



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 6	5:02pm
Friday, December 13	5:03pm
Friday, December 20	5:05pm
Friday, December 27	5:09pm
Friday, January 3	5:14pm
Friday, January 10	5:20pm
Friday, January 17	5:26pm

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Also Featured

This month's issue is full of news you can use: In addition to lots of information throughout the paper about upcoming programs, don't miss Sherry Dolgoff's book review on p4; Hadassah news on p7; and information on scholarships for summer camp and teen Israel travel on p8.

Konter-Weiland Comedy Night Returns, Jan. 11

On Saturday, January 11, 2014, the Lawrence Konter & Bertram Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund presents an evening at the "JEA Comedy Club." Ushering in a new format, the highly popular event for JEA members and Savannah Jewish Federation supporters returns with a lineup of three of the hottest young Jewish comedians on the comedy club circuit today.

Modi, Johnny Lampert and Dan Naturman, all familiar faces to lovers of comedy, will entertain the audience in a new comedy café setting at the JEA. The special evening will include a dessert reception and open bar. As in the past, the Konter-Weiland Comedy Night is an exclusive,

free event for those who are members of the JEA in good standing or individuals who contribute a minimum of \$50 to the 2014 Savannah Jewish Federation campaign.

Modi appears regularly at New York City's *Caroline's on Broadway*, *The Comedy Cellar*, *Comic Strip Live* and *The Gotham Comedy Club* and recently was named one of the "Top 10 Comedians in New York City." He also has made numerous TV, film and radio appearances, including Comedy Central's



Modi

USO Tour Live and Howard Stern's radio and television shows.

Johnny Lampert also is a regular at *Caroline's on Broadway*, *The Comic Strip* and *The Improv*. His many TV appearances include HBO's *Comedy Showcase* and shows on MTV, A&E and NBC. He signed a sitcom deal with Walt Disney Television. Johnny also entertained audiences at Atlantic City casinos working with stars such as Chris Rock and Dana Carvey.



Johnny Lampert

continued on page 5

Campaign is a Community Partnership

by Robin Reineri, Campaign Coordinator

"I am so encouraged by the early results," said Allan Ratner, talking about the start of the Savannah Jewish Federation's 2014 Annual Campaign. "As Chair of the Campaign this year, it is so gratifying to see people renewing and strengthening their commitments to our community with increases in their gifts." Ratner was reporting that with solicitations of a number of community members complete, many of the pledges are up, card-for-card, 10% or more from last year.

The Annual Campaign is the lifeblood for vital services and programs in the Jewish community, locally and globally. It succeeds only as a partnership of the efforts of community volunteers and professional staff members.

This year, a team of volunteers is hard at work on behalf of the Savannah Jewish Federation, raising the funds to make it possible to respond

to Jewish needs: health care, financial assistance, senior services, children's education, social programming, Holocaust remembrance, Israel advocacy, and more. A gift to the Annual Campaign funds these programs directly and through grants to the many partner institutions and agencies the Federation supports, including

continued on page 7



A Publication of Savannah Jewish Federation
 5111 Abercorn Street
 Savannah, Georgia 31405
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2014 SJF Community Campaign Update





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Hope to see you at an upcoming event! (See page 17)
 Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!





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Steve Greenberg,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Before
The screen in front of me states 36,000 feet. The GPS shows the flight path to Israel. It is now reality that I am traveling to Israel—for the first time, accompanied by a wonderful group of Savannahians (and honorary Savannahians). It is the result of the dedication, time, commitment and energy of Merry Bodziner and Adam Solender, who wanted to provide the community with such an opportunity. They are to be applauded.

As the trip approached, I asked many friends what my “untrained eye” should look for. All gave good advice and insights. Talk to the people. Soak in the country. You will be amazed what they have created. Everyone is Jewish...it is so natural. Thousands of years of history everywhere. Meaningful museums. You are home. Be prepared for a life changing experience. And, most importantly, you will come back a different person.

It is the last comment that really challenges the mind. What will be different about me? Does it hit me right upon arrival (one of my sons called that the “ah ha” moment). Does it grow on me over a few days? Do I realize it once I am back in Savannah and have some perspective?

It is dark outside now so there is no sense of movement. Maybe that is appropriate. In a sense, I am flying into the history of our forefathers. The history of our faith. The Judaism that is the backbone of our Savannah Jewish community. I only hope I have the patience and ability to absorb the many lessons that will be taught.

After

I am back at 36,000 feet. It is nine days later. I have kept my promise to try and have my brain keep pace with what my eyes have seen each day. But at this point my eyes are done with their mission (except for the many photographs on my camera). It is now up to my mind to process the journey. It is now up to me to crystallize the trip into more than just a memory. I do know one absolute. I barely scratched the surface of Israel. Barely. Just as this column does not do justice to the experience. And the darkness of the small airplane window is such a difference to what I saw daily

from the large bus window. The bus that was my home away from home.

The contrasts of the land are incredible. From the Mediterranean Sea (that I had never seen) to the coastline to the hills of Jerusalem to the desert to the Dead Sea. In a matter of a few miles, everything can change. In some places the marvels of design and engineering have transformed the land. In others, I think it looks much as it must have many years ago. Past and present, side by side.

History came alive. Thousands of years surround you. It is almost too much to absorb. I am just a minute tile in a mosaic of our people's existence. But it is an existence of survival, triumph, tragedy and persistence. Destruction and re-building. We read the same words as our ancestors. A dedication to this place that exceeds everything. I am a forward-looking person, but love history at the same time. The history of Israel will never be the same to me. It will always be part of my thinking.

The people. In their faces I saw hope, steely reserve, warmth and commitment. They love Israel. It is their home. But it is also the anchor to my Jewish religion and identity. I know I will now be more aware of what happens in and to Israel. It is a complex place but that complexity will demand that I not draw quick conclusions based on a 30 second sound bite.

One of the participants on the trip, Bill Levy of Syracuse, New York (and a good friend of many years), said it better than I ever could: “The Jewish people have always been the conscience of humanity. I am proud to be a part of the Jewish people. I hope I have been able to pass that on to my children”. Past. Present. Future. It becomes my individual responsibility to honor that past, be a good steward of the present and do what I can to insure the future.

My thanks to all the people that participated in the trip, and especially Merry and Adam. Everyone's thoughts, feelings, impressions, friendship, humor and insightful observations made every second worthwhile. I will miss walking with them each day.

Finally, Next Year in Jerusalem will never sound the same again. They are more than just words. They are a hope, and a difference.

It is my last evening in Israel, as I remained after the Savannah Jewish community Geshet Mission to attend the Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly (GA) in Jerusalem. Jews from throughout North America gathered with Israelis to discuss the most important issues confronting Jewry including: the recently issued Pew Report on U.S. Jewry, the changing demographics of Israel, the peace process, Iran's near capability of nuclear weapons, social issues, and many more.

At the GA, I was honored to hear an eloquent 90 year old Shimon Peres speak about commitment to peace and a two state solution. He was clear in his statement that peace comes from strength and that Israel will not do anything to compromise its security. He went on to speak about Israel as a “holy country” made up of people, values, and dreams.

I heard Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks (the former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain). He spoke to a standing room only crowd who hung on his every word for 90 minutes. He postulated that “a Judaism divorced from society will be a Judaism unable to influence society or inspire young Jews.” He urged those in the audience to abandon “inward Judaism” and to engage, to reach out, to inspire, and to open the doors to the joy of our religion and history. He told us we must have “less Oy and more Joy.”

I studied leadership at the Shalom Hartman Institute where the lessons of our forefathers and mothers resonate today as they did in ancient times. I met with first generation *olim* from Ethiopia who are now students at Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School in Ein Kerem. The stories of their dreams and challenges to becoming medical professionals were nothing short of miracles; miracles that our Federation helped make happen.

The GA concluded with a rally at Safra Square where we heard from Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, Minister Naftali Bennett, and Natan Sharansky. They challenged, informed and motivated the 4,000 attendees in the square. At the end of the rally, there was a Unity Walk through Jerusalem ending at the Kotel. As we walked, hundreds of Jerusalemites joined us for the walk while others opened their windows to cheer.

As I entered the Kotel Plaza, I couldn't help but think back just a few days when our Savannah Mission gathered for a Shabbat lunch at the eighth floor outdoor dining room at

the Mamilla Hotel. Much of the group had toured the Israel Museum (one of the few Jerusalem attractions open on Shabbat) followed by a walking tour of some of the original Jerusalem neighborhoods. It was our last lunch together as the group would be flying out that evening.

After a lovely lunch, most of the group went to their rooms to pack. I remained behind, sitting with some Israeli friends just enjoying the weather, the view, and the company. Federation President Steve Greenberg also stayed behind. He just stood there looking at the Old City. He didn't move, just peacefully gazed at the view.



View of the Old City from the
Mamilla Hotel

Steve commented: “It's amazing to see the Holy City, the center of centuries of conquerors, the place where Islam, Christianity, and Judaism all coexist. I want to remember this feeling and this image forever.”

On later reflection, it reminded me about what one of the GA speakers spoke about. In his presentation he recounted a recent discussion with a twenty-something about Israel and its meaning in their life. The twenty-something was a little ambivalent about Israel and referred to it as the symbolic homeland. Symbolic homeland? The speaker responded with a series of questions:

Do you know why a groom breaks a glass at the end of the wedding? To commemorate the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

What do you say at the end of the Passover seder? Next year in Jerusalem.

