

Shabbat and Holiday Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 21th	4:42pm
Friday, January 28th	4:50pm
Friday, February 4th	4:59pm
Friday, February 11th	5:07pm
Friday, February 18th	5:16pm
Friday, February 25th	5:24pm

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JEA Exceeds Expectations

JEA President Scott Samuels is proud to announce that the first quarter financial statements just received indicate that the JEA is at or below budget in almost every expense category. "We are very pleased to announce to the community that the JEA had first quarter results that were in the black for the first time in many years."

In preparing for this fiscal year (which began October 1, 2010), the JEA staff was charged with making the cuts necessary to run a balanced budget. Some of the steps taken to save on expenses were to eliminate towel service, remove "excess" lighting, and reduce staff and benefits. There have been dozens of other small initiatives that have yielded positive results over

the first ninety days of this year. "The staff, led by Executive Director Adam Sotender, has all done a great job balancing the need to minimize expenses while not sacrificing member needs," said Samuels. "We remain cautiously optimistic for the remainder of the year."

"The great success of our Donor Dues Program has made a tremendous impact on our budget. Without the support of those donors none of this would be possible," stated Samuels. Revenue on a number of programs has exceeded projections. The most successful revenue center (thus far) is in the Children's Department. Department Director, DJ Horton has done a wonderful job in taking over from former Director, Ashley Fran-

kel while at the same time handling significantly increased participation in programs like Vacation Camp and Saturday Nights Out (which have seen a 50% or more increase in enrollees).

"Our greatest opportunity to affect the financials is in the Membership category," stated Samuels, "It is estimated that less than one in five Jewish households in Savannah are members of the Alliance. There is a simple way to assure the success of the Jewish Educational Alliance—JOIN today!"

As a 501c3 charitable organization, the JEA is committed to total transparency in its financial operations and would welcome any questions or suggestions about the operation of the organization.

Jewish Film Festival – Great Movies, Fun Events

From the battlefields of the Civil War to fields of dreams, the 2011 Savannah Jewish Film Festival, January 29 – February 6, promises a cinematic



Nora's Will

journey that once again showcases the richness and texture of the Jewish experience in America, Israel and throughout the world. In addition to the films, there will be several special events throughout the duration of the festival. Here's just a taste of what we have in store for you:

After Shabbat has come to a close, the opening night of the Festival will feature *The Yankles*, a feel-good comedy about overcoming bigotry and self-doubt. It stars Brian Wimmer (*China Beach*) as a washed-up Major League baseball player trying to coach an upstart team of misfits from an Orthodox yeshiva. *The Yankles* was co-written and co-produced by Zev Brooks, who was born in Savannah while his father was the Rabbi at Congregation Agudath Achim! That film will be preceded by *A Cantor On Trial*, a 1931 satirical treasure of Jewish identity in flux. The evening will include a dessert reception that is sure to please. And that's just opening night!

On Sunday, January 30th, with the NFL playoffs having been decided and



no football to watch on TV, haven't you always wanted to just spend the day at the movies, eating popcorn, and drinking sodas? We will not let you down. The films for the day begin at eleven o'clock in the morning with *Blessed is the Match*, a docudrama about the life of Hannah Senesh, a heroine, poet and diarist during the Second World War. Stay for the one o'clock showing of *The Worst Company in the World*, a lively comedy exploring details of father-son relationships in a less than average

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A Publication of Savannah Jewish Federation
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2011 Federation Campaign Achievement Update

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Lost in Translation

Sometimes, things happen so fast that you can't find the time to stop and think about everything, so you tend to deal with only the big issues you think are worth paying attention to at that time. This is how many interesting nuances—meaningful, minor details—just slip out of your radar undetectable. This unimportant piece of information will find a nice, cozy corner in your subconscious, and will come back to haunt you in a Saturday night before you fall asleep.

The more I'm trying to teach and explain the culture I'm coming from, the more I learn the culture surrounding me. This past four months I've been teaching basic and conversational Hebrew. One can learn a lot from a language.

Language contains the geography, history, culture, and even the yearnings, regrets and desires of the people that use it. Hebrew is rich language,

there are words that can tell a whole story and there are phrases that can generate huge emotions. But the contemporary spoken Hebrew is a very young language, resurrected from the scriptures almost 150 years ago by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, so it's missing many practical words. That's why if you will hear a conversation between two Israelis, there's a good chance you will recognize some of the words, because spoken Hebrew has adopted foreign words to fill in the blanks.

