

Savannah JEWISH LIFE



WINTER 2024- VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

Savannah Jewish Life
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405

Non-Profit
Organization U.S.
Postage
PAID
Savannah, GA
Permit No. 207
POSTMASTER PLEASE
DELIVER BY
DECEMBER 1, 2024

The light. The love. The latkes.

Brighten your candles and your kitchen with
the Chanukah favorites your family loves.
Explore at publix.com/chanukah.



Shalom Savannah

Sam Friedman, Chief Executive Officer

Hello Jewish Savannah,

As I sit here to write my first introduction to the broader community, I am reminded of a tradition by Scott Maxwell, an opinion columnist for the Orlando Sentinel, who said if columnists are going to spend all year telling you how they feel, they should start by telling you where they stand. If you are going to trust me to lead these historic and important institutions, you should probably know how I feel and where I stand.

So about me...

I am married to an incredible woman, Jennifer, who has the patience to put up with me even when I forget where we are going, what time we are leaving, or where I left my cell phone. We have two dogs, Charlie and Snoop, a 5 year old Cocker Spaniel and a 12 year old Daschund, respectively. As I am writing this piece we are renting a house in Port Wentworth, but will be closing on a house in Georgetown the Monday before Thanksgiving. Jennifer works as an MS Navigator and helps folks suffering with multiple sclerosis receive and find care. She is a mensch and a half, and I count myself exceedingly lucky.

I have been to Israel 9 times over the course of my career and have brought nearly 1000 people on those trips. My time leading Israel trips has included Birthright trips, teen trips, volunteer missions, VIP delegations and one time as a staff member for the March of the Living. I am a fierce Zionist who believes that Israel has both a right to exist and to defend herself. I am also concerned about the loss of life on all sides, and I do not find those beliefs to be in contradiction. My version of Zionism doesn't have an 'anti.'

I am a practicing Reform Jew, but have joined all the synagogues in Savannah and generally find my most spiritual moments in life cycle events. I love seeing couples under the chuppah, or kids becoming b'nai mitzvah. I see meaning in the traditions of shiva and beauty in how that first year allows Jews to live the rhythms of the calendar while recovering from their pain. Judaism to me is meant to be lived and celebrated. To me, community is not a spectator sport.



I am a proud (and this year heartbroken) Florida State Seminoles fan, a lover of good bourbon, and I appreciate most forms of art. I am very excited to be in Savannah where I know that art - music, visual, and literature - are so ingrained in the community.

I love watching the children in our preschool play, the after care kids hop off the bus, and the relief of the parents when they know their children are safe in our care.

I vote in every election and am concerned that the Jewish community and Israel have become political fodder. I believe that when one side claims they are 'better' for Israel or the Jewish community, Israel and the Jewish community become an issue that can change with each election cycle.

I believe that fundraising is a sacred relationship and when we donate we are praying with our dollars. I also believe that my obligation is to be a good steward of those community dollars - and your responsibility is to hold me accountable to that obligation.

I love the beach. I love when the weather gets cold. I love good coffee. I love good food. I love deep and meaningful conversations. I love dreaming and sharing and building with other folks who have vision because mediocrity is offensive and our community deserves nothing but the absolute best.

Finally, I am so deeply honored to be here with you at this moment in time.

Thank you for trusting me.

Thank you for working with me.

Thank you for joining me as we build a better Jewish community for us all.

L'Shalom,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sam'.

Sam

Table of Contents

03

Shalom
Savannah

Sam Friedman, CEO



05

Unlike Sheep
to Slaughter

09

Legacy of
Leadership



12

An Invitation for a
Day and A Calling
Like No Other

16

My Camp
Story

Stay up to date on all events in the
Savannah Jewish community
[WWW.SAVJ.ORG](http://www.savj.org)



Jewish Educational Alliance
Preschool Savannah

18

Obituaries

24

Montag Art
Gallery

Published by the
Savannah Jewish Federation
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
912-355-8111
www.savj.org

Savannah
JEWISH LIFE

SJF President: Kenneth Sadler
SJF President-Elect: Matthew Allan
SJF CEO: Sam Friedman
Savannah Jewish Life Editor: Michelle Allan

The objectives of the Savannah Jewish Life Magazine 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.

Savannah Jewish Life is published quarterly four times a year, with a deadline as follows:

Spring Issue- March, April & May- Deadline February 1

Summer Issue- June, July & August- Deadline May 1

Fall Issue- September, October & November- Deadline August 1

Winter Issue- December, January & February- Deadline November 1

Please send all Savannah Jewish Life materials to: savannahjewishlife@savj.org
Please send eNews newsletter submissions to: news@savj.org

Neither the publisher or the editor assumes responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this magazine. If you have questions regarding kashrut, please consult your rabbi.

All materials published in Savannah Jewish Life are © 2024 Savannah Jewish Federation, all rights reserved, unless noted otherwise

Letters to the Editor

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

Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

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

Unlike Sheep to Slaughter

Melinda Mandelbaum Stein

As a child of Holocaust survivors and as a frequent lecturer on the topic of the Holocaust, I've fielded every question imaginable about the Nazi war against the Jews. People want to understand how, for example, "mere dislike" led to gas chambers, or "why God did not move a divine muscle to rescue his supposedly chosen people." But there's one query that never fails to shatter my heart like Kristallnacht glass: "Why were the Jews so passive, never fighting back, going like sheep to the slaughter?"

Besides being a quintessential case of blaming the victim rather than the perpetrator, this question is an old antisemitic canard used ubiquitously under the Nazi regime. Since the war's end until today, this false concept continues to be retold in infinite variations. Comments such as "Every Jew in Nazi-occupied Europe should have just refused to board the trains," "The Jews should have emulated their ancestors the brave Maccabean fighters," and the phrase "Jews fighting is an oxymoron" have been circulating for decades. First, it should be obvious that, for those taken from their homes and forced to board cattle cars at gunpoint, any struggle would be instantaneous suicide. Second, the Maccabees never faced such weapons as loaded revolvers. And to disparage the Jewish people as too cowardly to fight is to show ignorance of everything from biblical battles to the German Jewish soldiers who were decorated in World War I.

One way to combat a Big Lie is with a Bigger Truth, and an example of that is a work called *Anthology on Jewish Armed Resistance, 1939–1945*. This four-volume compilation by Isaac Kowalski, published in 1986, details innumerable acts of confrontation and resistance by Jews against the Germans and their collaborators in at least 10 countries of Europe. The documents, maps, photographs, and first-person accounts in the anthology verify the overwhelming extent to which thousands of individuals and groups fought against the perpetrators of the Holocaust in cities, rural towns, ghettos, and concentration and death camps.

In addition, many books and movies have been produced describing events such as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the revolt at Sobibor death camp,

the blowing up of a crematorium at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Treblinka rebellion, and the Bielski brothers' partisan forest warfare. Given the profound dangers and risks involved, these examples of resistance are remarkable. During the Holocaust, when they could obtain weapons, the Jews fought with courage. When they could not get arms, they strove to survive, if possible, with dignity.

The Third Reich engaged in a huge disinformation campaign. Many of the millions deported to concentration and slave labor camps were told that they only needed to work hard and follow orders, and all would be well. The infamous sign over the entrance to Auschwitz, as well several other camps, *Arbeit Macht Frei* (Work Makes You Free), reinforced that deception. In the Treblinka death camp, there was a fake train station, complete with a ticket counter and clock, to further mislead the prisoners into believing that they were arriving at a normal place. Even the gas chambers in Birkenau, the extermination center of Auschwitz, were tiled in bright colors, maintaining the fiction that the prisoners were only going to be showered with cleansing water.

