

Happy Passover! In This Issue

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- Vital Statistics, p15
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Featured Stories

Keeping the Memory of the Holocaust Alive
Local Holocaust survivors Chaim Melamed and Vera Hoffman are often to be found telling others of their experiences. A local student writes about one of their visits to his school; p4

Passover Seders Are Alike and Different
Seders, by definition, follow a set order. The SJN explores ways that people in Savannah use a little creativity in the kitchen and at the table to make their Seders their own; p6

birthright Israel Trip Can Make a Difference
Laura Hollander recently went to Israel on a birthright Israel journey and rediscovered her traditions. Her story is a testament to what birthright is all about; p11.

Yom HaShoah, May 1st Readings, Reflections, Remembrances

With dwindling numbers of Holocaust survivors, Savannah and the rest of the world are faced with the reality that it is vitally important to listen to their stories and learn from them so that we can pass the knowledge and the understanding of what happened to them to future generations. It is our duty to make sure that the world knows what happened and to see to it that it will

never happen again.

Lisa Kaminsky and Sue Adler, co-chairs of the 2008 Yom HaShoah Observance Committee, along with the rest of the committee members, have been very busy coordinating this year's program, An Evening of Readings, Reflections and Remembrances, which will take place on Thursday, May 1, at the JEA at 7:00pm. The program will feature local students and participants of all ages presenting special readings, poems and dialogues about the Holocaust, including original works, in a moving tribute to 6,000,000 Jews who perished in the Holocaust and the victims who survived to bear witness.

Also part of the program that evening will be a memorial candle lighting ceremony with the local Holocaust survivors and their families; the traditional children's procession; the presentation of the winners of the student writing and art contests; and a special Yellow Candle lighting ceremony.

In addition to the program on



1957 gathering of Holocaust survivors who settled in Savannah. l-r, top row: Nadja Schonthal, Jerry Krause; 2nd row: Sabina Widawski, Susan Widawski, Bela Weinberg, Joe Schonthal, Godel Weinberg; front row: Esther Krause, Maryla Melamed, Nathan Widawski, Bronia Golcman

Continued on Page 4

You Are Cordially Invited
To Join the JEA & Savannah Jewish Federation
At a Reception for
Adam Solender & Sarah Denmark
Please mark your calendars and come help us officially
welcome to Savannah our new Executive Director and his family
Wednesday, April 30th
5 - 7 pm
JEA Art Gallery

2008 SJF Campaign Wrapping Up

The Savannah Jewish Federation's annual campaign is the final stages for this year and clean up on the outstanding gifts is underway. While the campaign achievement now stands at more than 1.2 million dollars, Lynn Levine, Director of the Federation, said that, as reported last month, it appears the allocations process will begin in early April with about \$100,000 less to distribute this year.

Michael Kooden, General Chair of the 2008 Campaign, said: "I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone again for your generosity. We recognize that these are somewhat uncertain times for the economy, but that means that the people who depend on us for support and assistance will need us more than ever. It is never too late to help. If you have not pledged a gift for this year but would like to make sure we maintain services for our community and our fellow Jews around the world, please contact Lynn (355-8111 or lynn@savj.org) as soon as possible so that we may record your support. Your gift is our future."



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SAVANNAH, GA

From Savannah to Havana

By Cookie Gale

After months of collecting clothing, medication, and toiletries for our humanitarian mission to Cuba, 25 members of Congregation Mickve Israel and 15 members of Savannah's First Baptist Church arrived at the airport on Tuesday, February 19th, for our weeklong adventure. The trip had an added dimension as Fidel Castro announced his resignation early that morning. Family members were calling our cell phones wanting to know if we were still going and would we be safe. The mission was on, but what would transpire was



Julie Hirsch prepares to sing with a group of Cubans

unknown. A plethora of contrasting feelings were circulating, especially ex-

Continued on Page 9



2008 Federation Campaign Achievement Update

\$1,210,418

Our Goal: \$1,600,000

Live Generously - Your Gift is Our Future

Popular Cookbook Author in Savannah

Susie Fishbein, famed author of the Kasher by Design cookbook se-

ries, wowed fifty Savannah women with her recipes and techniques at a Bnai Brith Jacob Sisterhood fundraiser on Monday, March 17th. Susie and a team of helpers officially broke in Debbie Rotkow's new kitchen as they prepped all afternoon for the demonstration and tasting that evening. Susie shared tips and recipes, including old favorites and new recipes from her latest book, *Passover by Design*, of which each attendee received a signed a copy.



Susie Fishbein demonstrates how to prepare her beautiful Salmon Primavera



All events are provided with generous funding by your Savannah Jewish Federation

Savannah Jewish Federation will advertise your organization's events occurring 2008-2009 that are in keeping with our theme:
Israel at 60: Then, Now and Beyond
 Submit to our calendar of great events or find out how to get involved or participate in any of these at Eyal@savj.org or by calling 912-355-8111

A Calendar of Extraordinary Events that Celebrate a Unique Country

ISRAEL AND ME ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Now - April 15 at the JEA

Tell your stories as a gift to Israel and Savannah! Come in and have your story of connection to the land of Israel become part of our Savannah history. Stories from pre-statehood to recent adventures will be selected for a mini-documentary film to be shown on May 18th. Sponsored by MorningStar Cultural Arts Group.

ISRAELI FILM SERIES

Every Other Thursday at the JEA

Award winning films from various perspectives. *Sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein.* Desperado Square, March 6; Fictitious Marriage, March 20.

YOM HAZIKARON/ISRAELI MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Wednesday, May 7, at 7 p.m. at the JEA

Join in the community observance of Israeli Memorial Day and commemorate the loss of Israeli soldiers who died fighting for their country.

ISRAEL AT 60 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 18th at Forsyth Park: Noon to 4!

Participate in a day devoted to fun, education and food while checking out advances in culture, technology and science. Hear a five piece band, Pharaoh's Daughter. All free. No cost involved.

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Susie Fishbein is helped with preparations by Sally Sanders and Sisterhood President Joanne Kooden



Micah Feldman
 Architect of Operation Solomon
 known as "Abba Micha"
Israeli Father of Ethiopian Jewry

*When Micah Feldman
 wants to know
 what's happening in the
 Jewish community
 of Savannah
 he reads
 The Savannah
 Jewish News*

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Make your connection at the Savannah Jewish Federation

- Israel @ 60 Celebration
- Jewish Family Services
- Trading Places
- Social and Educational Opportunities
- Yom HaShoah Observance
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Shalom Savannah

**To find out more
 Call Lynn at 355-8111
 and sign up for the
 weekly Federation email
 by sending an email request to
 adam@savj.org**

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Attempting to Overcome the Past

I went to Israel for a visit over Purim. The same week I was there, Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, came to Israel on an official visit with half of her cabinet members. This visit is the pinnacle in relations between Germany and Israel after World War II. While there, Chancellor Merkel announced that Germany is now a strategic partner of Israel and she spoke to the Israeli Parliament.

Not many foreign leaders receive the great honor of being invited to carry their words to the Israeli Parliament, and even fewer are invited to do it in their native language, in this case, German.

To us as Jews, the German language is more than just one of the major languages in the world. For a lot of Jewish people, German is the language of the Holocaust, of terrible killers.

On the day of her speech, the radio stations in Israel were full of debates over the decision to allow Merkel to speak in her native language. One former Minister of Education advocated that while for some people the German language is almost normal, "for the Holocaust survivors that live among us, this is the language of their killers and the background of death." He argued that even if only one Holocaust survivor found himself offended by the speech

being given in German, then it should be made in English. On the other hand, a Knesset member, Moshe Sharoni, himself a Holocaust survivor, argued that it was not the language that committed murder, it was people.

Merkel opened her speech in Hebrew by thanking the Knesset for the opportunity to speak to them in German. [Some members of Knesset boycotted the speech.] She talked about the firm commitment of Germany for Israel, the need to stop Iran from getting an atomic bomb, and the need to bring back the kidnapped Israeli soldiers. She also wished Israel a happy 60th anniversary and concluded her speech by wishing Israel peace, again in Hebrew.

Standing on the edge of the 60th anniversary for the state of Israel, with Israel facing some great challenges with many issues that need to be taken care of, this speech reflected many of Israel's achievements — that it has become a safe home and a strong supporter for all Jews, that it is a country with a strong, global economy, and it is a country that is a great source of art and culture.



Eyal Blank,
Community
Shaliach

Supporting Each Other

Our lives and experiences as Jews in America are constantly changing and the Federation movement must constantly deal with keeping up with this change. Its success can be measured by the ability of Federation leadership to confront the changing needs of the Jewish people and to develop strategies, fund new programs, and support existing institutions capable of meeting the new challenges. Its long-term ability to attract human and financial resources is sustained by its ability to provide leadership and to understand the community's needs.

Our challenges today are similar to the challenges of the past, but at the same time they are radically different. As always, we have a deep concern for the needs of vulnerable Jews here and throughout the world and we have a strong commitment to improving and funding Jewish education in many forms. What has changed is the sense of community upon which the Federation was built. In previous generations our community was built on a shared ethnic heritage learned from immigrant parents and grandparents. These values supported and directed our community, synagogues, and communal aid organizations. At its start, our Federation mechanism focused on the all-consuming task of meeting the basic needs of our people and helping the first generations of immigrants integrate into American society. The last thirty years were focused on meeting the critical challenges of rescuing Jews throughout the world and supporting the State of Israel.

We now are confronting a dramatic change. Our understanding of and commitment to Jewish culture, values, history, and learning have deteriorated under the impact of modernity and assimilation. Without our identity, without a self-conscious sense of community, it is very difficult to overcome the challenges that confront Judaism. Our challenge today must include the development of partnerships that create, sustain, and re-establish the sense of community, the shared values, and the common culture that make real communities meaningful, vibrant, and viable.

Our challenge today is not all that different from the challenge that confronted the wave of immigrants at

the beginning of the 1900s; like them, we have an opportunity to meet newly emerging needs. We have a responsibility to reach out, to engage a new group that is not yet a true part of our community. Over the past ten years, hundreds of new Jewish people have made the greater Savannah area their home. One hundred years ago that "new group" was an immigrant population; today this "new group" includes uncommitted and committed Jews who know little about the Savannah Jewish community. They come from large communities like Chicago, Philadelphia and New York where sheer numbers create Yiddishkeit.

Strong communities are built on common values and a common history, which together, become the "memory" of the community. We are trying to build a "new community memory," built on a proud heritage and foundation with an aim at being relevant to new and old alike. The Savannah Jewish Federation is taking a critical look in the mirror and is considering new paradigms in funding and programming. One of the outward manifestations is the Savannah Jewish News, which features the vast diversity of programming and interests throughout the area. We recognize our responsibility to expand and intensify our support of Synagogue life, the primary point of engagement with Jewish tradition and observance. We welcome your input as we work to improve the paper.

As diverse as the Savannah Jewish community is, a set of core beliefs and an agenda are emerging around which the vast majority of Jews can agree: the basic values of Torah — studied in serious Jewish learning; Chesed — kindness and caring for Jews (and all others) here, in Israel, and throughout the world; and Tikun Olam — social justice and the possibility of a rebuilt world for our Jewish people and for all mankind.

You can become a part of our new collective memory: Volunteer for a Federation committee, come to the many community events. Together we can make a difference.



Adam Solender

Anyone interested in advertising in the Savannah Jewish News should call Midge Schildkraut at 355-1839 or email her at mschildk@bellsouth.net.