When we pray, what direction do we face? Towards Jerusalem.

The land of Israel, an open and accessible Jerusalem, is the fulfillment of centuries of yearning. I suspect that Steve, like the GA presenter, was reflecting that Jerusalem no longer is “just” a symbol, but a reality. 29 of us saw that reality and I suspect that when Pesach comes around next year, “next year in Jerusalem” will have new meaning for us all.



Adam Solender
Executive
Director of
JEA/SJF

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Center for Independent Living, Be'er Sheva

As part of the 2013 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation approved a new Mini-Grant program whereby community members could recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 mini-grants, with up to 20 being approved. Sixteen submissions were made this year and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

The Center for Independent Living (CIL) in Be'er Sheva is one of six CILs operating in Israel, each founded by the Division for Disabilities and Rehabilitation at JDC-Israel in partnership with the Israeli government, various organizations, foundations and donors. Established in 2005, the Be'er Sheva facility annually serves 1,500 people with disabilities, including 400 Bedouins, in Israel's Negev region. It is fully managed and operated by people with disabilities and lobbies locally and nationally on behalf of the disabled in Israel. Its director, Dalia Zilberman, herself a sufferer of polio, was responsible for convincing the mayor of Be'er Sheva to ensure that employers in the city included the disabled in local industry. And recently, the CIL expanded its facility to include an internet café and restaurant which is mainly populated by students, some of them disabled, from nearby Ben Gurion University.

The staff and volunteers offer information, assistance and knowledge based programs and services that enable the members to live the life they choose as part of the broader community. The CILs also provide social and leisure programs that offer the members an opportunity to meet others and a comfortable and warm place where they can feel at home.

Social change and promoting participation of people with disabilities within the general population are other important themes that the CILs tackle and deal with through their work with disabled people of all faiths and backgrounds.

The goals of the program at the CILs are to empower people with disabilities to choose and maintain their



Dalia Zilberman, Director of the Be'er Sheva Center for Independent Living, with a volunteer.

own lifestyles and to encourage them to participate in community life; and to promote access to rights and equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

The services are provided to people with all types of disabilities: physical, visual, hearing, learning, mentally ill and cognitively impaired.

The core services provided at the CIL are:

- Information and Peer Counseling
- Life skills training and support
- Assistive devices and technology
- Raising awareness and social change

At the center, people with disabilities offer guidance and assistance to one-another based on their personal life experience on issues such as rights, completing government forms, finding caretakers and/or managing independent lives. They also may receive a variety of services including financial counseling, vocational training and small business development programs as well as social activities including conferences, trips, parties, creative activities, and artistic workshops all geared to promoting personal development and increasing social interactions.

Book Review

Satisfying Longest Ride

by Sherry Dolgoff

Nicholas Sparks tells two very different love stories in *The Longest Ride*. The first, and in my opinion, the most memorable, is the story of Ira and Ruth Levinson, married after Ira returns from duty in World War II. The second story, far less believable, is of Luke, a champion bull rider, and Sophia, a senior at Wake Forest University. The two stories do come together, contrived as expected, but, to an emotional reader, happily and with a twist.

As a Texan, I understand just how easy it is to fall for a cowboy. They are sweet, simple, caring (for their horses, at least), masculine and attentive. And they can dance! Those working for a dude ranch are paid to be attentive. Luke is a composite of the strong, quiet, handsome guy who steps in to "save the girl." No matter that they are worlds apart in every way; Luke and Sophia fall in love.

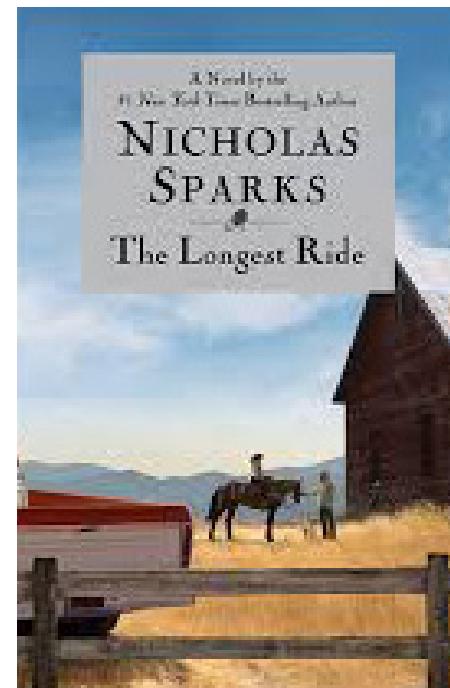
Ira and Ruth's story touched me much more as their journey through life, their poignant "ride", was somewhat more realistic. I identified with Ruth and her philosophy of teaching and was moved by her experiences with her most special student. Ruth's attitude toward teaching in general, and toward this boy in particular, is, to me, essentially Jewish. Her love of learning, her great empathy for the needs of her students and her understanding of the difficulties in life exemplify a compassionate Jewish soul. It was no wonder Ruth's students loved her because she loved them. I may have been drawn to her because she brought to mind my husband Norman's Aunt Rae who was a reading teacher just like this — loving, kind and devoted to her students for many years.

As the details of their marriage unfold, the reader understands that life often is more difficult than we ever dream. Ira and Ruth's love story, told in retrospect, was very touching and not uncommon for their time. Their respect for each other, as well as their love, exemplified a Jewish marriage.

Ruth's love, passion and understanding of modern art are quite extraordinary. Sparks presents Ira's love for Ruth as the impetus for buying the first paintings of their collection on their honeymoon. The paintings, for Ira, were an extension and a reflection of his love for Ruth, not for the art itself, which he didn't understand.

I was not surprised that, by the end of the book, I was emotionally invested in the outcome. *The Longest Ride* ended, as Nicholas Sparks' books usually do, happily. Knowing that

as a reader I was being manipulated, didn't take away from my pleasure at the happy ending I was expecting. And yes, I laughed and cried happily at the end.



Savannah Jewish News

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

SJF President: **Steve Greenberg**
SJF President-elect: **Sherry Dolgoff**
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SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Margie Levy**
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SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

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

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

Please send all SJN materials to:
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Please send eNews submissions to:
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Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Leon Malmed

Leon Malmed was four and half years old in July 1942 when his parents left him and his older sister, Rachel, to report for what they hoped would be simple questioning by the German authorities in their occupied village of Compiègne, France. Leon and Rachel never saw their parents again – they were taken away and later perished at Auschwitz. The Malmeds' Christian neighbors, Henri and Suzanne Ribouleau, hid and cared for Leon and Rachel, treating them as if they were their own children. In his book, *We Survived... At Last I Speak*, Leon tells the story of how for the next three years, the children were forced to play a harrowing game of hide-and-seek with the Nazis. They violated German orders and never wore the Jewish star, instead hiding their Jewish identity. They often had to flee during Nazi roundups, and sometimes spent days hiding in basements, fields, and in the nearby forest.

Leon Malmed had a successful career in the data storage industry and retired from SanDisk in 2000. He and his wife of 33 years, Patricia, live in South Lake Tahoe, California. Their family includes his son and daughter, her son, and their families, including three grandsons.

Leon will speak about his experiences at the JEA on Sunday, December 22nd, at 10am. Copies of *We Survived... At Last I Speak* will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

You and your sister both immigrated to the United States. How did you come to that decision?

My sister Rachel was forced to leave France in 1947 at the age of 16 to go live with our aunt and uncle in

New York. My aunt was my mother's sister who had emigrated in the late 1920s from Poland. But I was not able to get a visa at that time. Rachel is five years older than me and had been like a mother to me and she did not want to leave me, but we did not have a choice. Since the middle of 1945, we had been living with an aunt and uncle, about 40 miles away from Compiègne, but after Rachel left I was returned to the Ribouleaus and lived with them until I was drafted into the French Air Force, as was mandatory at the time. I lived with them again for a few months after my service, before getting married.

My wife and I went to Paris where I began working and going to school for an engineering degree. Back then, you didn't talk on the phone overseas long-distance, it was so expensive, but my sister and I maintained a correspondence in the mail and in 1963, she and her husband came to visit. They wanted my wife and me to move to the U.S. It was relatively easy then for me, as an engineer, to get a visa. I had never really been comfortable in France after the government's collaboration with the Nazis during the war, so in February, 1964, we moved to New York with our young son.

The Ribouleaus were honored as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem in 1977. Did you and Rachel have a role in that?