The Nazis regularly conducted a *Selektion* (Selection) process when they rounded up the Jews and other undesirables. The masses approached a seated officer who made instant decisions as to which of two lines the individual would join. One line, consisting of seemingly useful individuals, would be sent to the slave labor camps spread all over Europe, usually via sealed railway cattle cars. The other line, consisting of the elderly, young children, pregnant women, the ill, the mentally or physically challenged, and any others deemed useless, were sent directly to the killing centers. How can these populations possibly be accused of spinelessness and cowardice for succumbing to their armed, trained murderers, or to poisoning by Zyklon B gas?

Although the Jews were the primary target of Hitler's regime, among the deportees to the camps were also large numbers of non-Jews. Among these were the Roma and Sinti peoples, Seventh Day Adventists, political dissidents, Catholic clergy, and Jehovah's Witnesses. Records show that the behavior of these groups regarding resistance in the camps was in no way different from that of their Jewish fellow prisoners.

For further context, consider the Armenian genocide during World War I, during which approximately 1.5 million men, women, and children were put to death by means of shooting and death marches. This from the website of the Armenian National Institute: "Resistance to the deportations was infrequent. The survival of the Armenians is credited not to acts of resistance, but to the humanitarian intervention led by American Ambassador Henry Morgenthau."

When a weaponless minority is targeted for mass butchery by the fully armed military forces of a powerful nation, the conclusion is foregone, and this has been the case in the innumerable annihilations with which world history is peppered.

Another aim of the German regime in the thousands of camps was to degrade, dehumanize, and drive the Jews into hopeless despair. To spite their captors, resistant Jews organized classes for children to keep up their learning; they fostered music, art, and poetry; they attempted to organize prayer services and holiday celebrations; and they gave aid to those who needed it. Some of their activities were secret, held at the initiative of underground organizations, and included literary evenings, gatherings to mark the anniversary of a Jewish artist, and concerts. Jewish authors, directors, and poets produced works in the ghettos. Hans Krása, a Czech composer, wrote a children's opera that was performed by the youngsters in the Terezin ghetto/camp more than 55 times.

Many of the inmates believed, with justification, that an unarmed attempt to attack the armed guards would lead only to instant death. The preferable choice was to endure the situation until, someday, the war's end. The return to a normal world and life, and the creation of new families to replace those slaughtered, would be their ultimate triumph, their "dancing on Hitler's grave." Within the environment of bare icy barracks, rampant disease, starvation, and torture, individuals to a remarkable extent refused to let themselves slide into uncivilized behavior or hopeless apathy and the virtual death of the soul. It was an insurrection of resilient spirit, resistance by determined existence.

My mother had been taken from the Lodz, Poland, ghetto to a slave labor camp in Skarzysko-Kamienna. Put to work on an assembly line for the manufacture of bullets, she endured for over a year, and then came to a decision: she could no longer live with indirectly

abetting the killings of Allied soldiers, Jews and others, via the ammunition she helped produce. Her solution? She began sabotaging the bullets. I'm consistently astounded when I think of her bravery, knowing that at any moment she could have been instantly shot. When her sabotage was discovered, her punishment was not death, but a vicious, sadistic flogging in front of the entire camp at roll call. And she was reassigned to work at the picric acid facility with material so highly carcinogenic that it was rare to survive three months there. Fortunately, the war ended before that point.

Who were the real sheep of World War II? Watch the documentary film footage of Third Reich parades and rallies. See the faces mirroring abject submission, blind adoration, and the jettisoning of the independent mind, in thrall to the genocidal rantings and demented pronouncements of a charismatic dictator. Observe how, robot-like, the individuals proceed in lockstep and goosestep down the roads toward committing unfathomable butchery.

Beneath the sound of the hordes relentlessly chanting, "Sieg Heil! Heil Hitler!" you may hear another, more subtle sound: "Baa! Baa! Baa!"

The Big Lie of Jewish cowardice must finally die, as must the all the calumnies that accompany antisemitism, because it is Truth, and not Arbeit, that sets us free.

This article was originally published in the Spring/Summer issue of the Harvard Divinity Bulletin



BBJ Sisterhood

Judaica Shoppe

Carrying unique gifts, holiday decor, and everyday
Judaica items imported directly from Israel!

Hours vary, so give us a call and we can meet you there!

5444 Abercorn St.
Beth: 912-344-4834
Bracha Jo: 912-658-5824



Please join us for **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

DECEMBER 12

Chanukah Triva

DECEMBER 19

Benefits of Walking/Running

DECEMBER 26

A History of "Chrismukkah"

JANUARY 2

New Year, New You!

JANUARY 9

Healthy Savannah

JANUARY 16

Jews and The Civil Rights Movement

JANUARY 23

Savannah Wild Rescue Center

JANUARY 30

American Traditions Vocal Collection

FEBRUARY 6

Linda Phillips, author of "Crazy"

FEBRUARY 13

Tu B'Shevat Celebration

FEBRUARY 20

Israel Update

FEBRUARY 27

Savannah's Waterfront

MARCH 6

Ossobaw Island Education Alliance

MARCH 13

Jews in Entertainment



Thursdays at 12:30 PM
Jewish Educational Alliance

Enjoy a delicious meal,
conversations with friends,
and an engaging speaker.

All meals are served with
salad, vegetable and dessert

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



It's Easier Than Ever to Find Your Family's Stories

Unlock your family's history with ease! The Breman, home to the Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Archives for Southern Jewish History and The Savannah Jewish Archives, offers an online search feature powered by ArchivesSpace, renowned for its state-of-the-art search capabilities. Dive into your family's stories with our user-friendly online research tool. Start exploring today at TheBreman.org for free!



Savannah Jewish Federation

*The Savannah Jewish Archives
is generously supported by the
Savannah Jewish Federation*

**The
Breman**

1440 Spring St. NW | Atlanta, GA 30309 | 678.222.3700

Traveler Safety Over the Holidays: Domestic and International Considerations

Brett Butler, Security Director



The holiday season is a time of joy, celebration, and connection. However, as millions of people travel domestically and internationally to spend time with loved ones or explore new destinations, safety should remain a top priority. Travelers must consider various risks, ranging from weather-related disruptions to health concerns and security threats, to ensure their journeys are both enjoyable and secure.

Domestic Traveler Safety

For domestic travelers, the holiday season often coincides with harsh winter weather in many regions. Snowstorms, icy roads, and reduced visibility can make driving hazardous. Preparing vehicles for winter conditions—ensuring tires are in good condition, keeping emergency kits on hand, and checking weather forecasts—is essential for road safety. For those flying, understanding potential delays caused by weather or the sheer volume of holiday travelers can help manage expectations and reduce stress. Arriving at the airport early and monitoring flight updates are simple steps to ensure smoother journeys.

Crowds are another common concern during the holidays. Whether in airports, shopping malls, or event venues, the increased number of people raises the risk of theft, accidents, or miscommunications. Travelers should keep their belongings secure, avoid displaying valuables, and remain vigilant in crowded areas. In case of emergencies, knowing the location of exits and keeping emergency contacts readily accessible can be lifesaving.

