roots. If I could go back, I definitely would! I loved every minute of it.

Thank you to everyone who helped me be able to go on the trip I will never, ever forget.



Charlotte Ada Jung at the Western Wall

Charlotte Ada Jung, 22, recently completed her studies to become a dental assistant and also works as a lifeguard at the JEA. She is the daughter of Stephanie Halperin Nash. Charlotte went on a Birthright Israel trip during the summer session. Taglit-Birthright Israel, a beneficiary of the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign, provides free, educational peer group trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26 with the belief that a trip to Israel strengthens Jewish identity and is the best way to build a lasting bond between young Jewish people around the world and their peers in Israel. For more information, contact Jamie Richman at (912) 355-8111 or see www.birthrightisrael.com.

JEA New Year Greetings



Scott Samuels
JEA President

As we enter the New Year it's a good time to stop and look back at what has happened in the last year, but more importantly,

it is a time to look to the future and to consider what can be accomplished.

At the JEA we have had many changes. A much-improved fitness center has created a buzz as more and more members are using the facility. Our ECE program continues to grow, educating children about our Jewish culture and customs, and we have just wrapped up another great camp season that educated and entertained literally hundreds of children. Seeing how fun they had makes me want to go back to camp. We have increased our security presence by installing more cameras and new security doors that will "go live" very soon.

In May, we installed a new Board of Directors that has some familiar faces, but equally important, has many new faces. This Board is excited to roll up their sleeves and help the JEA move forward by adding new programs and improving the ones we already have. We are working to get the committee process up and running with new chairpersons on existing committees, as well as bringing back some committees that have been dormant for several years. We are always looking for people to help the JEA by serving on committees. Please let me know if you would like to serve on one by sending an email to jeapresident@savj.org.

I'm really happy to say that we now have a President-elect! We are looking forward to Robyn Carroll learning the ins and outs of the job this year and then taking the helm in May of 2018. (I'm really excited!!) We look to create some "bench strength" for leadership of this institution.

I am extremely encouraged about the future of the JEA, which is the total opposite of how I felt during my first go-round as president. Our finances continue to be strong, as we

look to come in under budget once again this year; a major accomplishment for any nonprofit agency, but especially for us, considering where we were not long ago. We are lucky to have a great staff, led by Adam, who all work hard to provide fabulous and meaningful programming, while always being aware of the financial impact it will have not only on the JEA, but the community as a whole.

We have a great group of new members that want to have a positive impact on the JEA just like those that came before them. I am continually amazed at the number of young families we have in this community. This has really helped to strengthen our programming as we continue to try and meet the needs of that growing population.

The JEA is a happening place, where the young and young at heart come to enjoy life and create memories that will last a life time. As we move into this New Year with our expanded programming, I only see this becoming more prevalent. There is truly something for everyone.

This is the perfect time to reflect and ask ourselves: Have we really done all we can do to support Jewish causes, not only locally but nationally and internationally? I'm not just talking about monetary support but volunteer support as well. I call on all of us to do more for the Jewish community in the coming year. If it's giving to the JEA's Donor Dues Campaign, increasing your pledge to the Federation, buying two tickets to Rambam's car raffle or giving more to your synagogue's Yom Kippur appeal, stretch yourselves. If you can't give more money this year, then call your organization of choice and volunteer your time to help plan an event or help raise the money. We must all do more if we are going to continue to have a vibrant Jewish community in Savannah.

Honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice and be an example to your children that being Jewish is more than just a religion; it is an honor that comes with the responsibility of leaving this world a greater place than the one we live in now. Wishing you all a happy, healthy and sweet New Year.

When you think about leaders whom you can respect & trust this new year...



Aren't you glad **Joanna Rich** has been voted President-Elect of our Southeastern Region of **Hadassah**?

Planning Committee for Inaugural weekend (January 6 & 7 right here in beautiful Savannah) forming now. Contact Carol Greenberg MStarArts@gmail.com or 912-352-1238



For local issues, our own Savannah Hadassah President and National board member:

Contact Jean Weitz
912-354-2409
jweitz@hadassah.org
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Allan Ratner
President
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Hard Work and Perseverance

Last month, President Trump backed proposed legislation to change the immigration policy of the United States.

The gist, as I understand it, would give extra preference to people with skills that the U.S. finds in short supply, as well as preference to immigrants who can speak English.

At first I didn't have too much problem with this idea, until I realized that if this policy were in effect around 1910, I might not be here.

My father was about nine years old when he came here from Russia with his mother. Neither he nor his mother spoke any English, nor had any marketable skills.

But through education, hard work and perseverance, he became a successful business owner.

I believe there are other attributes that are required to become a good American, other than speaking Eng-

lish when you arrive on these shores. Motivation and determination; desire for opportunities that don't exist in the lands being left behind – these are the qualities that drove my father and so many like him.

The Italians, Cubans, Mexicans, French, and many others that have helped build this country; they did not speak English or have marketable skills when they arrived.

But just like my father, through hard work, education, and opportunity they all became good citizens.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are a time to reflect on the past year, give thanks for what we have, and think about how to do better in the coming year.

I have much to be thankful for, and if you think about it, I'm sure you do, too. Arlene and I wish you all l'shana tovah – a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Refound Empathy in the New Year

It started with the receipt of an email from the Louisville, Kentucky, JCC: "We put together this graphic in a hurry to respond to the events of Charlottesville. If any other JCCs want to use it, feel free." I saw the attached graphic and immediately thought to myself, "It's perfect." The layout was from a community like ours (Federation and JCC under joint leadership), the message was apolitical, the graphic was patriotic, and the concept was expressed in Hebrew as well as in English.

We posted the graphic three times over four days and it reached over 9,000 people, was shared dozens of times.

Clearly, the simple message resonated with others as it did us, as dozens of JCCs around the country "personalized" it and sent it out on their Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. Even the Jewish Community Center Association (the overarching professional organization of all JCCs) "adopted" the graphic and sent it out.

In the aftermath of Charlottesville, we thought it was important to provide a universal message from the Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance to our members and to the community at large. We give great thought and time to what we post, balancing entertainment and information to "keep eyes on our sites."

Were there only an easy definition on what is appropriate, what is meaningful, and what engages everyone.

We knew this graphic would offend no one and would be received in the spirit it was offered. But, alas, we were wrong. There were those who perceived it as a political statement, as a graphic questioning our national leadership. A member of the community questioned our patriotism while another asked, "Why would we ever wade into this morass of politics?"

Never did we perceive this to be a question of political advocacy or party loyalty but a statement of humanity.

When did we lose our patience? When did we lose our ability to lis-

ten? When did lose our ability "to walk in each other's shoes?" Where is the empathy and sympathy for what others are experiencing?

It seems obvious that our challenge moving forward is to create space to have respectful discourse. It shouldn't be difficult, but increasingly, the interaction between politicians, between different countries, and even the conduct of "ordinary" citizens increasingly reflects a lack of empathy. At first it seemed insensitive, now it feels downright contemptuous.

In just a few generations we have gone from concern for everyone in public polity (for example, public works projects of the New Deal that benefited everyone) to a time when almost all public discourse is uncivil and lacks empathy. No one seems to consider the other. Apparently, outrage, emotion and ad hominem attacks are what work in the public sphere; distain and indifference have become the cornerstone of American politics.

We can do better. We can be better.

The New Year gives us the opportunity to assess where we have been

and to reflect on who we want to be. When the Torah describes the creation of man/woman-kind, it tells us they/we were created "b'tzelem Elokim" (in God's image), and

one of the most core meanings of this concept is that as human beings we have free will in relation to making moral decisions. We can change how we talk to each other, we can "walk in each other's path," we can show empathy... and Rosh Hashanah is the best time to reassess and refocus what we are and what we do.

May the New Year bring you health and happiness,

May the New Year bring you new meaning and reflection,

May the New Year bring you love and affection, and

May the New Year be one of re-found empathy.

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

74th Savannah Jewish Federation ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance

Remarks from Federation President, Allan Ratner

Election of Board of Governors

Director's Report to the Community

President's Awards

Recognition of 2017 Campaign Leadership

Dessert Reception

*All food served at the JEA are Kosher, not under supervision.
Certified sealed Kosher food available upon request.*





Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

New Year, New Experience

The Jewish New Year of 5778 is a time to reflect on the old and look forward to the new.

On August 7th, JEA Preschool Savannah began its fifth year as a premiere preschool program. We opened our seventh classroom and began our journey this year using a new concept with our families.

This new concept was one that I learned about from a respected colleague while at the JCCA Professional Conference I attended earlier this year. She has offered this activity in her school and she encouraged other JCC Early Childhood Education programs to try it. It sounded like a worthwhile idea so I began learning with my teachers about the importance of this experience. We read an article entitled “Building Informed Relationships: What Parents can Teach us about their Children” and we had meetings to discuss the theory. Then, our first Story Gathering Day became a reality.

