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In this Issue

Federation President's message, p3
 Executive Director's message, p3
 Shlucha's message, p4
 Letters to the Editor, p4
 Four Questions, p7
 JEA Centerpiece
 Condolences, pll
 It's a Funny Thing, p13
 On the Personal Side, p13

Featured Stories

Shlichim Moving On — Dorin Elhadad, our community shlicha, for the past year, says goodbye in her column and JNF bids farewell to its regional shaliach for the last six years; pp4 & 5

Variety of Opinions on Israel — Melinda Stein writes about the different voices and opinions expressed about the state of affairs in Israel at a recent conference sponsored by the *Jerusalem Post*; p6

Local Man Sojourns — Martin Karp tells us about his recent travels with his children and grandchildren – to Ukraine and Poland to trace his ancestry and to Israel for his first visit in 25 years; p14



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2014 Campaign Chair Announced

Jeffrey Lasky, President of the Savannah Jewish Federation, announced that Allan Ratner will be the Chair of the 2014 Annual Campaign for the Savannah Jewish Federation. Ratner is the current chair of the Federation's Budget and Finance Committee and just completed two years of service as co-chair of the Men's Division for the Annual Campaign. Lasky said of the appointment: "The community is incredibly fortunate to have such a committed and experienced leader like Allan take on this responsibility. I know he will do a wonderful job for all of us." Ratner succeeds Toby Hollenberg, who chaired the 2013 Annual Campaign.



Save the Date:
 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Meeting & Installation
 Tuesday, September 17th



Magical JEA Gala Planned for September 22nd

Ahhh, September 22nd... the autumnal equinox. A new year will have begun on the Jewish calendar, after our joyous and solemn observances of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. The Harvest Moon will be waning. The languid heat of summer will begin to fade. It will be the perfect night for *Moonlight & Martinis*, the JEA's annual gala event.

What a night we have planned for you! The JEA auditorium will be transformed to take you to another time and place. Fabulous music will fill the air. Some of the finest chefs in the city will be preparing their specialties from premium kosher ingredients here in the JEA kitchen.

Come enjoy the fares of:

- Roberto Leoci, chef and owner of *Leoci's Trattoria*, known for his back-to-basics Italian cuisine;
- Laurence Gottlieb, award-winning chef and baker;
- Kirk Blaine, executive chef of *Driftaway Café*, known for his playful creativity with his menus;
- Bryan Graves, talented and popular caterer at Congregation Mickve Israel and around town.

All of the chefs will be preparing items designed specially to be paired with a martini, though sure to be delicious with whatever you're

drinking. There will be appetizers, entrée, desserts, and vegetarian options – food to please everyone. Each of the chefs will meet and greet the guests at their stations and talk about their food with you.

Jeremy Davis and the Fabulous Equinox Orchestra Quintet, including well-known vocalist Clay Johnson, are the special entertainment. With comparisons to the Rat Pack and Dean Martin, who better to provide the soundtrack for the evening? One reviewer said you could "close your eyes while listening to Clay Johnson and imagine he was a young Sinatra" performing. Make room on the dance floor and chill the martinis!

As you've come to expect from a JEA gala, the evening fun will include wonderful items available in both silent and live auctions. Exclusive week-long stays at great places around the country, gourmet chocolate and coffee, and memberships and admission to some of Savannah's most popular attractions are just a few of the things that will be up for grabs, along with gift certificates, dinners, goodies and other experiences. If you have something you would like to donate for the auction, please contact one of the auction co-chairs via e-mail: Michelle Allan, michelle.allan.teacher@gmail.com,



@gmail.com, or Degi Ruben, dstein26@yahoo.com.

To keep up with everything happening for *Moonlight & Martinis*, the 2013 JEA gala, follow the event on Twitter with the event's hashtag, #JEAMoonlight, or if you haven't already done so, be sure to "like" the JEA on Facebook.

Tickets for *Moonlight & Martinis*, Sunday, September 22nd, are \$100 each. All proceeds benefit the programs of the Jewish Educational Alliance. For any questions about the event or for information on becoming a sponsor of the event, please contact event planner Mindy Nash, (912) 224-7889 or mnash@mnashevents.com.

Beautiful Water Views at The Landings



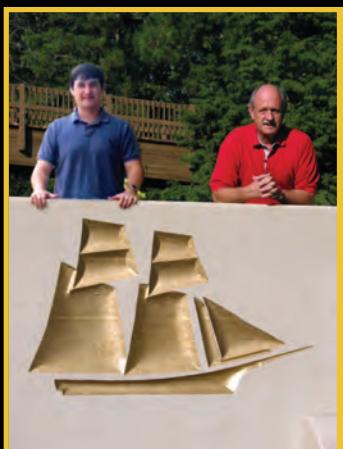
3 Old South Lane - \$499,500

This beautiful 4,100 square foot home features a leaded glass entrance, 2 story foyer, and a low maintenance stucco exterior. Super lagoon view. Wood floors, tongue and groove wood walls and ceiling in family room. Walk-in wet bar, granite counters in kitchen and bath. Much more. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths and 2 half baths.



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Beautifully landscaped home with perfect Southeast exposure and breezes. Lots of windows overlooking Adams Creek, Ossabaw Sound, marsh & #8 green Plantation. Large kitchen with double ovens, 2 dishwashers & specially designed cabinets for gourmet chef. Special moldings, ceilings, circle top windows, wood floors, study. 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths and 2 half baths.



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Riding the Wave of Our Community's Success

As I prepared to write my penultimate column as Federation president, I found it hard to believe that my two year term is almost over. The theme of my Presidency over these two years has been "Riding the Wave of our Community's Success". I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the successes and offer my view of the community challenges we still face.

Our Jewish community has much to be proud of. The Federation continues to make a significant difference in the lives of needy Jews at home and abroad. Through the generosity of our donors, Federation's Annual Campaign has been successful and has provided us the ability to fund the organizations that deliver direct services that save Jewish lives, maintain Jewish community and build Jewish identity. Jewish Family Services (JFS) continues to be the social service safety net that more and more members of our community need, and frankly, rely upon. As President, I am blessed to be able to see, up close and personal, the difference your donations make to these individuals. The stories of heartache and helping that are at the core of JFS would bring a tear to your eye and make your heart swell with pride. Federation leadership continues to deal with our role as community planners and is working diligently to ensure that our community is successful now and for many years to come.

The JEA is another shining example of our community's success. The JEA continues to fulfill its mission of providing quality programming to our community and serving as a meeting place for all. Through hard work and tough decisions, the JEA's finances are continuing to improve. The JEA is in the process of a long overdue security upgrade that will include a new front desk ID system, the placement of cameras throughout the building and perimeter of the property, and biometric entry systems at the preschool and fitness center entrances.

JEA Camp Savannah continues to provide a Jewish camping experience for the children in our community and has earned the reputation as one of the premier camping experiences in Savannah. JEA Preschool Savannah will be open next month and already has attracted young Jewish families that were previously unengaged but are now excited about sending their children to a Jewish preschool. Some are getting involved in the organization and planning for the school and others have become members of the JEA.

These were just some of the benefits leadership believed would arise from the new preschool. As a direct result of the JEA's and community's successes, the JEA for the first time in many years has installed a full slate of officers and board members that will lead the JEA for years into the future.

Our community's educational institutions are also a source of pride and excellent examples of the wave of success. Rambam Day School will be opening its new facility and will continue to provide high quality Jewish and secular education to the children of our community, as they have for over two decades. Rambam had a record breaking fundraising year and will continue to need our support to meet increasing financial pressures of the ever rising cost of education. The school is fortunate to have incredible volunteers whose commitment and dedication to the organization are shining examples to us about commitment and dedication. Shalom School has achieved the highest enrollment in its history. The school's professional and lay leadership have made many changes to its programs that obviously are working. The children are receiving an excellent supplementary school education deeply steeped in Jewish values and history. All three of our community's educational programs are instrumental in the creation of strong Jewish identities in our children which is the key factor in our fight against assimilation.

Our three synagogues continue to part of the wave. All are strong and vibrant and provide the Jewish life their congregants want and need. The "new" rabbis at the AA and CMI are no longer so new and have settled into their roles in their congregations and our community. Rabbi Slatus continues to be the spiritual leader at the BBJ providing his congregants significant learning opportunities and guidance. Recently, the Federation and JEA facilitated a meeting attended by the three rabbis and other community leaders which began a discussion. We will continue the conversation of looking for common ground and issues that we can all collaborate on together.