ATTENTION: ALL GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE SENIORS

We'd like the whole community to celebrate your graduation from high school and/or college.

As a special feature in the June issue of the Savannah Jewish News, we will be publishing pictures and bios of all graduating Jewish high school seniors and college seniors.

Please secure one of our forms at the JEA, complete it and bring it back to the JEA along with your picture (please write your name on the back of your picture) before or by May 1, 2008

You can bring it in yourself to the JEA
(or have your parents drop it off)

or mail it to us at
Savannah Jewish News
5111 Abercorn Street,
Savannah, GA 31405

If you have any questions, Midge Schildkraut
at 355-1839 (home) or mschildk@bellsouth.net.

Forms are available at the front desk of the JEA.

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Yom HaShoah..... cont. from page 1

the evening of May 1, there are a number of other events planned at the JEA to mark the observance of Yom HaShoah:

- The names of victims of the Holocaust will be read throughout the day at the JEA, beginning at 9:00am to 9:00pm on May 1st. If you are interested in participating in the readings, please contact Lynn Levine (355-8111 or lynnn@savj.org).

- During the week of Yom HaShoah we will once again host a Holocaust Book Fair in the lobby of the JEA from Wednesday, April 30 through Monday, May 5. All kinds of books about the Holocaust will be available for purchase — literature, history, even a survivors' cookbook. Student art works also will be on display.

- The special Yellow Candle memorial candles are on sale now at the JEA (\$9 each) and will be available for purchase until Yom HaShoah. Everyone is encouraged to purchase one to be lit at home as a yahrtzeit tribute to the 6,000,000 or to bring it with you to the program the evening of May 1st and

participate in a special ceremony with the rest of the community. Proceeds from the sale of the Yellow Candles will be used to help establish a lending library of books and videos about the Holocaust for local researchers and educators.

- On Sunday, May 4th, there will be a showing of the documentary film, Angel of Ahlem, which tells the story of how in 1995, Vernon Tott saw a notice in a veterans' newsletter from someone trying to find a GI who had photographed the liberation of the Ahlem concentration camp 50 years earlier. Tott realized he was the photographer, pulled out the photos that had been in a shoebox in his basement, contacted the survivor and then began a fevered quest to find each survivor in his photos before his own demise. His journey took him across the United States and Europe and resulted in an unbreakable bond between this Midwestern Gentile and a small group of Holocaust survivors. Angel of Ahlem will be screened at the JEA at 11:00 am — coffee and bagels will be served — followed by a

panel discussion with local survivors and Ben Sieradski, one of the survivors photographed that day by Tott and featured in the film. (A second screening of the film will take place after the panel discussion for those not able to attend the earlier showing.)

In addition to planning for the annual Yom HaShoah observance, co-chair Lisa Kaminsky has been busy the last few months going with her grandfather, Chaim Melamed, a Holocaust survivor, to visit local schools and colleges where Chaim, often joined by Vera Hoffman, another local survivor, tells the students and young adults of

the horrors of the Holocaust and the lessons to be learned from it. (See the accompanying story about their visit to Richmond Hill High School.) They find that both the students and faculty are very engaged by their discussions and frequently ask for more time and information.

The local Yom HaShoah observance is a program of the Savannah Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council, who invites everyone to participate in the program this year to honor the survivors who are part of our community and to honor the memory of the 6,000,000.

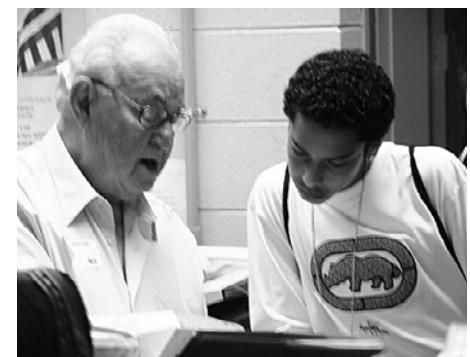
Holocaust History Lives at RHHS

by Stephen Hundley

Richmond Hill High School 10th graders were granted a once in a lifetime experience when Holocaust survivors Chaim Melamed and Vera Hoffman visited with a small group of students on March 4th. Chaim and Vera spoke with students on everything from the time before the war, to the concentration camps, to their eventual liberation. Mr. Melamed brought up several times that there was simply not enough time to truly explain everything. He explained that he could easily talk for ten hours just telling his personal story. He kept saying that he didn't know where to begin as there was just so much that happened, and so much that needed to be said. I am having similar feelings as I attempt to explain all he and Mrs. Hoffman talked about.

Chaim and Vera began by telling the audience background about themselves such as where they were born, and what their life was like before war broke out in Europe. Both expressed strongly that they had felt no different than anyone else before the war, and the extreme confusion that they felt when they began to be discriminated against by people who had, but weeks before, been their friends. Mr. Melamed lived in Poland, the first country to fall to Hitler and his Nazis, whereas Hungarian Vera didn't see any hostile Germans for some time afterwards. But no matter when the horrors of the war came, they were always sudden and unexpected, leaving the now ostracized and oppressed people asking themselves, "What happened?"

Both survivors spoke of the horrors of the terribly overcrowded ghettos, and the infamous 'cattle cars' in which they were transported from place to place. In fact, Chaim alleged that anyone who experienced the Holocaust could tell you virtually the same thing as the horrors were so widespread. Mr. Melamed touched thoroughly on the concentration camps, such as Auschwitz where he was held for a time, where Jewish people along with other targeted ethnicities were systematically exterminated, calling them 'factories of death.' Chaim, in reference to all the atrocities being performed in Europe, said: "Germany's main industry was killing Jews, and they killed 10,000 a day." But I believe the most powerful image that Mr. Melamed used was the fact that out of



Chaim Melamed with RHHS student Melvin Neeley

the 6,250 people that lived in the village where he was born, he is the sole survivor. To think that entire town's populations were just erased, for lack of a better word, is something truly unnerving, and almost too unreal, to someone who hasn't experienced a tragedy of such magnitude, to comprehend.

What I liked best about Chaim and Vera's presentation is that they left a large amount of time for students to ask questions. This allowed the students to not only learn more about particular points of interest that they had, but to better bond with the survivors and grasp the fact that this really happened, and these people were there. I believe it's easy to detach oneself and not fully understand the brutal reality of the Holocaust and similar tragedies when you simply watch movies, or read about them in school. I personally believe that if you don't experience something like that, you will never truly understand the audacity of it, but talking to someone who was there could, and has, brought students many steps closer to understanding what actually happened; these are real people who have been through this, not just statistics in a textbook.

The main reason Chaim and Vera do this, touring the Coastal Empire teaching teens and other age groups about the terrors of the Holocaust, is to prevent it from ever happening again. They both expressed a great deal of concern for the situation in Darfur and other areas of the world where virtually the same thing is happening. When asked if they thought another Holocaust could happen they immediately said that yes, it could easily happen if we do not learn from our mistakes and move forward as a worldwide com-

Continued on Page 7

Toda Rabah!

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Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

Chaim Melamed: Holocaust Survivor

"... it took me years before I could smile. But I had a child, I had a family, I had to think of tomorrow, not yesterday and we learned to live again."

Chaim Melamed was born on March 10, 1925 in Zelechow, Poland. In December 1939, his family was ordered to move to the Lodz ghetto. Chaim, his sisters Fruma and Sarah, his youngest brother Srulke and his parents shared a one-room apartment with no electricity. While living in the ghetto, Melamed's father died of pneumonia and his sister Fruma died of complications from giving blood to their father during his illness. In 1942, his sister Sarah got married and moved out of the house leaving Melamed with his mother and brother.



Chaim and Maryla Melamed lighting candles for the victims of the Holocaust during Savannah's Yom Hashoah memorial in 2001.

In August of 1944, Melamed and his family were sent to Auschwitz. The following is from Melamed's oral history interview and recounts his experience from imprisonment in Auschwitz to liberation eight months later:

Josef Mengela separated me from my mother and brother Joseph. As I worked in the shower building, I turned, saw my sister Sarah working for Josef Mengela. It was there that

the last time I saw my mother, sister Sarah, and my youngest brother Srulke. I was only in Auschwitz Birkenau 10-12 days. From there I was sent with 1025 prisoners outside of Hanover Germany. We worked in a place called Continental Ryfen Tire Company. We produced tires, hoses and the like for the German army. Two months later we were sent to Ahlem, Germany. By this time we were 350 minus. Those died from starvation, cold, shot for no reason, except being Jews. In Ahlem we worked in a mine trying to build parts for a German tanks. Late in March 1945, minus another 450 which came in during that time and then died. Hungarian Jews arrived in the meantime. Another 400 prisoners who received the same fate as the other 350 prisoners, marched out to Bergen-Belsen. Many prisoners died during the three-day march...

We were liberated on April 15, 1945, by the British army. Out of this 1025 prisoners left from Birkenau in September 1944, only 73 survived. I was 20 years old and weighed 80 pounds...

After being liberated in 1945 Melamed resided in several places in Germany before permanently resettling in Savannah in 1949 with his wife, Maryla, and 18 month old daughter. Over the years he worked at Bargain Corner, Chatham Motors, and Gary's Package Shop. He has a son, 4 grand children, and 2 great-grand children. Chaim Melamed has been involved in Savannah's Yom Hashoah memorial since 1951.

Archives references:

Chaim Melamed oral history interview, 2006 (JOH 118)

General photograph collection, JVM 003, 2740.

CERTIFIED MOHEL

Rabbi Yerucham Schochet

Phone: (912) 355-6684

Cell: (912) 220-2821

E-mail: schochetfam@yahoo.com

Plans Revealed for Congregation Mickve Israel's and the Savannah Jewish Community's 275th Anniversary Weekend

On the weekend of July 11-13, 2008, Congregation Mickve Israel and the Savannah Jewish community will celebrate the arrival of the first Jewish settlers in Savannah. Those forty-one Jews, who braved a trans-Atlantic crossing from London on a small storm-tossed ship called the William and Sarah, were responsible for founding the first Jewish community in Georgia and the third oldest Jewish congregation in what was to become the United States of America.

To mark this historic anniversary, Mickve Israel congregants are planning a weekend of events to which the entire Savannah Jewish community is invited. Additionally, hundreds of descendants of those first settlers have been located throughout the United States and are being invited to participate.

The weekend will begin on Friday with an organ recital in the sanctuary. There will be several opportunities for participants to enjoy guided tours of the sanctuary and museum. Additionally, there will be trolley tours of Jewish Savannah, including the Levi Sheftall and Mordecai Sheftall cemeteries, where Jewish burials started in the 1770s.

Shabbat services will be held Friday evening and Saturday morning. The

historic 1733 Torah will be used for the morning service, and descendants will be recognized at this time. After services, there will be a Kiddush luncheon at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto Hotel.

The celebratory events will include a reception and dinner with Havdalah service at the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center. Presentations, speakers, and entertainment will be part of this evening of celebration.

The culmination of the weekend will be a Sunday brunch in honor of the descendants of Savannah's first Jewish settlers.

More information will be announced soon about how the community can participate in the various weekend events.

Each member of the Jewish community is invited to reserve a space in the 275th Legacy Journal. Your space can be filled with multigenerational photographs of your family and group photographs of friends. Participants are encouraged to design their own spaces, or they can submit their photographs along with a congratulatory statement for the journal staff to design. If you have any questions about the journal and the process, please call the temple at 912.233.1547.