Health precautions are equally critical during domestic holiday travel. With the colder months often bringing flu season, staying updated on vaccinations and practicing good hygiene—such as frequent hand washing—can minimize illness risks. Travelers should also pack any necessary medications and have a plan for accessing medical care if needed.

International Traveler Safety

For international travelers, holiday safety considerations extend beyond those of domestic travel. The first step to safe international travel is thorough preparation. Researching the destination's safety advisories, local customs, and health requirements is crucial. Websites like the U.S. Department of State or similar government resources provide valuable insights into potential risks, including political unrest or natural disasters.

Health precautions are especially important when traveling abroad. Ensuring that vaccinations are up to date and knowing the location of the nearest medical facilities can provide peace of mind. Travelers should also carry an international health insurance policy to cover unexpected medical expenses.

Security risks, such as petty theft or scams, are heightened in tourist-heavy areas. Being cautious with personal information, avoiding overly crowded attractions, and securing valuables in hotel safes can mitigate these risks. Additionally, keeping digital copies of important documents like passports and travel itineraries can be invaluable in case of loss or theft.

Lastly, cultural awareness is key to staying safe abroad. Understanding local laws, customs, and etiquette not only ensures respectful interactions but can also prevent inadvertent legal troubles. For example, certain behaviors or clothing that are acceptable at home might be considered offensive or even illegal in another country.

Traveling during the holidays can be a rewarding experience, but it requires careful planning and vigilance. Whether traveling domestically or internationally, prioritizing safety ensures that the holiday spirit remains intact. By preparing for weather conditions, staying vigilant in crowded spaces, and adhering to health and security precautions, travelers can focus on creating memories while minimizing risks.

Legacy of Leadership

Lisa Mackowiak

There is a rite of passage for every new transplant to Savannah, Georgia. A new resident goes through an adjustment process once they fully descend upon our fair city. They acclimate slowly...simultaneously comparing everything about their old homes to their new home. While discovering the delights of their new city, many newcomers find Savannah in need of change.

In phase 1, the newcomer's exuberance brings about ideas for wonderful progress and community development. They are unaware of the structure and history already in place. Then phase 2 begins. Within a few months, the new resident discovers our city has more tradition and history than they possibly could have imagined. Buildings still named in honor of their original owner stand tall. Schools, streets, hospitals, and libraries all proudly display markings from a time well before this generation. As the newcomer meets more community members and forms friendships, they discover that everyone knows everyone, all are connected, and every Savannahian has come from a family that has lived here through many eras. Phase 3 begins as the new resident unearths all of the history around them. It is embedded in the livelihood of Savannah generations.

History is literally written on the walls with names on plaques and dedications throughout the Jewish Educational Alliance and all of the synagogues. However, our Savannah history doesn't just stay on the wall or rest in the past, but rather it is reinvigorated within the next generations. Those who look back to take a step forward. So finally, the newcomer mixes in to the history and discovers that some lucky residents have been connected to our traditions since the beginning. Those who grew up in Savannah experienced a different path. Like our very own, Morgan (Reeves) McGhie. She wandered away from Savannah in search of bright new experiences in education and life. But as a siren song calls out to every wandering college graduate...something drew her back. Duty, family, comfort...she returned to start a new life here in the grand footsteps of her ancestors.

As Morgan tackles old and new challenges, she walks the path both her parents have carved. She has now taken the helm they once occupied. As the new president of Congregation Agudath Achim, Morgan is leading the charge with a visionary approach firmly rooted in tradition. L'dor vador...Grandparent to parent to child all living together and working to make a better future for our community. It's an honor for us all to be a witness and participant in her journey. As we look on, we are no longer the newcomer or a piece of the past, but instead we are part of the future.

As President Morgan McGhie learned from watching her parents take on the task of leadership, so too will her children learn from her. Lynn and David Reeves can be proud to know their tutelage has proven successful. Morgan can lead the congregation as they did; with integrity and resilience, authenticity and empathy. She will continue their legacy and pass down the call to service to her children. The family is an example to us all. May we all continue to be enriched and enhanced by her leadership, wishing her a hearty behatzlacha!



David, Morgan and Lynn in Agudath Achim celebrating Morgan's bat mitzvah



YOUTH BASKETBALL

JAN 6TH-MAR 5TH
AGES 3-10

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
5111 ABERCORN STREET SAVANNAH, GA

Questions?
Contact Coach Jared at
Enrichment@savj.org



Walking: The Underdog of Health

Callie Smith, JEA Health & Wellness Director



We have long heard the praised benefits of running for our health: improved heart health, boosted mood and energy, reduced blood pressure, improved lung health, reduced stress, improved overall weight loss, improved mental wellbeing, supports bone health, and more. With all these benefits we should be running every day, right?

Research in recent years has taught us that the benefits listed above are true for running **and** walking. Running and walking are both very respected forms of cardiovascular exercise, and participating in either form of exercise can have a variety of positive impacts on overall health. The decision to run versus walk ultimately comes down to your overall health condition, your fitness level, and ultimately what you enjoy doing the most!

When choosing walking as a focus exercise, there are a few things to consider to gain the ultimate health benefits. For weight loss, it is important to increase walking pace and/or utilize inclines to elevate your heart rate as you walk. For better heart health, a walker will need to participate in at least 150 minutes of brisk walking each week to see optimal physiological benefits. For added benefits, consider inviting a partner to walk with you as this increases the benefits of social wellness during your walk. During a solo walk, consider using the walk time to focus on additional wellness benefits that may be beneficial to your individual preferences such as dynamic stretching, meditation, breathing techniques, or prayer.

So whether your pace is running high speed or taking a leisurely stroll, the benefits will continue to follow. Get your body moving! A great way to join our community in getting your body moving is joining us for the JEA's Oy Vey 5k & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk on January 5, 2025. This event is a favorite way to come together in the New Year to celebrate health, fitness, & community. Come run (or walk) with us!

The Impacts of Aquatics

Kate Perry, JEA Aquatics Director



The JEA and its Aquatics Department has prided itself for many years on the quality of its Swim Lesson program, providing hundreds of children each year with the developmental skills and confidence they need to have fun in the water. Recently we had a conversation with a family whose child was enrolled in our JEA Swim Lesson program for the first time. The mother told us how her daughter had been enrolled in swim lessons at various other locations in the past 2 years, but it always seemed like her daughter was not developing in the water and still was unable to learn

learn how to swim. So they decided to give the JEA Swim Lesson program a try, and what a difference it made! The mother informed us that her daughter, who had not been able to learn to swim in the past 2 years at other programs, was able to learn to swim through the JEA Swim Lesson program within a month. The family felt such relief through this experience, and their daughter's confidence has done nothing but grow from the experience. This is why we do what we do!

Equipped with an Indoor Pool, the JEA is the perfect place for children to enroll in Winter and Spring swim lessons. This allows children to develop their swimming skills and confidence through the winter so that they are ready to jump into summertime fun at the JEA Outdoor Pool! Registration for Winter session and Spring session swim lessons are open on our website. See you at the pool!

The Great Holiday Wrap

Let us help with the holiday stress!
JEA and Federation staff are on hand to wrap all of your gifts with a variety of holiday paper, ribbons and bows!