Story Gathering Day was a time for families to meet with teachers before the first day of school. This was a time for each mom, dad, and/or caregiver to tell the story of their child. This was a time for teachers to be active listeners so they could learn about the child through the eyes of the parents. This was a time for teachers to learn about the parents’ hopes and dreams for their child. This was a time for teachers and caregivers to begin to build a positive relationship. Story Gathering Day proved to be an extremely valuable time for both the teachers and families.

Here is some of the feedback I re-

ceived from our teachers:

- I’m really glad we did this
- I got a lot of important information about the child
- I learned about the dynamics of drop-off for the family
- I learned about the child’s emotional, social, and academic development
- I learned about how the child transitions between activities
- I was able to ease the first day drop-off anxiety for the family
- I learned about the goals that parents had for their child

How wonderful for the children who then entered their classrooms on day one with teachers who had true insight about them as individuals; their likes and dislikes, and their lives



G'daim A (2-year olds) teacher Crystal Chandler meets with the parents of one of her new students on Story Gathering Day

at home. The children really are the ones who benefit most from the Story Gathering Day.

Thank you to the teachers for their time and commitment to the families and children. Thank you to the families who participated in this new experience.

As we continue to grow as a Preschool program, we look forward to other experiences with children, teachers, and families that will ultimately lead to the positive growth and development of our precious gems!

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

Rosh Hashanah Greetings from Our Rabbinical Leaders



Rabbi Steven Henkin
Congregation
Agudath Achim

As the new person in town, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Yes, I am the new rabbi at Congregation Agudath Achim, but for those who haven’t heard all of my stories—or any of them, for that matter—please allow me a short introduction.

While I am now a rabbi, I have found my path here is different than many of my colleagues. While a lot of my classmates in rabbinical school had Jewish day school educations, Jewish summer camp experience, and close relationships with their rabbis and synagogues growing up, I largely did not. I attended a secular private elementary and middle school, a public high school, a large state university without a large Jewish population, was a terrible religious school student, and generally was, at best, indifferent towards my religion. That largely changed in college, as I became active in Hillel, first socially, then, feeling I should know something about why I wanted nothing to do with Judaism, started taking Jewish Studies classes. It was then I began to discover a Judaism that is beautiful, powerful, meaningful, and relevant to how we live our lives.

I share this summary not with pride or shame, but as part of who I am. Particularly at this time of year, I feel it is worth reflecting on where I am and how I got here. With the High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur approaching, we—as individuals, as a community, and as a people—are engaged in a process called heshbon hanefesh, literally meaning “a spiritual accounting,” with the idea that we list our transgressions in the debt column and our good deeds in the credit column to see how they stack up. More than that, though, what we are asked to do is serious self-reflection. In the process of doing heshbon hanefesh, we ask ourselves: What are our greatest values? What are our highest priorities? How do we envision living our best life possible? Then, we admit to ourselves that we have not always succeeded. There have been times when we’ve betrayed our own values, when we’ve put lower priorities ahead of higher ones, when we have not been our best selves.

Reflecting on the Past to Build the Future

It is easy when we realize we are not proud of our actions to put the blame on anything else: it is someone else’s fault, something else got in the way, “I would have done that but...” It is much more difficult to take responsibility for ourselves. The true soul searching the heshbon hanefesh requires forces us to come to terms with our own roles, our own decisions, our own actions. It is only by admitting to ourselves the places we have come up short that we can learn from those mistakes and thereby open the possibility of teshuvah, often translated as “repentance,” but meaning more something like, “returning”—returning to the path, the way of life, which we want to live. This teshuvah, this returning, is the goal of this process. We recognize that we as humans are not perfect, we make mistakes, but we can learn from these mistakes to help us lead better lives.

That’s not to say there haven’t been good things, too. A true heshbon hanefesh should also require us to take pride in the areas where we’ve improved, to recognize the times we have lived up to our standards, to acknowledge that we’re not all bad. More than a practice in self-criticism, this process encourages us to do some true soul searching, both of where we’ve succeeded so we know where we’ve grown, and where we’ve failed so we know how far we still have to go.

This High Holiday season—my first in this historic Jewish community—my own heshbon hanefesh begins with this story. I can look back at my past and see how far I’ve come in my observance, in my belief, in my spirituality, and in my connection to Judaism, while I also see how far I still have to go to be the kind of person, the kind of Jew, the kind of husband, son, father, brother, friend, and rabbi that I want to be.

As we each engage in our own self-reflection, our own heshbon hanefesh, I pray that we all have the insight to see how far we’ve come in our lives, the humility to recognize how far we still have to go to lead the lives we envision for ourselves, and the wisdom to know what we need to do to get there. Shanah Tovah, may we all have a year of growth that this process brings to us.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

Check the Community Calendar
at www.savj.org. Exciting
programs are added regularly,
check for new events each week!



Rosh Hashanah Greetings from Our Rabbinical Leaders



Rabbi Avigdor Slatus
Congregation Bnai
Brith Jacob

A Precious Occasion

The holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur bring their eternal message of hope and love to each of us. A glorious gift of forgiveness and atonement showers us with this spiritual cleansing, as we prepare for the coming year. The opportunity to appreciate life as we join in unison reciting the Nesane Tokef. "Who shall live and who shall die" are the sobering words that penetrate our souls and compel us to face the realities of our existence. How blessed we feel when we have concluded the Yom Kippur service! Another year has been graciously bestowed upon us and we pray for this privilege in the coming year.

Of the many blessings available to us during these "Days of Awe" are the opportunities to experience them with family. In addition to sitting and davening with loved ones, we join together for festive meals and numerous mitzvos. The Shofar's majestic call awakens our spirits and removes us from the realm of this limited world. The mystical melodies of the High Holidays stir within us memories of the past and hope for the future. The fasting and congregational singing elevate us beyond the physical material

world in which we dwell. Whose ears have heard the timeless Kol Nidre and not been transported to another domain? Whose lips have refrained from food and beverage intake and not sensed the transcendental flight of the immortal soul!

A fringe benefit of the holidays and mitzvos and customs is the creation of memories for our children and grandchildren. Just as parents and grandparents envision decades past, so too our children are creating their own memories to be enjoyed with future generations. We all pray for a strong Jewish identity within our children and the daily mitzvos and Holidays enable us to forge the foundation of that identity. Seizing the moment, reflecting upon the meaning of these unique Holidays, discussing their message in world devoid of spirituality, allows us to reinforce this honor of being Jewish. Sharing with family, amongst extended family, is such a special moment in the development and growth of young Jewish minds. These are the seeds that we nurture as we stand in communal prayer, beseeching G-d for life, health and happiness.

May we truly sense the blessings and gifts of our mitzvos and customs, and may we share their meaning with family and friends in good health and Shalom.



Rabbi Robert Haas
Congregation
Mickve Israel

A Little Bit Better Each Year

It's hard to believe, but I have celebrated the High Holidays 48 times in my life. I'm pretty sure I've celebrated them every single year of my life, although

I have a dim recollection of those first few years. I do remember though attending services in McAllen, Texas as a child, in Austin, Texas while in college, and in Houston, Texas where I taught fourth grade. I recall leading services in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, Glendale, California, and Seminole, Oklahoma as a student rabbi and in Savannah, Houston and Dallas as a real one. I even remember spending Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur abroad in Arad (Israel), Jerusalem, New Delhi, and Nairobi. If the Union for Reform Judaism ever were to give prizes for most cities in which a rabbi has celebrated the High Holidays, I might just find myself one day standing on a podium with a shiny bronze Star of David medal around my neck. I'm not quite ready for gold.

Yet despite all of these memorable High Holiday experiences, I don't believe I've ever felt the exhilaration that I feel as we prepare for this New Year. Do I feel this way, because of my connection to our wonderful Savannah community? Do I feel this way, because I'm a happily married man for only the second time in my High Holiday career? Is it because age 48 is the new age 30? I believe this will be the most profound and meaningful Holiday season in my life, because right now I have more life experiences than I have had at any previous High Holiday season.

In the Yom Kippur liturgy, we

read, "Who among us righteous enough to say, "I have not sinned." Which is then followed by a list sins that we check off as if we were filling out the new patient forms at a doctor's office. "For passing judgement without knowledge of the facts." Check. "For deceiving ourselves and others with half-truths." Check. "For using the sins of others to excuse our own." Check.

In every cognizant year of my life, I have without question been able to check off every box on the chart. I always though hoped that one day I might just be confident enough to leave at least one box blank. However, I now realize that I'm hopelessly human and will probably never leave a box blank. Instead, I know understand that as I grow and improve, I perhaps might be able to use a pen with lighter ink or even a pencil when checking off those boxes.

Each year, I just seem to add a little more wisdom to my insight repertoire. This upcoming year, I not only hope to improve myself as a human being, but I want to actually see the growth in some overt way. I want to consciously watch myself refrain from making that exact mistake I made the year before or help someone in a purely altruistic way. I seek to give and ask for forgiveness, because I understand that much more how these two acts exponentially improve my life and the lives of people around me. I believe the High Holidays 5778 will be the most profound and meaningful High Holiday season of my life, but I expect High Holidays in 5779 to then take the crown.