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Passover Seders Are Alike and Different

Passover Seders are held throughout the world and are similar because the seder, or order of happenings, is prescribed. However, each Seder can also be different because the people who plan them may have developed their own family traditions: a way to prepare food differently or to implement the Seder in a different way. As each generation tells the story, new traditions get passed down.

For example, Rabbi Arnold Mark and Arlene Belzer hold their Seder in a tent, as they have for a few years, because of the number of people they invite to join them. Arlene also chooses to prepare some of the food she serves in a different manner. See her recipes below for Sephardic Haroset, Leek and Meat Croquettes, Tangy Chili Sauce and Passover Bagels.

Beginning when their children were younger, Richard and Merry Bodziner, both past presidents of the Savannah Jewish Federation, have made their Seder more interesting and exciting for children and the adults by illustrating the ten plagues when they get to that part of the service. They

throw ping pong balls when the hail is mentioned and artificial bugs (a treasured dime store find) when the locusts are mentioned. Merry credits their daughter Lisa, who is student teaching in Atlanta now, with coming up with the ideas to make the Seder more entertaining. And now the tradition continues for the Bodziners' godchildren, the Brauns, who come and enjoy the Seder, said Merry.

Many years ago Julie and Norman Hirsch also added Sephardic foods and songs in Ladino to their family Seders. In addition to singing "Echad Mi Yodea?" the family sings "Ken Su Piense?", the Ladino (or Judeo-Espanol/Judizmo) version. They eat Huevos Haminados instead of plain boiled eggs and also have switched to Sephardic versions of charoset. They've added Pescado con Huevo y Limon (fish in lemon sauce) to the table to be served alongside the family's annual pot roast made with Manischewitz grape wine! In recent years they've also made the Passover story come alive for their grandchildren by helping them act out the Pesach story in

play form (with homemade costumes). Now, when Julie and Norman are able to gather family from various states, the grandchildren are assigned roles in the play along with a "supporting cast" of adults. Included with this story are pictures from their "play" last year.

The current Savannah Jewish Federation president, Joel Greenberg, and his wife, Carol, have always collected different Haggadot (books used at the ordered service in which the story is told) and often have put them on display for their guests' enjoyment. Though some of their haggadot are artistic, or historic, not all are user friendly, and, until recently, the



Left to right, all the characters in the Passover play are Jason Price, Steve Phillips, Talia Price, Johathan Hirsch, Lindsay Hirsch and Michael Hirsch. Jason, Talia, Lindsay and Michael are the Hirschs' grandchildren. Steve Phillips is their son-in-law and husband to their daughter, Abby, and Jonathan is their son.

ones actually used for their numerous guests were the ones they grew up with which told the story, but offered little expanded enlightenment. Every year they seemed to be adding something: special prayers for Jewish communities around the world that Joel adds and additional printed materials that Carol found to make the seder more inclusive, such as the addition of prayers for including Miriam's Cup, which is filled not with wine, but with water. As the coordination of all the extra materials became too confusing, Joel, after careful research, invested in a set of new interactive haggadot with expanded explanations and song sections. As part of their new tradition, each year Joel tailors the additional readings offered in their new haggadot for the ages and needs of the guests expected at their table.

The use of a Miriam's Cup began some years ago to honor the continuity of traditions and faith provided by the women which was and is so essential to

the survival of the Jewish people. It is named for the prophetess, Miriam to honor her role in the Exodus from Egypt. The styles and customs for using Miriam's Cup in the Seder can be found easily on the internet and in many newer haggadot. Carol added, "To continue new traditions is easy. We presented our children with not only an Elijah's but also a Miriam's Cup for them to use when they conduct their own Seders this year at school. Now it is their turn to tell the story."

Sephardic Haroset

- (Makes 2 cups)
1 cup (or more) raisins soaked in hot water—do this first as it takes about 15 minutes
1 large orange, cut into pieces—with peels
1 lb pitted dates
½ cup sugar
½ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ cup sweet wine (or more)
2 apples—peeled and cored
1 pkg dried apricots
1 pkg prunes or prunes with orange essence
1 pkg chopped walnuts (you can toast walnuts first in a teflon pan if you wish)
1. In medium size saucepan combine all ingredients except the walnuts. Cook over low heat, stirring often, until soft—about 20-25 minutes. Add more wine to keep from sticking. Remove from heat and let cool. Add walnuts and blend all ingredients in food processor including orange peel.
2. Cover and refrigerate; serve at room temperature.

Leek and Meat Croquettes

- 1 lb leeks
oil for frying
1.5 lbs lean ground beef
½ tsp salt
1 egg
¼ cup matza meal (or more to make patties firm)
1/8 tsp ground cinnamon
dash ground allspice
1 small can tomato sauce (use a few tablespoons at a time—you don't want patties too loose)
2 Tbsp fresh mint, chopped
1. Wash leeks well, cut, and discard roots. Cut remaining parts in half lengthwise and then into 1 ½-inch slices.
2. Fry leeks in oil, for about 10 minutes, until wilted.
3. Let cool and add to ground beef along with other ingredients, and mix well.
4. Shape into small, thin patties and fry in oil.
5. Drain on paper towels.

Serve with Tangy Chili Sauce (recipe below).

- Tangy Chili Sauce (makes 1 cup)
1/2 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
2 large garlic cloves, chopped
7 Tbsp white distilled vinegar
3½ Tbsp sugar
¼ cup water
1 tsp dried crushed red pepper flakes
1¼ tsp potato starch mixed with 1½ tsp cold water

1. Process bell pepper, garlic, vinegar, sugar, water, and chili flakes in food processor until smooth.
2. Add to small non-reactive pan and simmer for about 7 minutes, skimming once or twice.
3. Whisk in potato starch mixture and cook for another minute. Cool to room temperature. Makes about 1 cup.

Passover Bagels

- 2 cups water
1 cup oil
2 heaping cups matzo meal
pinch salt
6 eggs
½ cup sugar

1. Boil together 2 cups of water and 1 cup oil and bring to a fast boil.
2. Remove from heat and while hot add 2 heaping cups of matzo meal and a pinch of salt.
3. Let stand until cool; place in refrigerator until mixture gets very cold.
4. Add 6 eggs, one at a time.
5. Add ½ cup sugar.
6. Grease a pan well.
7. Using a teaspoon, make balls and place on greased pan.
8. Make holes in the balls for a bagel shape by dipping pinky finger in oil each time, for hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for about 25 minutes.

Huevos Haminados (in place of plain, boiled eggs) from Julie Hirsch

Two weeks before Pesach, ask your vegetable person in the market to save onion skins for you in plastic bags. Two good sized bags should do. The ones from the dark onions are the best.

- 1 dozen eggs
1/4 cup olive or salad oil
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
outer skins from 8 to 10 brown or red onions
water to cover

Place a heavy layer of onion skins on the bottom of a Dutch oven. Add eggs carefully, so as not to crack them. Cover with the rest of the onion skins, oil, salt and pepper and water to cover. Bring to a boil over low heat for about one hour. Place the pan in a 225 degree oven for 3 to 4 hours or overnight (I do overnight). Cool, remove and shell. The eggs will be colored and "perfumed" with onion. I make them a day ahead so my kitchen can air out! My family will no longer permit me to make our "old" plain, boiled eggs.



GSU Scholarship Available From Statesboro Hebrew Congregation

The Statesboro Hebrew Congregation is currently giving an \$800 scholarship to a Jewish student attending Georgia Southern University. The restrictions on awarding the scholarship are the recipient must be Jewish and a full time freshman at GSU. There are no academic requirements and receiving the scholarship has no bearing on other scholarships like the Hope Scholarship.

The congregation gives the schol-

arship initially to a person residing in Bulloch County, then an adjoining county and then to a person residing in Chatham County.

Awarded for the first time this past year, the scholarship was given to Rose Gringer from Statesboro. She is the daughter of Jerry Gringer and Sandra Rosenberg.

For information about the scholarship, call John or Cindi Kohn at 912-690-1456.

Area Youth To Participate In Jr. Olympic Skills Competition at JEA

Local youngsters between the ages of 8 and 13 have the opportunity to participate in the Jr. Olympic Skills Competition. This free grassroots youth participation program allows boys and girls, competing separately, the opportunity to showcase their athletic abilities in four (4) athletic events – basketball, soccer, tennis, and track & field. The program is designed to encourage youth participation in sports while promoting sportsmanship.

All four sporting events of the Jr. Olympic Skills Competition will be hosted by the JEA on May 4th. The basketball competition will begin promptly at Noon in the JEA gym. The tennis competition will be held in

the racquetball courts at 1pm, soccer on the back field at 2pm, and track & field in the back area at approximately 3pm. Participants may register on the day of the event.

Champions from this Local Qualifying Event will advance to one of the Regional Competitions across the country in hopes of advancing to the National Finals. The Regional Competition for this area is in Springfield, GA. For more information visit the web at www.jrolympicsskills.com.

Volunteers are also needed to help administer the competition. If you are interested, please contact Dawn Tanis at the JEA at 355-8111 or email dawn@savj.org.

Worldwide Shoah Memoirs Collection Started in Electronic Form

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany is establishing this month a Worldwide Shoah Memoirs Collection in electronic form. Included are previously unpublished or unavailable memoirs written by survivors of the Holocaust. Elie Wiesel is serving as Honorary Chairman. Joining in the effort are Yad Vashem, the U. S. Holocaust Memori-

al Museum, the Memorial de la Shoah/Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine, the Jewish Historical Institute and the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Project.

All survivors and their families are encouraged to participate by submitting a manuscript. Additional information can be found at <http://Memoirs.claimscon.org>.

Crime Victims Rights Week Kick-off To Feature Film and Panel Discussion at JEA

“Hiding in Plain Sight: Sexual Predators among Us” will be the topic of the local Crime Victims Rights Week kick-off at 7 pm, Monday, April 14, at the JEA.

Part of a film about the devastation caused by a predator who molested dozens, perhaps hundreds, of boys in at least three states and five countries will be shown. Featured is an adult survivor who discusses how the molester insinuated himself into the boy's life and manipulated the child and family for his own twisted

purposes. The survivor also shares the emotional anguish, substance abuse and delinquent behavior that resulted from his abuse.

Following the film, a panel of local experts will discuss issues related to sexual abuse and child protection.

The event, sponsored by the Savannah-Chatham Family Violence Council, is free and open to the public. Parents are particularly invited to attend. For more information, please call the Coastal Children's Advocacy Center at 236-1401.

RHHS.....cont. from page 5
community. Because of this, their plan is to teach and enlighten the young world of its horrific past, so that it may remain just that, the past.

I cannot thank Chaim and Vera enough for coming to RHHS. I feel personally honored to have been able to hear them speak, and I know it's something that the students will treasure for the rest of their lives and without doubt

learn from. For in the future it will be up to our generation to stop things like the Holocaust from happening again. I believe Chaim put it best when he said, “It's your world now.”

Stephen Hundley is a 17 year-old junior at Richmond Hill High School. He writes a weekly page for the Bryan County News and hopes to be a professional journalist one day. He is the son of Mike and Sheri Hundley.

MYTHS AND FACTS

A Guide to the Arab – Israeli Conflict

By Mitchell G. Bard

MYTH

“Israel's enemies must recognize the Jewish state's right to exist.”