Our professional staff is another important part of the wave. We must



Jeffrey Lasky.
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

L'hitraot Amos

The Savannah Jewish community lost an *Or L'Goyim* (a light unto the people) last week when Amos Timna tragically died one month short of his 65th birthday. I cried just writing these words.

Amos was a friend, colleague, healer, and leader to so many of us. He was a *shtarker* – a "strong man." He could do it all. He was a true leader —quiet, confident, and serving with little fanfare. In just the last five years, Amos led the *Israel at 60* celebration, the Savannah Jewish Film Festival, the Komen Race for the Cure, and chaired divisions of the Annual Campaign.

Amos came from humble beginnings. The son of refugees to Palestine, he grew up in Ma'ayan Tzvi as a true kibbutznik, ingrained with the principles of equality. Given his background, it was not surprising that Amos went into medicine, specifically women's health. He grew up in an atmosphere where women and men held equal responsibility.

He was a hero to thousands of families to whom he provided obstetrical/gynecological services. One of his proudest possessions was a quilt that his wife Susan made for him from the many photographs of children that he brought into the world. After his retirement, he was honored by the Georgia Medical Society as a Health Care Hero for his *lifetime contribution to the welfare of the community*.

Amos never spoke much about his military service. Four years ago when our Shlucha, Maia Koiller, put together an exhibit, Israel and Me, Amos shared a picture of his sister, Dina and himself in front of their "mushroom" house in Ma'ayan Tzvi. But it was the rare photo of Amos and his unit that had everyone quietly talking. It was a photo of eleven soldiers from Sayeret Matkal, an elite IDF Special Forces commando unit, standing in front of a helicopter. There was Amos kneeling in the front row along with his fellow commandos including Ehud Barak and Yoni Netanyahu. Amos didn't talk much about the picture, but we all knew that the unit was famous for counter-terrorism, obtaining strategic intelligence behind enemy lines, and hostage rescue. Typical Amos, it was always about action, not words.

It was not an odd thing to see Amos in a pair of dirty jeans a tool belt around his waist, wisps of hair flying off in six directions. He was always building something or helping someone with a project. Paul Kulbersh liked to share the story of when Amos helped him install low voltage lighting around his house. Amos was there working when

another neighbor stopped by and with a quizzical look on his face asked Paul, "Whose BMW is that in the driveway?" To which Paul responded, "My electrician's. He's expensive, but he's good!" That was Amos, always helping a friend.

Amos was a "living bridge" between the establishment of the State of Israel and Modern Israel. He was very proud to say that both he and the state were born in the same year. He was able to provide a keen understanding of what it meant to be an Israeli while also being Jewish in the Diaspora. Dozens of times I asked Amos about what a headline in the paper *"really meant,"* or to explain the dynamics of Israeli security. He generously and patiently shared his knowledge and experience with all of us. Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu made a personal call to Susan to express his condolences and to recognize this special man's contribution to the State of Israel. We are all more educated and insightful on Israel thanks to Amos.

I know that each of us has a thought and memory of Amos, his generosity, his gentle smile, his true warmth. Seven different people said the exact same words to me, "Such a sweet man."

One of Amos's most unique characteristics was how he shied away from the limelight. Most people liked to be feted in front of their contemporaries – not Amos; he didn't even like having his picture taken. His actions spoke volumes.

In reading the Bible about the prophet Amos, I read about many similarities between the two. Like our Amos, the prophet Amos didn't like the limelight. "I am not a prophet, and I am not a prophet's disciple. I am a cattle breeder and a tender of sycamore figs." (Amos 7:14).

The prophet Amos taught us that the most important thing a man can do is to live a just and ethical life, because that is what forms a community that is faithful to God. Our Amos was much the same as his namesake.

Amos Timna quietly led a life of service, a life of meaning, a life of honor, a just life. He loved his family and his friends and they loved him back. He left his mark in this world through his deeds and his ever hopeful attitude.

L'hitraot Amos, Ani Mitgaage Ichaver shel.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Goodbye ... Forrest Gump style

It was almost a year ago when I sat in my living room, excited and looking forward to begin my big adventure and get on the plane to Savannah. I remember trying to imagine it: the way it looks, the people I would meet, and what significant experiences are waiting for me.

The first thing I had ever heard about Savannah is that parts of Forrest Gump was filmed here.

One of the most beautiful quotes that I strongly remember is when Forrest's mother says to him, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what

you're gonna get."

That was exactly the case for me in Savannah. Every experience, step and person I met here during this past year was like a new piece of chocolate – a surprise.

Grocery shopping was a new cultural experience when I received a random "hello" from someone I didn't know – just because it's the polite thing to do.

Or the amazing friendship that was woven with a non-Jewish woman that led to deep conversations about Judaism, religion, culture, and free love.



Dorin Elhadad,
Savannah Jewish
Community Shlucha

I learned about the proud strong Jewish community of Savannah: the devotion of the Mickve Israel congregation to its goals, the strong emphasis on education at Agudath Achim, and the embracing welcoming of Bnai Brith Jacob. But on top of the personal work of each of them, there was the cooperation of each of them with me, with each other and with the rest of the community.

My entire time here was a year of big surprises. Now it is time for me to go on to my next adventure, next challenge. I will be working at the University of Pennsylvania with their Hillel group. It will be an opportunity to work directly with students who are often confronted with anti Israel rhetoric. It is another chance to build the bond between Israel and the Diaspora.

So I want to thank ya'll for taking part in the amazing year I had. Like Forrest Gump, I wish that every day ya'll get surprised by life – for the better.

And don't be a stranger! Keep in touch! Dorin.elhadad@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Though the name Benjamin Mayor Tucker did not appear in a Federation or synagogue notification when he passed June 4, there is a sense of communal loss. The news struck our community profoundly because, since moving here in 1972, Ben and his wife Gloria shared their lives, their numerous talents and their love for Savannah with all the people they met in their adopted hometown—especially the Jewish community. Dozens of Jewish community members at his funeral heard him eulogized by Miriam Center; I saw many more at the concerts honoring his memory.

Like so many others, I considered Ben my friend, so it did not seem odd that the week of his death so many people contacted me about when they first met Ben, when they last saw him, what project they were planning together, at which of their Jewish life cycle events he performed, which personal event he attended, and to what Jewish charity event he donated his considerable talents.

Larry Dane-Kellogg, a personal friend who worked with Ben through the Coastal Jazz Association and MorningStar Cultural Arts, said "Ben Tucker loved to be part of simchas and probably has attended more Jewish celebrations in Savannah than most individuals in the Jewish community. He played at or attended, usually both, all of our major life events since we moved

to Savannah in 1987. It would be difficult to find a Jewish family in Savannah where he did not somehow participate in one or more of their celebrations."

In each case the stories of generosity, of vision, of passion and of self-sacrifice were different, but the verdict was always the same: Ben Tucker made good friends within the Jewish community, but he was a mensch (an upstanding person) who gave back to our community as a whole. They remembered the hot jazz—the legacy of this cool man—but more than that they remembered, as I do, the gift of his warm smile.

Shalom Ben,
Carol M. Towbin Greenberg

To Members of the Jewish Community:

I was a teenager in Savannah during the 1960's. I remember, as an African-American, that an organization to which I belonged had parties at the Jewish Educational Alliance on Abercorn Street. While I do believe that our organizers expressed gratitude to whoever may have been the directors there at the time, I often recall sometimes when I pass the building that we were welcome by the Jewish community when others did not feel the same. Being a teenager then and probably pre-occupied with someone who may or may not have danced with me at those parties, I did not think to send a thank-you note. Yes, this one probably sets a record for tardiness, but much has happened since that long ago era.

I moved back to Savannah in 2003. Please accept this note as an attempt to follow some basic rules in this severely fractured world where we should all learn to co-exist. In my way of thinking, it all begins with civility and recognizing kindnesses. As Americans, we should be respectful of the religions

of others, considering that it would follow one of the founding principles of this nation which first had its own inhabitants on the continent.