The English language on the other hand, is very practical, you can always find the right word to express yourself, but it's missing the emotional connection between the word and pronunciation. I found myself many times thinking for hours how to translate a Hebrew phrase to English and still keep



Gershon Peru

the emotions and associations attached to the phrase. Unfortunately, most of the times it's just lost in translation.

In a book I just read, I noticed the term "Homing Pigeon", which describes the carrier pigeon. In Hebrew, the name of this bird is "Mail Pigeon" (*Yonat Doar*). It's a common mistake to think the pigeon knows where to bring the mail, when in fact, pigeons only go back to one "mentally marked" point they have identified as their home. "Pigeon mail" can only work when the sender is actually holding the receiver's pigeons.

This phrase, "A Homing Pigeon", made me lose some important hours of sleep. Maybe it's that beautiful tense, Present Continues, that doesn't really exist in Hebrew, which caught my attention. I've wondered, how can someone be "Homing"? I remembered that when a Jew in the Diaspora prays, he stands in the direction to Israel, when a Jew in Israel prays, he faces Jerusalem, and when a Jew in Jerusalem prays,

he faces the temple mount. Isn't that similar?

Many have questioned the navigation abilities of the homing pigeon. Some thought they navigate by the earth's magnetic field, some by memories, smells and sights. I believe it could be both, and maybe something deeper. Is that what Judah Halevi felt a thousand years ago, when he wrote the unforgettable Zion love song, "My heart is in the East, but I am at the ends of the West", and that was even before he saw the land of Israel?

Is that what was in the mind and spirit of the survivors that fled the horrors of Europe and came to fight over a small strip of land? Is that what drove the Ethiopian Jews to start a journey over hundreds of miles to the unknown? Is that why over one million Russian Jews never gave up the dream of having a better life in "the Land of Milk and Honey" even in the darkest regimes and times? Aren't they all were like the "Homing" pigeon?

In the end of the day, just like the pigeon that spreads its wings and without hesitating flies straight back home, we all have a home to come back to, whether it's our physical and material home, or our ideological and spiritual home.

Film Festival.....continued from pg 1

family business that seems more interested in being a social scene than being a business. That screening includes *My Brother's Wedding*, a short film about the difficulties that sometimes arise when a secular family raises an ultimately traditionally observant child. Then, at three o'clock, *Nora's Will*, a Mexican dramedy about who has the last word; proving that even relationships that end many years prior can have outcomes that are least expected. Finally, the day ends at 7 pm with a poignant period drama, *The Round Up/La Rafle*. This drama explores the events of July 16, 1942, the day the Parisian Jews were rounded up by French Police and ultimately, sent to their fate.

If you are a faithful attendee of past Festivals, you know how much fun we have at the annual tea party. And if you haven't been to one, it's not too late to start! This year the tea party will be included with our showing of the film *Letters for Jenny/Cartas para Jenny* on Wednesday, February 2nd at 1:30pm. *Letters for Jenny* is a sensitive tale of a young woman in love who must make

life choices after learning of an unexpected pregnancy. Can a journey to Jerusalem help Jenny soften her personal pain and discover new opportunities? Join us for this delightful afternoon to find out.

Start Super Bowl Sunday, February 6th, with a Sunday of Short Films. In less than two hours, see four entertaining and thought-provoking films. *The Holocaust Tourist* and *Orders of Love* are two films by British filmmaker Jes Benstock. One explores the importance of the continuity of Jewish history and the other the continuity of family life. Each film makes a strong cinematic statement by itself, together they're really powerful. Following those films we are proud to present the Southeastern premiere of *Me and the Jewish Thing*, a witty film about the collision of cultures an

interfaith couple experiences when raising a child together. And finally, we include *Sabbath Entertainment/Oneg Shabbat*, a short Israeli film about a teenage girl being raised religious who wants to experience secular society but gets more than she expects when she sneaks out to a party. All of this and still home well before the Super Bowl kick-off!