FACT

Whenever Israel has been asked to negotiate with one of its enemies, one condition that is often presented is that Israel's right to exist be recognized. When, for example, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to lift the longtime ban on negotiations with the PLO, Yasser Arafat was first required to write a letter renouncing terrorism and recognizing Israel's right to exist. Israel subsequently began what came to be known as the Oslo peace process. Of course, it turned out the “recognition” was largely meaningless as Arafat continued to support violence aimed at undermining Israel's existence.

Since the Hamas takeover of Gaza, some people, including Israeli and American officials, have conditioned talks with that terrorist group on its recognition of Israel. As in the case of the PLO, such a statement would mean little without corresponding deeds. To date, Hamas has explicitly said it has no intention of ever recognizing Israel's right to exist and has repeatedly said it is committed to Israel's destruction.

Even Mahmoud Abbas, who is often referred to as a “moderate,” has made clear that he does not recognize Israel as a Jewish state. This has not deterred Israeli officials from negotiating with him because they understand that Israel's future depends on their ability to reach an agreement with the Palestinians and other neighbors that ensures Israel's security whether the Arabs or Muslims acknowledge the Jews' right to statehood or not.

Most people have forgotten Abba Eban's wise admonition made more than 25 years ago: “Nobody does Israel any service by proclaiming its ‘right to exist.’ Israel's right to exist, like that of the United States, Saudi Arabia and 152 other states, is axiomatic and unreserved. Israel's legitimacy is not suspended in midair awaiting acknowledgement...There is certainly no other state, big or small, young or old, that would consider mere recognition of its ‘right to exist’ a favor, or a negotiable concession.”

Myths and Facts is brought to you as a service of the Community Relations Council of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

Affiliate with a Congregation.

You, the congregation, and the Jewish community benefit when you do



- **YOU GET** the Jewish enrichment and spirituality you are seeking
- **YOU GET** the rabbinical support you need in times of joy and sorrow
- **YOU RECONNECT** with your community and your Jewish roots
- **YOU CAN PARTICIPATE** in a variety of services, classes, and programs that keep Judaism alive and flourishing in Savannah
- **THE CONGREGATION IS THE INSTITUTION** that has sustained the Jewish people for two millennia throughout the world. Conservative, Reform, or Orthodox our Jewish community wins when you join the congregation of your choice.



The Savannah Jewish Federation encourages you to affiliate



and savor freedom as it has been done every year as spring once again heralds the time to gather round the table to recall ancestors



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2008

Speaker's Series



Sunday, April 13, 2008
7:30 PM
at the JEA

Arab Moderate Voice—Are There Any and Why Can't We Hear Them?

Bret Stephens

Wall Street Journal Editorial Board

Tickets: \$10 at the Door, \$5 for Students,
FREE for Military.

The 2008 Speakers Series is made possible with generous support from the JEA Phillip Hoffman Memorial Fund of the Savannah Jewish Community Foundation, The Savannah Jewish Federation and members of the community.

AASU Brings Jazz Ensemble To The "J"

Armstrong Atlantic State University
Jazz Ensemble
Randall Reese, Director
Tuesday, April 15th at 7:30 p.m.
At the JEA

This fun event features the AASU eighteen-piece student jazz ensemble. The program will be a mix of historic and contemporary music for *big band* which includes selections from groups such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Stan Kenton; -60/70's groups like Thad Jones-Mel Lewis; and modern/contemporary groups such as the big bands of Bob Mintzer and Gordon Goodwin.

The band will also perform big band arrangements of standards and tunes from the small group jazz tradition.

The event is free and open to the public & is part of Jazz Appreciation Month

JEA Donations

RAYMOND & MORRIS ROSEN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor/memory of Max Odrezin
Marcia & Michael Schwarz

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Gary Sadler's 50th birthday.
In honor of Kenneth Sadler's 50th birthday.
Madeline Rubin

In memory of Isie Rubin
In honor of Steve Solomon's recovery
Victor, Elise, Jason & Heather Shernoff

JEA FITNESS FUND

In honor of Paul Robinson's Special Birthday.
Sara & Sam Jospin

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of David Rosenzweig
Harriet Konter

In honor Anchel Samuel's recovery
In memory of Edwin Diamond
Sally & Steve Greenberg

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Steve Cohen
Simone & Leo Center

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

FREE PIECE PRINTER CENTER

A MOVIE & BEER!*

7:00 PM at the JEA.
FREE to Members.
FREE Beer, wine, beverages,
popcorn and peanuts.
*Adults 21 and over only please

April 3rd - Saint Clara - Clara Chanov, a pretty young Russian immigrant with the power to see into the future, turns the world of Golda Meir Junior High School upside down when she applies her gift for clairvoyance to everyday life. After all, when you're the "new kid," making friends is much easier if you can help your classmates get perfect scores on their upcoming math tests . . . and then there's always the lottery!

April 17th - Passover Fever - Holidays have a way of setting off anxieties and unearthing long-buried disagreements, resentment and anger in families. The Seder, a meal that honors Passover, is no different. This riveting Israeli film highlights the experiences of one brood who, amidst the traditional unraveling of the dinner, discover that they're plagued by modern problems that can't, or won't, disappear. Now, they must deal with the tensions laid before them like a feast.

Movie & Beer Night at the JEA is generously sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein



Going On A Trip?

Did you know that as a member of the Jewish Educational Alliance you are entitled to use the facilities at many JCCs nationwide? There are over 250 JCCs in North America. To find a JCC in the city you are going to, visit www.jcca.org, and click on "Find a JCC." Call the Jewish Educational Alliance (355-8111) for a short letter of introduction, and you and your family will be able to use the facilities in the city you are visiting. Many JCCs offer fitness centers and more—and opportunities for networking!

Save the Date

Jewish Educational Alliance Annual Meeting

Board Election
Officers Reports
Financial Update

Thursday, May 29th
7PM
Dessert & Coffee



Jeff Burkhamer's
"Shooting for the Stars"
Basketball Camp Here at the JEA

June 30th-July 3rd
Boys and Girls ages 6-16



Join Coach Burkhamer and the AASU Men's Basketball Team for a session on basketball FUNdamentals.

\$85/Members \$100 Non/Members

Mommy & Me

Beginning Tues., April 1st 9:30-10:30 AM

The JEA is beginning a Mommy and Me stroller aerobics class. The class will run every Tuesday through the month of April and is a good way for both mommies and baby to get exercise and bond with each other.



FREE for Members
\$35 for Non-Members

Tai Chi

Beginning in April
Wednesday Mornings—10:00 AM

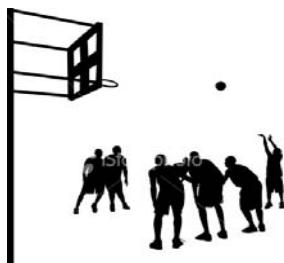
Join us out on the "Old Tennis Courts!" Tai Chi is a set of gentle, flowing movements that exercise the body-mind-spirit connection. This class is perfect for developing balance and for those who have physical limitations. Wear flat shoes and comfortable clothing. Bring sun-screen and/or insect repellent.

FREE for Members \$40/Non-Members



Springtime Men's Hoops

Men's Open Basketball League begins this April.



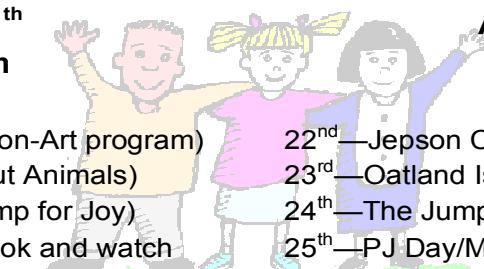
Cost: \$400 entry fee per team

Call Dawn, 355-8111 for team enrollment information.

Spring Camp at the JEA

For Public School Kids:
April 7th-11th
9 am-5 pm

For Rambam Kids:
April 22nd-28th
9 am-5 pm



- | | |
|--|--|
| 7 th —Jepson Center (Hands-on-Art program) | 22 nd —Jepson Center (Hands-on-Art program) |
| 8 th —Oatland Island (All about Animals) | 23 rd —Oatland Island (All about Animals) |
| 9 th —The Jumping Bean (Jump for Joy) | 24 th —The Jumping Bean (Jump for Joy) |
| 10 th —PJ Day/Movie Day (cook and watch movies) | 25 th —PJ Day/Movie Day (cook and watch movies) |
| 11 th —Picnic in the park (sports and lunch) | 28 th —Picnic in the park (sports and lunch) |

PRICE: \$25 per day or \$115 for the week, plus field trip fee. Daily price is included in the monthly aftercare fee, with an additional \$10 for field trip. Please pay field trip fee in cash the day of the trip.

Daily activities include field trip, snack, swimming, gym time and lots of fun!!!

Don't forget: a Kosher, Dairy lunch and a Drink; swimming suit; sneakers; a positive attitude!

Gentle Flow Yoga

Starting Thurs., April 3rd, 7:00-8:15 PM

Decompress after your workday with an evening "Gentle Flow Yoga" class. This class is suitable for either the beginning yoga student or the yoga veteran. The focus of the class is to improve your breath, balance, strength and flexibility through gentle movements. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.

Free for Members
\$8/Class or \$60/8 classes for Non-Members

GYMNASTICS AT THE JEA!

Coach Wayne!2Go is teaching gymnastics classes for children ages 2 and up. Gymnastics is excellent for developing body awareness, self confidence, goal setting and hand-eye coordination. Every Wednesday

Class Schedule:

2-3 yr olds—3:00-3:35 pm	\$40
4-5 yr olds—3:35-4:10 pm	\$40
6-8 yr olds—4:15-5:15 pm	\$60
8 and over—5:15 pm-6:15	\$60

Fees payable to Coach Wayne directly.

April 6th is Kids Day in Savannah

Noon - 4 pm—Savannah Civic Center



Magic Marc wants all the kids at Kids Day this year for something special! Kids Day is free and includes all kinds of activities such as arts and crafts, health awareness, and activities for making lighthouses, information on marine biology, and much more.

Over 50 non-profit agencies and local businesses will be at Kids' Day to share opportunities, information, services and resources for our children and families. Some agencies represented will be Early Start Childhood, Savannah State University Social Works Program, Georgia Families for Health and St. Pius Family Resource Center, to name a few. Live Oak Library, Tybee Island Historical Society, Small Smiles Dental Center and Abeni Cultural Arts will also be at Kids' Day. This day would not be complete without our wonderful police, fire and beloved military in attendance.

For 17 years the JEA has worked with community leaders and businesses to make Kids' Day the largest event for kids in Savannah. Some of our valuable business partners this year are; Wachovia Bank, Gulfstream, Georgia Ports, Wal-Mart, Kroger, Publix, WTOC, Savannah Community Foundation, Savannah Coca-Cola, St. Joseph/Candler Hospital and The Savannah Morning News. We could not do it without their wonderful support and commitment to the kids of Savannah.

Don't miss another great year. For more information or support, please contact Kim Thebo at 355.8111 or kim@savj.org.





Sunday, May 4th, Noon-4:00 PM

Test your skills! Boys and girls ages 8-13 may participate in this **FREE** event. Registration is the day of the event.

- Basketball** - 12 Noon in the Large Gym
- Tennis** - 1 PM on the Racquetball Courts
- Soccer** - 2 PM on the Soccer Field
- Track & Field** - JEA Back Field

Participants **MUST** fill out waiver form and provide a copy of birth certificate to verify age. Winners in each age group and gender category will go on to compete in the Regional Skills Competition in Springfield, GA, on May 30th.

Teen Late Night



Saturday, April 12th - 9:00 PM-9:00 AM



Teens, join us for midnight bowling and a sleepover.