We'll be wrapping the entire month of December for donations
Sign up using the code below or call 912-355-8111
for more information



Mah Jongg and More Robin Rackoff

I just read a book that transported me back to my childhood in 1950s Brooklyn. It was called *The Two-Family House* by Lynda Cohen Loigman, about two Jewish brothers in Brooklyn who bought a two-family house to share. While most of my friends lived in rental apartments, my family lived in the lap of luxury (or so we thought) in a two-family house. Like the book, my parents owned it along with my aunt and uncle. We lived downstairs in two bedrooms: one for my parents and one that the three kids shared. When my sister became a teenager and it didn't seem appropriate for her to sleep in the same room with her brother and sister, she graduated to a bed in the foyer. It barely fit into that busy hall area. But most remarkable of all is that we shared one bathroom, and we didn't fight about it! How did we manage? I guess we didn't know any better.

A few months ago, my husband and I moved from a large home we lived in for 15 years to a much smaller one in the same community.

Downsizing made sense at this time in our lives. After all, did we really need seven bathrooms? But divesting was painful. We donated, sold, and consigned furniture, artwork, clothing, housewares, appliances. The list seemed endless.

But what to do with my Mah Jongg set collection? I loved each one but just didn't have room for all of them. I certainly couldn't get rid of the vintage set. Nor could I part with the custom-made green set, or the one with the pink and purple plaid tiles, or the beautiful blue one. It did feel good giving away the extra sets to friends and family who I knew would appreciate them.

We're happily settled into our new compact home. Who needed all that "stuff" anyway? But I will always have fond memories of life in the two-family house and of my mother standing at the bottom of the staircase yelling up to her sister, "Shirley, it's time to play Mah Jongg!"

Until next time, let's all Maj On!



An Invitation for a Day and A Calling Like No Other

Carol Greenberg

Frank Katz and Ken Miller have something special that they would like to share with you: commitment to honoring the veterans who have come before, by marching in solidarity in the annual Veterans Day Parade! Lining up on Savannah's side streets in the decorated JEA van, provided courtesy of the Savannah Jewish Federation, alongside bands of all different aged musicians, uniformed personnel of the different military branches, trolleys and dignitaries waving from cars is very exciting, and could be fun and educational for the whole family -- not just to watch along the parade route -- but to march along in support of our brave Jewish men and women who risked all for our nation.

So, the exec council of JWV Post 320 under the leadership of Post Commander Frank Katz (fhkatz@comcast.net), is asking all those who were in the military (whether in times of armed conflict or not), or all of those who have family members who served, to join the Post and help us better provide for this community. Ken Miller also mentioned that there is room for members and supporters who completed military service in Israel, Russia, South Africa, and other countries, who should become part of the Savannah Jewish War Veteran extended family.

The beauty is that you don't have to be a veteran to join in the events and service projects, especially ritual communal remembrances, or honor festivities. Frank Katz wants to encourage all members of the Jewish community to put it on your calendars now, to come decorate our vans and to participate in this parade held annually in Savannah on November 11, since 1937.

The JWV, according to their website jwv.org, is the "Jewish voice for veterans" in terms of advocacy, benefits, and comradery since 1896, making it the longest serving veteran's service organization in the country... The JWV stays relevant because it continues to defend the rights and benefits of all service members and veterans, as it combats antisemitism, and supports the State of Israel."

Besides helping local veterans, the JWV serves our community in meaningful ways with annual projects often including holiday care packages for our deploying military, social gatherings for local veterans, keeping up the memorial garden at the JEA, placing flags and JWV medallions on the Bonaventure and Laurel Grove graves twice annually, and of course, showing our Jewish pride at parades and at local veteran's council events.

"Non-military supporters are essential to the ability of our local chapter to provide a full range of services and programs in our area," said Post 320 volunteer Carol Greenberg." I volunteer to honor the commitment of my father, uncles and grandparents to the USA—their adopted country-- and to the JWV organization that fought for their rights to be treated with dignity as Jews serving in that military."

If you, your family or students are interested in being part of the wonderful work of our local veterans, contact Frank Katz to find out how you can serve this and your community.

See you Tuesday, November 11 at the Parade!

Kenneth Miller and Frank Katz marching in the Savannah Veteran's Day Parade



WELCOME TO THE



Tai Ashby
Eugene Baldwin
Cheryl Barth
Matthew Berkin
Kiel & Randi Bur
Karen Burdette
Graham Cawthon & Stacey Goad
John & Mary Clements
Tracy Douglas
Joel Fischer & Allison Krandall
Brendan Gannon & Lillianna Keeney
Mary Gossard
Michael Griffin & Jane Rago

Cody & AJ Hetzel
Lynn Leaphart
Kimberly & Diego Meeroff
Ifeanyichukwu & Annabelle Oagwe
Jantzen Pendley & Kayloa Ailor
Kevin & Latoya Roberts
Austin & Zoe Shaffer
Joshua & Dana Smith
Nathaniel Snyder & Chelsea Phillips
Vu Tran & Quyen Nguyen
Tara Van Buskirk
Marc Wallman & Cynthia Carr
William Woods & Devon Lee

The Jewish Educational Alliance Gratefully Thanks Those Who Made Donations

Donations made 08/01/2024-10/31/2024

JEAN GENERAL DONATION

A donation was made by:
The Estate of Stanley Harris
In memory of Leon Slotin
David Handshu
In memory of Sara Jospin
In memory of Neal Markowitz
BJ Remler

ETHEL COHEN MEDDIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Sara Jospin
In memory of Joan Vitner
Lorry & Chuck Palefsky
In memory of Neal Markowitz
Sherry & Johnny Macchia
Michelle & Louis Meddin
Lorry & Chuck Palefsky

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

A donation was made by:
Yael Elfassy & Brad Conner

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Neal Markowitz
In memory of Barbara, Abram and Harvey Rubin
In memory of Isie & Madeline Rubin
In memory of Rosalie & Raymond Shernoff
Elise & Victor Shernoff

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Miriam Center
John Patterson
Edward Rosenzweig
In memory of Sara Jospin
In memory of Neal Markowitz
Harry Center
In memory of Regina Krause Richman
Edward Rosenzweig

PHILLIP HOFFMAN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Rosalie Chernos
Elana Day



MURIEL RATNER MAIDA ARTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of David Rosenthal
In memory of Elliott Gellman
In memory of Sara Jospin
In memory of Diane Kuhr
In memory of Neal Markowitz
In memory of Nancy Paderewski
In memory of Francine Robin
In memory of Harvey Yellin
Arlene & Allan Ratner

**CHALLENGE YOUR FAMILY TO
SOMETHING NEW THIS WINTER!**



5K Registration | \$40
1 Mile Fun Run | \$25



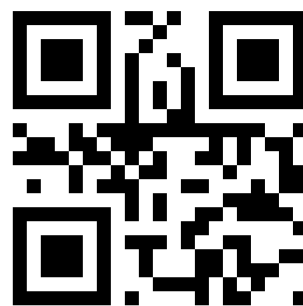


SAVANNAH JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 26TH - MARCH 13, 2025

We have many wonderful events planned for the 2025 Festival including the Brendan Murphy lecture series, art workshops, film screenings with directors, and more!

**SCAN FOR
SJCAF INFO**



On The Personal Side

Mazel Tov To

Asher Rosenthal, son of Tricia and Matt, who became a bar mitzvah on September 7th at Chabad.

Sophie Schwartz, daughter of Rachel Schwartz and Mark Schwartz, who became a bat mitzvah on September 14th at Congregation Agudath Achim.