The 2011 Savannah Jewish Film Festival is showing more films than the ones mentioned here. Please go to www.savj.org to see a complete list, film times and previews of many of the films. Also, while at our website, you may purchase a full festival pass with special discounts for JEA members and seniors in our community. The Savannah Jewish Film Festival is a project of the JEA and the Savannah Jewish Federation. *Your Campaign Dollars at Work!*



Letters for Jenny

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Savannah Jewish News

Published ten times each year by
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...one bite at a time...

Give Now, Ask Later

I have subscribed to the *St. Louis Jewish Light* since I moved to Savannah 33 years ago. It helps me keep in touch with the community I came from and also allows me to compare the issues and challenges in Savannah with those of another city (albeit one with a much larger Jewish population). I am sitting here reading an editorial in the December 8, 2010, issue of *The Light* wondering how I can paraphrase and not plagiarize it. I can't. It's just too well written.

The article, entitled "Give Now, Ask Later," establishes that the St. Louis Federation campaign stands to dip below the \$10 million mark for the first time since 1997. (If only we had to worry about the \$10 million mark!) The line that really gave me a jolt was "... if there isn't enough money to spend, how to spend it will be the least of our worries."

I have been wondering whether or not our current campaign will continue to break one million dollars. Last year we raised \$1,049,000, compared to \$1,410,332 in 2007. Donors here are all over the board. Some have increased their pledges or given first time pledges. These donors help us grow the campaign or offset our losses and are invaluable. Others have kept their pledges the same or have cut them, hoping to increase when the economy reverses and we appreciate their commitment and allegiance.

Then there are the donors who have decreased or not pledged at all because they don't agree with the direction of the community or the way we allocate funds. We all have preferences for how to spend the monies raised. Some of us believe we should send more overseas because those monies go to feed the hungry and destitute, or help people who are giving up most if not all of what they have to immigrate to Israel. Others believe we should keep more in Savannah, because we have a JEA that is struggling, local schools and social services to support, and that if we don't build up our own Jewish community there will be nothing left for our children. Even among those who believe

most of the money should stay locally, the argument continues over how to divide the money that stays here. We are fortunate to have an allocations process, imperfect as it is, that can balance those differences with relative fairness.

The St. Louis article states it perfectly:

"...if you want to engage in debate about how the community spends its funds, by all means do so... But don't for a minute confuse that debate with whether or not to give. Right now, the burden is on us to give and give well. As far as we're concerned that's the end of the analysis at this particular moment. The rest we all can discuss later. Assuming, that is, that there's enough money about which to have a discussion."

Actually, it's very simple — the more we have to spend, the less there is to debate about. If we meet our fundraising goals and are able to meet the basic needs of our local recipient agencies, then we also will have more to share with our overseas partners.

There is still time to reach our \$1,111,111 goal. Whatever your personal preferences, give to the Annual Campaign, and give generously. It could be your favorite recipient that desperately needs the money that won't be there if we come up short.

Contribute now.
Please.



Linda Zoller.
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Assuring a Jewish Future Through Education

While many of us spend New Years Day watching football games, I took the opportunity to clean up my desk (OK, I was watching the TV with "half an eye"). I was about to throw away another one of those endless columns that I seem to save when a "New Years Greeting" caught my eye. Of course, it was not for the 2011 New Year, it actually was for the Jewish New Year 5770 from Israel President Shimon Peres. In his greeting he stated:

"The role of Jewish education in the Diaspora cannot be overestimated. It serves as the very building-blocks of the bridges that connect the Jewish communities abroad and Israel. It serves as the terms of engagement between the young generation of Jewish youth and our nation and as the stepping stones to a greater awareness of the significance of Israel-Diaspora relations. It will serve to preserve our rich heritage and traditions."

It gave me cause to reflect. President Peres could have been talking to the Savannah Jewish community, and in fact, he was. *"The role of Jewish education in the Diaspora cannot be overestimated."*

In the last decade, the Savannah Jewish Federation, thanks to your generous support of the Annual Campaign, has been able to provide \$2.2M to support Jewish education in our youth. Lest that number get past you: \$2,200,000.00 in support of Rambam Day School, Shalom School, and the Hebrew Community School. It is the most tangible display of our community's commitment to Jewish education. Our challenge now is to do what we have done in the past and continue to build on a very successful history to develop our future.

Our community goal is to develop the next generation of committed, educated, proud, involved Jews. Our goal is

to enhance Jewish learning for each and every Jewish person in our community. Not only is it our goal, it is our mandate.