That same decade (the '60's) was when three young men, two Jewish and one black, perished in an incinerated automobile on a dusty road in a primitively narrow-minded region. The deceased were part of the Freedom Riders Movement, I believe, and had the courage of their convictions. Few people mention them these days. Maybe it gets a note every now and then, but their memories should be honored. It was also a time when three young black girls, whose ages were very close to mine, were bombed in a Birmingham church early one Sunday morning.

When I was in graduate school in the state of Michigan, I was befriended by a Jewish woman who reached out to me after I'd had a particularly tough semester. She told me, "My grandmother in Budapest was your grandmother in Birmingham." She may have said "Selma," but I know it was one of those places in Alabama famous for all the wrong reasons. Of course, it was figurative because I'm from Savannah, but I understood what she meant. Although I have not kept in touch with her, I will never forget her words. This was in the 1980's.

During the time of my graduate career when I was in need of summer employment, I taught a class of high-school students in Detroit on the campus of Wayne State University. One of our summer projects was a visit to a Holocaust Museum in West Bloomfield, a Detroit suburb. There was a beautiful memorial of sculpted art in gold or bronze in front dedicated to "Righteous Gentiles."

My strongest memory of the interior of the museum was the carpeting which gradually got darker and darker until it was totally black and we were shown horrific images, never shown in any history book in any school I attended. We were told that the darkest carpet-

ing paralleled the darkest hours of that hate-filled period. We heard a lecture from a Holocaust survivor, and there were few dry eyes in our audience. He answered questions from some of the students and incredibly, the speaker showed a sense of humor. He later told us that his optimism brought him

See page 6

Savannah Jewish News

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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 10th 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 15th or June 15, 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:
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Joan Dane-Kellogg, Ben Tucker & Joel Greenberg

JNF Says Goodbye to Shaliach Ronnie Porat

Atlanta — Lt. Col. (Res.) Ronnie Porat, who has served the Jewish National Fund's Southeastern region as an Israeli Emissary since 2007, will be moving back to Israel at the end of September. Ronnie contributed significantly to forging meaningful and significant relationships with the community and expanding the message of JNF's voice in Israel throughout the Southeast. In his honor, friends are invited to contribute to JNF's investment in the Negev town of Yerucham; a part of JNF's vision for the area that is close to Ronnie's heart.

"After six years devoted to JNF, it will be sad to say goodbye to Ronnie," said Beth Gluck, JNF SE Region Director. "Our region is honoring Ronnie with a plaque on the Wall of Honor at Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem as a tribute to his service to Israel and to JNF. The Wall of Honor at Ammunition Hill recognizes the heroism and courage of Jewish soldiers who, throughout history, have fought to defend their countries. Ronnie served in the Israel Defense Forces and as an Israeli diplomat overseas, and a plaque on Ammunition Hill is a very fitting tribute."

Adam Solender, Executive Director of the Savannah Jewish Federation,

remarked: "The Savannah Jewish community was blessed to have a partner in JNF Shaliach Ronnie Porat. All too often, Jewish organizations are more preoccupied with 'defending their turf,' Ronnie was not one of them. He understood that together we are all stronger. Whenever we called upon Ronnie, he was eager and willing to partner with our Federation and community for the betterment of Klal Yisroel. He spoke on Egyptian politics in Savannah, acted as a personal instructor to Mayor Jackson in preparation for her trip to Israel, and arranged a 'special JNF Day' for her in Israel. Ronnie was a 'true mensch' in everything he did and will be missed by many in our community. With Ronnie's departure back to Israel, I have lost one of my professional partners, but I will always have him as a great friend."

Ronnie's past military and diplomatic experience served JNF well. Between 1976 -1987, Ronnie served in the Israel Defense Forces' Armored Troops and Military Intelligence divi-

sions. In 1988, he joined the Israeli Foreign Service and served in the Israeli embassies in Oslo, Norway, and Helsinki, Finland, and as Israeli Consul in Cairo, Egypt. Ronnie was a member of the advance team that opened the first Israeli embassy in Jordan and served as the first Israeli Consul in Amman.

"I cannot imagine JNF without Ronnie," said Lauren Mescon, a former JNF president currently serving as Vice Chair of the Central Arava Committee and JNF Makor Member. "He is so committed and so passionate and so down to earth it is easy to forget all the



Ronnie Porat

great things he has done for the State of Israel, not to mention JNF. I had the good fortune to travel with Ronnie on a mission from the Southeast. It was a phenomenal trip and one highlight was when he brought his father to share with us his experiences from surviving the Holocaust. Ronnie comes from amazing stock and his perseverance and advocacy for Israel certainly shows everyone that we, the Jewish people, will prevail in the future."

Ronnie holds a Bachelor's Degree in computer science and economics from Bar Ilan University. He and his wife, Tuti, a business consultant to Israeli nonprofit cultural organizations, have three children.

Friends interested in honoring Ronnie should contact Beth Gluck, JNF SE Director at 404-236-8990 or BGluck@JNF.org.

The family of Rupert Heller would like to express warmest thanks to all relatives and dear friends who extended their remembrances and love for our Rupert...

Patsy, Crystal, Karen, Hank and Beth

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JPost Confab Enlightening

by Melinda Stein

My husband Steve and I recently attended the second annual *Jerusalem Post* Conference on April 28th, 2013 in New York City. The event's theme was, "Fighting For The Zionist Dream," and close to one thousand people attended. Held at the Marriott Marquis in New York, the full-day event featured Israeli and American speakers on the current state of affairs in the Middle East.

Opening the Conference was former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. He spoke about his term in office and his views that Israel is stronger now than at any time in its history. That being said, he then expressed his opinion that Israel needs to be more forthcoming in conceding land to the Palestinians and cessation of settlement activity. Numerous audience members were not in accord and expressed their disagreement.

The next speaker was Yuval Steinitz, Israeli Foreign Minister and former Finance Minister. Steinitz spoke about the possibility of neutralizing Iran's nuclear capability without a military option. He also stressed that for a real and enduring peace with the Palestinians, there must be, first and foremost, recognition of Israel as a Jewish State, and secondly, no compromise on security issues.

Well-known attorney, author and law professor Alan Dershowitz expressed his staunch support for Israel and criticism of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism. He then stated his feeling that the settlement issue is a stumbling block in negotiations and that more compromise is necessary. This drew some disagreement from the audience, to which he suggested that jeering is an inappropriate response.

Other speakers included Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren, former Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces General Gaby Ashkenazy, Retired Air Force General and Former Head of Military Intelligence Amos Yadlin, Former National Security Advisor and ex-Head of Mossad Intelligence Division Uzi Arad, ex-Mossad Chief Meir Dagan, and retired U.S. Marine Corps General Robert Magnus.



Melinda and Steve Stein at Jerusalem Post Conference in April

The latter is the highest ranking Jewish officer in the Corps' history.

Caroline Glick, Senior Contributing Editor to *The Jerusalem Post* and a Fellow of the Center for Security Policy spoke about problems facing American Jews, such as intimidation of Jewish students on college campuses, and a rising tide of anti-Israel sentiment in the U.S. Prior to becoming a journalist, Caroline was a Captain in the Israeli Defense Forces and was involved in the Oslo negotiations with the late PLO Chief Yassir Arafat.

A most moving segment of the program was the "Award of Honor" presented to Rona Ramon, the widow of Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon, who perished aboard the Columbia Space Shuttle ten years ago. In 2010 she established the Ramon Foundation to sponsor space and aviation programs for youth in Israel and provide scholarships to help them achieve their dreams.

We had the opportunity to lunch with the conference speakers and other VIPs. I chatted with Caroline Glick, who previously visited the Savannah area after being embedded with the Third Infantry Division in Iraq. I invited her to return and possibly speak to the Savannah Jewish community.

Following lunch, a series of panel discussions ensued. One addressed Israel's security needs and a second dealt with Israel's move towards energy independence.

In addition to hearing important information from top Israeli and American experts, it was a most empowering experience to be among a thousand of the Jewish State's staunchest supporters.

Jeffrey Lasky.....from pg 3

support our professional staff that work incredibly long hours and make many personal sacrifices for the betterment of our community. We have the best professional staff we have had in many years under the excellent leadership of our Executive Director, Adam Solender. Most if not all of the accomplishments I have discussed in this article would never have happened if not for Adam's leadership and the hard work of our staff. We are very fortunate to have them and the most important things we can do to show our support is to say "Thank You" when you see them and to volunteer when you are asked.