Yes, my sister and brother-in-law, Izzy (Isadore), were in Israel and visiting Yad Vashem and saw the section about the Righteous and asked about it and recognized that the Ribouleaus were "righteous." Rachel called me the next day to tell me about this and we agreed we should do something. She went back and met with the di-

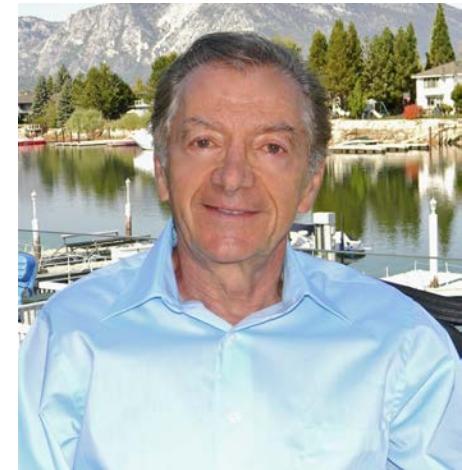
rector of that section to find out what to do and was told that it might take three or four years for them to be recognized. She told them, "These people are in their 70s and we don't know what might happen to them." The director said they would do everything possible and it took two years to get them recognized as the Righteous. The Ribouleaus were invited to the Israeli Embassy in Paris and given the Medal of the Righteous. On a trip to Israel that I made we planted a tree in their honor on the Avenue of the Righteous at Yad Vashem – it was very emotional. That tree now is very big.

You probably are one of the youngest Holocaust survivors alive today. Do you think about that and what does that mean to you?

No, I never thought about it until you just asked me the question. I've met a number of survivors and they always seem to be older than I am. Some of them just look older and some of them are older. We were lucky to be taken away when we were because at our age we would have been gassed immediately on arrival [at the concentration camp] or probably would have died in the transports.

The title of your book is We survived... At Last I Speak. Not unlike many other survivors, and even soldiers, of that era, you waited until you finished your career and raising your family to begin talking about your experiences during the war. Do you know why you felt you couldn't speak before now?

Yes, it really had nothing much to do with the fact that I was so busy but I simply could not talk about it emotionally. It was very difficult.



I couldn't talk to my family about it. They knew about it because my sister has been talking about it for a long time; but not from me. They didn't even ask questions because they knew it was difficult for me to entertain the discussion. I'm still not 100% comfortable talking about it but my sister has been talking about it for a long time in schools, churches, temples and I happened to be in New York and she invited me to join her for one of these talks. People asked me questions and I was able to answer and it kind of opened a door for me.

And one day, again while visiting my sister, who had been pushing me for a long time to write a book, I said let's just put some thoughts on paper and I was able to write 12 pages, and for some reason, that was the trigger and I came back home and wrote 75 pages in two weeks. I wrote it first in English, but then met someone who wanted to publish it in France and needed it written in French. So I wrote the whole book in French and it was published in France. Then when I went to have it translated to English it was a catastrophe. I scratched everything and rewrote it in English for the American reader. It took another two years.

Hear Leon Malmed speak at the JEA, Sunday, December 22, at 10 am.

Comedy Night.....from pg 1

Dan Naturman is known to his fans as the "real winner" of Last Comic Standing 2, having been the favorite of celebrity judges Drew Carey and Brett Butler. Dan began his stand-up comedy career while in law school (when else?) and took it on full-time after graduation. His frequent TV appearances include his own special, *Comedy Central Presents... Dan Naturman*.



Dan Naturman

The Lawrence Konter & Bertram Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund was established by Marcy and Jerry Konter through the Jewish Com-

munity Foundation of Savannah. Named for their fathers, who Marcy described as "two fun loving men," the purpose of the fund is to create opportunities that bring the Savannah Jewish community together for top-quality cultural events.

The Konter-Weiland Fund has hosted three other "sold-out" comedy nights for the community. Watch your mail for invitations with complete instructions for acquiring tickets (beginning December 16th) to what is sure to be another *standing room only event*.



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Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

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HARRY EICHHOLZ, FEBRUARY 25, 1999

"The JEA was everything, not only to my life, but all the young Jewish boys, primarily. The girls had a little basketball team, but the boys—incidentally a lot of us went there to shower. I mean daily. The men, many people went there every day to shower. They used to sell us the towels, 5 cents. I mean, we turned them back in every day, so any time you took a shower it cost you a nickel. The old JEA, especially New Year's Eve Dance was the big—everybody went to the New Year's Eve Dance. The Thanksgiving Eve Dance. And the Purim Ball. The Purim Ball used to be a sell-out crowd. Jacobson's Orchestra. Sammy Goodman's Five. I mean, the local bands were great. Then, after they closed that building, I was chairman of the first dance held here at the JEA. We brought in Tommy Tucker and his orchestra from New York. I figured it'd cost us \$500 and it was standing room only. In fact, it was such a big crowd, the fire marshal sent somebody in to take it over, and called me over, and he said, "You know, you can't have this many people in here." At the time my brother Elbert was captain of the fire department, and he happened to be at the dance, and he took the guy outside, and he talked to him a few minutes and let us continue. So, we used to have—if you didn't come to those affairs, you just wasn't nobody."

The archives holds an excellent collection of oral histories. Each month we will showcase an excerpt from one. Other excerpts appear in our publication, *Voices of Savannah*.

For more information, contact archivist Katharine Rapkin at 912-651-2125 or at rapkin@georgiahistory.com

Stem Cell Breakthrough for Hadassah

by Carol Towbin Greenberg

A delegation of local Hadassah leaders, led by incoming chapter President Jean Weitz, recently attended the fall meeting of the organization's Southeastern Region. Jean said that of all the breaking news stories presented at the meeting in Charleston, SC, she was most impressed by the announcement that "Hadassah Hospital, a leader in stem cell research for the last 20 years, recently demonstrated that in treating severe fractures, stem cell injections decrease recovery time." In addition to attending workshops, Jean and the other Savannah delegates — Ina Altman, Janis Javetz, Joanna Rich, and outgoing chapter president Yelena Chernyak — also participated in the installation of the new Regional Board.

An article recently published in Molecular Therapy explains the research and clinical trial that was conducted over the past four years under the direction of Professor Meir (Iri) Liebergall, head of Orthopedics at Hadassah University Medical University.

"A process that began 15 years ago eventually led to this clinical trial at Hadassah, the first of its kind in Israel," explains Prof. Liebergall. "The trial included 24 patients with severe pelvic fractures," he reports, noting that "this research is a medical breakthrough. Publication of this study and its findings will most likely change the currently accepted principles of treating complicated fractures. Now, we face the challenge of understanding this healing mechanism and

how it works." According to Hadassah's specialists, this groundbreaking procedure shortened the recovery process from 6-12 months to 2-3 months.

Hadassah, founded in 1912, has been active in Savannah since 1926, training women (and now men) to epitomize the best in Jewish leadership and Zionist ideals. Hadassah educational and social programs and meetings throughout the year are free and open to all. Tickets for Hadassah Presents, the chapter's annual fundraiser for Hadassah Medical Organization, will go on sale in February 2014 for a March 23 performance event.

In addition to being the local chapter president, Jean Weitz is co-chair of both the National Hadassah Organization Team and the National Hadassah Fine Art Archives. With a well rounded understanding of the potential that each dollar brings to the cutting edge research at Hadassah Medical Organization, Jean is putting together her Hadassah Presents planning team now because she believes that "the unfolding practical applications of this breakthrough is just one of the many reasons that Hadassah Medical Organization is worthy of our continued financial support."

If you are interested in helping with the February fundraising or the March production of Hadassah Presents, please call Jean at 912-354-2409 or come December 9 to our bi-monthly Chat Hadassah social hour at the JEA starting at 4:15pm.

Campaign.....from pg 1

Jewish Family Services, BBYO, Shalom School, Rambam Day School, JEA, local Hillels, Birthright Israel, Jewish Agency for Israel, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and others.

"The 2014 campaign is moving at a brisk pace and the generosity of everyone will insure that we can maintain and grow our support of the institutions that are so important to our community and to Jewish life throughout the world," Ratner said.

At a time when the hearts and minds of the Jewish world can be pulled in so many directions, the Federation continues to serve as a central location for serving the needs of the community. Each gift received this year but not last, and every dollar increase over last year's gift, represents an op-

portunity to increase the reach of our services and maximize the impact of the Campaign on our programs and for our partner agencies.

"I hope that when our friends are approached, whether it's on Super Sunday or another time, that everyone will think about the things that are important to them that benefit from the campaign and give until it feels good," Ratner concluded.

The next issue of the Savannah Jewish News is our combined January/February winter issue.
All submissions are due by December 10, 2013 to sjnews@savj.org.

The Savannah Chapter of Hadassah

Proudly announces the passing of the Torch of Leadership to one of our own:

Congratulations to incoming President Jean Weitz... and to Julian, the Hadassah man behind this great woman!



Upcoming Educational Events for 2014:

Memory, Heart & Soul— Women & Health Series: Three free events over three months, all not to be missed!

Hadassah Presents:

Sponsor Opportunities & Ticket Sales in February For our most special annual event March 23, 2014

"Chat Hadassah" our Social Hour:

Join us socially 4:15 to 5:30PM* Alternate Wednesday afternoons In our own archive room at the JEA See what's old— But learn what's new!

It's free, it's fun, it's empowering!

www.hadassah.org/southeastern

Go to Savannah Chapter for calendar updates.

*Usually the 2 & 4th Wednesday: this month Dec. 9 and 23rd Off Dec. 25 to allow our members to volunteer for Trading Places!



Steven Savitsky, current Chairman of the Board of Directors and a past president of the Orthodox Union, recently served as Scholar-in-Residence at a Shabbaton sponsored by the Kollel at Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob (BBJ). While in Savannah, Mr. Savitsky met with BBJ Congregational Rabbi Avigdor Slatos and President Robert Bono (pictured) and with the BBJ Board of Directors; spoke at a Shabbat dinner and at a Saturday evening wine and cheese affair (pictured); and also toured Rambam Day School and "Jewish Savannah."