It is with the singular concept of assuring the future engagement and education of our Jewish youth that the community is considering the development of an Early Childhood Education program to complement the program already established at Rambam Day School.

A dedicated group of volunteers has spent the last year reviewing surveys, speaking to communities throughout the U.S., impaneling focus groups, and gathering information, all in the interest of assessing the needs of our Jewish community.

The JEA is considering Early Childhood Education as a source of revenue; financial capital is very important, but the most important revenue is "human capital." Engaging Jewish families early in life will help plant the seeds of engagement, enhanced Jewish identification, and a lifelong love of Jewish learning. Our Federation, Alliance, and synagogues all will be enhanced by this initiative.

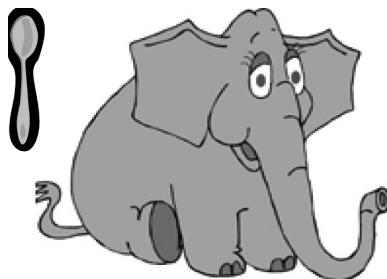
While no one knows what the final product and service(s) will look like, we know that there are dozens of families who want and need early childhood programming in a "haimish" environment. For 99 years, the JEA has been that "haimishe" environment for the Savannah Jewish community.

"The education of children must never be interrupted, even to rebuild the Temple"

Talmud: Shabbat 119b



Adam Solender





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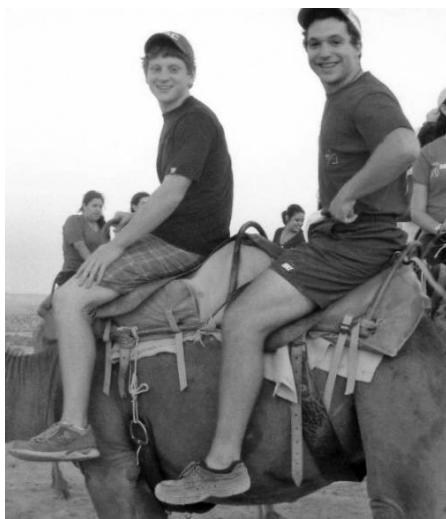
*Your Campaign Dollars At Work***Israel, An Amazing Experience**

By Daniel Sokolin

My trip to Israel was an amazing experience. I learned a lot from the trip and I feel I am more mature because of it. The name of the trip I was on was TJJ (The Jerusalem Journey), a summer program of NCSY. The trip I took to Israel lasted for about a month and we visited places all around Israel, traveling from the very North to the very South of the country. The trip in Israel started and finished in Jerusalem.

After the plane landed near Tel Aviv at Ben Gurion Airport, we ate a meal (by the way, food in Israel is out of this world!) and then started off this inspirational journey by going to the Kotel, the Western Wall. We stayed in Jerusalem for about a week and visited many of the holy sites and where battles took place. At those sites, I learned a lot about my heritage and why I am here today and a Jew. My first Shabbat on the journey was spent in Jerusalem; where we learned a lot, hung out and got to know everyone on the trip. The day after Shabbat, we went to a Kibbutz towards the North for a week. While in the area, we went on amazing water hikes, spent time on the Kinnerit and a lot of time resting outside and enjoying Israel's beautiful scenery. A couple of days after Shabbat, the group experienced a memorable Tisha B'Av and learned a lot about the holiday.

The following week was a free Shabbat, where all the participants went to their family's or friend's houses that lived in Israel and spent the weekend with them. This much needed break gave me time to catch up on my sleep, for there was non-stop moving on the journey. After Shabbat, we spent time on Ben Yehuda Street and met back up with the group the following day. The group and I went to Tzfat and spent time touring the cities along the way. On another night, the



(l-r) Benji Garfunkel and Daniel Sokolin riding atop a camel

group stayed at some Bedouin tents for the night and that was a great experience seeing how other cultures live, but let's just say I would never want to be a Bedouin! After touring up North and going on many beautiful hikes; we went down to the South and stayed in Eilat for a couple of nights and had a great time hanging around the Red Sea. We finally made our way back north to Jerusalem and ended our amazing journey in that holy city.