While we have much to be proud of, there are still opportunities for improvement and change. We must, as a community, learn HOW to disagree with each other. We are one big Jewish family, and as in any family, we will not always agree with each other. Ultimately, we are all Jews and must stand together if we are to survive and remain strong. We can and should disagree but must do so in a mutually respectful manner and stop engaging in *ad hominem* attacks. Let us all commit to language that is positive, forward thinking, and inclusive.

Another area of focus in the coming years should be the growth of the Federation's community endowment. It is essential to the future security

to build the endowment through an organized broad-based campaign. The leadership for a campaign is in place and when the campaign begins I hope everyone appreciates the importance of significantly increasing the endowment. There are many ways to give and every gift to the endowment is important to our future.

The final opportunity for change is membership of our community in the JEA. Currently the JEA services approximately 1/3 of our entire Jewish community. Nationally this is a high percentage—but we can do better. The JEA offers a vast array of high quality Jewish programming which is free for members. More Jews joining the JEA is a high priority of the organization but can be accomplished only if you say yes. After all, if we do not support our own Jewish institutions, who will?

Let me close by saying that even though the waters over the past two years may not have always provided the smoothest of sailing, the wave of success we created is real, tangible, and is something we all can be very proud of. Being a leader in the Jewish community is not easy, but it is incredibly rewarding. I want to thank each of you for your support and advice, and for giving me the honor of serving as President of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

Letters.....from pg 4

through the worst times. Seemingly, he had no anger there, but he admitted that he still had nightmares.

It has crossed my mind so often that I should one day write this note. I guess I needed to do this now because of the fragility of our lives. Each day is a blessing and it seems that America is becoming more vulnerable to enemy-attacks, whether home-grown or international, than ever before. Our fellow Americans in Boston were just being people, relaxed human beings, light-years away from the ill-will of others. We really cannot rationalize the irrational.

I am a Catholic and I remember that when we had to get our school uniforms in the fall of the year, we were respectful of the Jewish holidays. Our uniforms were to be purchased from certain stores on Broughton Street. It seems that things worked back then, although I know Savannah had/has its struggles and puzzles. Still, I want to say, "Thank-you for being a friend" as sung on a sit-com theme song.

Peace always,
B. Omega Moore



Beth Vantosh
Associate Broker

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

- LEASING
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Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

FBI Senior Agent—Gene Kowel

Gene Kowel is the new Supervisory Senior Resident Agent for the FBI in Savannah. He oversees agents serving an 18-county area. Gene and his wife, Elysia, met at a Matzo Ball in New York, just as Gene was being transferred, so much of their relationship (even for a short time after their wedding two years ago) has been long distance. But now the Kowels are settling in the home they purchased in Ardsley Park, have joined the JEA and are excited about their future in Savannah. Gene, 37, graduated from the University of Virginia and received his law degree from New York University. He says his hobbies include hiking, reading, working out, and “making my wife happy.”

I have to ask, how does a nice Jewish lawyer like you become an FBI agent and what did your mother have to say about it?

Well my mother wasn't happy about it, but she's proud. I used to be a prosecutor – an assistant district attorney for 3-1/2 years in Manhattan – but I

became interested in transitioning to a more investigative role, to finding the criminals. I was a firefighter in college and I missed being the person people called to fix things. Someone mentioned the FBI to me so I applied and was accepted. I went to Quantico for four months for training, then to the New York office, to Iraq and Afghanistan and to headquarters in DC for about three years before being lucky enough to be accepted for the position here in Savannah. It was a very competitive posting and I was in India on business when it was announced and my boss called to tell me I got it. I called Elysia and woke her up – I think it was about 5am in Washington – I was ecstatic.

I read that your mission “is to help lower crime in Savannah.” Have you identified a particular type of crime or criminal that your office is prioritizing for elimination?



Gene Kowel

The FBI in general has priorities: Counterterrorism, counterintelligence (seeking out foreign spies operating on U.S. soil or U.S. citizens committing espionage) and cyber crime. In the criminal realm, our priorities are public corruption, organized crime, violent crime and major thefts, civil rights violations and white collar crime. In Savannah, we see a lot of violent crime, bank robberies, aggravated assaults, commercial robberies and neighborhood gangs. We are working with all of our law enforcement partners to address all of these. We are focusing on our national priorities and on how the FBI can add significant value to have a local impact on the local problem areas.

You have a background in counterterrorism, including tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Given the prominence of the Port of Savannah and the associated risks, can you talk a little bit about how your background may have played a part in your placement here and your responsibilities?

I don't know specifically why I was chosen for this position but I can tell you that we work very closely with Customs and Border Protection and with the Coast Guard. The FBI doesn't patrol the border or the ports, but we work very closely with the agencies

that do. When I was in Iraq I focused on counterterrorism investigations with nexus to the homeland; in Afghanistan I responded to bombings where U.S. citizens were hurt, killed or targeted. I also helped to train local police departments there. We worked closely with our partners overseas to conduct counterterrorism investigations, with the bottom line being to identify who was responsible.

I know that your sister is a Rabbi, married to a Rabbi, and that they officiated at your wedding. There seem to be some strong Jewish ties in your family. How does that affect your life now?

Being Jewish is a big part of my identity. The Jewish values of abolishing wrong doing between people and leaving the world a better place than you found it are big motivators for me. My sisters and I went to Jewish summer camp here in Georgia at Camp Coleman and it had a strong impact on me and I think even influenced my little sister's decision to become a rabbi. She had that real experience of going from the time she was a little girl and I think she was inculcated with a sense of spirituality and identity that became a catalyst for her decision to become a rabbi.

Jewish Educational Alliance Camp Savannah 2013



Top (L to R): Sophie Lichtman and Max stop for a photo during free swim, DJ Horton and Dorin Elhadad with the Israeli Scouts during Aquamania Week, Swim instructors Laila Cohen and Stephen Stamps smile for a photo with campers Sam and Paiton.

Bottom (L to R): Dorin Elhadad teaches Vivian and the 3 and 4 year old campers about Shabbat, Ms. Penny Birkman reads a story to the 3 and 4 year old campers out by the pool, Thaddeus James and Mallory Jones climb 'Masada' a mobile rock wall that came to camp during Around the World Week.

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The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

July-Aug. 2013



Children's Programming



discover **your** community



Jewish Educational Alliance's DAYS @ THE JEA

Do you find it difficult to take days off of work when your child is out of school? The JEA offers year-round vacation programming for children Pre K – 8th grade. Your child will enjoy **Days at the JEA**, as each are packed with activities such as, field trips, swimming, cooking, sports and crafts!

■ What to bring:

- Swimsuit
- Towel (marked with name)
- Sack lunch (dairy or parve)
- Change of clothes
- Plastic bag for wet clothing
- Positive attitude

■ What not to bring:

- Toys
- Electronics (cell phones, game systems, ipod)
- Microwaveable lunches

Upcoming Summer Days at the JEA!

August Days:

August 5th - 9th

August 12th - 16th

\$40.00 per day / \$30.00 per day (Member Value Price)

\$180 per week / \$135 per week (Member Value Price)

Questions: Call 355-8111 or E-mail DJ Horton at kids@savj.org

Save the Date

July 15

Erev Tisha B'Av (Fast Day). JEA regular hours.

July 16

Tisha B'Av (Fast Day). JEA regular hours.

July 28

Preschool & PJ Library Pool Party. 11:00 am

August 14

JEA Preschool Savannah opens

September 1

Labor Day Pool Party. 11:00 am

September 2

Labor Day. Fitness open 9:00 am-5:00 pm.
JEA offices closed.

September 3

JEA Art Gallery Reception - Rachel Raab.
6:00-8:00 pm

September 4

Erev Rosh Hashanah. JEA closes at 4:00 pm

September 5-6

Rosh Hashanah. JEA closed.

September 13

Kol Nidre. JEA closes at 4:00 pm

September 14

Yom Kippur. JEA closed.

September 15

Gray's Reef Film Festival. 11:00 am

September 17

SJF Annual Meeting. 7:00 pm

September 18

Erev Sukkot. JEA closes at 5:00 pm



Adult Programming



JEA Mid-Week Garden Group - Wednesdays 9:00 am to 10:00 am
We meet twice monthly on alternate Wednesdays to tend our JEA gardens. Feel free to bring your own garden gloves, tools, hat and water. Some tools are available. Summer hours vary. Contact Carol at MStarArts@gmail.com. Bi-weekly meetings will resume in the fall.