CMI Offers Camp Funds

by Jane Kahn

Congregation Mickve Israel is now accepting applications for its camp scholarship fund. The fund provides scholarships of up to \$1,500 each for new campers enrolling in four week sessions at Camp Coleman, in Cleveland, GA, or another approved Jewish camp. The deadline has been extended to December 15, according to Chairman Norman Hirsch.

The scholarships are available to members of Congregation Mickve Israel.

Eight students from the Savannah area participated in the scholarship program last year. Mickve Israel received an award from the Union of Reform Judaism for the largest percentage increase in campers from the Savannah area attending Camp Coleman last year.

Studies have shown that Jewish children who participate in a Jewish summer camp experience are more likely to engage in Judaism as adults, according to Hirsch, who led a group to establish the scholarship funding. A first time camper receives up to a \$1,500 stipend, a second year participant may receive up to \$1,000 toward a four-week camping session. Hirsch said other resources may also be available.

Coleman offers a complete camp experience, including sports, water sports, arts and crafts, music, including Jewish songs, theater, cooking,

camping, Shabbat services, creative programming and “non-stop activities,” according to Mickve Israel Rabbi Robert Haas. Rabbi Haas again this year will attend a one-week session. He has spent a total 12 summers as a camp staff member, and nine summers as a rabbinic volunteer at Jewish camps.

“Jewish camping continues to be one of the ways to insure that participants grow up to be good human beings,” Rabbi Haas said. “They become more committed to the Jewish community throughout their adult Jewish life,” he has found.

Applications are available through the Mickve Israel office, (912) 233-1547.



Enjoying Camp Coleman last summer: (center) Rabbi Robert Haas; (clockwise) staffer Jason Price (Julie & Norman Hirsch's grandson from Sharpsburg, GA), Sam Winn, Sam Carter, Josh Braun, Lily & Grace Warmkessel

Funds Available for Teen Israel Travel

The family of Kay Becker, z”l, has honored her memory with a scholarship for teens to travel to Israel. Any teen that is a member in good standing of the Jewish Educational Alliance and completes the application, including an essay on *Why Israel is Important to Me*, may be considered for a scholarship from this fund.

The Kaye Becker Israel Fund, established in 2013, provides scholarships for teens who are members of the JEA to use for the following types of travel to Israel:

- Peer group travel
- Gap year programs for college-bound students
- Yeshiva attendance
- College abroad programs

Grants of up to \$1,000 may be available, depending upon the number of applicants and other circumstances. Applications for next year are due by March 1, 2014 and recipients of grants will be notified by April 1, 2014.

Kay Becker, who died in 2012, originally was from New York but lived in Savannah for more than 65 years; 44 of those years with her husband Johnny Becker, who predeceased her in 1992. Her daughter Laura said that though Kaye had minimal exposure to her Jewish roots growing up, she developed a deep and profound love for Israel in her adult life. As a life member of Hadassah, nothing



Kaye Becker planting a tree in Israel in 2000

was more important to her than supporting anything and everything that would have a positive impact on Israel. In fact, Kaye made approximately 15 trips to Israel after the age of 53 and made it possible for her grandchildren to make meaningful trips to Israel.

To download an application for a scholarship from the Kaye Becker Israel Fund, go to www.savj.org and click on the Kaye Becker Israel Scholarship Fund link in the left-hand column or pick up an application at the JEA. Only fully completed applications will be considered.

Trading Places is back! Do a mitzvah this holiday season!

Trading places is a Savannah Jewish Federation program that provides volunteers from our Jewish Community to non-profit organizations on Christmas Day, giving our non-Jewish friends and neighbors the day off to celebrate with their families.

Trading places is open to volunteers of all ages and is a great way to teach Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) to the entire family. With a variety of volunteer opportunities available, lend a hand and a little of your time on Christmas to help our Greater Savannah community!

Sign up Today by contacting Jennifer Rich at 355-8111 or programming@savj.org.



Renate Jacobs, Douglas Kaufman, David and Lily Nash at The Salvation Army



The Warmkessel Family, Lisa & Jessica Elkin, The Rich Family, Jackie & Ken Sirlin at Humane Society



While vacationing in Savannah the Cooper family joined us by volunteering at Salvation Army



The JEA and the SJF present the Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial

SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

January 19, 2014 - February 1, 2014

7 Exciting Days, 10 Entertaining Films!

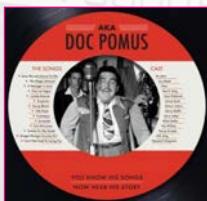
Enlightening discussions, delicious meals, delightful receptions
Everything you've come to expect from the Savannah Jewish Film Festival

Watch your mail for the Festival Brochure with the full schedule of films and events

But here's a sneak preview of some of the Festival offerings:

AKA Doc Pomus

Who hasn't swooned or swayed to *This Magic Moment*, *Save the Last Dance for Me* or some other hit written by Jerome Felder, *AKA Doc Pomus*? This heartfelt film documents his life from hit making times in the legendary Brill Building through more difficult later years. You may not be able to stay in your seat for this one that is selling out at film festivals around the country.



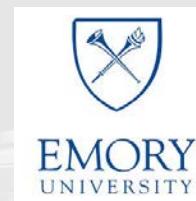
Nono the ZigZag Kid

A witty, action-packed adventure about Nono, who longs to be a good detective like his father, but his wild nature constantly gets him into trouble. Two days before his bar mitzvah, he is sent off to his uncle's to be disciplined. With the international thief Felix Glick, he travels to the French Riviera and enters a world of disguises and crazy pursuits.



From Silence to Recognition

Confronting Discrimination in Emory's Dental School History — Documenting the period 1948–1961, when an abnormally high rate of failure for Jewish dental students pointed to a culture of anti-Semitism in one corner of Emory University's campus. Atlanta dentist Dr. Perry Brickman will join local doctors Harold Black and Eugene "Bucky" Bloom for the discussion to follow.



Full Festival Passes

(Admission to all 10 film screenings) are on sale online at www.savj.org or at the JEA (912-355-8111)

\$80 each; \$65 JEA Member Value Price

Dinner & Lunch Reservations

Dinner and lunch reservations may be made online or at the JEA. See the Festival Brochure for the schedule of screenings and lunch and dinner RSVP deadlines.

*Lunches, \$7 per person;
\$5 JEA Member Value Price*

*Dinners, \$14 per person;
\$12 JEA Member Value Price*

Individual Tickets

Individual tickets may be purchased beginning 30 minutes prior to each screening:

\$10 each; \$8 JEA Member Value Price

Become a Sponsor of the 2014 Savannah Jewish Film Festival

Gold Level - \$550.00

- (4) Full Festival Movie Passes
- (4) Full Festival Meal Passes

Silver Level - \$400.00

- (2) Full Festival Movie Passes
- (2) Full Festival Meal Passes

OR

- (4) Full Festival Movie Passes

Bronze Level - \$200.00

- (2) Full Festival Movie Passes



SAVE THE DATE!

Konter-Weiland Comedy Night

Join us on **Saturday, January 11th** to hear three great Jewish comedians perform at the "JEA Comedy Club".

This **FREE** event is exclusively for JEA Members and SJF Supporters.



Modi



Dan Naturman



Johnny Lampert

Limited Seating!

Don't miss out on this great event. Online and in-person reservations starting **December 16th**.

Open Bar and Dessert Reception



Beth Vantosh
Associate Broker

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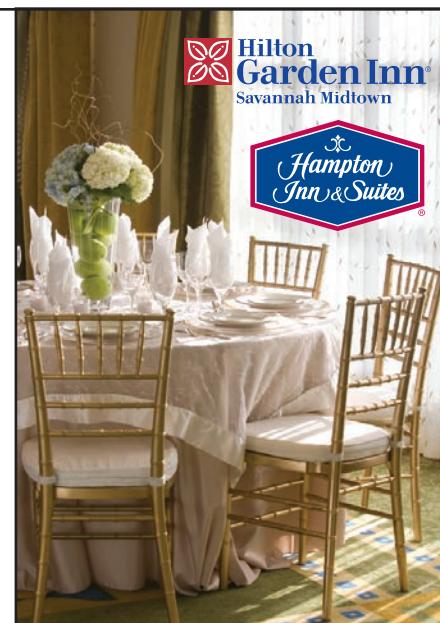
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Adverse Events



A Tom Keenan Detective Novel
by James J. Farley

Adverse Events

A Tom Keenan Detective Novel
by James J. Farley

Tom Keenan travels to beautiful Savannah, Georgia, where he joins forces with Detective Ryan Hathaway, University of Georgia graduate, former football player for the Bulldogs, and the youngest detective in the Savannah Police Department.

Available on Amazon Kindle

www.jamesjfarley.com



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

December 2013



Children's Programming

Winter Days at the JEA

Winter break is approaching fast! Don't miss out on the Winter Days at the JEA where your child(ren) will spend their days out of school in a fun and safe environment learning about everything from cooking to mitzvah projects (good deeds).