It was an amazing experience that will be with me for my whole life. I would like to thank the Savannah Jewish Federation and the synagogue for helping me experience and enjoy this wonderful journey. I cannot thank them enough for what they have done.

If you would like more information as to how the Savannah Jewish Federation can help your teen or young adult experience Israel or you wish to make a contribution that would help to send more Savannah teens and young adults to Israel, please contact the Savannah Jewish Federation Executive Director, Adam Solender, his email address is adam@savj.org or Benjamin Bloom, his email address is programming@savj.org. Or you may call them at 355-8111. Your Campaign Dollars At Work!

Donor-Advised Philanthropic Fund

A donor-advised philanthropic fund, a permanent fund of the Savannah Jewish Federation, is a personal expression of your tzedakah. Aligning your philanthropic interests with the Jewish community's needs and priorities through hands-on philanthropy, your personalized philanthropic fund will continue to benefit the community into the future.

By making a contribution of cash or securities, you may establish a fund which is held in an account which you name. The Jewish Federation offers several investment options; you recommend how your funds are to be invested and disbursed. You may nominate your children to make grants on your behalf either now or as your successor – enabling your family's future generations to carry on the tradition of charity that you have established. While you make recommendations

for annual distributions during your lifetime, upon death the gift becomes part of the Federation's Endowment Fund, perpetuating your name and your lifetime of commitment.

A donor-advised philanthropic fund allows your charitable dollars to grow tax-free, thereby increasing the resources available for grant making.

What are the benefits to you?

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The Savannah Jewish Community to join the EOA for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

The Savannah Jewish community is invited to join with the Economic Opportunity Authority for Savannah-Chatham County, Inc. for this MLK, Jr. Day of Service.

**The Day of Service is Monday, January 17 •
9:00am - 2:00pm. To participate in this
community mitzvah project, meet at
830 W.53rd St at 9am.**

There will also be work done on homes located at 1013 West
53rd St. and 3716 Hopkins St.

Economic Opportunity Authority For Savannah-Chatham
County, Inc. welcomes our participation in this day of
service. Again, the project will kick-off at 830 W. 53rd St.

To sign-up for this day of service, please contact Benjamin
Bloom, 912-355-8111 or email him, programming@savj.org
or feel free to show up on the day to help serve.

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A Truly Super Sunday

By Joshua Reeves

It was a Super Sunday & Fun Day! On November 21, 2010, over 70 volunteers worked together to solicit members of our community for the Savannah Jewish Federation's 2011 Annual Campaign and also hosted a fall festival full of games, snacks, activities and more. Call-a-thon veterans and "rookies" alike energetically made call after call. Our goal was to reach as many people in our Jewish community as possible to raise those valuable campaign dollars that do so much both here in Savannah and elsewhere around the world. In just a few short hours, over \$44,000 were raised for the 2011 Campaign.

In addition to the traditional call-a-thon held here and at many other Federations nationwide, we spiced things up at our Super Sunday this year by adding a Fun Day in the afternoon. Many families and children visited our *Aleph Bets of the Wild West*-themed festival and enjoyed snacks and root beer at the Shalom Saloon, PJ Library book readings, a super cool moon bounce, games of corn hole and horseshoes, face painting, a variety of arts & crafts, a Wii station and more!

Decorative bales of hay and jugs of Manischewitz adorned the walls of the JEA, along with many posters of Hebrew letters (the Aleph Bets!), each with a correlating Jewish value (like Tzedakah) and a representation of how the Savannah Jewish Federation supports that value. These posters described many of the various ways your Federation dollars support Israel, distressed Jews in other lands, the national Jewish community and our local Jewish community. Locally, our Federation supports the needs of the JEA, our Jewish schools, Jewish Family Services, Hillels in Georgia, and so much more.

Amanda and I were honored to be the chairs of this important event for the Savannah Jewish community. It was such a pleasure to get to work with the scores of volunteers, including Super Sunday callers, community leaders, Young Jewish Savannah participants, SCAD Hillel members and BBYO teens. This great team effort that brought together people from throughout the Jewish community resulted



Amanda and Josh Reeves

in a great success for the 2011 Annual Campaign! As the chairpersons for this event, we would like to thank everyone who volunteered, made a pledge and attended the festivities.