Harper McGhie, daughter of Morgan and Scott, who became a bat mitzvah on September 21st at Congregation Agudath Achim.

Avinoam Glass, son of Chaya and Yehuda, who became a bar mitzvah on November 14th at Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob.

Kol hakavod to Allen Shenksy for his donation to the Stern College for Women Club Hour Shiur Program in memory of Rebbetzin Sylvia Rosenberg.

My Camp Story

Laney Berman



This summer, I was given the opportunity to go to Lake Como in Pennsylvania and attend the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization's (BBYO) International Training Leadership Conference. Also known as ILTC, this program educates teens from around the globe how to make their regions and chapters at home flourish. They taught me how to obtain and retain members, how to use the tools they provide us, and how to carry on traditions that have been passed down for generations.

Since I was recently elected onto Eastern Region's regional board this spring, I was extremely enthusiastic to learn methods and gain insight on how to be the best leader this upcoming term. Leaving that camp, I felt prepared to lead my community more than ever before and couldn't wait to bring back everything I had been taught to Savannah's chapters. I was also educated on the many different cultures that are within BBYO.

I met members from all over the world. From Mexico, to Argentina, Australia, and all the way to Singapore, there were 20+ countries present at ILTC. It was enlightening to hear about how Judaism is celebrated and experienced, not only within all 50 states, but from the majority of Earth's continents. Everyone I met was so kind and open to learn about others traditions whilst also teaching their own.



**CELEBRATING A SIGNIFICANT
EVENT, SIMCHA, BIRTHDAY OR
ANNIVERSARY?**

WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!

**SUBMIT TO
SAVANNAHJEWISHLIFE@SAVJ.ORG**

The community we built was unlike anything I experienced before. We were all family and friends. Everyone was there to be a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, a friend with advice, or anything else you needed. I cannot wait to see them all soon.

I was also lucky enough to reconnect with friends from past BBYO experiences, such as BBYO's Chapter Leadership Training Conference (CLTC), International Convention, Regional Conventions, etc. Reuniting me with my long distance friends is one of my favorite things BBYO has to offer me. BBYO has given me best friends from all over and a way to continue seeing them. It has made me unbeatable in Jewish geography! Running up to my friends and hugging them in a crowded airport is the best feeling and a memory that will last a lifetime.

Thank you to the Savannah Jewish Federation for granting me the funds that enabled me to do this. This summer experience and organization have given me an incredible Jewish community that follows me wherever I go. I couldn't have found that anywhere else.

Laney Berman is the daughter of Kasey and Daniel Berman and a senior at Savannah Arts Academy. She attended BBYO's ILTC with the assistance of a Jewish Summer Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation made possible by your generosity during the annual Community Campaign. For more information on Jewish camping, see the website of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, www.jewishcamp.org

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

Donations made 08/01/2024-10/31/2024

SJF ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Yael Elfassy & Brad Conner
In memory of Richard Berkowitz
Sherry Jacobson

ISRAEL CRISIS FUND

In memory of Francine Robin
Linda & Michael Zoller

TIKVAH FUND

In honor of Arlene & Allan Ratner
In memory of Neal Markowitz
Charlotte & Harold Black
In honor of Anita Karnibad
Richard Eichholz
In memory of Richard Baerkowitz
In honor of Dayle Levy
In memory of Regina Richman
In honor of Linda Zoller
Harriet Meyerhoff
In honor of Dayle Levy
In honor of Linda Zoller
Toby Hollenberg

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FRIENDS CAMPAIGN FUND

A donation was made by:
Anonymous
Linda & Edward Abrams
Eunice & Stephen Bernstein
Penny & Lonnie Breslow
Diana Levinson
Linda & Steven Novack
Lenore Ram
Debra & Joel Rotkow
In memory of Richard Berkowitz
In memory of Neal Markowitz
In memory of Nancy Paderewski
Barbara Aronson & Family

HARRIET KANTER KONTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Suzanne Benjamin
In memory of Marjorie Gordon
In memory of Stanley Harris, Jr.
In memory of Eliot Israel
In memory of Sara Jospin
Sally & Steve Greenberg

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FUND

In honor of Paul Kulbersh
Debbie & Joel Rotkow
In memory of Richard Berkowitz
In memory of Neal Markowitz
In memory of Nancy Paderewski
Barbara Aronson & Family

MATTHEW J. CRANMAN HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In honor of Vera Hoffman
Nancy & J.T. Mann
In honor of Ava Gottlieb
In honor of Eva Odrezin
In memory of Sara Jospin
Vera Hoffman

SAVANNAH JEWISH ARCHIVES

A donation was made by:
Anonymous
Michelle & Matthew Allan
Charlotte & Harold Black
Ellen Byck
Melinda & Edwin Byck
Simone Center
Cheryl & Ronald Finger
Sharon & Murray Galin
Marla & Morris Geffen
Sandy & Skippy Goodman
Peggy Harris
Toby Hollenberg
Michael Karpf
Marcy & Jerry Konter
Stacy & Jeff Lasky
Rene Lehrberger
Andrea & Tony Lembeck
Diana Levinson
Timothy Mescon
Lenore Ram
Elise & Victor Shernoff
Susan & Frank Slotin
Barbara & Alan Tanenbaum
Judy Todtfeld
Stephen Wagner

ADAM SOLENDER STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUND

In honor of Adam Solender
Merry & Richard Bodziner
Peg & Stan Biner
Danyse & Matt Cail
Liz & Jason Eichholz
Carol & Joel Greenberg
Seth Grenald
Toby Hollenberg
Fran & Myron Kaminsky
Michael Karpf
Don Kole
Stacy & Jeff Lasky
Dayle & Aaron Levy
Lori Loncon
Frances & Maurice Middleberg
Ronnie & Kenneth Miller
Judy Odrezin
Arlene & Allan Ratner
Brenda & Stanley Rosenberg
Sharon & Bill Sand
Sandy & Lewish Schneider
Cathy & Philip Solomons
Tami & Lenny Tishberg
Stephen Wagner
Leslie Westmoreland
Ashley & Joshua Yellin

DENMARK-SOLENDER FUND

In honor of Adam Solender
Toby Hollenberg



Obituaries

August 1- October 31st, 2024

Diane Kuhr

Who died Saturday, August 10, 2024

Diane was predeceased by her husband, Lee J. Kuhr, Sr. She is survived by her children, Julie Singer and Lee J. Kuhr, Jr.; brother, Joel Piassick (Karen); niece Joan Swarz (Peter), nephew Louis Piassick (Emily); long-time friend Ellen Byck and many other loving friends and family.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel

Sara Ehrenreich Jospin

Who died on August 23, 2024.

She was predeceased by her parents, Fred and Lena Ehrenreich, her brother Walter Ehrenreich, and her husband of 65 years, Samuel Jospin. She is survived by her two children, Walter Jospin (Wendy Shoob), and Deb Jospin (Chris Gallagher); four grandchildren, Alexandra Jospin, Scott Jospin, Jonathan Dutko (Tamar), and Matthew Dutko, and a great granddaughter, Zoe Dutko.

Remembrances: Backpack Buddies/Agudath Achim

Regina Krause Richman

Who died on Wednesday August 28, 2024

Wife of Steven; mother of Tracy and Kevin; Sister of Ellen Krause Einstein; grandmother of Harrison and Andrew; sister-in-law of Arlene and Allan Ratner.