Contact Ashley for more info, 355-8111, x225.

Jr. Swim League

Jr. Swim League is underway and being held on **Mondays & Wednesdays, 4:15-5:15**. Stroke development, speed and endurance will be emphasized. This is great preparation for summer swim teams.

Members: \$45 Non-Members: \$60



Weekly Camp Themes

- Week 1: The Great Outdoors (June 16-20)**
- Week 2: Dancing and Soccer (June 23-27)**
- Week 3: Clown Camp (June 30-July 3)**
- Week 4: Water Week (July 7-11)**
- Week 5: Basketball & Cooking (July 14-18)**
- Week 6: Gymnastics & Floor Hockey (Jul. 21-25)**
- Week 7: Volleyball & Pottery (Jul. 28-Aug. 1)**
- Week 8: Color War (Aug. 4-8)**

Fitness Schedule

Activity	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Adult						
Indoor Pool	9 AM-5 PM	7 AM-9 PM	7 AM-9PM	7 AM-9 PM	7 AM-9 PM	7 AM-4 PM
Master Swim		5-6 AM		5-6 AM		5-6 AM
Spin Class			8:30 AM		8:30 AM	
Firm It Up		8:30 AM		8:30 AM		8:30 AM
Pilates			8:30 AM		8:30 AM	
Open Basketball	9 AM- 12 Noon	12-1 PM		12-1 PM		12-1 PM
Aquasize		10 AM	10 AM		10 AM	10 AM
Gentle Yoga		10:30 AM		10:30 AM		
Chair Yoga					11:30 AM	
Sunrise Yoga			7:30 AM			
Gentle Flow Yoga					7 PM	
Tai Chi				10 AM		
Sr. Aerobics		10:30 AM			10:30 AM	
Fencing			6 PM		6 PM	
Eve. Water Aerobics		6:30 PM		6:30 PM	6:30 PM	
Women's Self Defense			6 PM		6 PM	
Wallyball			6:30 PM	7:30 PM Men Only	6:30 PM	
Open Court Racquetball		4-6 PM	4-6 PM	4-6 PM	4-6 PM	4-5 PM
Kids						
Kids Karate		4-5 PM		4-5 PM	5:30 PM	
Karate II		5:30 PM	5:30 PM	5:30 & 7:30 PM	5:30 PM	
Dance (Tap, Jazz, Ballet)		4:30 PM	4:30 PM	4:30 PM	4:30 PM 6 PM	

SPECIALTY CAMPS—All specialty camps run on a different daily schedule.

JEA Theatre Camp: Let your dramatic side shine and have fun playing games, learning lines and meeting new friends. We have a troop of actors waiting to help you become a stronger and better actress/actor.

Armstrong Basketball Camp: Join Jeff Burkhamer and the AASU men's basketball team for a week of skills development and basketball fun!

L.I.T.: For campers 7th grade and up! Wondering what to do this summer? We have it covered. We will be going on 3 extended trips, daily trips and so much more. Our awesome trips will be to Orlando, Atlanta and Washington, D.C. This program will run from June 16th to August 8th. When teens are not going on trips, they will be aiding counselors.

Lunch: The JEA maintains a strict kosher facility so that everyone can participate in meals. Please send your child with a Kosher Dairy or Parve lunch Monday - Thursday. Fridays include a special cookout lunch for your child (hamburgers and hot-dogs).

SWIMMING:

It's not summer without **SWIMMING!** All campers will receive lessons four times a week, plus free swim daily. Swim class will be divided by age and ability and will run for 30 minutes. It is not only instructional, but also fun. The K'toni campers will learn basic skills as well as water safety. The Yeladim campers will learn basic skills - stroke development, as well as Red Cross age-appropriate water safety skills. The Chaverim campers will learn stroke development, deep-end skills and junior lifeguard drills.



Family Discounts: A 5% discount is offered for each additional child from the same family when enrolled in the same camp session. The discount will apply to the lower fee and does not apply to extended care or specialty camps.

Scholarships: Financial assistance is available so every child can come to camp, regardless of ability to pay. Submit your camp application, scholarship request form and a \$25 deposit. Requests are kept confidential and are awarded based on a demonstrated need basis. Applications for financial assistance are available at the JEA front desk.



MAKE A SPLASH IN 2008!

JEA TORNADES SWIM TEAM

Swimming builds discipline, strong bones & lean muscles, confidence and self esteem. Our program provides an environment where children of all talents can participate and feel they have contributed to a team's success. All children are welcome to join as long as they can swim safely. You don't have to be fast to be on the team, you just have to want to come out and have fun!

For kids ages 5 and up

Registration:

Thru April 15th: \$100/Members
 \$125/Non-Members
 After April 15th: \$125/Members
 \$150/Non-Members

First practice:

Monday, May 19th
Coach: Chris Whelan



Juggling and Health

Researchers are finding things that indicate juggling can be a valuable creator of sound physical and mental health. Juggling helps us stay focused, exercises our upper extremities and reduces stress.

A Princeton researcher suggests we can optimize our overall performance in life by broadening our focus. Juggling is one way to do that. He claims most people have a narrow focus, a lack of awareness of their own body sensations. This narrow focus can be absorbing and useful, as when talking on the phone or driving a motorcycle. When learning how to juggling, the narrow focus can be directed at the object. This narrow focus agrees with observations that we live in a society which sees things as fragments rather than holistic. But things are changing. And just maybe, juggling is helping to change it. It appears juggling, like life itself, is a paradox. To catch we must not reach. To see the pattern we must not look at its parts. To learn we must unlearn.

Come see what juggling is all about on **April 17th at 1:30** at the JEA after the **Senior Adult Lunch**. Dawn Tanis will demonstrate.



"Juggle three of these and call me in the morning."

Art at the JEA



Amiri Geuka Farris

This artwork will be for sale and for viewing from Apr. 1-30, 2008

Artist Amiri Farris is known for his dynamic and constantly changing forms of art. Never relying on a single medium or genre, his nascent artistic view and style are always organically evolving and developing. Notable of his choice of tools are computer-aided graphics paired with fine art mediums; collage, and multi-media applications. His works use photos combined with original imagery to create art that celebrates life and his contemporary experiences.

Amiri was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and grew up in West Palm Beach, Florida. He attended SCAD and received his masters of fine art in illustration. His work has been exhibited in major venues nationally and internationally, from the U.S. Capital in Washington DC., to Paris, France and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Artist's Reception - Sun., Apr. 6th, 4-6 PM

April 2008	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Mommy & Me- 9:30 am Kibitzers Club- 10 am Aquasize- 10 am Yiddish- 3 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	2 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Tai Chi- 10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch- 12:30 pm Bridge- 1 pm Evening Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	3 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize- 10 am Mah-Jongg- 10:30 am Senior Fitness- 10:30 am Chair Yoga- 11:30 am Evening Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm Sr. Lunch Program- Movie & Beer Night- 7 pm	4 Indoor Pool- 7 am-4 pm Aquasize- 10 am	5
	6 Kids' Day- Savannah Civic Center - Noon-4 pm Art Gallery Reception- 4-6 pm	7 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize- 10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Sr. Fitness- 10:30 am Senior Lunch- 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg- 1 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	8 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Mommy & Me- 9:30 am Kibitzers Club- 10 am Aquasize- 10 am Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	9 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Tai Chi- 10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch- 12:30 pm Bridge- 1 pm Evening Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	10 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize- 10 am Mah-Jongg- 10:30 am Senior Fitness- 10:30 am Chair Yoga- 11:30 am Evening Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm Sr. Lunch Program- Israeli Folk Dancing- 6:00 pm	11 Indoor Pool- 7 am-4 pm Aquasize- 10 am	12 Teen Late Night - 9 PM - Sun. 9 am
	13 Levy Concert- 3 pm JEA Speaker's Series Event- 7:30 pm	14 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize- 10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Sr. Fitness- 10:30 am Senior Lunch- 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg- 1 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	15 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Mommy & Me- 9:30 am Kibitzers Club- 10 am Aquasize- 10 am Yiddish- 3 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm AASU Jazz Ensemble- 7:30 pm	16 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Tai Chi- 10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch- 12:30 pm Bridge- 1 pm Evening Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	17 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize- 10 am Mah-Jongg- 10:30 am Senior Fitness- 10:30 am Chair Yoga- 11:30 am Evening Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm Sr. Lunch Program- Juggling and Health - 1:30 PM Movie & Beer Night- 7 pm	18 Indoor Pool- 7 am-4 pm Aquasize- 10 am	19
	20 Passover JEA Closed	21 Passover JEA Closed	22 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Mommy & Me- 9:30 am Kibitzers Club- 10 am Aquasize- 10 am Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	23 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Tai Chi- 10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch- 12:30 pm Bridge- 1 pm Evening Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	24 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize- 10 am Mah-Jongg- 10:30 am Senior Fitness- 10:30 am Chair Yoga- 11:30 am Evening Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm Sr. Lunch Program- Israeli Folk Dancing- 6:00 pm	25 Indoor Pool- 7 am-4 pm Aquasize- 10 am	26
27 Passover JEA Closed	28 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize- 10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Sr. Fitness- 10:30 am Senior Lunch- 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg- 1 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	29 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Mommy & Me- 9:30 am Kibitzers Club- 10 am Aquasize- 10 am Yiddish- 3 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm	30 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Tai Chi- 10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch- 12:30 pm Bridge- 1 pm Evening Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm				



From Savannah to Havana..... cont. from page 1

citement and trepidation. This contrast continued throughout the trip with exhilaration and sadness, aching and yearning.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Castro started to allow freedom of religion in 1992. Now Jewish people could openly practice their religion. With a large amount of intermarriage, today a Jew in Cuba is defined as a person having at least one maternal or paternal grandparent born Jewish. The 1,400 Jewish people still on the island attend three synagogues — orthodox, conservative, or Sephardic — in Havana. Those who live in small Jewish communities in the interior of the island gather in a home or are awaiting a building to be given to them by the government. Jewish families in Havana use their ration cards to purchase three pounds of meat per person for a month at the kosher butcher; this is the same amount of meat allotted to all Cubans, although it's not always available. Amazingly, the Jews can leave Cuba for Israel, but the paper work and process is tedious, with an applicant sometimes losing his or her job while waiting to exit the country.

The conservative congregation of El Patronato is the largest and most active. During our visit, a group of young adults from all over Cuba and Canada were attending a conference on Judaism. Children attend Hebrew school and have bar and bat mitzvahs. A library provides the congregants with books of a religious nature. The synagogue has a van to bring their seniors to programs and services. A pharmacy stocked with donations from abroad of prescription and over-the-counter medications, is open once a week to all Cubans, not just the Jewish congregation. For Passover, Canadian Jews are allowed to send a large container full of matzoh and other items that are shared with the entire Jewish community, including the small groups in the interior of the island.

Our group attended Shabbat services and had a chicken dinner with the congregation of El Patronato. The commonality of our faith, the rituals and prayers brought us together despite the language barrier. An extremely poignant moment occurred toward the end of the service when the doors of the sanctuary opened and a small group of children came in singing Adon Olam. Many of us were choked up and tears rolled down our faces. It became clear

that survival was very important to the Cuban Jews and that this would happen through their children. At dinner one of the children did the kiddush and hamotzi. Challah was shared with all, but the wine was not.