Thursday Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

Creating a Beautiful Flower Pot



Justin Robertshaw
Facilities Director

Every year when the new growing season starts people ask me, "What is the best way to make a flower pot that turns heads when people are driving by my place?" I like to share with them what I have seen somewhere or what I have done myself.

Facilities Director There are many ways you can make beautiful flower pots. Some people like to use outdoor things like watering cans, old window frames with backing added to them to hold in the plants or old claw foot bath tubs turned on their sides. I have even seen old cars turned into planters, but the ones I like best are round pots holding cascading plants and flowers.

First, come up with an idea of what you want to do and the area of your property where you want people to see your hard work. Take a trip to your local home center. The employees there can help you with your idea so you buy only what you need for your project. It would be good to just walk through the whole garden area at the store to see what they have to offer. You never know; you may see something that can be integrated into your idea that will bring more "WOWS!"

These are some of the items you may need:

- One five-gallon pot with a hole in the bottom
 - Small bag of drain rocks

- One 3-cubic foot bag of potting soil
 - One focal point plant - about a quart size
 - About three packs of flowers in a six package form (18 plants)
 - A small amount of liquid fertilizer

Don't forget to get any garden hand tools you may need, if you don't already have them:

- Garden hand trowel
 - Gardening gloves
 - Gardening hose with watering nozzle.
Watering cans also work well

When you have all the needed items, look for an area where you can comfortably work. You can place the pot on a table or you can sit on a chair near the pot to save your back as you work. Start with the small bag of rocks. You need to put about a 2-inch layer on the bottom. This adds drainage for your soil and plants. The next item is the potting soil. Loosely place the soil all the way to the top of the pot to make it easy to dig to put your plants in.

Next, take your one-quart focal point plant and temporarily place it in the center of your pot. Look at it from all sides. Start removing the flowers from the three six-packs and placing them on top of the soil around the focal center plant. This will give you an idea of what it is going to look like when it is finished.

Once you like the way the plants look you can

start planting the flowers where you placed them. When planting your plants into the soil, you must leave about a quarter inch of the plant's root ball above the top of the soil. This allows the plants to grow better. Most living plants will drown if they cannot dry out after you water them. After you have all the plants in the soil, gently push down on the soil around each of the plants. This makes the soil firm enough to hold your plants in place until the roots take hold in the soil. *Don't water the flower pot yet.* This will make it too heavy to move to the area you want it.

Once the pot is in the final resting place, you can start slowly watering. You will want to water the plants twice a day for 5 minutes to promote new growth until the plants are well established.

Then use the liquid fertilizer. You will need to read the factory directions on the package so you don't overuse or underuse the plant food. If overused, the plants will die within a few days because the roots fry or the soil becomes toxic. If you under fertilize, the plants will not grow fully like you see in magazines. Follow all the directions for the correct amounts to use and how frequently to use it.

Finally, just sit back and enjoy the fruits of your labor.





Health & Wellness

Family Fitness



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Have you thought about how great it would be to include your family in your desire to exercise more regularly? Family exercise will improve the health of your loved ones, make exercise more fun, and at the same time develop stronger connections between all of you. With a little creativity you can find a way to make it fun for everyone.

How to Start

First decide what level of participation your family is ready for. If your entire family is committed 100%, you could go as far as setting up a Family Olympics. If it's a struggle to get your family to do anything together, starting out small might be the better option.

You may simply focus on educating each person about the benefits of exercise—in a smart way.

Put up a healthy living bulletin board in your kitchen (or use the fridge door) with articles and other resources that will help get your point across without having to say much of anything. For example, if one child is an athlete, an article about a successful athlete who commits to fitness could go a long way. Or, post a story about a young person who had trouble focusing at school but started exercising and saw an amazing difference.

Here are a few other ideas to get your family focused on fitness:

- When your kids hop on their wheeled toys - from bikes to scooters to inline skates - go along for the ride. But for yourself, skip the wheels and stick to running shoes. Now just try to keep up!
- Combine exercise and household chores. On small pieces of paper, write down chores and body weight exercises. Throw the papers into a couple of hats and have everyone pick one of each. Maybe Dad gets to clean the bathroom and do a set of squats every few minutes until he is finished, while one of the children is cleaning the kitchen and doing forward lunges, etc.—the combinations are endless. Mix it up with yard work, seasonal chores, and even some aerobic components like jumping rope.
- Hire a certified personal trainer to design a

program for each family member based on his or her individual needs and then work out together. If Mom is looking to tone her body and her teenage daughter wants to improve her basketball conditioning, a similar circuit can be set up at home, indoors and outdoors, to achieve both.

- Have each family member pick an exercise at the beginning of the week and do as many reps as they can. Then train throughout the week with the goal of improving by the weekend. The family member who has the highest percentage increase is rewarded with something small (but motivating). Keep the focus on the fact that everyone is improving.
- Designate one evening as family fitness night. Each week, a different person designs the family workout that you will all do together. Whether it's swimming, rollerblading, walking, Frisbee golf, or a two-on-two basketball game—everyone gets to do something they enjoy and your workout will never become dull.
- Buy small pieces of equipment to keep around the house, then make some fitness rules: Exercise during commercials every time you watch TV; stretch before bed each night. Purchase a few inexpensive items (jump rope, resistance bands, stability ball, dumbbells) and rotate them through the house on a daily basis. Treat them as scavenger hunt finds - if you find the jump rope placed in the garage, you have to use it for one minute. Next time you may find it on the porch or in the basement.
- Each week, measure your fitness levels to determine your family's overall fitness average. Add each person's own calculation of their level of fitness for the week; zero meaning they did nothing, and 7 meaning they exercised daily. Divide the total by the number of family members. Set a goal to average at least a 5 or 6 each week, rewarding the entire family if it's met.

Most of all—make it fun for everyone! In the process, you will teach your children about discipline, goal setting, and the importance of not only health, but also family connection.

You know what they say about the family that plays together? Not only does it stay together; its members are happier and healthier too. So try some of these family fitness ideas with your loved ones. You are limited only by your creativity!

Summer Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

- 8:30 am - Pilates
9:30 am - Pilates Barre
10:00 am - SilverSneakers Splash
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:45 pm - Zumba
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- 8:30 am - Pilates
9:30 am - Pilates Barre
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics
6:30 pm - Yoga Flow
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Friday

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



JEA Camp Savannah 2013 - Zoo Tycoon Week

Clean Eating



One of the movements picking up steam lately is "clean eating." Born out of the '60s, it advocates consuming healthful, natural food. Some 50 years later, it's becoming popular again. The idea is to focus less on processed foods and more on whole foods such as fruits and vegetables. It's a healthful,

sustainable way of eating that doesn't eliminate food groups and takes us back to the basics.

I find that the concepts within the clean-eating movement overlap USDA dietary recommendations of eating whole, unprocessed foods, eating a varied diet, eating locally grown and seasonal foods and enjoying food at mealtimes.

Clean eating encourages the consumption of more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean meats with fewer sugar, high-calorie beverages and saturated fats.

If you'd like to try Clean Eating, here are some strategies to help you in your process of Clean Eating:

1. Choose foods in their most whole, least-processed state, such as whole chicken breast pieces instead of commercially made

- chicken nuggets and sprouted 100 percent whole grain bread instead of white bread.
2. Enjoy seasonal produce and seafood whenever possible. Shop the local farmer's markets.
3. Purchase products made with real ingredients that you can pronounce that are not loaded with artificial preservatives.
4. Think ahead to have food you have prepared stocked in your refrigerator to avoid buying fast food and vending machine fare - clean the celery and carrots for easy snacking; grill chicken breasts to have ready for a salad.
5. Enjoy every bite and eat mindfully at the dinner table.

Worth Checking Out

Ellie Krieger's new book, "Comfort Food Fix: Feel-Good Favorites Made Healthy," gives a nutrition upgrade to several favorites. Her philosophy includes using low-fat dairy products like yogurt or sour cream in combination with small amounts of real cream and using half whole-wheat flour and half all-purpose flour or half egg whites with half whole eggs to maintain flavor and texture while still improving nutrition. She also abides by the "un-fry" technique of coating "fried" chicken with breadcrumbs and baking it.