If you talked to a volunteer on Super Sunday and pledged to support the community's campaign – thank you very much! If we still have not been able to reach you, we hope that you still will consider a gift to the 2011 Savannah Jewish Federation Campaign. Your support is crucial to the entire Jewish community — here in Savannah, in Israel, and worldwide. To support the Annual Campaign, please contact Benjamin Bloom at programming@savj.org or Lynn Levine at lynn@savj.org or give them a phone call at 355-8111. You also can donate to the Annual Campaign online at www.savj.org.

We look forward to another Super Sunday/Fun Day next year!!

Joshua Reeves is an attorney with Weinstein & Scavo, P.C. and Amanda Reeves is a commercial real estate broker with Hostetter Schneider Realty Partners. They are members of Congregation Agudath Achim; Josh serves on the Board of the JEA and Amanda on the Board of the Federation. Both are active on other boards around Savannah.

Vital Statistics

BAR MITZVAH - Gabe Adler became a Bar Mitzvah on December 18, 2010 at Congregation Mickve Israel. He is the son of John and Sue Adler. Grandfather Seymour Dember of Boynton Beach, FL came to Savannah for the celebration.

ENGAGEMENT - Jean and Julian Weitz of Savannah, Georgia and Debbie and Dan Fins of Worcester, MA are delighted to announce the engagement of their children, Lauren Ashley Weitz and Adam Michael Fins. Lauren attended Country Day School of Savannah, University of Wisconsin and Becker College where she received her degree in Veterinary Sciences. She spent a year in Israel on Young Judea Year Course. Adam graduated from Worcester Academy and Washington University in St. Louis, where he received his degree in Sound Perception and Sound Design. Adam and Lauren have just relocated to Savannah where Adam will be employed in management at Friedman's Fine Art.



Lauren Weitz and Adam Fin

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Forming a Communitywide Connection through Chain Links

By Carol Greenberg

Over ten years ago, Savannah Jewish News ran an article that began, "Meddin, Coleman, Traub, Edel, Lasky, Kooden, Levy, Willensky, Eichholz... What do these names and about 200 others have in common? They are all names listed on Congregation Mickve Israel's historic Confirmation Chain." At that time, the effort was to repair that engraved chain presented to the congregation on Shavuot in 1935 by Henrietta Steinheimer (now Victor), A.J. Cohen, Jr. and eight other members of their religious school graduating class to reflect their commitment to Judaism and symbolizing Jewish continuity.

This gift began a tradition that has continued and also spawned a renewed effort called Chain Links to identify all the teenagers involved since 1880 and to make this unique symbol of Jewish history relevant to today's youth. In honor of the chain's 75th anniversary, MorningStar Cultural Arts Group created Chain Links as part of a larger *Georgia History Project on Diversity* that includes research, oral histories, film, and educational curricula. This project, following its first successful six months, needs to recruit more volunteers and sponsors for 2011.

Over the years many people have devoted time and finances to restoring the chain and display. Dr. Joel Greenberg, Judy Byck, Aaron Levy, Alan Gaynor (of blessed memory), Margie Levy, Ellen Byck, Matiel Leffler, Becky Smith, Teresa Victor and Henrietta Victor's granddaughter Rachel, Leslie Westmoreland, the Gilmores at Bay Camera and Julian Weitz of Friedman's Art Store among countless others have participated in preserving this piece of history.

The actual chain currently hangs in

the Jewish Museum housed at Congregation Mickve Israel, accompanied by a list (in booklet form) of decades of engraved names, with a set of 40 framed photos (the earliest from 1885) on the walls of Shalom School and in a photo album. But many photos were missing, not all photos had identifications, no one before 1935 was listed on the chain, and the displays were static and ineffective as an educational tool.

Since 1989, MStarArts has donated over three hundred programs, events, and oral history projects (some resulting in films, books and cable shows), but all of which were the result of time for formal research, support funds and volunteers' enthusiasm. Low on all three, but wanting to make a start to mark the 75th year, MStarArts wrote a proposal to local universities. Professors Stephen Wagner and James Janson (SCAD), Daniel Skidmore-Hess (Armstrong), Jon Bryant and Cathy Skidmore-Hess (GSU), selected four students to participate in research skills workshops and oral history training.