The orthodox congregation of Adath Israel has a large population of



Cuban seniors make Purim masks at Adath Israel

seniors. They are provided breakfast after morning minyan and a snack when they spend the day at the synagogue. A crafts program has been established to aid their hands and minds. During our visit they were painting Purim masks that they had made from paper maché. The synagogue provides transportation to them. Another program is to obtain milk for children as the government discontinues supplying it once a child reaches seven years of age. They also receive aid from Panama of a large container of kosher products for their congregation.

When Central Sepharadi was built in 1957, there were five hundred congregants. Now that those numbers have dwindled, the large sanctuary is rented out for income. A German group was there filming a commercial for Nivea skin lotion when we visited. What once was space used for classrooms is now rented and used as a gym. The small sanctuary is simple, with magnificent Jewish lamps from Turkey. A small media room is in the making so that the young adults in particular will have activities that will attract them to the synagogue. Mayra, the leader of the congregation, hopes to soon have DVD's with Jewish content in Spanish.

We also visited two Jewish cemeteries where we recited kaddish. Both are government owned, but are run by the Jewish community who restored them. One of them, Guanabacoa, is on the outskirts of Havana and was started in 1910. There are many children's graves from a malaria epidemic in the 1920's. There is a graphic memorial to the Holocaust victims with a plaque that says it includes a bar of soap made from human remains.

The other cemetery was located in Santa Clara, a town that is about

165 miles away from Havana on very bumpy roads. David Tacher, the head of the Jewish community comprised of eight families and thirty five members met us at the cemetery. It was amazing that this small group with so little themselves had constructed a Holocaust memorial in 2003, having renovated the grounds just three years before. The memorial was designed by a local Cuban artist and was powerful in its statement. Train tracks on the ground lead to a granite monument; etched on it is a thin arm and hand reaching through the barbed wire to a Star of David. As we recited kaddish, a rooster crowed, goats grazed nearby, and local children watched through the gates waiting to be given something, having run after the bus. (There also is a Sephardic cemetery near Havana, but we didn't visit it.)

Cienfuegos, which is slightly smaller than Savannah, has twenty-seven Jewish people. They meet in the home of Rebecca Langus who appears older than her age. She uses her home to welcome the community for Sabbath and holiday services and meals. Her seventeen year old son is the leader of the children and she proudly passes around his bar mitz-



The Holocaust Memorial at the Santa Clara Jewish Cemetery (with guide Alan and David Tacher)

vah picture, taken in Havana. Rebecca radiates as she speaks to us of her work; you can hear the clip clop of the horse drawn carts go by her home as we talk. Although her husband isn't Jewish, he is helpful and supportive of her endeavors. At times the families from Cienfuegos share holidays with those in nearby Santa Clara.

The poverty is overwhelming, but the Cuban people appear happy. The Jewish people have strength and determination to practice their religion and teach it to their children so it will survive. The message from all the places we visited was, "thank you for remembering us, thank you for visiting us, our Jewish brothers and sisters. We know we aren't alone."

The Savannah Jewish Federation in Cuba

Although just 90 miles from the United States, Cuba's Jewish community had been physically cut off from the rest of the Jewish world since 1959. For more than three decades, birds nested in the rafters of the country's few open but untended synagogues, while limited Jewish activity took place only in the capital, Havana. Even the city's largest synagogue, "the Patronato," could barely rustle up a "Cuban minyan" of eight men and one torah.

But today, with ongoing support from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Jewish life thrives throughout Cuba — from Havana to Camaguey — and the Jewish community is now well on the road to reconnecting fully with its roots. Through the efforts of its on-site community building team, the JDC is enabling Cuban Jewry to develop a self-sustaining communal life while fanning its hopes for a vibrant

Jewish future.

Most of the programs and services for Cuban Jews that Cookie Gale wrote about seeing on the recent mission to Cuba were developed and funded by the JDC. And the JDC is a major recipient of financial aid from the Savannah Jewish Federation through the annual allocation to United Jewish Communities.

More than a decade after the Cuban people were granted new religious freedoms, synagogues are packed on Shabbat. JDC-sponsored visiting rabbis preside over lifecycle events and train community members to take the lead in religious activities. In addition to community-wide celebrations, JDC encourages individuals to take their own initiative, such as assisting the growing number of families making Passover seder in their own homes.

Continued on Page 10



Rebecca Langus, in her home in Cienfuegos, describes Jewish life there



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Playground Dedicated in Ashkelon by Getz Family

Last December, Carollee and Alan Getz traveled to Israel on a Federation mission from Baltimore (their home for more than 70 years). The reason for the trip was that Carollee and Alan, along with their family and the 250 participants on the mission, were going to dedicate and help build a playground in Ashkelon, the Baltimore Federation's sister city in Israel, in memory of their daughter, Lyn, who died in 1999 at the age of 32. Carollee said that "Lyn had three loves — her family, all children and the State of Israel — and we couldn't think of a better tribute to her than this playground." The Lyn Stacie Getz Playground will forever link Lyn and the Getz family with Israel and will provide a happy place for the children of Ashkelon, a town currently under constant attack by missiles launched from Gaza.



Entire Getz family celebrates opening of the Lyn Stacie Getz Playground
Adults l-r: Carollee, Alan, Joel, Randy & Stacey Getz
Kids l-r: Eli, Sophie, Hannah & Noah Getz



Alan, Carollee and their granddaughter, Sophie, cut ribbon on new playground

Last Chance to Participate in a Savannah Legacy: Israel and Me Oral History 60th Birthday Card!

Until April 15th, MorningStar Cultural Arts Group is accepting appointments to video your personal, family or business stories and memorabilia of your connections to the land of Israel since that historic UN vote!

To make an appointment or donate to the project, call Carol Greenberg at 912-927-9922 or email MStararts@aol.com. Video interviews last between 30 to 90 minutes and are conducted at the JEA. All participants will receive a

copy of their interview as well as one of the completed video-card that will premier on May 18 during the Israel at 60 Festival in Forsyth Park.

The Israel and Me Oral History 60th Birthday Card is being produced in conjunction with the Savannah Jewish Federation, the Jewish Educational Alliance, the Southern Oral History Company and the Savannah Community Foundation Arts Ashore Legacy Fund.

Israel at 60 Festival Almost Here!

May 18th is the day the City of Savannah celebrates Israel 60 years of independence. The history of modern Israel is one of many challenges but also one of even greater successes in many different fields — culture, literature, science and technology.

The Jewish community is a great supporter and partner of Israel and we are proud to be sponsoring the biggest festival celebrating Israel ever held in Savannah.

The event will take place on Sunday, May 18th in Forsyth Park from 12-4 pm. There will be many fun and free activities, for both kids and adults. For the kids there will be things like Dig the Past — an archeological dig where the kids, just like Indiana Jones, can dig for historic artifacts; a place for budding jewelers to create masterpieces (who knows, maybe the

next Ayala Bar is right here in Savannah); face painting and story telling for the smaller children; and much, much more.

One of the biggest attractions being planned is the "Time Tunnel" of Israeli history, a multi-media exhibit tracking the history of Israel from 1948-2008.

Not to be missed are the attractions on the Israel at 60 Festival Stage, including the Savannah Children's Choir, the children of Rambam Day School and Shalom school in a special Israeli Folk Dance performance, the Mickve Israel Choir, and other special acts.

At 2:00 pm, the annual Jerusalem Concert for Peace will begin, featuring the internationally recognized Israeli band, Pharaoh's Daughter. Pharaoh's Daughter has toured all around America, Europe and Israel performing their unique combination of Israeli rhythms combined with musical traditions from all over the world. The Jerusalem Concert for Peace is sponsored by the City of Savannah.

What would the Festival be without the great flavors of food from Israel? Matt Cohen from the New South Café, and Murray Gottlieb, of Gottlieb's Caterers, will be selling favorite Israeli treats throughout the festival: Falafel, Shwarma, Hummus, Israeli salad and more.

Mark your calendars now for the Israel at 60 Festival on May 18th. This is one fun-filled day you and your family will not want to miss!

SJF in Cuba..... cont. from page 9

At the same time, Judaism has become a part of the everyday lives of the country's Jews. Hebrew school and Israeli folk dancing, as well as camps for all ages, offer diverse and enriching opportunities for ongoing participation in community life. JDC also includes Cuba in its efforts to create a strong regional Jewish community by ensuring its representation at the Latin American General Assembly.

As one community president says of the revival of Jewish life, it takes believing in miracles to understand how Cuban Jewry has been transformed. Today, JDC's local community development team is helping to move the community to the next level, creating a corps of leaders that, with its own momentum, will help Cuban Jews race towards the future.

Since 1992 (the year religious free-



Five of SJF's Lions of Judah at the Patronato synagogue: (l-r) Millie Melaver, Merry Bodziner, AM Goldkrand, Jane Kahn, Toby Hollenberg

dom was restored in Cuba), several million dollars raised by the Savannah Jewish Federation have been directed to the JDC. Savannah can take pride in knowing that our generosity makes a real impact on efforts to guarantee that there will be Jews and Jewish life wherever we want to be. Your gift to our annual campaign makes possible the work of the JDC in Cuba and all around the world. Your gift IS our future, not only for Jews in Savannah, but for Jews everywhere.

Are you single and in your 20s, 30s or 40s? Start the fun on May 18th at a special schmooze, just for singles, at Smooth coffee and smoothie bar. Meet us at Susan Jaffie's popular downtown spot to schmooze for a little while before joining the fun in Forsyth Park.

When: May 18, 2008
Where: Smooth, 143 Bull St. (between Liberty St. & Wright Square)
Time: 11:00am
For more information, contact Robyn Lebowitz, rmwheelock@hotmail.com.



Playing With the Kangaroos - in Israel!

By Ina Altman

On Feb. 12, 2008, I traveled to Israel on Hadassah's Israel Zionist and International Affairs (ISAIA) mission. Before joining the mission I visited with friends. My friend, Lynne, has her own important mission. Whenever I come to Israel, she has to find something new for me or take me somewhere that I haven't been to in a very long time.

After breakfast at Aroma (one of my favorite places to eat breakfast and drink cappuccino) we headed north on the new Rt. 6 which, when completed, will go from Haifa to Beersheva. We arrived at our destination, Gan Garoo, which is a gift to Israel from the Australian Embassy. This is a Kangaroo Park housing both red and gray kangaroos. The dozens of kangaroos and peacocks roam free. Visitors can play with them, pet them (they love that) and feed them. When they get tired of people they simply go behind a roped off area to be alone. Also at the Park are emus, koala bears, rabbits, black swans and numerous birds from Australia.

These animals however do not roam free.

Having friends in Israel makes travel there very special. Eyal Blank's parents took my friend, Sarah, who was also on the Mission, and myself to a great dinner one evening in Tel Aviv. They then gave us a wonderful tour of one of the older areas of Tel Aviv. This

was a truly special evening.

This mission, in addition to some sightseeing, had its serious side. We visited the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center. This agency is dedicated to the memory of the Israeli Intelligence community and focuses on issues regarding terrorism and terrorist organizations. We learned about anti-Jewish and anti-Israel terrorist groups and their hate propaganda. The displays of documents and materials related to terrorism are illuminating and scary. Yet, we must be aware of these organizations dedicated to global terrorism as Americans and Jews.

We had lunch at the Druze village of Usifiya, the home of Ambassador Reda Mansour. Ambassador Mansour is Israel's Consul General to the South-eastern U.S. In addition to a delicious lunch we learned much about the Druze culture and Druze life in Israel.