I prayer for a healthy and happy year for every one of us, and I hope this is your most profound and meaningful Holiday season until next year.

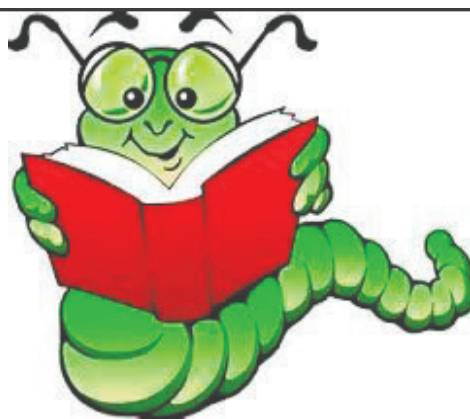
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L'shana Tovah Y'all!

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Melvin L. Haysman
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Michelle, Kevin, Avi & Eli Heyman
Rachelle, Brian,
Sophie & Evie Carmel
Herchelle, Adam,
Elyssa & Joey Cohen

Wish Friends and Family
A Happy New Year!

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy, Healthy
and Prosperous New Year

Toby Hollenberg
Jeff, Melissa, Jessa & Ellie Neil

Dayle & Aaron Levy
Along with their Children,
Grandchildren and Families

Wish Their Friends and Family
A New Year Filled with
Good Health, Happiness and Peace

Wishing our Friends and Family
A Happy and Healthy New Year

Steve, Linda, Craig,
Adam, Lauren, Foster, Evan,
Lizzie & Gray Novack
Al & Fran Frank

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bernstein &
Family
Wish All their Relatives and Friends
A L'Shana Tova

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

Sarah Denmark
&
Adam Solender

Happy and Healthy New Year!
The Adlers
John, Sue,
Ben & Gabe

Best Wishes for a
Healthy and Happy New Year
To All
Dr. Eugene “Bucky” & Joan Bloom

Ginger & Jerry Caplan
Wish All of our Family and Friends
A Very Happy and Healthy
New Year

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy, Healthy New Year
Norman & Sherry Dolgoff

Happy New Year to All
From
Marilyn & Jim Farley

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

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

Wishing a Happy and Healthy
New Year to All
From Skippy & Sandy, Marc, Karen,
Ashley & Parker Goodman;
Jill, Ken, Ben & Carly Goldstein

We wish all our Family and Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Sally & Steve,
Greg, Susan, & Eleanor,
Matt, Karina & Leo Greenberg

Louise & Freddie Harkavy
Wish All Family and Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year

Our Best Wishes for a
Happy, Healthy and Prosperous
New Year
Janis & Lee Javetz and Family

Martin Karp
Wishes all my
Relatives and Friends
A Happy and Prosperous
New Year

Happy and Healthy New Year
From the Kulbersh Family:
Harriett & Paul
Dana, Eric, Ross & Alyssa
Brian, Jennifer, Alec, Peri & Josie

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Betty Lasky

Wishing Family and Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Stacy, Jeffrey,
Darryl, Mindy & Stephen Lasky

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

The Paderewski Family
Wish all our
Family and Friends
A Healthy and Happy
New Year

Wishing the Entire Community
A Healthy and Happy New Year
Arlene & Allan Ratner
Jennifer, Brett & Margot
Jami, Scott, Skylar & Madelyn

Wishing our Family, Friends
And the Entire Community
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Scott, Jared & Allison Samuels

Best Wishes for a
Happy and Prosperous New Year
Victor, Elise, Heather,
Jason, Kristina & Reed Shernoff

Lena Solomon & Her Children
Wish Our Savannah Friends
A Happy, Healthy New Year!
Still Going Strong!

Jean & Julian Weitz
Wish the Community
A Happy and Healthy New Year

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

Wishing the
Savannah Jewish Community
A Year of Health, Happiness
and Compassion for All
Sheree & Larry Zaslavsky

Linda & Michael,
Stephanie, Jonathan & Lilly Zoller;
Becca, Eric, Adeline &
Zachary Zoller Stone
wish Everyone a
Happy and Healthy New Year

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy New Year
Barbara & Leon Aronson

Patrick & Brenda Salter
Want to wish Friends and Family
A Happy New Year

Wishing Family and Friends
A Happy New Year
Howard & Pat Cooper

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Sharon & Bill Sand

Wishing Family and Friends
a Happy and Healthy New Year
Margie Gordon

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

Wishing Friends and Family
A Happy New Year
David & Gale Hirsh

Our Wishes to All
For a Happy New Year
The Marvin Smulevitz Family

May Everyone be Blessed with
Health and Happiness this New Year
Cathy & Irvin Levine

Wishing Family and Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Sarabel E. Stemer

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

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah
The Stoltzman Family

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

Wishing Family and Friends
A Happy and Healthy New Year
Tami & Lenny Tishberg

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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In memory of our parents & grandparents

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I on Israel

Hope for a Cure

Gamida Cell, a Jerusalem-based cell and immune therapy technology company, announced that it had received \$40 million in private financing and a \$3.5 million grant from the Israeli government which will allow it to complete Phase 3 clinical trials of its NiCord® product. NiCord, developed from umbilical cord cells, has shown great promise facilitating bone marrow transplantation for leukemia and other blood cancers and has FDA Breakthrough Therapy designation in the U.S.

“We are very pleased to have the strong support from both new and current investors as we continue to advance our lead product NiCord through late stage development and toward commercialization,” said Gamida Cell President and CEO Yael Margolin, Ph.D. “With this financing, we are well-positioned to complete the Phase 3 clinical trial of NiCord [currently underway in the U.S., Europe and Singapore] with the goal of bringing this lead product candidate to market and filling an important unmet need in bone

marrow transplantation for blood cancer patients who cannot rapidly find a fully matched donor.”

Many high-risk blood cancers require bone marrow transplants as a hope for a cure and these transplants require a perfect/100 percent tissue match with the donor. It is estimated that of the approximately 70,000 patients globally who need bone marrow transplants each year, half never receive them because a match isn't found.

From umbilical cord blood, Gamida collects stem cells which are very ‘young’ and do not require full tissue matching. Using their proprietary NAM Technology, Gamida puts the stem cells in a culture with a Nicotinamide molecule (a form of Vitamin B3) and adds other ingredients. The culture increases the number of stem cells and enhances their functionality. The cells are then harvested, frozen in a formulation suitable for infusion and shipped to hospitals. They are

continued on page 14



Gamida Cell's lab in Jerusalem where umbilical cord blood is stored (Shoshanna Solomon, Times of Israel)

Zen and the Art

After ten years of work, restoration is complete on the Elma Arts Complex and Luxury Hotel in Zichron Ya'Akov, in the Mount Carmel region south of Haifa. Built in 1968 as the Mivtachim Sanatorium by prize-winning architect Yaakov Rechter, the resort originally served as a getaway for Israeli workers. It changed hands in the 1980s and remained open until the late 1990s, when it finally closed. The property was acquired in 2005 by



Elma Arts Complex and Luxury Hotel

philanthropist Lily Elstein, with the intention of creating a boutique hotel and a world-class arts center. The renovation was overseen by Rechter's son Amnon, also an architect.

The ‘brutalist’ style central structure consists of clean, white lines of exposed concrete in an elevated, wave-like form, restored according to Yaakov Rechter's original plans. It houses 39 luxury mini-suites overlooking Zichron Ya'Akov and the Mediterranean Sea. Additional villas have been added on the property.

The 28-acre resort boasts two concert halls, including a 450-seat space and “the cube,” a more intimate space that seats 150 and may be reconfigured depending on the

performance. Concerts take place most nights of the week. There are several art galleries, including those that exhibit Lily Elstein's collection and spaces for artists-in-residence to work.

Also on the property are two swimming pools – an indoor lap pool and an outdoor Olympic-sized pool with stunning views of the surrounding hillsides. A full-service spa with all the

typical offerings is available to guests. Elma's signature treatment “a delightful massage integrating shiva lingam stones [and] therapeutic musical instruments.”

Food is considered part of the artistic experience at Elma. The hotel offers gourmet dining in its Oratorio Restaurant, noted for its use of locally-sourced fresh ingredients prepared with Israeli, Greek, Southern Italian, Provencal and Spanish influences. The restaurant maintains a wine room with more than 700 bottles of fine Israeli and international wines. In addition to Oratorio, the hotel offers (in season) a poolside restaurant and bar, an espresso bar and room service.

While the property's new purpose as a luxury hotel is a statement about Israel's success, Elma also now stands as homage both to a great architect and a different time in a country's short history.

Rating Outlook Upgraded

Standard & Poors, the international credit rating agency, last month upgraded its rating outlook for Israel from stable to positive. The change means that an upgrade in Israel's credit rating, currently A+, is possible in 6-24 months. However, the rating could be left unchanged if there is a downturn in one of the significant criteria on which it is based, such as political stability.