Neal Murray Markowitz

Who died Friday, August 30, 2024.

Neal is survived by his wife, Ruth Mincey Markowitz; children Scott Cary Markowitz, Lisa Markowitz Henderson (Trevor), and Brian Reid Markowitz (Amy); sister-in-law Peggy Schulz; grandchildren Pierce, Hayley, Hayden, Reid and Evan Markowitz and Cole and Hannah Kitchens; and many loving great-grandchildren, family, and friends.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel or Benedictine Military School

Richard "Dick" Berkowitz

Who died on Friday, August 30th

Born as an only child in Birmingham Alabama to Abe and Estelle, between a previous marriage of fifteen-years and fifty-two years to Lynn, he leaves a legacy of twenty-nine children through genetics or marriage: Dick is survived by his wife of 52 years, Lynn; Ten children: Debra (Martin) Darvick; Amy (Steve) Trager; Lisa (Martin) Thaler; Daniel (Tamara) Berkowitz; and Abby (Brian) Nelson; Fourteen grandchildren: Elliot (Elizabeth) Darvick; Emma (Scott) Darvick; Kevin (Andy) Trager; Emily (Landon) Brantley; Henry (Jessica) Thaler; Dagny & Blake Nelson; and Stella & Max Berkowitz; Five great-grandchildren: Olivia & Leah Darvick; Collins & Cameron Trager; and Julie Brantley.

Remembrances: Hadassah Hospital, Tunnels to Towers, Hospice of Savannah or St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital

Suzanne "Sue" Benjamin

Who died on Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

Sue is predeceased by her beloved husband, Hal. She is survived by her children Peter & Patti Benjamin and Bob & Janet Benjamin; grandchildren Jason Benjamin, Adam & Tali Benjamin and Lisa & Ben Mackowiak; great grandchildren Marisa & James Freeman, Zachary and Brandon Benjamin, Samuel Benjamin, and Alexandra, Emilia and Jonah Mackowiak; great great grandchildren Jaxon and Ryder Freeman

Nancy Paderewski

Who died Thursday, September 26, 2024.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Dr. Jules B. Paderewski; sons, Barney Paderewski (Amy) and Michael Paderewski (Amy); brothers, Robert Kahan (Nancy) and James Kahan; grandchildren, Cody Paderewski (Megan), Gabrielle Paderewski, Jake Paderewski, Alexander Paderewski, and Will Paderewski; great granddaughter Blair Farber; and many loving family and friends.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel or Hospice Savannah

Richard "Dick" Lembeck

Who died Wednesday, October 23, 2024.

Dick was predeceased in 2006 by his wife Rhoda. He is survived by his loving children, Tony Lembeck (Andrea) and Liza Diamond (Bradley); grandchildren Amelia Lembeck, Sophie Lembeck (Sam Polak), Gabriel Diamond, Spencer Diamond, Jared Seligmen (Max Schapiro) and Averil Seligman; and his first great grandchild, Ben Polak. Dick was also blessed to spend the last 17 years with Gloria Hoder at their home in Boca Raton. Throughout his life Dick was involved with and supportive of United Jewish Appeal, the United Way, and many other charitable causes.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah or Charity of your choice.

Lynn Harrison Pories

Who died Friday, October 25, 2024.

Lynn was predeceased by her husband Bernard Pories. She is survived by her children William A. Pories (Jennifer) of West Palm Beach, Florida and Ann P. Harris (Steven) of Metairie, Louisiana; grandchildren Scott Harris (Sara), Judd Harris (Sarah), Lesley Pories, Allison Polich (Chad), Michael Harris (Sarah), Courtney Strent (Danny), and Jordan Pories; and great grandchildren Everett Polich and Millie, Elizabeth and Isaac Harris.

Remembrances: Congregation Mickve Israel or Isadore Newman School (1903 Jefferson Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70115)

Benjamin Aronson

Who died Saturday, October 26, 2024

He is survived by his wife of 64 years Muriel "Mitzi" Kapell; a son, Mark Alan Aronson of Roswell, GA; grandchildren, Anna Haspel Aronson of New York City, and Marla Susan Aronson of Los Angeles, CA.; a sister, Rosalee Aronson Bogo of Naples, FL; sisters-in-law: Barbara Aronson of Savannah, GA, and Kay Aronson of Cumming GA; brother-in-law, Jerry Bogo of Naples, FL.

JEA Preschool

Jodi Sadler, Director

As the holidays quickly approach and our lives become even busier than normal, the urge to give an electronic tablet to a child becomes even stronger so that all of the tasks can be accomplished. However, what do the experts tell us about the advantages and disadvantages of technology for young children? What is truly in the child's best interest?

Parents and educators often struggle with the challenge of integrating technology in ways that support children's growth and development in a healthy way.

For children from infancy to around two years old, exploration and hands-on interaction are crucial for cognitive and physical development. Technology's impact on this age group remains a topic of interest as researchers continue to study its effects on the brain. Some of the advantages of screen time include stimulation of senses through bright colors, shapes and sounds and exposure to language and sounds. On the flip side, use of screens may reduce the time that our youngest learners spend interacting with parents, educators, and their environment. Physical movement may be hindered during this important time for children to develop motor skills and coordination.

There is also a risk of overstimulation when bright screens and sounds may contribute to fussiness, trouble sleeping, or even anxiety. Unlike traditional toys, screens offer constant stimulation that is difficult for an infant's developing brain to process effectively. For preschool aged children, technology may become more interactive and educational, yet there are some concerns to consider.

At this age, children are developing independence, language, and social skills, making it a particularly sensitive period for introducing technology.

Some advantages during these years for technology include interactive learning to assist in laying the foundation for school readiness, promoting creativity, imagination, language development, and problem solving. We all want our children to be ready for school with a strong foundation with these elements.

Reduced social interaction, increased risk of attention issues, less physical activity, and challenges of managing the screen time are all negative issues to consider.

As in all of life's issues, finding a healthy balance between technology use and other developmental activities can offer the best of both worlds for young children.

Here are some recommendations:

1. Limit Screen Time: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends avoiding screen time for children under 18 months and limiting it to one hour per day of high-quality content for children between two and five years old.

2. Choose Quality Content: Select apps and videos that promote learning, creativity, and age-appropriate skills. Avoid content that is overly stimulating or contains advertisements.

3. Co-view and Co-play: Whenever possible, parents should engage with their children during screen time. This practice, known as "co-viewing," helps children understand content better, fosters social bonding, and enables parents to monitor their child's reaction to digital content.

4. Encourage Hands-On and Physical Activities: Ensure that screen time does not replace hands-on play, outdoor activities, or face-to-face interaction. What you are passionate about when playing with young children? How can you interact effectively and in a fun way? Do you like to read, sing songs, take a walk outside, throw/ kick a ball, build and construct, create with play dough or open-ended materials?

Nothing can replace the human interactions between individuals, especially young children and their educators and parents. Nothing can replace the holding of a child and reading a book while he/she sits on your lap, and nothing can replace the love and connection that is created with these beautiful interactions happen. At JEA Preschool Savannah, our educators work diligently every day to provide those positive interactions for the children. When these experiences happen, then everyone is a winner!

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and Chanukah this year, may we all find loving and joyful experiences with our children and without a tablet!