We visited Sderot and went to a house that had been hit by a Qassam rocket two weeks before. I wish you could see my pictures of the damage - not just to this house but other locations as well. Upon hearing a warning siren, one has just 15 seconds to get into a shelter. Fifteen seconds - 15 steps. Even the bus stops have to be made bombproof! Children cannot play on empty lots or in parks because there are few convenient shelters.

We went to an observation point

overlooking Gaza. Not only were we at the fence separating Israel from Gaza, we could clearly see Ashkelon and the electric power stacks that are a primary target of the Qassams. How ironic it is that the power serves Gaza as well and their destruction would plunge Gaza into darkness.

We visited Yad Mordechai, the kibbutz named after Mordechai Anielewicz, one of the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in April 1943. On May 19, 1948, the Kibbutz was attacked by the Egyptians. Though vastly outnumbered, the Israelis managed to turn back the Egyptians and prevented an attack on Tel Aviv.

We were guests of Mayor Benny Kashriel of Ma'ale Adumin. This city of 36,000 people is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever visited. It is a city built from the desert and filled with parks, playgrounds and has the biggest community center in Israel. You can see Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital/Mt. Scopus from here.

We went to Ein Fuat (Wadi Kelt). We were lucky enough to witness the beauty of this miniature Grand Canyon, with its rushing waters and wa-



Ina feeds a kangaroo

terfalls. We saw the red poppies that are starting to bloom at this time of year.

At the Israel Museum we were given a tour of their exhibit of "Orphaned Art." The Israel Museum serves as the custodian of these works that were stolen by the Nazis from their Jewish owners. The exhibit includes paintings, Torah shields, Menorahs, kiddush cups, seder plates, spice boxes and other Judaica items.

We listened to, and learned from, such speakers as Gil Troy (author of *Why I Am a Zionist*), Itimar Marcus (Palestinian Media Watch) and Sheldon Schulman (spoke about security challenges facing Israel). I was also lucky enough to have breakfast with Greer Cashman, journalist for the *Jerusalem Post*.

Israel at 60 years is truly an amazing nation.

Birthright Israel Trip Can Really Make A Difference

By Laura Hollander

When I was a little girl, I would often go down the street to my friend Rena Rosenzweig's house for Shabbat dinner. Although I did not completely understand their meaning at the time, I enjoyed partaking in the traditional rituals: standing quietly next to Rena's mother, Susan, as she lit the candles and whispered the blessing softly to herself, having Rena help me wash my hands and reminding me with an index finger to her mouth to keep quiet until we had our first bite of challah, and singing the Birkat Hamazon after we finished eating.

Many years later, I could not even remember the last time I had a traditional Shabbat meal, much less went to synagogue. I had kind of pushed my Judaism aside. So when my brother, Steven, and life-long friend, Marc Robin, suggested that we go on the birthright Israel trip last fall, I was a little hesitant. I didn't really feel like Judaism was a big part of my life, and thought of thousands of places I would rather spend my winter break.

But we went, and our first meal was a traditional Shabbat dinner. Our group leaders explained the meaning behind the rituals-- the washing of the hands, the lighting of the candles--

and my mind instantly flooded with memories. It was then that I realized how dear those traditions are to me, and I wondered how I had forgotten them for so long. I not only felt reconnected to my heritage, but also, for the first time in a long time, felt obligated to carry on these unique traditions.

As we traveled throughout the country for the next 10 days--touching the stones of the Western Wall, climbing Masada, floating in the Dead Sea, and visiting Yad Vashem, where we had the additional privilege of meeting a woman in front of an exhibit displaying a picture of the man who hid her from the Nazis during the Holocaust--my sentiments only strengthened. Israel's beauty was surprisingly breathtaking, and its history and significance was overwhelming. I felt my roots there.

Now, three months after our trip, I use my late Great-Aunt Tootsie's candlesticks (which used to act as mere ornaments for my kitchen table) to welcome the Sabbath on Friday evenings. The tradition continues.

There is a custom in Jerusalem of exchanging red strings for tzedakah. As I was leaving the Western Wall with tears streaming down my face, I saw a woman taking donations. I gave her 5 shekels, and she asked, in a thick

Israeli accent, "Jewish?". I nodded, and she tied a red string with a small Star of David charm around my wrist. I haven't taken it off since. I wear it as a personal reminder, both of the heritages of my people, and of the awe-in-

spiring State of Israel that all Jews can proudly call home.

Laura and Steven Hollander are the children of Sander and Robbie Hollander. Marc Robin is the son of Francine Robin and Sherwin Robin. Birthright Israel is a beneficiary agency of the Savannah Jewish Federation annual campaign.

2008

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Children Receive Siddurs From Rambam The Chai Curriculum in Action

On February 27, Rambam celebrated 18 years of excellence with a beautiful dinner that acknowledged our success and our past presidents. We have a beautiful picture of each of the past presidents framed to decorate a Rambam wall. Tremendous gratitude was expressed to the past presidents and to all those who have assisted with Rambam being successful. Great emphasis was placed on the importance of a Jewish education no matter one's personal background or their current practices.

The weekend of March 1st, Rambam middle school students spent shabbos together. The children had an opportunity to put into practice all the concepts taught to them about camaraderie and as well, they experienced many of the laws and customs of the Sabbath. Saturday night they played capture the flag in the dark, with only flash lights to guide them. They all seemed to have a great time and appreciated the opportunity.

Sunday, March 3 was Rambam's annual siddur presentation where the first graders received their first siddur as a gift from the school. The children sang a couple of songs and each had a speaking part expressing the meaning of a siddur. Each student chose a presenter to present them with their siddur and to say a few words of encouragement to them.

The following are some of the thoughts shared, from siblings, parents, grandparents and uncles;

Emily Kahn to Abigail Kahn - You have seven more years in Rambam to learn. My years in Rambam helped me a lot.

Amy and Jeremy Kole to Zachary Kole - Keep your siddur close to you and treasure it. I am so proud to present your siddur to you.

Rabbi and Mrs. Yisroel Gold to Michal Gold - You always ask if you can daven and now you have your own siddur.

Rabbi Shmuel Landon to Adina Tova Landon - The world exist on three things; chessed, learning Torah and prayer. You are kind and you are learning and now you can daven from your own siddur.

Mr. Reuben Formey to Mario Smith - Hashem gives us a big piggy bank when we are born, and we have to pray to Hashem to withdraw from that bank.

Mr.. Charlie Garfunkel to Caroline

Garfunkel - You are always reaching for a bentcher or a siddur, now you have your own.

Rabbi Yaakov Lehrfeld to Tani Lehrfeld - Your siddur is a special present from Hashem. He gives us special words to say and then special things happen in the Heavens Above.

Mr. Jay Epstein to Richard Epstein - Your mother and I have been to other siddur presentations and now we are proudly at yours.

Mrs. Jill Strauss and Master Max Strauss to Blake Strauss - We are so proud of you and so glad that you come to a school like Rambam. I was excited to get my siddur and maybe now we can daven (pray) together.

Rabbi Yaakov Lehrfeld to Zack Garfunkel - I am honored that you chose me. Remember that Hashem is always listening to your prayers.

Mrs. Diana Rabins to Rachel Rabins - Your siddur is the beginning of good times to come.

Dr. and Mrs. Michael Lichtman to Isaac Lichtman - This is a wonderful and serious event. Take your siddur and use it.

Mrs. Eta Travis to Ahuva Rivka Travis - You love to use keys, this is a key to Hashem.

Mr. and Mrs. Motti Locker to Shani Locker - You lead the service and you sing out loud and so proudly.

Mr. Joel Boblasky to Phillip Boblasky - Now you have something to pass down to your son.

Rabbi Yerucham Schochet to Yaakov Schochet - Important to daven from your siddur and to enjoy your davening.

Rabbi Avraham Russ ended the siddur presentation by thanking his students for making him a Rebbe by allowing him to learn from them. As well, Rabbi Russ expressed what an honor it was to shoulder the responsibility to teach these children and give them their foundation in Yiddishkeit.

And finally, Rambam had a Lap A thon and raised \$900. The proceeds of this collection will be going towards Purim baskets for Israeli soldiers. Rambam students will be responsible for sending 90 baskets to the Israeli soldiers.



Ester Y. Rabhan,
Rambam Day
School Principal

In my last column, it was my pleasure to describe to you the major elements of Shalom School's new CHAI Curriculum, which embraces the Jewish foundation concepts of Torah, Avodah (worship) and G'milut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness). To proceed to specifics, here are just a few of the many learning experiences our children are having this year.

Second Grade: In the Avodah section of the CHAI Curriculum, Penny Breslow's class "created 'God Collages' based on what they would learn ... (about) God's imprint on the world. They explored how to believe in "something invisible. the children learned that everything that God created as well as all that we love and enjoy including life cycle events are all part of being close to God's presence... With this information, the children were able to create their "God Collages" using ...appropriate magazine clippings and words to express their new found knowledge... each child ...(then). had the opportunity to get up in front of their classmates to explain and share what their collage meant to them.. their collages were just beautiful ... showing great thought, wonderful creativity, and a better understanding of how God can now be visible to them."

Third Grade. Sarah Kovensky and her students "discussed the importance of being kind. In Vayikra, there is a part that says that you shouldn't put an obstacle in front of a blind person or say mean things in front of a deaf person. We discussed why this is important and how it applies to other differences that pretty much everyone has. We had two of our teen helpers do a skit about an ugly man and a rabbi ... and why it isn't nice to make fun of someone who is different ...we ... (also) discussed the idea of Tochecha which is the process of scolding or rebuking someone in a kind way.... Thanks to the thespian skills of our teen assistants, we had a skit to illustrate the wrong way to scold someone, then the kids came up with a handbook about how to handle situations the right way."

Fourth Grade. Hannah Gaber-Saletan's students working in groups spent two weeks creating a mock trial, studying the Torah text of Caleb and Joshua and the dispute over checking out the land of Canaan and, working toward an" enduring understanding that Torah is an ongoing dialogue between the text and its students, and that... by dissecting (the text) and coming at the words from different angles, they have discovered the true meaning of the writing, not just as a record of events, but as a record of our nation's emotional state of mind, and how it ties in to what we know comes

next in the Torah."

Fifth Grade. In studying G'milut Chasadim, Madeline Blank's students studied ..."our diverse communities and making all feel welcome, including the stranger, as we

are carrying out the Mitzvot ... we explored Conversion, and the process an individual goes through to convert to Judaism. I invited a member of our (congregational) family who had converted many years ago, and had her explain her reasons for doing so. The class was very interested in the process and it proved to be a very enriching experience for all..."

Sixth Grade: In Deganit Ruben's class exploration of "Ketuvim or Writings "the students have welcomed the challenge of closely examining a piece of writing and then analyzing it, for both its Jewish and literary content....when we studied the Book of Ruth, the students looked closely at the text, searching for evidence of the presence or absence of God -- was the story fated to happen or did the characters have control over the direction of their lives? The students could then examine whether they believed in fate or free will, both in theory and in examples in their own lives.... when the students studied the Book of Psalms, they looked closely at the content and styles of various psalms and then the students composed their own poems, using the Torah psalms as models to emulate."

Seventh Grade. Herbert Victor and his class studied "Lech L'cha" and Abram's journey from Haran to Canaan. "...we....related this journey into the unknown to the students' journeys into their future as they become teens and adults, as well as mature Jews. We also discussed character traits which Abram possessed which might have made him a worthy person for God's calling ..." The class also explored the Akeidah, or Binding of Isaac, delving into "the topic of parent-child relations as well as relationships with authority figures in general...we discussed the following questions: What is the difference between honoring and obeying? How can we honor parents and other authority figures even if we find it difficult to obey them?"