December 23rd, 2013 "Shalom Winter"

Enjoy a trip to the Savannah Civic Center for Ice Skating. Through games and trivia, campers will get an understanding of the different muscles used in ice skating. Afterwards, campers will refuel by making homemade granola bars.

December 24th, 2013 "A Mitzvah for Linus (from "Charlie Brown")"

The comfort of a blanket warms the hearts and bodies of kids all over the world. As a mitzvah project, campers will craft fleece blankets to donate to Safe Shelter for kids who don't have that luxury. We will also visit Hull Park to indulge in a hot chocolate bar and play some kickball!

December 26th, 2013 "Glacier Gladiators"

The day will include Snowball dodge ball, Gladiator extreme and puzzle mania! Campers will learn the meaning of "Ruach Hasport (Sportsmanship)," as they encourage each other to complete each task, all while having fun.

December 27th, 2013 "Pancakes and PJ's"

Come dressed in your favorite PJ's for a day filled with a pancake decorating contest, ultimate musical chairs, and lights out hide and seek. We are partnering with Safe Shelter (a shelter that provides assistance for victims of domestic abuse) and asking each camp family to donate brand new/gently used pajamas to this cause. Each pair donated will give you the chance to win a free pass for Days at the JEA.

December 30th, 2013 "Art-ic Buffet"

We will explore the wonderful world of art in an "Art-ic" fashion. We will try ice cube painting and explore artistic expression through a game of extreme freeze dance for frosty treats. We will also venture out to the SCAD Art Museum for an interactive art experience.

December 31st, 2013 "The Great Bake Off"

As the New Year approaches, what better way to ring it in than with "The Great Bake Off?" Campers will face off to craft a delicious delicacy, but there's one catch...the ingredients are spread all over the JEA!

January 2nd, 2014 "M is for Marshmallow"

Help us explore the magic of this light and fluffy treat. We will create tiny snowmen, have a marshmallow roast and what would a day devoted to marshmallows be without making rice krispy treats?

January 3rd, 2014 "I've Got a Shabbat Feeling"

Hooray... Shabbat is here! We will kick off the day with a Shabbat circle filled with games and songs. We will make our own Shabbat candles and rainbow challah. We will also grill hot dogs for lunch, then end the day with a movie and popcorn!

January 6th, 2014 "Bee-Friendly to the Environment"

As the population of bees continues to dwindle,

Mark Your Calendar

December 5

Last day of Chanukah

December 8

Art Gallery Reception. Ed Jones, 1:00 pm

December 14

Saturday Night Out. "Angry Birds: Space Odyssey", 6:30 pm

December 22

JEA Speaker Series, author and Holocaust survivor Leon Malmed presents "We Survived... At Last I Speak." 10:00 am

December 25

Christmas Day. JEA Fitness open 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Offices Closed

Trading Places. Various Locations. 9am-6pm

December 31

New Years Eve. JEA Closes at 6:00 pm

it's up to the JEA campers to come up with different strategies to help re-populate the bees in our community. Campers will explore the meaning of "Tikkun Olam" (repairing the world) with the help of the Savannah Bee Company by learning about the important roles that bees play in the environment, restoring the JEA garden for bee pollination and creating a dessert masterpiece made with honey.

Winter Days at the JEA Registration Information

Hours: 8:00 am-6:00 pm
Pre-K - 8th Grade

Price: \$40.00/day OR \$180.00 per week

Member Value Price: \$30.00/day OR \$135/week

Register in person, online at
www.SavannahJEA.org, call us at 355-8111
or email DJ Horton at kids@savj.org





Adult Programming



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



Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
 Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

Community Garden

Love to garden, but just don't have the space? Be part of the JEA Garden Club and help work one of the 18 garden boxes at the new Midtown Miracle Community Garden, just three blocks north of the JEA. Excess produce and herbs will be donated to Second Harvest to aid them in their mission to feed 3600 to 6000 children daily. For more details, "like" **Midtown Miracle Community Garden** on Facebook or email Carol Greenberg MStarArts@gmail.com.



JEA Fitness Center is Installing NEW Equipment Just For You!

Lateral Elliptical
from Octane

The LateralX offers 3D adjustable motion so you burn 27% more calories by activating more leg muscles. You now have the ability to move up and down, forward and back and side to side, all on one machine!

Seated Elliptical
from Octane

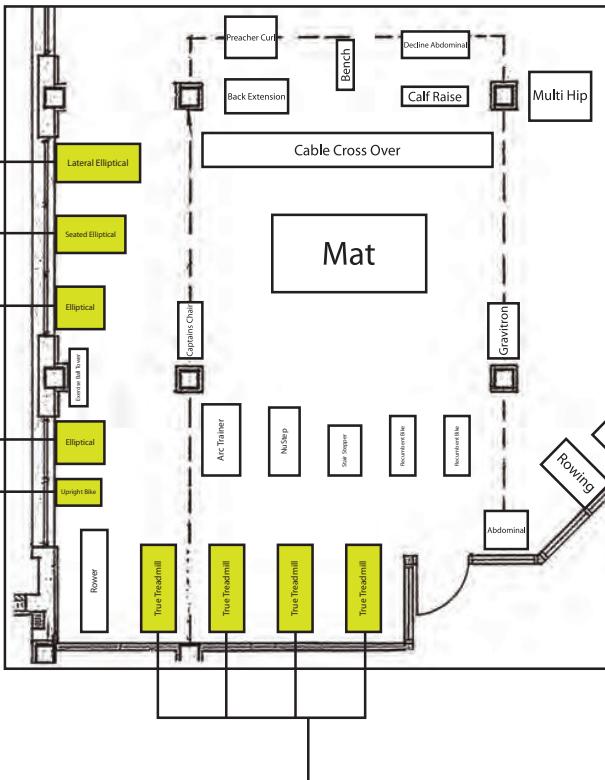
You'll love its smooth elliptical motion and the invigorating push/pull action of the moving handlebars as you pedal and push your way to an exhilarating total-body workout experience.

Elliptical
from Octane

Known for the ergonomic design that produces the smoothest, most comfortable and effective workouts, Octane ellipticals help you stay motivated, achieve your goals faster, and feel great.

Upright Bike
from True

Designed for those seeking a realistic cycling experience; the ergonomic design is ideal for all riders and the aero bars provide great leverage for long distance sessions.



Treadmill
from True

These ruggedly beautiful machines offer innovative, user-friendly features that will improve the quality of any user's workout experience.

Once installed each machine will be equipped with its very own television!

JEA Donations

(October 7, 2013- November 4, 2013)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Lillian Roth
 Sharon & Bill Sand
 Nancie & Fred Clark
 In memory of Leonard Lorberbaum
 Steve Myers
 In memory of Herbert Blumenthal
 Nancie & Fred Clark

JEA BUILDING FUND

In honor of Bubba Horovitz's birthday
 Betty & Larry Lasky
 In honor of Bunny Cohen & Jim Montag's marriage
 Esther & Aaron Buchsbaum

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS – ECE PROGRAM

In memory of Lillian Roth
 Peggy & Stanley Harris
 In memory of Leonard Lorberbaum
 Arlene & Allan Ratner

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Leonard Lorberbaum
 Marsha & Chuck Bernstein
 Brenda & Patrick Salter
 Bernice Elman
 In memory of Madeline Rubin
 Elise & Victor Shernoff

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Lillian Roth
 In memory of Belle Faust
 Ellen Byck

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of the birth of Leo Center
 In memory of Leonard Lorberbaum
 Tony Center

HOLOCAUST CENTER PROJECT

In honor of Melinda Stein and Sherry Dolgoff
 In memory of Lillian Roth
 Toby Hollenberg

Konter-Weiland Comedy Night

Join us on Saturday, January 11th, to hear three great Jewish comedians perform at the "JEA Comedy Club."

Limited Seating!

Don't miss out on this great event.

Online and in-person reservations starting December 16th

Open Bar and Dessert Reception



Health & Wellness

Zumba at the JEA is Good for Your Heart & More



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Zumba is a group exercise class that has exploded in popularity in recent years. It incorporates a number of different types of traditional dances into an exciting exercise format. No matter if you want to improve your cardiovascular system, lose weight, improve your coordination, or boost

your mood, Zumba dancing may be just what the doctor ordered!

One of the best fitness benefits associated with Zumba dancing is an improvement in your cardiovascular health. Your cardiovascular system is composed of your heart, as well as the veins and arteries that deliver blood to and from the heart. When this system is weak, you may experience symptoms such as weakness, shortness of breath, fatigue, and an inability to perform the daily activities of life. In addition to these symptoms, a weak cardiovascular system can, in some cases, cause heart attacks or even death. Research has found that one of the best ways to improve the condition of your cardiovascular system is by performing physical activity that stresses the heart, such as walking, swimming or Zumba dancing. For best results, try to get at least 30 minutes, five days a week.

According to the American College of Sports Medicine, exercise should be performed between 64-94% of HR (heart rate) max or

40-85% of VO₂ (volume of oxygen) max to improve cardiovascular fitness. In a recent study, participants had their max VO₂ levels measured during a treadmill test and then performed a single Zumba session. Their heart rates were tracked and charted. All of the subjects who participated in the Zumba sessions were within these guidelines (79% and 66%, respectively). These parameters should be sufficient to improve cardiovascular fitness, even considering the range of fitness levels among the participants.