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 5/14/13-6/14/13)

Addie Babcock
David & Lisa Bird
Michael Carnahan & Brittany Marks
Brad Conner & Yael Elfassy
Denise Davis
Mildred Dimock & Katharine Carlson
Bruce Edwards
Michael Findeis
Timothy & Caroline Foster
Esther Leibfarth
Tiffany Lucas
Edward & Mandy Miller
Feliz Montanez
James Moore
Ronald & Maria Pickard
Nikki Poulos
Mitchel Robinson
Christopher Soucy & Megan Jones
Adam Specjal
Linda Springer
Julie Taylor
Jurgen & Fedime Von Knoblauch
Ellen Wyatt

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH & PJ LIBRARY FAMILY POOL ★ PARTY

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FRIENDLY JEA POOL PARTY

SUNDAY, JULY 28TH, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

What: JEA pool parties are a great way to spend your summer days with your family. Leave your lunch box at home and enjoy food at the JEA Pool Side Grill.

Where: Jewish Educational Alliance
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405

- ★ 11:00 am - Pool Games and Activities
- ★ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm - JEA Pool Side Grill
- ★ 12:00 pm - Story time with JEA Preschool Savannah Teachers

NEW Classes @ the JEA!

Pilates Barre Class

Tuesday & Thursday,
9:30-10:30 am

All ages and experience levels welcome.

Parent-N-Tot Swim

Sunday Starting 6/23,
11:00-11:30 am

12 months(walking) - 3 years



JEA Preschool Savannah News

July/August 2013

Check it Out!

Early Swim Lessons Yield Many Benefits

Parents who want to give their children the best start possible will be fascinated by the news coming out of a study of children who learn to swim at an early age. Preliminary findings from a study of 7,000 children under 5-years old from Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. suggest that early swimmers are gaining a range of developmental skills earlier than other children. The impact may extend into all areas of a child's development, including their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual development.

The study found that in addition to achieving physical milestones faster, early swimmers also did better in visual-motor skills such as cutting paper, drawing lines and shapes, in coloring in and in many mathematically-related tasks. Their oral expression was also more advanced, along with higher performance in the general areas of literacy.

The research team plans to study 10,000 children across Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. for four more years to gain more insight into the benefits of swimming lessons for toddlers.

http://www.mercatornet.com/family_edge/view/11551#sthash.5jiOzAGL.dpuf.

Don't forget!

- Water safety and pool time are part of the curriculum at JEA Preschool Savannah!
- The JEA has a NEW Parent-N-Tot Swim every Sunday, 11-11:30 am, for families with children 12 months (walking) to 3-years old. Visit us at www.SavannahJEA.org or call (912) 355-8111 for more details.

Engaging children in a nurturing, safe and inclusive environment, based in Jewish values.



Enrollment is Open!

To schedule your introductory appointment, contact Jodi Sadler at (912) 355-8111, or e-mail preschool@savj.org. Tuition information and registration forms are available for download online at www.savannahjea.org.

JEA Preschool Savannah offers convenient Core Program and Extended Hours:

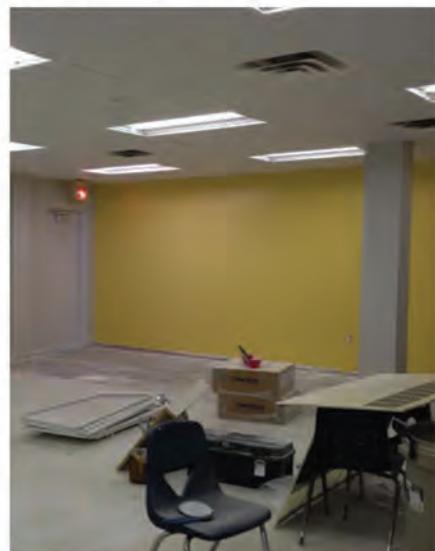
Core Program: 8:30am – 12:30pm

Extended Hours: 7:00am – 8:30am

12:30pm – 6:00pm

Opening August 2013, Serving children ages 16 months to 4 years old.

We will be ready for our August opening.
Is your child signed up? Register now!



(Left) The cement trike path is ready to be poured. (Right) Fresh yellow paint goes up on classroom walls.



(Left) A tire swing is installed in the small playground. (Right) Jerry Konter reviews the playground plans.



(Left) The first playground structure is assembled and installed. (Right) New ceiling tiles are installed.



Bittersweet End

June 4, 2013 Rambam Day School applauded its twenty third graduating class. I would like to share with you some of their thoughts as all six graduates spoke at graduation.

"In essence, Rambam was still going to be Rambam, but Rambam has been more than a school; it has been a place for me for over twelve years. I received my Jewish name in this building. I will miss coming back to visit my Rambam teachers and not being able to walk the same halls I walked every day for the past twelve years. I have learned here, made my life time friends here, played sports here and so much more. This place will always be a part of my memories, very special memories. We all became quite sad as we started to reminisce about all we have done in this building." *Yehudis Gold*

"Over the last ten years as Rambam Day School students, we have certainly been pointed to as different. We're the kids who sometimes have guys wearing "beanies" and girls wearing skirts, even when they play sports. We know we're different. We know we stand out. We know most people can't even say our school's name correctly – Raambaam! But none the less, we don't mind standing out just because we go to Rambam. Our school has imparted its mission upon us, and even if we couldn't put it into words all these years, we take pride in being the focus of that mission. The mission of Rambam Day School is; 'to provide an excellent secular education and an extensive Judaic education; thus creating extraordinary experiences which help us understand our role in society and make us knowledgeable about our heritage'. Imagine being the center of attention with such a lofty goal in mind for you." *Jordyn Stoltzman*

"Over the past twenty years Rambam has undergone many transformations as each year it became a stronger, better institution. I've noticed over the years the hallways have gotten smaller and the teachers have shrunk. I've noticed that play time has practically vanished altogether. Swings are for kids smaller than we are and our feet are too big for the steps on the playground equipment."

"In all seriousness, no two years in Rambam were ever the same. Each year new activities and ideas surfaced as our teachers and principals tried to make things better for us... Whatever changes took place, some things remained constant – our teachers working hard to get us to maximize our potential."

Hillel Garfunkel



Ester Rabhan
Principal of
Rambam Day School

"This year we have not only grown in our knowledge and maturity, but we have also grown closer together, something many of us thought was impossible. Although we are all very different and we don't always agree on anything, I know my class will be there for me no matter what happens. Rambam has given my classmates and me many great things. These things not only include an outstanding education and amazing teachers I can look to for guidance, but also an understanding of how important character is". *Ora Damelin*

"Our Rambam memories end here because we are leaving, departing, saying goodbye; embarking, relocating, progressing, saying hello to new opportunities. This is what we have been leading up to during our years in Rambam. We have been taught how to be tolerant, sensitive, and respectful. We have learned what we need to know to be successful in high school.

"We thank Rambam for all it has given to us. We will miss you." *Chaya Schochet*

Rambam has educated you and prepared you so you can successfully take on the next phase of your education and your future. Rambam made you knowledgeable Jews. You have delved into the depths of our heritage, our laws, our customs and our rich history. You can stand in the midst of society comfortable and proud of who you are.

My dear graduates – never apologize for who you are. If you are true to your Jewish roots and a person of character – don't apologize for who you are.

Graduating class of 2013 – you have had instilled within you the ability to be tolerant, respectful, sensitive, and nonjudgmental; but while being committed to these traits, you must also hold on to who you are. I am proud that you can hold dear the memories of being in the JEA even with the whirlwind that has caused Rambam to relocate. I am proud of your pride in being a Rambam graduate... Your class epitomizes what Rambam Day School is all about. Different children, with different backgrounds coming together as one – to learn, to grow – to blaze a wonderful trail for those who will follow in your footsteps.

Ester Y. Rabhan

Something to Think About

We are the *People of the Book*. We are the Jewish Educational Alliance. We are always striving to learn and put our knowledge into positive actions. As parents and educators, what do we need to know about ourselves and our children to help them be the best they can be?