S&P said further progress in reducing public debt as a proportion of GDP might lead to an upgrade of Israel's credit rating. Alternatively, a worsening of budget performance,

economic growth, or the balance of payments, or a substantial increase in security risk, could have negative impact on Israel's credit rating.

Minister of Finance Moshe Kahlon responded to the change in Israel's rating outlook: “The confidence in the Israeli economy repeatedly expressed by important economic agencies in the world are proof that the policy of investing in young couples, narrowing social gaps, compassion for the disadvantaged, and social sensitivity are the right way to make the economy



The Azrieli Towers, in the heart of Tel Aviv's financial district

grow. We will continue leading the Israeli economy with responsibility and determination.”

Ministry of Finance Accountant General Rony Hizkiyahu said, “The improved rating outlook reflects

strong fiscal performance, and emphasizes the importance of continuing a policy of encouraging growth and lowering the ratio of debt to GDP.”

S&P last raised Israel's credit rating from A in September 2011. Since then, the government has lowered the ratio of public debt to GDP, the main criteria for a country's credit rating, from 69% to 64.6%, as of the end of 2016. S&P's upgrade of the rating outlook may also affect Israel's credit ratings by Moody's and Fitch, the other major international credit rating agencies.



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

September 2017



Children's Programming

What's Coming Up this Fall?



Kirby Southerland
Youth Sports Director

Summer is wrapping up, which means the end of long days spent at the beach or pool are wrapping up, too. However, that doesn't mean the fun at the JEA is ending - in fact it's just beginning! Fall will bring the start of our year-round swim program, as well as our soccer season. Swim lessons are offered year-round.

Our year-round swim program, formerly called the Junior Swim Team, will focus on building the four main competitive strokes: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. Swimmers will practice twice weekly to work on developing strokes, building endurance and learning the importance of working with a team.

The developmental soccer program for children ages 5-8, beginning in mid-September, will focus on building the basics of dribbling, passing and scoring on the soccer field. Our young athletes will have the chance to work alongside different coaches to develop important skills and to work on building the character traits that help to create good teammates and athletes.

Also beginning this fall is the Microsports Program! Offered to preschool-aged children (ages 3-5), our mini athletes will have the opportunity to learn the basics of three fun sports: baseball, soccer and basketball. This six-week session will offer children the opportunity to learn to balance developmental skills with growth of other personal traits such as leadership, teamwork and cooperation.

For more information about any of these fun youth recreation activities offered at the JEA, contact Kirby Southerland at youthsports@savj.org.

AFTER SCHOOL

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

Registration for 2017-2018

Registration is open. Space is extremely limited. Only 2 spots remaining for Jacob G. Smith.

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

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



9.10.17

SUNDAY
EVENING
6 O'CLOCK

TICKET PRICE
\$136/PERSON



007
DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

JEA GALA

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER



Adult Programming



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



Community Garden

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



Food For Thought

Join us each Thursday at 12:30pm

September 7 Chinese Acupuncture
Dr. Yifan Liu

September 28 WWII Perspective
Heidi & Hank Reed

September 14 Rosh Hashanah
Rabbi Steven Henkin

**October 5 NO FOOD FOR THOUGHT -
JEA IS CLOSED FOR SUKKOT**

**September 21 NO FOOD FOR THOUGHT -
JEA IS CLOSED FOR
ROSH HASHANAH**

Visit with old friends and meet new ones, and enjoy a delicious lunch for only \$5,
followed by an educational speaker or performer.
Don't forget to make your reservation at the JEA desk or by calling 912-355-8111.

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 6/17/17-7/28/17)

Shonagh Adelman
Catalina Alcaraz-Guzman
Kim Blomsness & Phyllis Komiski
Melissa Burkholder
Youngrak Cho & Jinna Lee
Dennis & Nicole Coyle
Angela Cunningham & Max Ordemann
Andrew D'Angelo
Michael Dodd & Mia Rosenberg
Henry & Nanette Eisenhart
Martin & Dahlia Guigui
Jonathan & Andrea Harper
Steven & Orly Henkin
Wade Hunter & Amber Lopez-Hunter
Gerardo Jaramillo
Kathy Maher
David Newman & Jon Bairnsfather
Nancy Poser
Laura Rose
Mason Weiss

JEA Donations

(June 17, 2017-July 31, 2017)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In honor of Harriet Ullman
In memory of Barbara Jane Willis
Nancie & Fred Clark
In honor of Marilyn Seeman
Sara Jospin

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS FUND

In honor of Sharon & Murray Galin
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Joanne & Dick Hochman
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Biff & Jerry Montana
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Gale & David Hirsh
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ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In honor of Louise & Freddie Harkavy
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt
In honor of Harriet Ullman
The entire Tenenbaum Family
Cathy & George Shriver
Pam & Alan Lipsitz
Sandee & Louis Lipsitz
Renie & Ramon Silverman
Susan Timna & Family

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy
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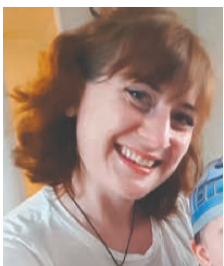
JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Joe Hoffman
Vera Hoffman

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of David Hirsh
Brenda & Patrick Salter
In honor of Harriet Ullman
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein

Shimmy Chic Fitness



New Class at the JEA

Held on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm and led by Kit Dobry, Shimmy Chic Fitness is an energetic and fun dance workout program based on the ancient art of belly dance - but

with a modern twist!

The class provides both calorie-burning and muscle-toning moves, along with increased flexibility, grace and sense of self. No dance experience necessary.

Shimmy Chic provides fun and repetitive

routines suitable for all fitness levels. Please wear comfortable workout clothes and sneakers (you do not have to show your stomach).

Open to all ages and fitness levels.





Health & Wellness

Brutal . . . but Beautiful - Part II



Kathy Ackerman
Fitness Director

In the last CenterPiece, I began the story of my hike with my husband David on the difficult (make that brutal) Maah Daah Hey Trail in the North Dakota Badlands. As promised, here is the conclusion of our story:

Day Two of My Maah Daah Hey Trek:

I froze the first night on the trail and didn't sleep much. But I started the next day with a different outlook. We had a 22-mile hike ahead of us and I was determined to conquer it! David wrote in the journal, "Kat started out on a mission." We started a steep climb with amazing views. I don't know what rose and fell more, the terrain or our heart rates!

Around each switchback we got a view of the Little Missouri River in the distance. Again, it was brutally windy and cold, but now I had poles to keep me steady. We actually hiked 12.5 miles before lunch. There were no humans and very few animals, but the views were breathtaking.

I played head games with my body on day two. Over and over I told my gluts and lats to help my legs, triceps and deltoids. I spoke to lost loved ones, asking their spirits to guide me. I used the negative energy of anxiety, channeled it to my muscles to continue to endure. I used Pilates breathing and core engagement to get me through the day. I must say, I was a fierce female on day two! We entered Elkhorn Camp just before sunset.

Day 3: We started at Theodore Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch, desolate but it was cool knowing he lived and ranched there. We needed to cover 20 miles, including a river crossing and a rough, narrow traverse of Devil's Pass. This was the day we came to understand why they are called the "Badlands."

Right away we had several brutal climbs straight up! The most breathtaking vistas you could ever imagine were the saving grace. The descent also had amazing views of the valley and riverbed. Before reaching the river we crossed a mile-high stretch of grass loaded with ticks where I came very close to a breakdown, but the good news - I flew through it and was waiting for Dave at the river's edge. Before fording the river we watched three Pronghorn antelopes dancing and climbing the river bank. The current was much stronger than we anticipated; I would have been washed away if it weren't for my poles. The cold water felt amazing on our first aid-needing feet, which by now were covered in PAINFUL blisters! Beginning the hike again was excruciating, but as time went by we went numb to the pain.

As we started another climb into the Badlands, we hoped for no ticks and soon came around another steep switchback to see the post indicating the midway point of the Maah Daah Hey Trail and

listing the names of the coordinator and crew that constructed the trail. Bless these amazing people! There was a metal box with a log book and items people have left (like TP, band aids). The first entry, dated 1999, belonged to Curt Glasoe, the trail's founder. Since its inception, only 210 groups have logged and finished hiking the Maah Daah Hey. David and I were only the third group this year. More people climb Mt. Everest!

We sat, overwhelmed with emotion, and enjoyed our last breathtaking view of the river basin below. We talked about my brother, Mike; how close we were, how adventurous he was and how he would have enjoyed making this journey with us (I lost him to a car accident in 1992).

Leaving the mid-way point led us to the majestic Devil's Pass, a narrow sliver of land with panoramic views of steep, rugged badlands on either side. We were on top of the world! The highlight of the day was that my phone worked and we were able to talk to our daughter Skylar. She was so nervous for us, but also so proud.

After a few wrong turns during the day, we were ready to get to camp. This was the first day the temperature began to climb, which meant we needed more water and were out; hot, tired and really beat up. We came around a corner to a view of Magpie Camp but to our dismay all we saw was a grassy field with a post to tie horses. Uncertain of our survival, we came in to camp and were relieved to find the well. Dave started pumping and nothing happened! Dave's melt down! "We're done," he said! I encouraged him to keep going and after what seemed like an eternity, brown water began to come out. I'd never been happier!