Despite the differences and the variable effectiveness, the growing popularity of Zumba warrants further research to validate this growing fitness trend. To Zumba or not? Here are my suggestions:

- Try our Zumba class on Tuesday nights at 5:45 pm with Starr. She is a very high-energy Zumba instructor.
- Zumba at your level of intensity and dance your bum off!
- If your goal is to lose fat, you should pay attention to your food intake habits as well. All that funky dancing will do little if you aren't eating a proper diet.
- If you are trying to build muscle, you better hit the weight room as well as doing Zumba.

If you exert a little effort, participate regularly and watch what you eat, Zumba can be an enjoyable part of a cardiovascular and/or fat loss program.

Behind the Scenes at a JEA Event



Justin Robertshaw
Facilities Director

You might ask, "What does the maintenance team do to prepare for an event at the JEA?"

The JEA just hosted the 2013 Gala, so let's go behind the scenes and look at the list my staff completed before the event.

First, all the doors in the area needed to have old paint removed and fresh paint applied. This took several days.

Next, the carpet in both auditoriums had a deep shampoo. All of the walls in both auditoriums were touched up with paint. Every light was checked to make sure they were working well. A new ethernet cable was added to support a credit card reader.

Finally, our most difficult job involved making

sure the cooling system was working efficiently and we did this, too.

Just before the event we set up all the tables, chairs, stage, podium, lighting, dance floor, wall decor, food tables and, of course, the coffee pots. These are just a few of the things my team completes to make an event happen here at the "J."

Once everything for the event is running smoothly, you might think we'd have time to take a breather. But then the call comes: "Can you please set up two wireless microphones?" Our job isn't over until the event is finished and clean up is complete.

The best part for my staff is to see everyone enjoying the event. The best part for you, the attendee, is to know someone else cleans up and you get to go home with the great memories!

Winter Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Join the JEA!

Join the JEA and you will be glad you did when you take advantage of our special member pricing, FREE classes and events! The JEA provides many different types of memberships to accommodate everyone.

Types of Membership include:

Family Plans
Couple Plans
Individual Plans
Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

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



JEA Art Gallery



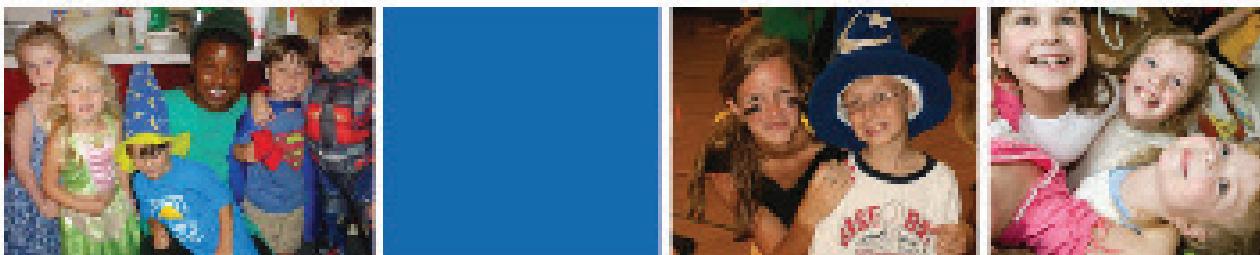
December Artist: Ed Jones

Edward Richard Jones is an artist that works with wood and considers himself a “power carver.” He also plays around with PVC and a heat gun! He studied art, metal smiting and design at Rhode Island College, and also taught adult silver jewelry making classes at the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College. He’s worked as a jewelry designer and stone setter.

He still makes and sells jewelry, but what he really does is think about creating in wood; carving wood. The wood that he uses for his art is recycled wood; that is, it is from trees that have fallen or had to be taken down. He also uses cedar fence or sign post. He loves to work with the figure and that is what he carves the most.

Jones also loves to work with geometric shapes in wood, as well as in his jewelry designs. His first One Man Show was at Savannah State University and he also had two solo shows at the Jewish Education Alliance. He was asked by the owners of the Horizon Gallery here in Savannah if they could carry his work and they have shown it until now. This year he’s hoping to improve his work even more by trying a few new materials such as PVC, resin and maybe glass.

Artwork available for viewing December 1-31, 2013
Art Gallery Reception December 8, 1:00-3:00 pm



SATURDAY NIGHT OUT

Parents enjoy a night out and children age 4 years through 6th grade have a night of fun! RSVP's and advanced payment are a MUST by the Thursday prior to the event! Dinner is included! Space is limited to the first 30 children.

Saturday, December 14th, 6:30 pm - “Angry Birds: Space Odyssey”

Take an intergalactic journey through space as the Angry Birds invade the JEA! We will start the night off with pizza making, then an Angry Birds competition followed by dessert and a movie.

Price: \$25/child, \$50/family

Member Value Price: \$20/child, \$40/family

Register in person, online at www.SavannahJEA.org, call us at 912-355-8111 or email DJ at camp@savj.org.

New JEA Members

The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset!
(New Members as of 10/6/13-11/4/13)

- Benjamin Austin
- Charles & Jennifer Cobb
- Hannah Eisaman & Rachael Shaner
- Trent Fogleman & Jessica Smith
- Ray & Mary Lou Foote
- Michael & Kay Gulick
- Sara Hoffman
- Florence McRae & Mary Yates
- Larry & Alicia Morse
- Frank & Rose Peeples
- Sherah Rosen
- Louis Wilson

16th Annual Musical Salute To MLK

Featuring

**The Savannah Jazz Orchestra
& Savannah Arts Academy
Skyelite Band**

**Tuesday, January 14th 7pm
@ the JEA. Open to the Public,
Admission is Free**

This very powerful event, which will feature the Savannah Jazz Orchestra, co-led by Teddy Adams and Randall Reese, & The Savannah Arts Academy Skyelite Jazz Band, under the baton of Vann Thornton, is part of the official Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Celebration which pays tribute to the birth and life of one of America’s great men of freedom, justice and equality.

Come hear some wonderful music as the JEA plays host to a concert honoring one of the great men of the twentieth century.

There will be a dessert reception during intermission.



JEA Preschool Savannah News

December 2013

**Are you an empty nester
missing your children?**

**A grandparent missing your
grandchildren who live in
another city?**

**We can help! Explore our
Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Our Parent Teacher Organization is beginning to form;
- We would love for you to read to the yeladim (children) on weekday mornings between 9:30 and 11:00.
- Be our Shabbat Guest/Orei-ach on Friday mornings at 9:00 am. Be a part of our Shabbat Celebration and lead a song or tell a story!!

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact JEA Preschool Savannah Director Jodi Sadler at (912) 355-8111 or by email, Jodi@savj.org.



Girls in the G'Daim class paint pumpkins at the JEA Preschool Savannah fall festival.

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

JEA Preschool Savannah Visits Lunch Bunch



JEA Preschool Savannah recently visited the Thursday Lunch and Learn group for a fun, intergenerational program. The children loved being read to by their "adopted grandparents" for the afternoon and the adults cherished the time spent with the children. Studies show that interacting with older adults enables youth to develop social networks, communication skills, problem-solving abilities, positive attitudes towards aging and a sense of purpose and community service. At the same time, older adults remain less isolated, learn new innovations from their younger counterparts and have been shown to experience beneficial health and functional outcomes as a result of these interactions. JEA Preschool Savannah looks forward to doing this again!



Check it Out!

Raising a Thankful Child

Teaching manners is a fine art of modeling but not always the making of meaning. Raising thankful children is a fine art of helping them make their own meaning. As we are in the midst of the Chanukah gift giving season, here are some thoughts on how to raise a thankful child.

<http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/child-development/raising-thankful-child>

RDS is Hopping

We have reached that solemn and sacred moment when the 2y children are happy to be taken out of their cars even though they know they are going to school! Truth is, everyone seems to hop out of their cars happy and ready to start their school day. Maybe the RDS staff is making it too fun! I love walking around in the morning and telling everyone good morning. I noticed a couple of new attendees this week; a bunny rabbit and a bearded dragon. We really do take all kinds. (The children grew their own lettuce to feed the bunny.)

Everybody complains about the 5:00 traffic in Savannah and northerners laugh at us when they come down and see that traffic to us means it takes 20 minutes to arrive some place instead of the normal five minutes. In New York it takes them (in traffic) three hours to arrive at their destination when normally it would take them an hour. Well, RDS traffic is giving our city and the city of New York a whole new meaning to the word traffic. Come by mid morning and you'll see the cutest, funniest traffic jam ever by the craziest drivers! Our little two year olds take over the walkway and you better watch out - it's not that they don't watch where they're going --they don't care where they're going! And, they don't mind holding up traffic to stop and knock on windows as they go by! A word of advice - please acknowledge them when they knock, we're trying to make sure the windows don't break!

I was observing the Elementary children at PE and I have to admit - it's a good thing I am not in PE anymore. I cannot even begin to imagine balancing on a ball, unless of course the goal is to fall off, then I would make some stiff competition.

All I know is I walked into a middle school art class and they were tracing their hands. At first I thought,

well if they find this entertaining then who am I to complain. Upon a closer look and really wanting to understand why they seemed so fascinated with an activity one would think they have outgrown, I saw the motivation for their enthusiasm. Their hand tracing was in 3-D!