Fall term interns trained with chief archivists, historians and guides at Georgia Historical Society (Lynette Stoudt), Live Oaks Public Library Genealogical Collection Room (Sharen Lee), Congregation Mickve Israel (Rabbi Arnold Marc Belzer, William Raffel, Carol Greenberg and Lauree San Juan) and then completed unsupervised research.

While Hans Spenkle (GSU) filmed oral history interviews, Brigitte Garland, Charity Troy and Kendra Bradley (SCAD) located photos, corrected listings and identified faces. Joining Hans' footage of Isser Gottlieb, David Byck, III and wife Ellen is Peter Masterpoulis' BSA interview of Philip Solomons, Sr. and Jane Kahn's interview of Marion Levy Mendel and daughter Joan Levy both descended from the Sheftall family

who were among the 41 original Jewish settlers who established Kohell Kadosh Mickve Israel (the holy congregation of Mickve Israel) in 1733. Volunteers are needed to finish research and conduct interviews this winter on A. J. Cohen, Jr. (and wife Kelly) and Henrietta Victor. Training will be provided. Henrietta's interview is of particular interest to GSA who have identified her as important to the local Girl Scout history in advance of celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2012.

Volunteers with specialized skills are needed to design a computer program based on our research with an interactive display about growing up Jewish in Savannah during different eras, and explaining Jewish educational traditions to the uninitiated in time for the February, 2013 Georgia Day 280th anniversary.

Go to www.mstararts.org (click Gallery page) to see a rough photo slide show. Donate funds to Mickve Israel or MorningStar Cultural Arts earmarked "Chain" to link yourself with this project. E-mail Carol M. Towbin Greenberg at MStarArts@aol.com or call 912-927-9922 for more information.



*The Savannah Press, June 8, 1916.

It reads Photo by Girard-

This class of boys and girls were confirmed this morning by Rabbi George Solomon in the Mickve Israel Synagogue. Reading from Left to right, first row: Master Sims Guckenheimer, Miss Theresa Rosenbaum, Miss Olga Adler and Master James Hoffman. Second Row: Master Edgar Collat, Rabbi George Solomon, Master Morris Eisenberg and Master D. A. Byck, Jr.





The PJ Library
JEWISH BIBLE STORIES & SONGS FOR KIDS

Savannah PJ Library is a program of the Savannah Jewish Federation and is made possible due to the generosity of Leon and Nancy Slotin and Jane Slotin



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES® OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE



Ronald McDonald House
7410 Waters Ave.
Savannah, GA 31404

March 6th, 2011
12:30pm—2pm

RSVP to Benjamin Bloom,
programming@savj.org, or call him,
912-355-8111 by March 1, 2011

Let's learn about *tzedakah* and do a *mitzvah* project together!
The staff at the Ronald McDonald House need your help to make cookies and decorate cards for the residents of Ronald McDonald House. Also, we'll have a story to hear about doing good for others too.

Bring as many soda pop tabs to donate as possible. Once the tabs are weighed and sold the proceeds go towards programs at Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Coastal Empire.





Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Stephanie & Catherine Bock

Mother/Daughter participants of Savannah's PJ Library



1. How and why did you both get involved with PJ Library?

I first saw an email link in the Weekly ENews from Adam. I clicked on the link and signed up. As a new parent it sounded like a wonderful idea to have someone pick out age appropriate books to help Catherine connect better with her Jewish identity.

2. What impact do you think the PJ Library has had on your lives thus far Jewishly?

Catherine really enjoys the monthly blue and white packages in the mail, she recognizes that they are special Jewish books. She enjoys that initial unwrapping, as they are like surprise presents; I enjoy the

special time they create when we read them together.

3. Catherine - What's your favorite book you've received thus far and what lesson did you learn from it? Stephanie - What has been your favorite story for her and why?

The Shabbat Box. Catherine has wanted to make her own box ever since we read it. She has been collecting all the parts she needs to complete it. At the PJ Library Pass-over event she made an Elijah cup, and that has become her kiddish cup; during the JEA summer camp she made a challah cover with Udi; and at Shalom School she made Sabbath candle and a Havdalah candle. It is also my favorite book for her as

well, because I saw how proactive she was in trying to make something special for the Sabbath, and how much she enjoyed doing it.

4 The PJ Library is a unique ap-

proach for families to connect to their Judaism and the Jewish community; I know that you are active in Congregation Mickve Israel. How has this program helped you get more involved in the greater Jewish community?