A lot of highs and lows on day three; we saw very little wildlife, no humans, my phone was left on and down to a precious 3%. Nevertheless, 58.2 miles were completed!

Day 4: Heading to the last camp, Bennett, we really weren't sure we could make the 24-mile trek as we were so dehydrated, wind burnt, sun burnt and completely depleted. David was starting to get infections in both his feet. Unfortunately, this day was not filled with beautiful vistas and wildlife, as were the previous days. Day four was the day of Grit and Guts. There would be no water source or shelter from the 95 degree heat. We packed extra water in bags leftover from our meals and duct-taped them shut. Yes, Dave drank hot spaghetti water. We also made our meals for the day before leaving Magpie. We had basically gone from "Freeze" to "Fry" in three days. Very few people make it from Magpie to Bennett Camp in one day, so we definitely had our work cut out for us.

We hiked through a dry gulch with petrified wood, fossilized trees and eroded lignite. Then Dave's pack strap broke! Luckily, I was able to fix it and he said it felt the best ever. We then had

Continued on page 4

Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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



Brutal...but Beautiful - Part II

continued from page 2

a long climb to a gumbo-covered flat where we hiked several miles, again being attacked by ticks under the scorching sun. We had hoped to see much wildlife here. Unfortunately, all we saw were a mauled antelope carcass and a dead chipmunk.

After crossing a rim of a broad tableland at MP75, we made a decision to take Cottonwood Trail, opened in 2005, which led north cutting off one mile, rather than stay on the more travelled trail. We chose wrong! We thought we would be traveling by a creek on flat terrain. Instead, we hiked for an eternity straight up a hill covered in dense sagebrush. We emerged on top of a scorching mountain ridge. When we sat down to rest, pick ticks and clean injuries, I could not stop my tears. I prayed, demanded my muscles to move, spoke to my mom, brother, father and dear friend Gregory who I lost just the day before we started our trek. But we regrouped and found ourselves traversing a narrow ridge with a breathtaking view; some of the trail was 12 to 20 inches wide, next to a plummeting cliff. I am willing to guess that few people have been on Cottonwood Trail since 2005.

We came into Bennett Camp silent in our thoughts. I was several yards behind Dave and not sure if I would even make it, with tears flowing again. Dave threw his pack off and sat about 50 feet away from me. We were both silent for the next few minutes before heading to the well, praying for water. It was amazingly refreshing! With a much depleted First Aid Kit, we doctored our feet, bites and cuts. We had saved our best

meal for this night and watched a beautiful sunset; only to crash back to reality contemplating what to do about tomorrow. The coyotes howling right outside our tent all night helped us decide!

Day 5: Happy 20th Wedding Anniversary to us! This was the day of sheer, unrestrained emotion. The fear of stopping to rest a day and being done answered our decision to persevere and finish The Maah Daah Hey in five days! We started by treating our feet with the last of the First Aid supplies. After leaving the trail to Bennett Camp we began an imposing climb up to the China Wall, considered one of Maah Daah Hey's most scenic sections; but you sure have to work for it. It did not disappoint. There were all these cool formations that looked like animals - or we may have just been delirious by then! The descent was every bit as steep as the climb.

Back in a valley with giant sagebrush, under sweltering heat, we started to get lost. We came upon a very intimidating herd of Bison that did not want us to pass. We faced confusion from many fake bison trails and having taken a wide girth around them. I got the compass and map out and we plotted a course on our own. The wrong trails and excess hours with the sun beating down on us in "Death Valley" (my term) caused me to throw my pack off, sit down, cry and declare, "I'm calling 911." David calmly told me to get up...we had no service!

We had several miles of climbs and switchbacks up to the dry Valley of Corral Creek in the relentless sun; often wondering if we were lost. We ended on a high plateau called Long X Divide. This stretch saved us with beautiful views in every direction and very few ticks. The descent off the

plateau had breathtaking views of the Badlands. About a mile to the finish a Jackrabbit popped out right next to us, as though to congratulate us.

The sun was setting and we were wondering if our ride, Airbnb Leigh, would be waiting for us. On top of the plateau I'd left a message and text letting her know we were coming in late, not knowing if she received either. When we came upon the camp she was waiting. We still had to climb a ridge to the final marker. Once again tears were flowing! This is the Maah Daah Hey Holy Grail. At the post my soul mate pulled out a box with a beautiful necklace he couldn't afford 20 years ago. Happy 20th Anniversary!

Trekking 106 miles in the North Dakota Badlands in five days! Beautiful but brutal.

If you're considering doing a long, strenuous hike (or some other challenging or adventurous activity), please see me and I'll help you come up with a routine to get prepared physically, as well as mentally. Over the past 30 years I have participated in and trained people for 5K's, Marathons, Triathlons and Adventure Races. Contact me at (912) 355-8111 or fitness@savj.org for more information.



**JEA Preschool
Savannah News**

Limited Openings for 2017-18 School Year

- Enrollment for our 2017-2018 Pre-school Year is open for children 12 months and walking through 4-yr olds!
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for toddlers and 2-year olds
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

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

JEA Preschool Helps Alee Shriners!

On July 21st, JEA Preschoolers were happy to host the Alee Shriners Iron Knights during their morning Shabbat program.

A check for \$367 was presented to the Shriners by Ms. Sarah, the lead teacher of the Doobim class. This donation came from the classroom tzedakah (charity) boxes, with money the preschoolers donated during the school year.

Shriners Hospital is important to JEA Preschool as one of our own students, 4-year old Bella, is a patient there, and her



dad, Duane, is a member of the motorcycle-riding Iron Knights.

The mission of Shriners Hospitals is to "provide the highest quality care to children with neuromusculoskeletal conditions, burn injuries and other special healthcare needs within a compassionate, family-centered and collaborative care environment... without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin, or ability of a patient or family to pay."

We were so glad we could play a small part to help other children.

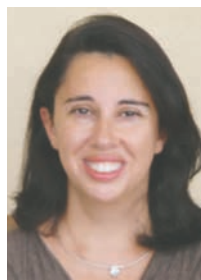


JEA Preschool Savannah admits students of any race, color, national, racial or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

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

Vital Statistics

Mazel tov to... Sara and Josh Bernstein of Marietta on the birth of their son **Charles Abram Bernstein** on Thursday, April 27, 2017. Proud grandparents are Eunice and Stephen Bernstein of Savannah and Susan and Jerry Keslensky of Dunwoody. Charlie was named after three of his great-grandfathers. Hyman Friedman and Abram Bernstein (Josh's grandfathers) and Abram Schwab (Sara's grandfather).



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

Never meant to be easy!

The High Holidays are fast approaching, and it is important for us to remember that the observance of the Holidays actually starts much before with the process of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is a process that takes several steps and starts a month before Rosh Hashanah with Selichot, a series of prayers and poems describing the thirteen attributes of Hashem's mercy. It is followed by the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, days known as the Ten Days of Teshuva (Repentance). During this time, we are to seek honest forgiveness from people we have wronged during the past year. Our repentance must follow a series of steps: acknowledging our transgressions, asking the wronged person for forgiveness up to three times, and committing ourselves to not repeat the offense.

The Ten Days of Teshuva and Yom Kippur are supposed to be the time period where God is closest to us. It is said that during this time God immediately hears and grants our requests, but only for those sins committed between a person and God. God does not forgive sins committed on another person unless the wronged person has granted forgiveness first. Although our fate is primarily decided on Rosh Hashanah, our actions and degree of repentance during those Ten Days of Teshuva

and on Yom Kippur can change His decision.

There is a lot of focus on repentance during the High Holidays, but another equally important aspect of the Holidays is the granting of forgiveness. This is one of the most important Jewish lessons. One that we emphasize all year long when we teach the stories of Abraham and Isaac or of Joseph and his brothers.

Joseph was wronged to a degree that is unimaginable, betrayed by his own flesh and blood, yet after time, and seeing that his brothers were truly sorry, he was able to forgive. When Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son to prove his devotion to Hashem, Isaac forgave him (but the relationship was forever changed, as this is the very last time they are ever mentioned together). Being able to forgive someone for a sin or an offense they have committed against you is considered a mitzvah in G-d's eyes. Furthermore, if a person comes to you and is truly seeking repentance, it is commanded of us to rise above the human feelings of revenge and spite to grant forgiveness.

As parents, educators, leaders, and community members, we should always remember the importance of forgiveness in Judaism. As long as we keep learning and teaching Torah, stories like the ones of Abraham or Joseph will prepare our children to be the forgiving individuals there are meant to be.

L'shanah tovah tikatevu. May you be inscribed for a good year.