We spent \$2,000 for the science lab and we have purchased five new microscopes and various scientific methods and experiments. Last week the middle school children went home with their DNA bottled.

We have 21 students running in various races around the city. They just participated in the Crab Race in Richmond Hill and they are preparing for the Turkey Trot Race for Thanksgiving.

Last week, Rambam Day School purchased 90 iPads from St. Andrew's. We met with their tech person and discussed for quite awhile how we can benefit the most from our new iPads. St. Andrew's approached Rambam and very much wished to work with us to make this a wonderful and effective learning experience for our students. We have done some extensive research on our own as we prepare to utilize the iPads in the classrooms and enrich our students' learning experiences. 90 iPads - we are so excited and invigorated by the challenge to make this opportunity a phenomenal experience.

Rambam Day School's mission is to provide our students an excellent education in both secular and Judaic studies. Our educational program begins at two years of age and continues through the eighth grade. Rambam stresses the values and traditions of Judaic heritage and prepares students to meet the challenges of contemporary society.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal
of Rambam
Day School

I take great pride in our mission statement as it states who we are, what we are and straight forward what our goals are. I am proud that we are a Jewish school. I am proud we give our students an extensive background on their heritage. I am proud that we provide our students with an education of such excellence that it has earned us the attention of other schools. I am proud that we stress the values of our heritage which places great emphasis on how we treat others.

I have spoken with several organizations about our school to gain ideas academically and financially. I can't begin to share with you how amazed and impressed each organization was with our school. All I did was honestly answer their questions. They deal with hundreds of day schools and their responsibility is not to applaud them, it is to direct them and help them meet their goals. These organizations applauded our achievements.

I share all this with you because I want to encourage you to stop and consider what the community gains from having Rambam in its midst. If Rambam ceased to exist, our community would lack a school that offers an



Rambam 2Y traffic jam



Rambam students with their bunny

excellent secular education. Our community would lack an institution that offers two year olds through eighth grade (which is an important continuity) a thorough understanding of the Jewish heritage and its laws and customs. There would be a void. We would no longer be a community responding in the most aggressive manner possible to the need to strengthen our people's understanding of their heritage so each one of us can be a vital component in our people's continuity and vibrancy.



Left, The Savannah Gesher Mission group at one of their stops on their trip to Israel last month. Above, JEA/SJF Executive Director Adam Solender with former shlichim Maia Koiller and Udi Tsemach in Jerusalem.

Sweet Potatoes, Latkes and Fried Turkey

We just celebrated Chanukah and Thanksgiving on the same day for the first time. I am asking myself how these two holidays can cohabitate. Do they interfere with one another; do they complete one another?

After a closer look, it appears that it's a pity this "calendar opportunity" doesn't happen more often as Chanukah and Thanksgiving have more in common than I thought at first!

Is it the food? Even though both celebrations have their share of festive cooking and must-eat items, the calorie count of the turkey doesn't come close to the calorie count of the latke! No good connection there.

The artifacts? Menorah versus corn or Indian moccasins? Nothing there either.

The history? Maybe. The Maccabees led a rebellion against the Syrian king Antiochus who ruled the Holy Land at that time. Antiochus ordered the Jewish subjects to worship Greek idols. But the Jews, led by Judah Maccabi, refused to surrender our ancestral religion, enabling the Maccabees to capture Jerusalem and re-light the Temple's menorah - thanks to the miracle of the oil. Ever since we have commemorated this victory each Chanukah by lighting a menorah and eating potato pancakes cooked in oil, the latkes.

Two millennia later, the Pilgrims faced a similar test of their religious commitment. England had left the Catholic Church, but had not quite become accepting of the Protes-

tant. Rather than forsake their beliefs, the Pilgrims made that famous Mayflower voyage, and those who survived a tough first year held a Thanksgiving celebration with wild turkey, sweet potatoes and corn.

The victory of the Maccabees and the arrival of the Mayflower are episodes of great political importance. But Chanukah and Thanksgiving are not about politics. Nor are they about turkey or football or presents. We might have secularized and modified them, but beyond the turkey and the fried food, these two holidays are about freedom. Each is rooted in the triumph of belief over persecution. Each draws its power from the courage of men and women who endured terrible suffering for their devotion to God.

And this is why our children may learn this year that Chanukah and Thanksgiving do actually go hand in hand. Our ancestors indeed are the Maccabees, but the Pilgrims pleaded freedom of religion in this country which allowed many years later so many Jewish immigrants to prosper here while keeping their beliefs.

So whether you'll call that day Chanukah or Thanksukah, it is only appropriate we put "Au menu" this year yams latkes and fried turkey.

I hope you enjoyed a Chag Sameach and...Bon appétit!



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

It's as Easy as Alef

JEA Preschool Savannah is excited to have been accepted to participate in the Alef Fund, a Student Scholarship Organization (SSO) created by the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. This fund provides for the distribution of scholarships to students entering pre-k at a private school or transferring from public to private schools.

The Alef Fund only supports Jewish educational institutions, including Yeshiva Atlanta High School, The Epstein School and Congregation Etz Chaim's Preschool, to name just a few. This is an opportunity for anyone paying Georgia state taxes to support Jewish education at virtually no cost. Any individual or corporation can redirect a portion of Georgia income taxes and earn a dollar-for-dollar State of Georgia Tax Credit along with the benefit of a Federal Tax Deduction. But most importantly, supporters can help JEA Preschool Savannah boys and girls grow in their Jewish identity at virtually no cost.

Contributing is simple and this mitzvah is free. And it is not too late

to take advantage for a 2013 tax credit. All you have to do is go to the JEA website (www.SavannahJEA.org), download the Alef Fund forms and follow the instructions to complete your paperwork and have it be pre-approved by the State of Georgia by the end of the year.

As our new dynamic program grows we are looking for continued funding from many resources. If you currently participate in this Georgia program and support other local schools like Rambam Day School, Chatham Academy, St. Andrews, or any other private school, please continue to do so. We are hoping those of you who are not yet involved will seriously consider participating in the Alef Fund and redirect your tax dollars to JEA Preschool Savannah.

For more information, please feel free to contact me at preschool@savj.org or call 912-355-8111.



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education



ALEF
Fund



Jewish Educational Alliance
Preschool Savannah

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT JEWISH EDUCATION AT VIRTUALLY NO COST

Since 2008, ALEF Fund has obligated almost \$10 MILLION in scholarship dollars to Jewish Pre-k programs, day schools and high schools in Georgia. Now JEA Preschool Savannah is a participating partner in this Georgia Student Scholarship Organization.

Be part of this exciting development:

- You can redirect a portion of your Georgia taxes and earn a dollar-for-dollar State of Georgia Tax Credit.
- You may also claim a Federal Tax Deduction.
- You'll be helping local Jewish boys and girls grow their Jewish identity at virtually no cost—or even a net savings!

Details are now on the JEA's website at www.SavannahJEA.org. Contact Preschool Director Jodi Sadler with any questions by phone, 912-355-811 or email, jodi@savj.org.

Vital Statistics

BIRTH: Mazel Tov to Theodore Geffen and Adelle Burnsed-Geffen on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa Bea Geffen. Noa is the daughter of Zvee and Haley Geffen of New York, NY. She also is the granddaughter of Ronna and Larry Schultz of Ocala, FL, and Lynn and Allan Berger of Naperville, IL.

The Savannah Jewish Federation Encourages You to Support the Funding of Local Jewish Education Scholarships

You can help create scholarships for Rambam Day School
With a dollar-for-dollar Georgia income tax credit
and a Federal tax deduction.



For more information:
www.RambamDaySchool.org/georgia-tax-credit.html



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



Join us at Mickve Israel in December for Worship, Education & More...

Mickve Israel would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the 200+ volunteers who helped make our 25th annual Shalom Ya'Il! Jewish Food Festival™ such a huge success!

We cannot put on such a wonderful event without the help and participation of everyone who worked for months on sponsorships, logistics, food preparation, volunteer coordination, phone calls, mailings, and so much more.

We appreciate all of our sponsors, volunteers, supporters and attendees!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Having Visitors During the Holidays?

Treat them (and yourself!) to our local Jewish heritage with a tour of our historic sanctuary and museum. We have docent-led tours available from 10am - 12:30pm or 2 - 3:30pm during the week.

We will be closing early on December 24 & 31, and closed all day on December 25.



photo by Stephanie Block

Services

Friday Shabbat Services are offered at 6pm on December 6, 13, 20, & 27.

Saturday Shabbat Services are offered at 11am on December 7, 14, 21, & 28.

Educational Events

In-depth Judaism at 9:15am & Torah Study following Kiddush Lunch on: December 7, 14, 21, & 28.

Talmud Study Session in South Carolina on Wednesday, December 4 at 10:30 am.

Text, Schmooze & Jews on Tuesday, December 17 at 12pm.

MovieSPEAK film showing with renowned film critic Bonnie Strongin on Sunday, December 15 at 1:30pm.

Check out our e-news, Contact, & Winter/Spring Program Guide for more details on these and other events!