As you can see from this account, our Shalom School children have embarked on a wondrous learning journey, one that will contribute greatly to life long learning and the perpetuation of Judaism to future generations.

B'Shalom.



Jules Kerness,
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 1

Mommy and Me Stroller Aerobics Class

JEA—9:30-10:30 am

Contact Ashley for more information, 355-8111, Ext. 225

Thursday, April 3

A Movie and A Beer

Saint Clara

JEA—7pm.; Free to members; Adults 21 and over only please.

Sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein

Sunday, April 6

Kids Day

All kinds of activities for kids... described as the largest event for kids in Savannah

Noon to 4 pm – Savannah Civic Center
Sponsored by the JEA

Sunday, April 6

JEA Art Gallery Reception

Greet the March artist of the month, Amiri Geuka Farris.

JEA Art Gallery; 4–6pm.; free;
355-8111 for information.

Monday – Friday, April 7-11

Spring Camp for Public School Youths

JEA—9am-5pm; \$25 per day or \$115 for the week plus a field trip fee.

Friday and Saturday, April 11-12

Agudath Achim Scholar In Residence Program

Guest speaker is Alana Newhouse, Arts & Cultural Editor of The Forward. Agudath Achim Synagogue – Times to be announced

Cost for the weekend is \$15 per person or \$35 for a family. Call Motti Locker, 352-4737 for more information

Sponsored by the Abe and Esther Tenenbaum Library Fund.

Saturday, April 12

Teen Late Night

JEA—9pm – 9am

Call Ashley for more information, 355-8111, Ext. 225

Sunday, April 13

2008 Speakers Series

“Arab Moderate Voice—Are There Any and Why Can’t We Hear Them” featuring Brett Stephens, Wall Street Journal Editor-in-Chief

JEA- \$10 at the door; \$5 for students; free for military
Sponsored by JEA Phillip Hoffman Memorial Fund, Savannah Jewish Federation and members of the community.

Sunday, April 13

Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Concert

Savannah Sinfonietta Orchestra will perform.

JEA—3:00– 5:00 pm.

Free concert

Sponsored by the Jack Malitz & Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Concert Fund

Tuesday, April 15

AASU Jazz Ensemble

Free concert

JEA – 7:30 pm.

Sponsored by the JEA as part of Jazz Appreciation Month

Through Tuesday, April 15

Israel & Me Oral History Project

Share your stories about Israel
JEA—Some stories will be selected to be shown in documentary on May 18th...

Thursday, April 17

A Movie and A Beer

Passover Fever

JEA—7pm; Free to members; Adults 21 and over only please.

Sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein.

Saturday, April 19

Passover begins at Sundown with first Seder

Sunday, April 20

JEA Closed

First day of Passover

Community Seder at Congregation Mickve Israel

Monday-Friday, April 22-28

Spring Camp for Rambam Youths

JEA-9a.m.-5pm

\$25 per day or \$115 for the week plus a field trip fee

Sunday, April 27

JEA Closed

Last day of Passover

Wednesday, April 30

Reception for SJF/JEA Executive Director and Sarah Denmark

JEA Art Gallery—5-7pm.

Wednesday, April 30-Monday, May 5

Holocaust Book Fair

All kinds of books about the Holocaust will be available for purchase. Student art works will be on display.

JEA

MAY

Thursday, May 1

Reading Names of Yom HaShoah Victims

By Volunteers

JEA—9am–9pm

Thursday, May 1

Savannah Community Yom HaShoah Program

An Evening of Readings, Reflections and Remembrances featuring local students and participants of all ages presenting special readings, poems and dialogues about the Holocaust.

JEA—7pm

Sunday, May 4

Documentary film, Angel of Ahlem will be shown followed by a panel discussion

with local Holocaust survivors and Ben Sieradski, one of the survivors featured in the Angel of Ahlem.

JEA- 11am—Coffee and bagels will be served. There will be a second showing of the movie following the discussion.

Monday-Friday, June 16-August 8

Camp Savannah – Summer 2008

JEA; --Call 355-8111 for more information.

If you have an event that you would like included in the calendar, please submit it to Midge Schildkraut, mschildk@bellsouth.net or call 355-1839. Final determination is at the discretion of the editor.

Men Who Cook for Passover

Many men are great chefs; however most of them seem to leave the Passover cooking to their wives. But we managed to find two who would share recipes for Pesach (both for items traditionally for breakfast – are they trying to tell us something?). If you're reading this and would like to share one of your favorite recipes — for Pesach or anytime — please e-mail or call us and we'll try to pass it along.

Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer's Matzah Brie

Oil for frying

1 small onion, chopped

1 bunch scallions, sliced thin

4 Roma tomatoes, seeded and chopped

1 Tbsp garlic

3 Tbsp fresh parsley

8 oz fresh mushrooms (can also use small can)

14 pieces of matzah

Dozen eggs

8 oz pkg of your favorite shred-

ded cheese (Kosher for Passover, of course)

salt and pepper to taste

optional: chili powder and cumin

1. In a Teflon pan, saute vegetables in a little oil for 5 minutes and set aside.

2. Break up 14 pieces of matzah in a large bowl.

3. In a separate bowl, beat together 12 eggs; add beaten egg to the matzah mixture.

4. Add sauted vegetables and 8 oz pkg of shredded cheese (or more) to matzah mixture.

5. Add salt and pepper to taste. Optional: you can also add some chili powder and cumin.

6. Heat a very large Teflon skillet and add a little oil. Add matzah mixture and cook, covered, on medium heat for about 10 minutes.

7. Invert on to a large platter and add matzah mixture back in skillet, cooked side up. Cook, covered, for another 10 minutes or so to set.

8. Cut into pie wedges. Serve with Kosher for Passover salsa.

Steve Gordon's Matzah Latkes

My favorite breakfast during Passover is matzo meal latkes. I like to eat them with some coarse salt on top although Maureen prefers a light sprinkle of sugar

Ingredients:

½ cup matzo meal

¾ tsp salt

1 Tbsp sugar

¾ cup water

3 large eggs (separated)

Combine first 3 ingredients, and beat yolks lightly and mix with water, then add to dry ingredients. Let stand for 30 minutes. Beat egg whites until stiff, and then fold them into the standing mixture. Drop by tablespoon on to a hot pan liberally coated with vegetable oil, and brown on both sides. Should yield 10-12 latkes.

Happy Passover to All!

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YO TEENS!

*Do you want to make a difference in our community?
Want to sharpen your skills advocating for Israel?
Are you an up and coming Jewish Leader?
Are you thinking about attending a Teen Leadership program?*

The Savannah Jewish Federation maintains a fund to provide support for Teens looking to enhance their Jewish Leadership skills.

If you are contemplating attending a leadership program provided by such organizations as BBYO, NFTY, USY, NCSY (others will be considered) this summer please contact
Lynn Levine at 355-8111 or lynn@savj.org.

Anyone interested in advertising in the Savannah Jewish News should call Midge Schildkraut at 355-1839 or email her at mschildk@bellsouth.net.



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE \$100,000 TO OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY?

Young couples who would like to establish a major designated endowment fund to benefit the Savannah Jewish Federation can achieve their goal through the use of a survivorship (or "second to die") life insurance.

Life insurance is a wonderful way to make a large gift in the future, using a small amount of current funds. By making the Savan-

nah Jewish Federation the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy, the annual premium is fully tax-deductible. The proceeds of this policy can be desig-

scholarships, to underwrite a particular subject, service, or program, endow your annual gift to the Campaign, or to benefit your synagogue.

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For more information please call
Lynn Levine, SJF Director
912-355-8111



Savannah Jewish Federation
5111 Abercorn Street, Savannah
www.savj.org



For Sale, Two Bedroom /Two Bathroom Condominium at 6401 Habersham in a Gated Community , Unit 5A, \$215,500. If interested, please contact Harvey Gray at 404-870-7376 or by email at hgray@grsmb.com.



Interest Free Loans Available to Savannah Students

Interest-free loans for post-secondary education (college, graduate school, vocational and professional courses) are available to Jewish students in the Savannah area for the 2008-2009 school year from the Jewish Educational Loan Fund (JELF). The loans can also be used by those already in the workforce who need further education to update or change their careers.

JELF loans are need-based and offer "last-dollar" financing. In other words, JELF provides the final dollars that bridge the gap between a student's total financial resources and the cost of attending school. Applicants must attend a recognized, accredited institution and be studying to receive a degree or certificate.

Applications for the interest-free loans, which are due April 15 can be obtained in mid-March from Larry

Dane-Kellogg at the Savannah Jewish Federation, who administers the JELF program in Savannah. Personal interviews are required, and loan applicants are encouraged to contact Dane-Kellogg to make an interview appointment before submitting an application. Dane-Kellogg can be reached at (912) 355-8111 or by e-mail at larry@savj.org. Applications can also be completed online or downloaded from JELF's website at www.jelf.org beginning in late February.

The Jewish Educational Loan Fund, headquartered in Atlanta, offers interest-free loans to Jewish students in 15 member communities in the Southeast. The organization, which started as the Hebrew Orphans' Home and then became the Jewish Children's Service before becoming JELF, recently celebrated its 130th anniversary.

March Madness Hits The JEA, HAAF & Carver Heights Crowned Jr. NBA Champions

By Dawn Tanis

The Jr. NBA Youth Basketball program at the JEA finished up this month with some competitive showdowns on the short road to the final four.

In the 10 & Under division, Hunter Army Air Field rose to the top and claimed the championship trophy by defeating the Carver Heights Stallions, 15-10 in a hard-fought battle. Both teams defeated their opponents, JEA and Notre Dame Academy, respectively, in the first round of the

playoffs in tough match-ups.

The Carver Heights Stallions were the champs for the 12 & Under Division. They beat out Hunter Army Air Field, 35-21 for the title with a sharp display of upcoming talent. The JEA Litigators finished third in the division.

The 8 & Under teams from Hunter, Notre Dame, and the JEA as well as the Jr. Jammers (6 & Under) all finished their season on a good note and improved a great deal along the way.

Vital Statistics

BORN

*Twin sons, Reece Samuel and Grant Robert, to Julie and Scott Varon of Sandy Springs, GA. Reece and Grant are the grandsons of Muriel (Rabhan) and Craig Varon of Marietta, GA. They are the great grandsons of Mrs. Jeannette Rabhan of Savannah.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the family of

Murray Leonard Cohen

Who died February 25, 2008.

Survivors: He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Bettye Cohen; three sons, Steven (Judith) Cohen, Barry Cohen and Ronald (Donna) Cohen; a daughter, Andrea (Jimmy) Johnson, all of Savannah; a brother, Stanley Cohen of New York; a sister, Laberta Berman of Florida and four grandchildren.

Remembrances. Hospice Savannah or the charity of your choice.

Dr. Irwin H. Safer

Who died March 7, 2008

Survivors: Three sons, Stephen (Shifra) Safer of New York, Adam (Julia) Safer and Josh (Serenity) Safer, all of Savannah; a sister, Sherrie (George) Warshaw of Atlanta; two special nephews, Benjamin Warshaw of Atlanta and Ari Warshaw, and two grandchildren.

Remembrances: B.B. Jacob Synagogue.



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Savannah Jewish Federation
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Greg Grunberg, actor