Savannah Teen Weekend

January 19-21, 2018

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



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

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

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

SAVE THE DATE



Savannah Jewish Federation
2018 Campaign Kick-Off Dinner

Wednesday, October 25
6:30 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance
\$18 per person

Featuring Keynote Speaker

Ralph Nurnberger

How Judaism Inspired the Creation of Superman



Dr. Ralph Nurnberger is professor at Georgetown University. He is a widely acclaimed speaker who brings humor, relevant political insights and historical background to his presentations.



*The officers, Boards and staff of the
Savannah Jewish Federation and
Jewish Educational Alliance
wish you a year filled with peace,
prosperity and fulfillment.*



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 MICKVE ISRAEL

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

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

HIGH HOLY DAYS 2017 / 5778

Come celebrate the High Holy Days at Congregation Mickve Israel.

Saturday, September 16th through
Thursday, October 12th

For more information and to receive a High Holy Day brochure with all the details, visit mickveisrael.org or call the office at 912-233-1547.

2017/5778 High Holiday Schedule

Sept 16	7:30 pm	Selichot Dinner
	8:30 pm	Musical Program
	9:45 pm	Dessert & Coffee
	10:30 pm	Selichot Service



Shalom Y'all Food Fest Sponsorship Opportunities

Save the Date for the Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival on October 29th, 2017!

Be part of the largest Jewish Food Festival in the South by advertising your business and helping to underwrite the cost of this important community event.

We have several levels of sponsorship opportunities available. To find out more information and to sponsor this event, contact the Congregation Mickve Israel office at 912-233-1547 or jill@mickveisrael.org

2017/5778 High Holiday Schedule

Sept 20	6:00 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner
	7:30 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Prelude
	7:45 pm	Rosh Hashanah Evening Service
Sept 21	10:00 am	Rosh Hashanah Prelude
	10:15 am	Rosh Hashanah Morning Service
	1:00 pm	Tashlich Services and picnic lunch
	2:45 pm	Children/Family Service
Sept 22	10:00 am	2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Service & Lunch
Sept 22	6:00 pm	Shabbat Shuva Service
Sept 23	11:00 am	Shabbat Shuva Service & Kiddush Lunch
Sept 29	6:00 pm	Erev Yom Kipper Dinner
	7:30 pm	Erev Yom Kipper Prelude
	7:45 pm	Kol Nidre Service
Sept 30	10:15 am	Yom Kippur Prelude
	10:30 am	Yom Kippur Morning Service
	1:00 pm	High Holy Day Themed Discussion
	2:45 pm	Children/Family Service
	4:00 pm	Afternoon Service
	5:30 pm	Memorial Service
	6:00 pm	Concluding Service
	7:00 pm	Break the Fast Dinner



CONGREGATION
AGUDATH ACHIM

SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah GA 31405 912-352-4737

Agudatha@aol.com / Agudath-Achim.com

Wishing you a Happy & Healthy New Year!!! Join us and our new rabbi, Rabbi Steven Henkin for the High Holiday Services. Everyone is welcome! Be apart of Agudath Achim's Family.



Highlights of High Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, September 20th, Erev Rosh Hashanah

6:00 pm - Mincha/Maariv

7:05 pm - Candle Lighting

Thursday & Friday, September 21st & 22nd,

Rosh Hashanah

9:00 am - Services

10:30 am - K'Toni & Jr. Congregation

10:45 am - Shofar Blowing

11:15 am - Sermon

5:00 pm - Tashlich and Mincha (1st day)
(at the back of Heard Elementary)

Friday, September 29th Kol Nidre

6:54 pm - Candle Lighting

6:55 pm - Mincha

7:00 pm - Kol Nidre

Saturday, September 30th Yom Kippur Yizkor

9:00 am - Shacharit

10:45 am - K'Toni & Jr. Congregation

12:00 pm - Sermon/Yizkor

5:15 pm - Mincha

6:05 pm - Neilah

7:35 pm - Maariv

7:46 pm - Shofar/Havdalah and Fast ends



**IT'S A CELEBRATION, 70 YEARS IN THE MAKING...
AND YOU'RE INVITED!**

SAVANNAH CELEBRATES *Israel*@70

Israel programs throughout the Savannah community —
all leading up to one big community celebration on
Sunday, April 22, 2018.

Stay tuned for details on upcoming programs and dates.

*Interested in getting involved?! Have some great program ideas? Want to be on the committee?
Send an email to campaign@savj.org.*



Congregation B'nai B'rith Jacob בס"ד

5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah GA 31405
Visit us on the web www.bbjsynagogue.com
912-354-7721 bbjacoboffice@gmail.com

Morning, Afternoon and Evening Services Daily
365 days a year for over 150 years.

We welcome everyone to join us for our Inspirational High Holiday Services:

• Rosh Hashannah: Sept. 21-22 • Yom Kippur: Sept.30 • Succos: Oct. 5-13



Call the Shul office for times or to be added to our popular Email newsletter

*Visitors always welcome!
Babysitting available with advanced reservations.*



BBJ Sisterhood Judaica Shoppe!

Be sure to visit for all your holiday and Judaica needs,

We are minutes away... Give us a call!

Beth: (H) 912-344-4834 (C) 301-466-0380

Bracha Jo: (H) 912-352-9578 (C) 912-658-5824

Becoming a Leader

by Blake Strauss

This summer, I had the opportunity to go to BBYO's annual International Leadership Training Conference (ILTC). At ILTC, teens who are rising juniors and seniors travel to Lake Como, Pennsylvania, where they learn how to become a better leader in their community and how they can give the same experiences they had entering into BBYO to others. I wanted to attend ILTC because I had an amazing experience last year at the Chapter Leadership Training Conference (CLTC) and because I wanted to bring home useful skills to improve our Savannah AZA chapter.

Last year at CLTC, I was nervous because I did not know anyone attending, but at ILTC I reunited with the friends I made there. It was great to see my fellow Alephs and BBGs from across the country. Every year, ILTC takes place at Camp Perlman, a summer camp operated by B'nai B'rith who shares half of the camp with us. On the first night, my cabin gathered into one room. I didn't know how I was going to survive 18 nights with other crazy teens but by the end of ILTC, I did not want

to leave them. I got so close with all the boys, especially with my cabin. We would stay up at all night talking, playing games, and having fun by messing around with our Madrichim (counselors/leaders).

Every week-day, we had a program called Blueprint for more than an hour. Blueprint was our classroom where we learned skills from planning a great program to knowing what kind of leader we are. Before beginning, we all went around the room and said our name followed by "... and I'm checked in!" That meant we left our conflicts outside the room and were focused on learning. In the end, my class got to know ourselves and each other better than when we entered ILTC. One moment I will never forget is during the last Blueprint session where some of my fellow classmates said I always made

them laugh, brought joy to them, and made an influence on them. We set up a group chat that we could reach out to in case we had any troubles in our BBYO communities.

Since ILTC is international, teens from anywhere in the world can join us. There were teens from

Hungary, Russia, Argentina, and a few other countries. I met Ben, a fellow Aleph from Hungary. He is one of the first members of the early beginnings of BBYO in Hungary and wanted to bring home

skills that could grow the movement. The theme for this year's ILTC was "Anything is Possible." I believe the movement of BBYO in other countries could grow as large as the one in America.

When teens say Camp Perlman has become their home, it truly has. From places like Katz to Performing Arts, we had programs in ev-

ery building. Katz is an auditorium where we gathered every single day: davening, celebrating, or learning. All around camp are paintings and murals of past ILTCs or Kallahs from 1974, 1997, 2003, 2016, and so on.

The main voice for our convention was Emily Hyatt Cohen who was our Rabbi. She motivated us and gave others faith back into Judaism. She is a current Savannah resident and I can't wait to see her make a great impact on the community.

If I could have stayed for Kallah, I would have but it conflicted with school. I'm glad I had the opportunity to attend this convention, knowing others could not. I truly made memories that will last a lifetime.

Blake Strauss, 16, is a junior at Savannah Arts Academy. He is S'gan (vice president) of Savannah's David Finn AZA and the son of Jill and Brad Strauss. Blake attended ILTC this past summer with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation made possible by your generosity during the annual Community Campaign. BBYO is a pluralistic Jewish teen movement; for more information, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator, at engagement@savj.org or (912) 355-8111, or visit www.bbyo.org.



Blake Strauss with his Blueprint group at BBYO's ILTC

Hillel offers Advance Sign-Up

Hillel International has introduced a new, online tool, [Jewish College Bound](#), which it says can help ease students into the college experience and provide ways to make new friends and connections.

Before new students step foot on campus, Jewish College Bound can connect incoming freshmen with their local Hillel. Parents, youth group advisors or students themselves can submit the new freshman's contact information and receive information from local Hillel staff and student leaders about Jewish life on campus, including invitations to freshmen orientation events.

Jewish College Bound is part of Hillel's efforts to ensure students find a community on campus where they can create the connections that will ensure their Jewish futures and solidify their cultural and religious identity in ways that represent their own unique backgrounds and life goals.

"Hillel is committed to inspir-

ing every Jewish student to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel," said Hal Ossman, Hillel International's chief campus officer. "Jewish College Bound connects students to exciting opportunities available through Hillel and ensures freshmen will find a friendly face when they arrive on campus."