Rambam Day School

Ester Rabhan, Principal



We began our school year on August 15th and everything and everyone fell into place smoothly. Children jumped out of cars, even most of the two-year-olds, ready to start a new school year.

We just had a petting zoo come in honor of Parshash Noach (Noah and the Ark). All ages enjoyed petting and hugging the animals.

After learning about the 7 species of Israel (one being wheat!), Kindergarten made challah for Shabbos!

Our 2nd and 3rd Graders learned about lines, color mixing, and weaving. Mrs. Rabinowich has kept our students busy and engaged.

Our 3rd and 4th graders have been actively involved in various enriching activities. They have been cross-mending broken pottery and “excavating” personal belongings. In one activity they were given boxes filled with items from a specific classroom and teacher. Studying the items they had to deduct class/teacher’s box they had.

In another activity, they had a chance to paint a flower pot with designs and then smashed them to pieces. The class then spent time gluing the pieces back together like archeologists do.

Our Garden Club has successfully planted squash, jalapenos, banana peppers, tomatoes, and even a fig tree! Our Sewing Club is mastering basic stitches as they prepare for exciting projects like making bow ties and aprons.

In our SEL (Social Emotional Learning) classes led by Mrs. Chavi Rabhan who has become certified to teach SEL and work with children and teachers in this area. Mrs. Rabhan is using a wonderful program called SQUABBLES. Through this curriculum, students are learning vital relationship skills, particularly how to handle conflicts in a healthy and respectful way. These skills are foundational for their interactions both in and out of school. The students are enjoying these fun and interactive lessons!

We are excited to announce the launch of our new SPARK (General Jewish Knowledge Program) for our 3rd-8th grade students. This program is a meaningful addition to our Judaic Studies curriculum, focusing on building foundational Jewish knowledge that grows with each child throughout their years at Rambam. We have always had a General Knowledge program; however,

this year is our first year using this new program, SPARK. SPARK stands for Sing, Practice, Answer, Review, Know.

In Pre-K, we have a few students who meet with our Reading Specialist, Dr. Cindy Cupp and they have begun reading!!!!

Our Kindergarten students have been learning all about weather and seasons! They learned how rain clouds gather liquid and then the rain falls from the clouds. They have learned the different names of clouds, and what happens during the different seasons.

First grade discovered how to measure wind speed with their anemometers.

A Beekeeper from The Savannah Bee Company came to Rambam before Rosh Hashanah to talk to the children about bees and how honey is made. Rabbi Gold’s 5th&6th grade Chumash classes celebrated completing the Parsha of Bamidbar in a unique way. They were given different building supplies, and they were instructed to create something that represented an idea they had learned about in this section. There was a Tabernacle, an altar, various pieces demonstrating the formation of how the Jews camped in the desert, and other utensils found in the Tabernacle.

Preparing and learning about October 7th, the entire school created meaningful projects that were displayed in the JEA for their October 7th program.

The middle school had a very special event run by Rabbi Yisroel Gold and Mrs. Chavi Rabhan following a video from the Consortium of Jewish Day Schools in which they discussed pertinent questions that may be bothering our students about how we can understand what happened on October 7th, and what we can do for our Israeli brethren who are so far away.

Our GO’s (Student Organization) theme is Magic. Mrs. Rena Maccabee heads our GO. To kick off the year the elementary and middle school students were split into four teams for a picture treasure hunt. Once all the clues were gathered it spelled out, GO TO THE LUNCHROOM. Once everyone was there, they unveiled the theme for this year and gave everyone magic wands.

We’re busy learning, creating, being scientists, mathematicians, gardeners, and soon to be photographers...

The Importance of Youth Sports in Building Lifelong Skills and Healthy Habits

Jared Sclar, Recreation Director



With over 10 years of experience working with kids from summer camps to coaching sports and leading afterschool programs, I've seen how youth sports can truly transform a young person's life.

My own involvement in sports as a child taught me invaluable lessons in teamwork, respect, and perseverance, which have stayed with me to this day. Now, as Recreation Director at the JEA Savannah, I'm passionate about offering kids the same positive experiences that can help them grow physically, mentally, and socially.

Youth sports lay the groundwork for lifelong healthy habits, helping children build a positive relationship with fitness and movement. When kids regularly engage in physical activity, they develop a foundation for good health that can reduce their risk of chronic issues like obesity and heart disease later in life. Encouraging children to see exercise as fun rather than a chore fosters a lasting appreciation for physical well-being. With each game or practice, they come to understand that fitness can be a joyful part of everyday life.

Sports also provide an environment where kids can develop essential life skills. Working as part of a team teaches them about cooperation, communication, and following rules, all while building resilience. Learning to handle wins and losses with grace and pushing through challenges on the field translate to resilience and maturity in daily life. These qualities—patience, adaptability, and self-discipline—are the foundations of strong character and will serve them well into adulthood, in school, relationships, and the workplace.

Beyond the physical and social benefits, sports also play a powerful role in promoting mental health. Being part of a team gives kids a sense of community and belonging that is essential for their well-being. This supportive environment helps reduce stress, builds confidence, and gives children a safe space to express themselves and make friendships. Studies have shown that physical activity can boost mood, reduce anxiety, and enhance self-esteem, creating a positive impact on their mental and emotional development.

At the JEA Savannah, we aim to make youth sports accessible, enjoyable, and enriching, offering a range of programs tailored to different ages and abilities. We offer opportunities for young people to engage in various sports, from preschool activities like Music and Movement and micro sports to organized soccer, T-ball, and



basketball leagues. By giving children options to explore what they love, we support their individual interests while fostering teamwork, discipline, and fun.

In a world where kids face increasing pressures from academics, social media, and daily life, youth sports provide an essential outlet for balanced growth. It's a privilege to see kids gain confidence, build friendships, and develop skills that will benefit them for years to come. Through sports, we hope to inspire the next generation to value fitness, teamwork, and resilience—equipping them to become positive, well-rounded members of society, both on and off the field.

Upcoming Programs

Basketball Season Jan 6th- Mar 5th Ages 3-10

Pickleball Clinic Dec 11th Ages 7-12

Sports Medley Dec 15th Ages 9-12

Questions?

Enrichment@savj.org

Scan Here to
Register/ More Info



Creating Your Family Traditions For Chanukah

Eva Locker, Principal



In a world that can often feel uncertain and fast-paced, especially for our children, Chanukah offers the perfect opportunity to create family traditions that provide a sense of peace, stability, and plenty of joy. The story of Chanukah is one of triumph, miracles, and resilience, and it gives us all a chance to light up our homes and our hearts with warmth, love, and even a little humor.

As parents and educators, one of the greatest gifts we can give our children is a sense of tradition, something they can count on each year, no matter what. In the spirit of the Maccabees, we can build our very own family rituals to help our families feel safe, connected, and filled with light while having fun together.

Here are a few creative ideas to create your own Chanukah family tradition. Try one or alternate them over the week:

1. Latke MasterChef:

You're already making latkes, so why not turn it into a competition? Have a "Latke MasterChef" night: Sweet potato? Chocolate chips? Marshmallows? Cheese??!

2. Maccabee Fitness Challenge:

Post-latke sluggishness? Here is a cure. Channel your inner Maccabee and create a fun family workout challenge after each candle-lighting or even "Maccabee obstacle courses". The idea is to celebrate the strength and perseverance of the Maccabees. To be rewarded with "Maccabee of the Day" medal!