First, we must remember that our children are made in the image of G-d. Whether you believe in G-d or not, it is a core Jewish sensibility that our children are made unique, full of potential and good in the deepest sense. It is our job to remember that our children are not empty containers for us to fill, but rather they are lamps to be kindled, flames to spark, precious vessels for us to care for and honor.

Next, we must remember that children do not need the grown-ups in their lives to be perfect. We have very high expectations for ourselves as parents and can be critical for the many ways in which we fall short. We should always try to do our best but we also should model what it means to be a human being who makes mistakes. What would it look like if instead of holding ourselves to the high standard of being perfect if we tried as hard to teach what it looks like when we mess up? We can be the role models to our children and

show them how to listen when we hurt another person or share our disappointment when we don't get it right. Wouldn't it be great if the lessons about making mistakes were as important any others?

Lastly, we should all practice gratitude on a daily basis. In Jewish tradition, we are taught that we should say one hundred blessings a day. That is a big task for most of us, but feeling gratitude is a core Jewish value and one that is important to teach to our children. Appreciation of all that we have in our lives helps us to make our lives rich and meaningful. It is a mindset that is hard to establish but once practiced can add much value to our lives.

As we move forward in opening JEA Preschool Savannah, my hope is that as parents and educators we will keep these ideas in the forefront of our daily lives and our interaction with our children. As long as we continually strive to improve ourselves then we will have a positive impact on the children's lives we touch.



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education



Don't miss the chance to include your holiday wishes in the next issue of the Savannah Jewish News!

Download the Holiday Greetings Order Form at www.savj.org
Holiday greeting due date: August 12th



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THE BOYS OF MANY, MANY WINTERS

by Johnny Becker



"World Champion Handball Exhibition" September 16, 1969

Donated to the Savannah Jewish Archives by Charles Grossman

Here they come, blowing, sweating, a limp here, a little kvetch there, but they are all winners. I'm referring to the regular JEA racquetball games. There's Julie Rudikoff and Sam Cooperman, Bucky Yellin and Yank Bluestein, and Chris Christadoulis, and of course Gig Eichholz. The youngest in this post senior citizens group is a tender 64 and the oldest a boyish 72 years.

The level of play is of such intensity that it requires tremendous stamina, extremely quick reflexes, and great skill. The same qualities that successfully carried these men through their working careers remain evident on the racquetball court. They are fiercely competitive, good humored, and scrupulously honest. Most are semi or fully retired, but when

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Amos Timna

Who died July 5, 2013

He is survived by his wife, Susan Timna; his daughter, Noa (Jeremy Alper); his son, Eta (Jodi) Timna; his stepsons, Adam (Katy) and Jason Eichholz; his sister, Dina (Chico) Inbar; his brother, Yotam (Lynn) Timna; four grandchildren; and 24 nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Savannah Jewish Federation, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Suite 250, 5005 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75244.

Jay Allen Kaminsky

Who died June 13, 2013

He is survived by his son, Julius Kaminsky; his mother, Jean SchurKaminsky;

his sister, Toby K. Friedman; two brothers, Myron (Fran) Kaminsky and Danny (Lisa) Kaminsky, all of Savannah; and several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Chatham Academy, 4 Oglethorpe Professional, Savannah 31406; or Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405.

Jeanette Prystowsky Rabhan

Who died on June 10, 2013

She is survived by her three daughters, Ida Raye Chernin, Lynn (Dick) Owens, and Muriel (Craig) Varon; one son, Edward (Barbara) Rabhan; two sisters, Hannah Rubin and Miriam Brenner; eight grandchildren; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Remembrances: Rambam Day School, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or a charity of one's choice.

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it comes to playing the game they are superannuated shtarkers, asking no quarter and giving none.

Later in the locker room, the atmosphere redolent with the amalgam of hot sneakers, sweat, and Charlie Grossman's liniment, there is always "the conversation." This means lots of kidding, sometimes interpolated with a little gria. "How bout that setup you missed?", the block that might have been avoided—or "Why didn't you let it go to the back wall?

I doubt very much if anywhere in any athletic club will you find this many dedicated well-conditioned men of this particular age group actually participating in any game at this proficient level.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, in one of his great speeches spoke of, "This generation that would have a rendezvous with history." I am convinced that these men are an integral part of that generation. They were children of the depression—they didn't fulminate against the gods, or curse the darkness—but rather they respected their parents, worked at whatever they could do, and helped their family. They went to war against the greatest scourge in recorded history and won. When the war was over, they studied, and worked hard, got married, and helped raise attractive and responsible children.

I feel terribly proud to be part of that generation and to know these men and to call them my friends. And so Julie and Bucky, Sam, Chris, Yank and Gig, bandage that thigh, wrap those ankles, strap on the truss, but keep hitting that winning shot. Never go gently into that dark, dark night but continue to thrive and strive.

Front row: Abram Eisenman, Albert "Bucky" Yellin, Julius Rudikoff, Collis Dykes. **Back row:** Robert "Sonny" Tross, Donald Gellins, Charles Grossman, Paul Haber—champion, Murray Arkin, Meyer "Johnny" Becker, Walter Lowenkopf



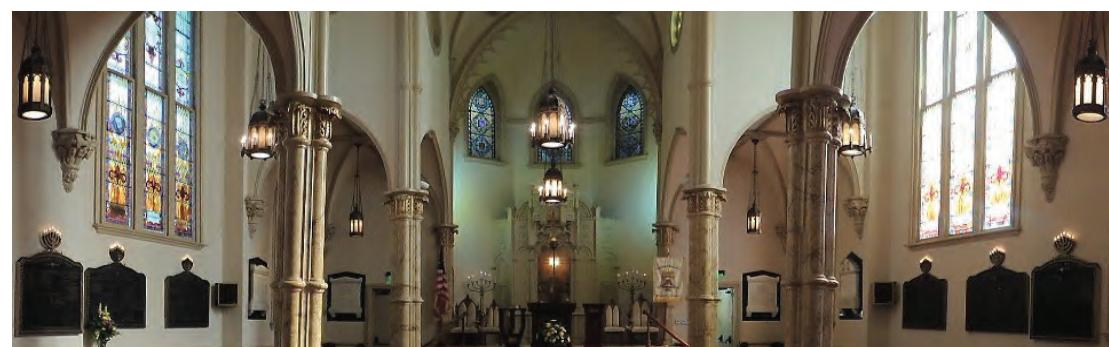
The Savannah Jewish Federation proudly provides space for a half-page ad to each local congregation in each issue of the Savannah Jewish News.

Join us at Mickve Israel for these Summer Activities

Have Family Visiting? Take Them to See "Savannah's Jewish Museum"!

Explore Savannah's Jewish history with a tour of Congregation Mickve Israel's historic sanctuary and museum.

We are open for Docent-led tours weekdays from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, and from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Tours last 30-45 minutes, but be sure to allow extra time to visit our Judaica Shop while you're here.



280th Anniversary Celebration on July 13 at 11 am

You are cordially invited to a special Shabbat Morning Service featuring a reading of the Inquisition-era Torah brought to America by our original settlers in 1733.

Kiddush Luncheon following service with keynote speaker Rabbi Emeritus Saul Rubin, author of *Third to None*.

Prior reservations required for luncheon.

Services

Off-Site Summer Shabbat Services, Fridays at 6:30 pm. Join us for the special summer Mickve Israel tradition of welcoming Shabbat off-site in the homes of our member families. Bring a kosher-style main dish or side item for 8-10 people and your serving utensils. Specific location information can be found online at www.mickveisrael.org.

Shabbat Morning Services, in our historic sanctuary on Saturdays at 11 am.

All Saturday services are followed by a Kiddush Lunch.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Services and special events! Sign up for our email list to have weekly event schedules sent straight to your inbox by contacting our office or by texting CMI to 42828. For more information or to RSVP for an event: contact adam@mickveisrael.org; call 912.233.1547, ext. 301; or visit www.mickveisrael.org.



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Agudath-Achim.com / Agudatha@aol.com

Pizza Spaghetti Party

Thursday, August 8th at 6:30 pm

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The search for God from Uganda to Savannah

Wednesday, August 28th at 7:30pm

Join us for a video screening of Rabbi Barkan's visit to a Jewish tribe in Uganda and a discussion of how their search for God and the Jewish people is relevant for us.