Founded in 1923, Hillel International is a global organization on more than 550 college and university campuses that welcomes students of all backgrounds and is dedicated to enriching the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. Hillel challenges students to explore, experience, and create vibrant Jewish lives.

To sign up a student for Jewish College Bound, go to <https://hillel.tfaforms.net/53>.



JEWISH COLLEGE BOUND

Hillel
International

Hope for a Cure.....from pg 10

thawed at patients' bedsides, ready for use similar to a bone marrow transplant.

CEO Margolin told the Times of Israel: "From start to finish, our process takes three weeks. The average search for a bone marrow match takes three to four months."

In the pilot phase clinical trials of NiCord, the median time to neutrophil engraftment — the amount of time needed for the development of a minimal amount of white blood cells, or neutrophils, in the blood (and less vulnerability to infection and bleeding) — was 11 days, compared to three to four weeks in patients who received standard umbilical cord blood. The results in a study conducted at Duke University also showed a lower rate of infection — 22% vs. 54%; and a lower duration of hospitalization

compared to standard umbilical cord engraftment, Margolin said.

This latest round of financing was led by new investor Shavit Capital. Additional primary participants included new investors VMS Investment Group and Israel Biotech Fund, as well as existing major shareholder Novartis. Current shareholders Clal Biotechnology Industries and Israel HealthCare Ventures also participated.

Gamida Cell plans to use the proceeds to complete NiCord's Phase 3 clinical trial and prepare for product commercialization by expanding its in-house manufacturing capacity and the company's presence in the U.S., where their new chief medical officer will be based, as well as continuing to develop additional pipeline products such as CordIn for rare genetic

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

As Survivors Age, Needs Change

Yisrael Kristal was born in Poland on September 15, 1903, and died on August 11th in Haifa, Israel. He was 113 years and 330 days old and according to the Guinness Book of World Records, the oldest living man in the world at the time. Yisrael Kristal was a Holocaust survivor, also the oldest in the world.

Born Izrael Icek Krysztal to a Torah scholar and his wife, his youth ended quickly when his mother died when he was seven; his father was drafted into the Imperial Russian Army a few years later and died in World War I. He moved in with uncles and at age 17, moved to Lodz, where he soon opened a candy store with an uncle. The candy business would become his life-long profession. He married and had two children but his family soon was confined to the Lodz Ghetto, where his children died. He and his wife were then deported to Auschwitz, where she died. Kristal survived, returned to Lodz and remarried after the war; he and his new wife, also a survivor, and infant child emigrated to Israel in 1950, where he lived the rest of his life.

Kristal was a religiously observant man who wrapped tefillin almost every morning of his life (except when interrupted by war), but because of World War I at the time he turned 13, he did not celebrate his Bar Mitzvah until last year, on his 113th birthday. He was called to the Torah last September at the family's synagogue in Haifa. He is survived by a son, daughter, nine grandchildren and approximately 30 great-grandchildren.

Kristal's death reminds us that the number of survivors of the Holocaust, those who bear first-hand witness, is dwindling. According to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, there were about 100,000 Jews alive in 2016 who were in camps, ghettos and in hiding under Nazi occupation. The Conference, which negotiates and administers reparations to survivors as well as provides social services, says that number is down from about 500,000 in 2014. The youngest Holocaust survivors would now be in their early 70s.

As Michael Zank, the director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies at Boston University told Time magazine last summer, "The number of eloquent survivors is few and far between. It puts the responsibility on us, the next generation, the children of survivors, the grandchildren of survivors, to become as articulate as we can be in maintaining this memory and the mandate that comes with it."

Sadly, Holocaust survivors tend to live in poverty in numbers far greater than the general population. Here in the U.S., estimates vary from 25% to 33% to even 50% of survivors living at or below the poverty line, compared to 10% for all Americans age 65 and older. In the former Soviet Union, the estimate is that as many as 80% of Holocaust survivors are living in poverty. The reasons for the unusual poverty levels are many, including isolation, often small or no families to provide support, lack of pensions or other retirement plans and more.

A number of agencies have stepped in to provide financial assistance and counseling, including (to mention a few) the social services provided by the aforementioned Claims Conference, The Blue Card, Selfhelp, local Jewish Family Services (such as Savannah Jewish Federation's), The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee/JDC (SJF's overseas partner) and others.

If you know a local Holocaust survivor in need of social services, contact Savannah's Jewish Family Services at (912) 355-8111 to arrange a confidential assessment.



Yisrael Kristal

With Thanks

Chrissie, Evan and Miles Karp would like to express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks for the overwhelming outpouring of love and support from the Savannah Jewish community in memory of our husband and father, Arnold Harris Karp (obm).

A Sincere *Todah Rabah* To the Contributors to the 2017 Jewish Family Services Friends Campaign *Friends Do Make a Difference!*

(as of August 10, 2017)

Allen Berger
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*And three 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!

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Henrietta Steinheimer Victor
Who died August 3, 2017

She is survived by her daughter, Rhonda Victor (David Oppenheim); her son, Herbert Lawrence (Teresa) Victor; one granddaughter; one great-granddaughter; a niece, nephew, and many other family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her brother, Lawrence Mayer Steinheimer, Jr.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel Museum Fund, Sisterhood or Camp Fund, P.O. Box 816, Savannah 31402-0816; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Jane Solomons Furchgott
Who died July 23, 2017

She is survived by one daughter, Connie Furchgott (William) Solmson, of Memphis, TN; one son, Charles Max (Lynda McGee) Furchgott, Jr., of Savannah; one grandson; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Max Furchgott, Sr.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel, P.O. Box 816, Savannah 31402-0816; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Matiel Roos Leffler
Who died July 14, 2017

She is survived by her son, Martin Stuart (Tammy) Leffler, Jr. of Baltimore, MD; her daughters, Ann Leffler (Jay) Davis of Atlanta and Nancy Leffler (Gerald) Sonenshine of Columbia, SC; her brother, David I. Roos, Jr. of Atlanta; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Martin S. Leffler, Sr.

Remembrances: The Alfred & Adele Davis Academy, 8105 Roberts Dr., Atlanta, GA 30350; or The Permanent Fund of Congregation Mickve Israel, P.O. Box 816, Savannah 31402-0816.



With Kids like Me

by Sophie Guthrie

This summer I spent 25 days at Camp Coleman surrounded by kids just like me. I was so happy because I met a lot of new friends in my cabin and unit who understood what being Jewish is like. At camp I got to do so many fun activities. I tried ropes course, Jewish cooking, dance, swimming, arts and crafts, zip lining, music, archery, drumming, and campscape. I also participated in Shabbat service every Friday night and every Saturday morning. There was a lot to do in very little time!

My favorite activity was Jewish Cooking. I loved that we got to make something new every time. Jewish cooking helped me learn more skills in the kitchen but also helped me learn about foods that my ancestors cooked. It is important to know about these foods so that I can pass these foods on to my own kids when I have a family. I love that I can

now also share these foods with my friends who are not Jewish and help them to understand some of my culture.

Another part of Camp that I loved was Friday night services. During the school year we go to Shabbat services sometimes, but not every week. At camp we were able to do this as a whole group every week. The sense of community and coming together helped to wrap up the week. I really enjoyed the music and being surrounded by my friends.

Everyone told me there was nothing like going to Camp Coleman but I wasn't sure I believed them, but now I understand. I cannot wait to go back next year and take part in more activities, see my friends and make more!

Sophie, 11, attended Camp Coleman this past summer with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience grant



Sophie Guthrie at Camp Coleman

from the Savannah Jewish Federation made possible by your generosity during the annual Community Campaign. Sophie is in sixth grade at Georgetown K-8 School and is the daughter of Leslie and Bryan Guthrie. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org.

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

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM
Rabbi Steven Henkin
9 Lee Boulevard
Savannah, GA 31405
352-4737

CONGREGATION BNAI BRITH JACOB
Rabbi Avigdor Slatius
5444 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
354-7721

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL
Rabbi Robert Haas
20 E. Gordon St.
Savannah, GA 31401
233-1547



Allan Ratner
President

Adam M. Solender
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 traditions 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 with 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 5778



Savannah Jewish News

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5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 355-8111
www.savj.org

SJF President: **Allan Ratner**
SJF Vice President: **Harvey Lebos**
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Matthew Allan**
SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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

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Letters to the Editor

Letters should be no more than 250 words.

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

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

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

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

Submit letters to sjnews@savj.org.

Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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

Four Questions for the rest of the year

Josh Shear moved to Savannah with his wife, Jenny, a little more than three years ago from Syracuse, New York. They joined Young Jewish Savannah to get to know some of their peers in the community and Josh, 40, caught our interest because he even though he began his career in print journalism, he now is fully immersed in the digital world. He is employed full-time with Advanced Digital, where he facilitates the distribution of online news for a number of newspapers around the U.S. and he publishes a blog and two weekly podcasts of his own.