3. Menorah Lighting Twist:

Giving each night a fun theme. Maybe the first night is "pajama night," On the second night, declare it "movie character night," where everyone comes dressed as their favorite character. Can you imagine Yoda lighting the menorah in Rabbi Haas's house!

4. Dreidel Olympics:

Tired of the same old dreidel game? Turn it into a family "Dreidel Olympics" with events like "Longest Spin," "Spin in the Smallest Space" or "Most Dramatic Dreidel Fall".

5. Chanukah Storytelling

After lighting the menorah, pick a book to read and re-read together every year, like the Chanukah classic *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* by Eric A. Kimmel (This tale blends humor, tradition, and adventure) or *The Miracle of the Potato Latkes* by Malka Penn, the story of Tante Golda, ideal for sparking conversations about kindness, miracles, and gratitude during the holiday season.

6. Family Time Capsule

Create your own "Miracle Moments" time capsule as a family. Each year, after lighting the menorah, have everyone write down a small "miracle" or meaningful event from the past year: something that made them feel grateful, proud, or happy. Collect these memories in a special box or jar, and seal it up until next Chanukah. It's a wonderful way to reflect on the positive moments of life and build a lasting family tradition that will grow as your children do.

Chanukah is a time to celebrate miracles, perseverance, and the power of light to overcome darkness. In a world where children can feel uncertain, these traditions offer reassurance that family is always a place of warmth, joy, and stability. By adding humor and creativity to your Chanukah celebrations, you're not only honoring the past—you're building a brighter, fun-filled future for your family.

And, does it work? You'll know when your own kids' children come over for latkes someday!

Wishing you all a Chanukah filled with laughter, love, and plenty of latkes!

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



Registration opens January 31st!

Montag Art Gallery: Artist Spotlight

December: Fiber Guild of the Savannahs



December 1-31, Reception: Sunday, December 8th, 2-4pm

The Fiber Guild of the Savannahs has been in existence since 1972 and evolved from a group of handweavers to a collective of more than 50 artists interested in creating in a wide variety of fiber applications such as weaving, spinning, basket making, knitting, crocheting, quilting, felting, beading, rug hooking, as well as many other fiber art techniques.

The mission of the Fiber Guild of the Savannahs is to encourage and educate those interested in the fiber arts through lectures, demonstrations, workshops and presentations to nurture creativity for both beginners and experienced fiber artists.

Members meet on a monthly basis to share their work with each other, as a way to encourage, excite, motivate and demonstrate different fiber art techniques at area schools, festivals, and fairs as well as offer their services to the community. fiberguildsav.com | [@fiberguildofthesavannahs](https://www.instagram.com/fiberguildofthesavannahs)

January: Grenville T Emmet IV



January 1-31, Reception: Friday, January 3rd, 3-5pm

Better known as Sean, he grew up in Manhattan and attended Saint David's School in NYC and The Canterbury School in Connecticut before receiving his diploma from Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. Following graduation in 1988, he spent time living in Europe and California. In the mid 1990s he drove across the country and made many stops in picturesque Rocky Mountain towns including Aspen, Telluride, Crested Butte and Colorado National Park. Of this experience he said "The groves of aspen trees took my breath away. Their white bark and leaves were exquisite. The Rocky Mountains abounded with beautiful walks. The abundance of glistening peaks rivaled any natural aesthetic that I had seen in Europe."

Twenty years ago Sean moved to Savannah where he lived until 2021. Now a resident of Amelia Island, Florida, he traveled back to the Rockies in 2023 and 2024 and is where his photographs from this show were captured.

February: Bryan Wilson



February 1-28, Reception: Sunday, February 2nd, 3-5pm

Artist Bryan Wilson said of his upcoming show "The world is a beautiful place where you can see, hear, smell, taste and touch many things. What people find beautiful is different. Some find food with its taste and smell to be beautiful. Others find their loved ones to be the most beautiful and precious. In this world, for me, I find environments to be that. I have always been awestruck by both the natural world and architectural world so I decided to draw with the part of the world I find to be most beautiful and hope to share that with all of you."

Currently, Bryan is a student at SCAD and works in the JEA Aquatics Department.

**For more information about the Montag Art Gallery contact
Katie Griffith, Arts & Ideas Coordinator. ArtsandIdeas@savj.org**

Kids' Night Out

Parents enjoy a night **OFF**
while your child enjoys a night **OUT!**

Dec 14: Laser Tag

Jan 11: Dive-in Movie

Feb 8: Nacho Average Game Night

Mar 8: Munchkin' Masterpiece

Apr 26: Fries and Dyes

May 17: Manhunt



J

4 YEARS OLD-5TH GRADE
WWW.SAVANNAHJEA.ORG

YEAR-ROUND SWIM LESSONS



WINTER SESSION
JANUARY 5 - MARCH 15, 2025

SPRING SESSION
MARCH 16 - MAY 24, 2025

SCAN
ME! >>



PJ Library & PJ OUR WAY™

SAVE THESE DATES!

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Chanukah @ Forsyth

Sunday, January 5, 2025

**Hydration Station and
MLK Jr. Parade Banner Decorating
@ the JEA Oy Vey 5K**

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Tu B'Shevat Celebration



Savannah Jewish Federation

Celebrate with
AGUDATH ACHIM



CHANUKAH *Party*



THURSDAY, DEC 26 @ 6PM
\$10/person or \$20/Family

rsvp to office@agudath-achim.com by Dec, 23



Congregation Mickve Israel

A Focus On Our Youth

We are absolutely thrilled to continue this school year with a vibrant array of youth activities designed for kids of all ages! Rabbi Haas and Cantor Rachel have a lineup of fun-filled events for our Bonim (grades 1-5) and Jew Crew (grades 6 and up). Each month, we'll dive into engaging activities, meaningful Mitzvah (social action) projects, and some informal Jewish learning that will enrich our children's lives and create lasting memories. And let's not forget our beloved Kid-ish Club, which will continue to meet once a month before Shabbat morning services, providing a joyful space for our youngest members! Our goal is to foster deeper connections among our kids, encouraging them to bond together. We look forward to another year brimming with laughter, learning, and friendships for Bonim, Jew Crew, and Kid-ish Club. Join us in this journey as we build an inclusive and spirited community at Congregation Mickve Israel! Sign-up for our weekly newsletter to keep up to date on all our youth programming.

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION & DINNER

December 20th
5:30pm

Join us for a delicious
dinner, our annual Menorah
Lighting & fun for the
whole family!
Scan QR code to RSVP



SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday nights

6:00 pm

Saturday mornings
11:00 am

Join us In-person
or on YouTube



20 E. Gordon St.
Savannah, GA 31401
912-233-1547

Sign-up to receive our
weekly E-newsletter:
info@mickveisrael.org

Website:
www.mickveisrael.org

Chabad of Savannah,
Savannah Jewish Federation
City of Savannah present



Chanukah *at* Forsyth

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 3:30PM-5:30PM

BANDSHELL AT FORSYTH PARK

Featuring

LIVE MUSIC - DELICIOUS FOOD - ENTERTAINMENT

FREE & OPEN TO ALL
FOR MORE INFO VISIT CHANUKAHSAV.ORG

Community partners:

*Jewish Educational Alliance, PJ Library, Hadassah Savannah Chapter
Congregation Agudath Achim, Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob,
Congregation Mickve Israel, Rambam Day School, Shalom School*