Everyone is welcome to join us for our services and events! Sign up for our weekly schedule of events e-mail by contacting kayla@mickveisrael.org, or by texting CMI to 42828. For more information or to RSVP to an event, call 912-233-1547 or visit www.mickveisrael.org.

Study Torah Classes meeting weekly.



Prayer

SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm
Saturday 9:15 am

Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon
Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah, Saturday Evenings

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm
Monday, Thurs. & Friday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm
Tuesday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

Backpack Buddies

Providing food for students in need.



CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

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

Agudatha@aol.com / Agudath-Achim.com



Celebrate Hanukkah with us!

Wednesday, December 4th at 5:30 pm

Come light the menorah and eat latkes at our fabulous Hanukkah Party

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

It's A Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

This month it's a mishmash, a miscellany, of unrelated jokes and quips. Enjoy!

Sam is eating at the deli, and calls for the waiter.

"Waiter, what's this fly doing in my soup?"

And the waiter replies, "There was no room left in the potato salad."

Grandma Shapiro was babysitting, and every five minutes, little Rachel had another request to keep from going to sleep. Exasperated, she told the four year old, "Rachel, if you yell 'Grandma!' one more time, I'm going to be very angry with you!"

Five minutes later a quiet little voice said, "Mrs. Shapiro, can I have a cup of water?"

Yoni Levinzon, a little old Russian Jewish immigrant, is racked by help-less anxiety. He is about to take his American citizenship test, but can't for the life of him remember which ocean lies off the West Coast.

"Come on," his children prompt him, "you remember! We took a dip in it last year in California!"

"Ah!" His face lights up. "It is The Jacuzzi!"

What does a grape say when you

step on it?

Not much. It just gives a little whine.

Leon liked to tell stories about his unusual father.

"One year, he gave me a bat for Chanukah. The first time I tried to hit a ball with it, it flew away."

Sammy Davis Jr. was an avid golfer. Once he was playing at a new course, and the caddy said, "Sir, what's your handicap?"

Davis answered, "I'm black, I'm Jewish and I only have one eye. Do you really have to ask?"

The Birnbaums were flying to Hawaii for the first time. All during the trip, they kept arguing over the correct pronunciation of the state.

David insisted, "It's Ha-why-ee!" while Sandra said, "No, I'm sure the natives call it Ha-vah-ye!"

After landing in Honolulu they hurry into the first store and ask the owner how the name is pronounced.

"It is called, Ha-vah-ye," he says.

"Thank you," says Sandra to the storekeeper.

And the owner says, "You're welcome."



Melinda Stein

A Jewish man in Russia wanted to immigrate to Israel. The local commissar called him in for questioning.

Q: Haven't we allowed you the right to worship at your own synagogue?

A. Can't complain.

Q: Haven't we let you live in peace with your fellow Jews?

A. Can't complain.

Q: Haven't we allowed you to teach your religion to your children?

A. Can't complain.

Q: Then why do you want to go to Israel?

A. There, I can complain!

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the family of:

Ruth Warshaw Stein

Who died November 7, 2013

(Joy) Warshaw of Savannah; and two grandsons. She was preceded in death by her son, Robert Stanley Stein.

She is survived by her daughter, Adele Aviva Stein of Savannah; one sister, Sandra Warshaw Elkins of St. Petersburg, FL; one brother, Irvin

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

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Presented By The Bnai Brith Jacob Synagogue

China Goes to

Sunday, December 15th, 2013
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The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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In memory of Lillian Roth
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Muriel Bono
In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Jim Montag
Gail Wexler

SJF/JFNA CAMPAIGN

In memory of Lillian Roth
Carole & Jerald Cohen
Lola MacCauley

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A donation was made
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In memory of Lillian Roth
Elise & Victor Shernoff

Contributions to the Savannah Jewish Federation may be made on our secure website at www.savj.org or by calling (912) 355-8111.



Sign up today!
www.savj.org



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

A Gift From Your Savannah Jewish Community



Created and supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in Massachusetts, the PJ Library is funded nationally in partnership with local philanthropists and organizations. In the Greater Savannah area, the Savannah Jewish Federation is proud to partner with Jane Slotin and Leon & Nancy Slotin who are the funders of this innovative program.

Upcoming Jewish Community Events

Dec. 22nd, 10:00 am

FREE for JEA Members,
\$4 for Guests
(includes light breakfast)

JEA Journeys with Leon Malmed

Leon will share the true story of his and his sister Rachel's escape from the Nazis in Occupied France. Copies of his book, *We Survived... At Last I Speak* will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

Dec. 25th, All Day

Trading Places

Trading Places is back! Do a mitzvah this holiday season! Trading Places is a Savannah Jewish Federation program that provides volunteers from our Jewish community to non-profit organizations on Christmas Day, giving our non-Jewish friends and neighbors the day off to celebrate with their families. Trading Places is open to volunteers of all ages. Lend a hand and a little of your time on Christmas to help our Greater Savannah community! Sign up Today by contacting Jennifer Rich, programming@savj.org.

Jan. 11th, 12:00 pm

*Exclusive Free Event
for JEA Members and
SJF Supporters*

Konter-Weiland Comedy Night

Join us to hear three great Jewish comedians perform at the one and only "JEA Comedy Club". Limited Seating! Don't miss out on this great event. Online and in-person reservations starting December 16th.

Jan. 12th, 12:00 pm

Admission is Free
(includes lunch)

Tu B'Shevat Family Fun Day

Hosted by the PJ Library, Hadassah and Shalom School at Mickve Israel, come celebrate the world's original Earth Day: Tu B'Shevat, The Birthday of Trees. Enjoy a special Tu B'Shevat Seder, stories, ecology, crafts and fun!

Jan. 12th, 7:00 pm

Admission is Free
Open to the Public

16th Annual Musical Salute to MLK

The Jewish Educational Alliance will be host to the 16th Annual "A Musical Salute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." featuring The Savannah Jazz Orchestra & Savannah Arts Academy Skyelite Band. Come hear some wonderful music as the JEA plays host to a concert honoring one of the great men of the twentieth century. There will be a dessert reception during intermission.

Jan. 19th - Feb 1st

Tickets & Passes
on Sale Soon!

Savannah Jewish Film Festival

7 Exciting Days, 10 Entertaining Films! Enlightening discussions, delicious meals, delightful receptions. Everything you've come to expect from the Savannah Jewish Film Festival. Some of the Festival's offerings include AKA Doc Pomus, Nono the ZigZag Kid, and From Silence to Recognition. See page 9 for more information.

Feb. 12th, 7:00 pm

Admission is Free
Open to the Public

Black Heritage Concert

"Future of Jazz" featuring local and regional legacies: Huxsie Scott and Granddaughters Markeya Relaford & Eyana Thomas; Skyye Williams; young jazz saxophonist Morgan Guerin and others.



Gesher Mission Trip to Israel

October 31 -
November 10, 2013

With remarks from mission participants



Receiving a Jewish history lesson: (clockwise from back) Dwayne Tomlin, Charlie Bourland, Faye and Gary Glancz, (guide), Dick and Lynn Berkowitz, Aaron Levy, Bill and Linda Levy.



"We saw and learned so much. Yet, we only touched the surface of what is here. There is so much more to experience and learn and I hope we will be able to return."



"The trip was jam packed with experiences that exceeded my expectations. I gained insight into a country I thought I knew."



(l-r) David Reeves, Lynn Reeves, AM Goldkrand, Susan Jaffie, Sharon Sand, Bill Sand, Suzanne Konter, and Michael Konter.



"A Mission is such an easy way to travel, make new friends and experience Israel at the same time."



Charlie Bourland, Aaron Levy, Bill Sand and Dick Berkowitz grab a few minutes of relaxation.



"This has been an eye opening experience. For all my life, I have read our history, loved our traditions, but this week gave me the opportunity to live our history."



Savannah Jewish Federation President Steve Greenberg presents the director of the Atlit Camp historical site a grant from the Federation's 2013 Campaign.



Merry Bodziner and AM Goldkrand find a Lion of Judah.



Harriet Carter and Jessica Carter.



"I feel even more proud of being a Jew and will strive even more to adhere to the teachings of Judaism and Zionism."



Sharon Hughes on the Via Dolorosa.



Steve Greenberg helps prepare the ground for a tree to be planted in memory of Amos Timna at Kibbutz Ma'ayan Tzvi.



JEA President Bill Sand and Mission leader Merry Bodziner share a laugh with a new friend.



(Clockwise) Charles Bourland, Susana Bourland, Jessica Carter, Kenneth Richards, Beth Vantosh, Katherine Vantosh, Aaron Vantosh, Lynn Berkowitz, and Dick Berkowitz.



Dwayne Tomlin, Kenneth Richards, and Marlene Tomlin.



SERVE WARM MEALS.
DELIVER MEDICINES.

**GIVE HUGS TO SENIORS
A WORLD AWAY.**

**BEFORE
YOUR
ALARM
GOES OFF.**

It only takes a few minutes to help seniors stay connected to community and continue living in their own homes, Meanwhile, you'll nurture Jewish learning, communal life, Israel advocacy — just a few of the solutions the Savannah Jewish Federation supports with heart, innovation and decades of knowing what works. It's time: Donate. Volunteer. Get involved. **Your link to getting started: www.savj.org**