For further information contact us at 912-352-4737, or email us at agudatha@aol.com

It's A Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

Since we just finished the month of June, the traditional month for weddings, let's have a lighter look at the institution of marriage.

Sarah and Michael were celebrating their 30th anniversary. Michael announces to the guests, "Sarah and I have had a perfect marriage for all these years."

Sarah says, "That's true. Michael was a communications major in college, and I majored in theatre arts. So Michael's good at communicating and I'm good at acting like I'm listening."

A man jumps into a cab just as a downpour starts. The cabbie says, "You know, your timing is perfect. Just like Sheldon's."

"Who's Sheldon?" the passenger asks.

"Well, Sheldon's one of those guys who can do everything perfectly. Great athlete, brilliant scholar, wealthy, handsome, terrific dancer..."

"Was he a close friend of yours?"

"No," replies the cabbie. "Actually I never met him."

Then how do you know so much about him?"

"He was my wife's first husband," the cab driver said.



Melinda Stein

A young couple had just returned from their honeymoon. The bride made a call to her mother, crying, "Oh, mama! Things are awful! As soon as we got home, he started saying all these awful four letter words to me!"

"Oh, my poor darling! What words did he say?"

Sobbing, she replied, "Terrible four letter words! Dust, wash, iron, cook ..."

A newly married man asked his wife, 'Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?'

"Honey," the woman replied sweetly, "I'd have married you, no matter who left you a fortune!"

- Marriage is a three-ring circus: engagement ring, wedding ring and suffering.

- A man said his credit card was stolen but he decided not to report it because the thief was spending less than his wife did.

- A happy home is one in which each spouse grants the possibility that the other may be right, even if neither believes it.

- My wife dresses to kill. She cooks the same way.

- When a man opens the door of his

car for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: either the car is new or the wife.

- The wife says, "I married Mr. Right, but I just didn't know that his first name was Always."

- Love is a long sweet dream, and marriage the alarm clock.

- What's the best way to have your husband remember your anniversary? Get married on his birthday.

And finally, an old Yiddish proverb: Where there is love and affection, it is never too crowded or too lonely.

On the Personal Side

Mazel tov to: David and Merle Horowitz, who received the Gerald H. Cohen Community Development Award at the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta's 2013 Annual Meeting last month. Every year, the Atlanta Federation presents the award to someone who is not a native of Atlanta and who has lived there less than seven years. The recipient is selected based on their work with Federation and their participation in agency and synagogue activities.



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Karp Family Traces its History

In the past twelve months, Martin Karp has been on travels that took him on journeys of exploration of his ties to family and Israel. Last summer Martin traveled to Ukraine and Poland, the birthplaces of his mother's family and he just returned from his first trip to Israel in 25 years. We talked with him about both trips.

"My mother's family's name was Lind. They were from a town called Lemberg in Austria – my great-grandfather was an officer in the Austrian army. At the end of World War I, this town became part of Poland and became known as Lvov and at the end of World War II it became part of Ukraine and its name was changed to Lviv."

But Martin's 'immediate' family actually left the town they mostly knew as Lemberg before the borders changed. His grandparents, who were married in Austria and had three daughters, decided to leave just at the turn of the 20th century. His grandfather, who originally was from Vienna, came to the United States first. It took him a few years, but eventually he gathered his wife and daughters (one of whom was Martin's mother) and his wife's parents all together in Savannah, before the start of World War I.

Martin's grandmother and great-grandmother were careful family historians who saved all kinds of documents. Thanks to them, Martin has a fascinating collection of very old family marriage certificates, *ketubahs*, report cards (from the Catholic day school his grandmother attended in Lemberg), and a variety of correspondence between the family in Savannah and those left behind in Lemberg, later Lvov.

Martin visited Lvov (now Lviv) last summer with two of his children: daughter Karen, and son Jonathan and his family – his wife Miriam Jordan, and their twins, Daniel and Maya. (Martin's other son, Peter, and his family were not able to join them.) When Hitler invaded Poland, Lvov was a city of 300,000 people, a third of which were Jewish. Today, only a handful of Jews live there.

Martin's grandmother, Frieda, corresponded with her cousin in Lvov, Dr.



Restored Yiddish writing on the apartment building in Lvov, now marred by anti-Semitic graffiti

Isidor Fels, who was the head of the Jewish hospital there. In April 1940, Frieda received a notice from the International Red Cross in response to an inquiry about the status of her cousins, the Felses. The notice included a note from Isidor's wife Regina that Isidor had been very sick but they were alive and wished the family – and themselves – well. The notice included their address, Sloneczna 1. The family in Savannah never heard from Isidor and Regina again.

Lvov was not destroyed during the war. Jonathan Karp described how he tracked down the building where the Felses lived for them to visit: "I love maps and searching for things, so I opened Google Maps and put in the address. But it would only offer me addresses in Poland. Sloneczna was the name of the street under the Austro-Hungarians and the Poles. I searched for old Polish maps of Lemberg and then approximated the location of the street on modern-day maps. I had come across an online exhibit of Lvov by a Jewish photographer, and I used that to help corroborate what I was looking for. I also had a map of 'Jewish' addresses that had been produced by the Lviv Jewish community.

"The Ukrainian name for Sloneczna Street is Panteleimona Kulisha Street. According to the Jewish map, there had been a Jewish market at the same address as our relative's residence before World War II.

"I went back to Google Maps, zoomed in on the building and hit 'street view.' Sure enough, there was a supermarket on the ground floor. And, there was Yiddish writing on the building. Then, I noticed there was also anti-Semitic graffiti. It was chilling.

"When we visited the building, the same graffiti was there. We also learned that the building was at the start of the street known as the street of death, since it's where Jews were marched to the Lvov ghetto – half a mile away beyond the train tracks. From the building, we could also see the marvelous Jewish hospital, which is where Isidor Fels worked."

The apartment house where the Felses once lived still is an apartment house. The hospital where Isidor Fels practiced still is a hospital, though no longer a Jewish hospital.

In a restaurant across the street from the Felses' apartment house, Martin and Jonathan enjoyed seeing old photographs on display stamped with the name of the same photographer whose portraits of Martin's family are in his home in Savannah.

The Karp family also went to Poland where they toured Warsaw and Krakow and made a somber visit to Auschwitz. Martin said that it is amazing to see how Warsaw has been rebuilt, that clearly there has been a lot of prosperity in Poland recently.

While in Israel a few weeks ago, Martin and his son Jonathan used a visit to Yad Vashem to research the fate of some of his mother's relatives from Lvov. But the Karp family (this time without Karen, who was back home in New York, and Daniel, who was studying in Spain) had gone to Israel for a much happier purpose – to attend the wedding of the daughter of Jonathan's longtime friend from college, Israeli ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren.

"I hadn't been to Israel in 25 years. I'm 83 and I'm not sure when I will



(l-r) Jonathan, Martin, Daniel, Karen & Maya Karp, Miriam Jordan in Warsaw

go again," Martin said with a smile. "I could not get over the vibrance and robustness of the country. It was phenomenal to see all the construction in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

"I felt very secure and safe everywhere we went. Whatever it takes to make the country secure, that's what they do. We never felt threatened."

Martin talked about how they toured the Israeli countryside, traveling north through the Jordan Valley to Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee. "We viewed the Golan Heights that for all those years Syria just let sit there. Now the area is booming with activity and farming. The land is flourishing with vineyards, olives, hay and corn." (And talking about security, he said they even saw a drone in a storage hanger they drove past.)

Other highlights of the trip to Israel included a stop at Mishmar Ha'emek, the kibbutz where his daughter-in-law Miriam had once lived. While the kibbutz movement has undergone many changes over the years and few kibbutzim exist as they used to, Martin said that Mishmar Ha'emek, a plastics manufacturer, continues to thrive, and they enjoyed their time there. Their visit to the recently renovated Israel Museum in Jerusalem also stood out for Martin. "It's fabulous," he said.

And the wedding? "It was very nice. You really felt like you were in Israel. It was on a beautiful organic farm outside of Jerusalem. Of course Jonathan and I were the only ones who showed up in ties."



Don't miss the chance to include your holiday wishes in the next issue of the Savannah Jewish News!



Jonathan, Martin, Miriam & Maya in the Old City of Jerusalem

Download the Holiday Greetings Order Form at www.savj.org

Holiday greeting due date: August 12th

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