Josh Shear

What attracted you and Jenny to Savannah?

My parents retired to Charleston (then promptly unretired). My brother lives in Orlando. We were both ready to leave the grey and cold of Syracuse and knew we would like to head this way – I could continue to work for my company from home, but not in South Carolina – it would have to be in a state where they already paid taxes. Georgia and North Carolina were options. We worked our way down

the North Carolina coast and when we hit Savannah I think it took all of five minutes for us to decide. It's a beautiful city. And once we decided I emailed Mickve Israel; they sent us a thick packet of information with people to contact and suggestions for places to live. Now my sister is moving here from Springfield, Massachusetts, with her family, too.

Tell us a little bit about your podcasts. Do they have special themes?

I have two weekly podcasts, one I do solo, *Josh the Podcast*, on Thursdays, and one with a partner, *JKWD – Josh Kelvin World Domination* – on Mondays (Kelvin is in Syracuse, we have a weekly conference call). Kelvin is a friend I met at a barbeque 11 or 12 years ago; he's a generation older than me, African American, and a retired military veteran; we just hit it off. When I got the job at Advanced Digital and started working nights, it was hard to hang out with my peer group, but retired people and entrepreneurs were good so Kelvin and I started

having lunch regularly. After I moved lunch no longer was possible, but we thought our regular coffee video chats would be fun for others to listen in on and so we've been doing this podcast just over year. I started the solo podcast to familiarize myself with the production process so Kelvin and I could have a podcast but I found that I enjoyed it, so I continued doing it, too. [Josh recorded the 69th solo episode the day we spoke.]

With *JKWD* the idea is 'better humanhood' — changing your mindset to make your life better and to help make others' lives better. We'll talk about getting past mental blocks, the importance of doing the hard work before having fun, sometimes we just talk about being nice to others; we spent a couple of episodes talking about how to disagree without being nasty. On *Josh the Podcast*, I mostly talk about politics and news, the things my work life is taken up with (6pm – 3am). I'm a heavy news consumer, so I do a lot of commentary on that. I'm a runner. If I'm having a particularly good or bad week running, that will come up.

What's it like sharing everything you're thinking and feeling in these podcasts? Do you know if many people are listening?

That's actually hard for me and one of the reasons why I thought it was important for me to do this. I'm a private person and tend to be a listener. If you were to see me in a group of people, I'm probably on the

edge somewhere; maybe I jump in and speak to one or two people. We know there aren't many listeners, but I think it's harder with a small group, because you can get 100% feedback sometimes. With a group of 25, you can reasonably communicate with all of them. But we're hoping to grow that, have the podcasts bring in a small income and help to launch other things we'd like to be doing, especially the one I do with Kelvin. We'd really like to propel that into motivational workshops and that kind of thing.

Finally, I saw that you are a Freemason. How did that come to be?

Both my grandfathers were Freemasons. I didn't know my father's father – he died when I was two and a half. My mom's dad was a Shriner and I didn't understand what that meant until his funeral – he had a Masonic funeral. [Shriners are Freemasons who affiliate in a special brotherhood with "a desire to have fun and do good."] When I was in Syracuse I was involved in a lot of non-profit work but I got pulled in too many different directions and had shut most of it down. But here was this one group I had a connection to through my family and they weren't knocking on my door; you actually have to knock on their door.

I wanted to continue my affiliation when I came to Savannah and visited seven lodges here before settling on one, but it gave me a group to come to.

Genetic Testing Expanded

JScreen, the leader in at-home genetic screening for people of Jewish descent, announced that its testing panel has been expanded to screen for more than 200 disease genes that could affect a couple's future children. The test previously screened for 100 disease genes.

One in three people of Jewish background are unknowingly carriers for at least one Jewish genetic disease. The expanded panel screens across the spectrum of Jewish backgrounds, including Ashkenazi, Sephardic and Mizrahi, to identify genes for many common genetic diseases such as Tay Sachs, Thalassaemia, Spinal Muscular Atrophy and others. "The only way to know you are a carrier is to either have an affected child or get screened," says Hillary Kener, Assistant Director of National Outreach. "JScreen's primary goal is to help people have healthy

babies and to help ensure the health of future generations."

Based at Emory University School of Medicine's Department of Human Genetics, JScreen is a non-profit initiative established to provide convenient, affordable access to help singles and couples throughout the U.S. plan for healthy families. Participants register online for screening kits and mail their saliva samples to the lab for testing. JScreen functions under the direction of an MD specializing in genetics, and the

cost includes genetic counseling via phone or secure video-conference. Through genetic counseling, couples found to be at increased risk gain an understanding of their risks and available options to help them have healthy children.

"Genetic testing alone is not enough. Counseling is a necessary part of the process. Labs that report results directly to consumers put people at risk for misinterpreting the information they need to make family planning decisions," says Karen Arnovitz

Grinzaid, Emory Genetics faculty, and JScreen's Executive Director.

The JScreen test uses state-of-the-art genetic sequencing technology to

determine carrier status for diseases common in Jewish groups and in many other ethnic groups. In addition, JScreen's test includes genetic conditions common to the general population, making the test applicable to everyone. With the focus on pre-conception testing, thousands of couples have gone on to have healthy babies, thanks to JScreen's technology and services.

Individuals or couples may request a screening kit and obtain additional information about the testing and counseling process at www.jscreen.org. Financial assistance for testing may be available through Jewish Family Services and/or the Carol and Joel Greenberg Health Resource Fund at the Savannah Jewish Community Foundation; contact Adam Solender at (912) 355-8111 or adam@savj.org for more information.



Operation Isaiah

September 18 -
October 20



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

- Isaiah 58:6-7

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

Drop off barrels are located at:

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

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

Savannah Jewish Archives Update

by Jeremy Katz and Lindsay Resnick

It has been more than two years since the Savannah Jewish Archives relocated to the Cuba Family Archives at the Breman Museum in Atlanta. We have made tremendous progress processing, preserving, and integrating the Savannah collections into our larger collection, and making them available to researchers.

As of August 2017, approximately 75 percent of manuscript collections within the Savannah Jewish Archives have been processed and integrated, and we have digitized all 115 of the Jewish Educational Alliance scrapbooks and nearly every issue of the *Savannah Jewish News*.



Although we have made great strides in the first two years of the project, much remains to be done. Our next priorities are to continue processing the remaining 25 percent of the manuscript collections, to upload the photograph collections to our online catalog (<http://archive.thebreman.org>), and to reformat and digitize the oral history collections. All the while, we will continue to grow the archives with new collections.



We hope that you will consider supporting this noble effort to preserve and make accessible the history of Jewish life in Chatham County. If you are interested in donating to the Savannah Jewish Archives, please contact Jeremy Katz at jrkatz@thebreman.org.



MAKE YOUR MARK!

FOR YOURSELF

FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

FOR JEWS GLOBALLY

Introducing the Savannah Jewish Community's Leadership Development Program



WHAT Yesod, the Hebrew word for foundation, aptly describes this vital initiative for the Savannah Jewish community. The goal of the Yesod Community Leadership Development Program is to support our community by aiding the development of excellent volunteer leadership. The Yesod curriculum offers insights into personal and organizational leadership through a Jewish perspective. Course content will merge Judaic text study, business skills, leadership theory and experiential application.

WHO Yesod is open to anyone in the Savannah Jewish community that wants to gain leadership skills through a Jewish lens. Participants must be dedicated to attending the full program. The Yesod program will accept 20 participants.

WHEN Yesod will consist of 8 sessions beginning in January 2018 and a day-long retreat and will culminate in graduation at the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Meeting. The sessions will take place on Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the JEA.

COMMITMENT Participants agree to attend the full program for the 2018 year. There is a \$100 program fee and a minimum gift of \$180 to the Annual Campaign. All other costs will be covered by the Savannah Jewish Federation.

**TRANSFORM YOUR JEWISH VALUES INTO ACTION!
NOMINATE SOMEONE OR APPLY NOW!**



Open to anyone, any age, in the Savannah Jewish community
that wants to gain leadership and business skills through a Jewish lens.

Spaces are limited. More information and applications can be found at savj.org. **Application Deadline is Friday, November 3.**



young jewish
savannah

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

Want to help plan events?
Have ideas you want to share?
Just want to hang out?
Let us take you for coffee!



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

If you are Jewish, in your 20s and 30s and want to meet new people, connect to the community and make a difference - YJS is where you want to be!

Young Jewish Savannah's goal is to provide meaningful opportunities for engagement in the Jewish community through social and professional networking, community service, Judaic and leadership programs for Jewish young adults in their 20s and 30s.

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

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

JOIN YOUNG JEWISH SAVANNAH FOR
the countdown to

5778

at
Jew Year's Eve

A New Years Party With a Jewish Twist
Thursday, September 14 • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Top Deck Bar • 125 W River Street





IMPOSSIBLE

As you make your plans and resolutions for the New Year — don't be afraid to think big. Remember, nothing is impossible.

Happy Rosh Hashanah. We wish you a sweet New Year.



Savannah Jewish Federation