This program has helped get me more involved in Savannah's Jewish community by helping me meet other Jewish parents with children of the same age. As parents we have a lot to learn and share with each other about raising our children Jewishly.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the family of:

Sylvia Kaplan Richman

Who died on November 25, 2010

She is survived by her two brothers, Henry Kaplan of St. Petersburg, FL, Max Kaplan; her daughter, Cheryl; her son, Laurence Richman of Maitland, FL; four grandchildren, Sherri (Louis) Bayer, Stacy Aronson, Michael Richman, Robert (Katelyn) Andelman; two great-grandchildren, Charlie Aronson and Jacob Andelman.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim.

Leon Deich

Who died on December 16, 2010

He is survived by a number of nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob.

Membership Matters

"its what we do because its about you!"



MEMBER-GET-A-MEMBER:

Don't miss this great opportunity to share the JEA with your friends and neighbors and receive a gift back from the JEA for your referral.

The program is simple: The JEA will give current paid up members a \$50 credit toward one of the following 2011 events;

- Speaker Series
- Jewish Film Festival
- JEA Golf Tournament
- JEA Poker Tournament
- JEA Annual Gala Event

For each new member that signs up for a 1 year membership.

**The new member must write the referring member's name on their application upon signing up.*

Guests are ALWAYS welcome:

You know health & wellness is good for you....but did you know you can share your JEA experience with a friend, Family member or neighbor? Guest Passes are available at the JEA. If a member "accompanies" a non-member a guest pass for a day at the JEA is \$7 for an adult and \$5 for a child (under 18 years of age). If the member is unable to accompany the non-member, a guest pass for a day at the JEA is \$10 (all ages).

Keep Current, Updated & Connected:

Please call or email Kim Thebo with any address, phone or email updates or changes.

Please contact Kim Thebo, Membership Coordinator for any questions related to the programs mentioned above or about your JEA Membership. Kim can be reached at kim@savj.org or 912.355.8111



No Place Like Home

By Amy Krissman Pine

When Shannon Asher Javetz left Savannah for college at the University of Georgia in 1991, she thought she'd never return home, let alone marry someone she grew up with. But after reconnecting with fellow Savannah native Scott Javetz at a friend's wedding, Shannon defied her own expectations.

In 2000, Shannon and Scott got married, and a year later, they moved back to Savannah.

"After we were married, I realized if we were going to truly settle down, buy a house and start a family, we should move back to Savannah to be closer to our families," Shannon says.

Since returning home nearly 10 years ago, Shannon and Scott have enjoyed the benefits of living in Savannah, among them having their children, Reese, 8, and Matt, 4, grow up surrounded by family.

"My favorite part about being back here is being around family and having our kids grow up with their cousins," says Scott, whose brother, Jay Javetz, and sister, Lainie Javetz Saul, both live in Savannah with their spouses and children.

For Shannon, assistant director of advertising at the Savannah College of Art and Design, and Scott, owner of Javetz Appraisals, the proximity of their family is just one benefit to living in Savannah as an adult.

"Savannah is pretty laid back and easy going," Shannon says. "The weather is great year round. And family or no family—people are friendly. Before you know it, they'll be your 'Savannah' family."

While Shannon's return home was not something she ever contemplated, fellow Savannah native Dr. Kasey Reeves Berman was more open to the idea. Her parents, Lynn and David Reeves, however, didn't want to push Savannah over other cities when she was going through the residency process following her graduation from medical school. They wanted Kasey to come to the decision on her own.

"I went to ten different places interviewing for residency and no place sounded or felt as inviting as Savannah," Kasey says. "My parents were overjoyed. They were so happy, and I was actually relieved because I thought they wanted me to go somewhere else to 'meet someone.'"

If Kasey's parents were concerned that she may not meet someone in Sa-

vannah, their worries were unfounded. Just six months after returning home, Kasey met Daniel Berman, a native of Kingston, Pennsylvania, who at the time was managing the downtown restaurant Bistro Savannah.

Today, Daniel owns and operates the successful Midtown eatery Kasey's Grille, while Kasey—the restaurant's namesake—is a physician at Savannah Pediatrics. Kasey and Daniel, along with their two children, Laney, 3, and Will, 2, are actively involved in the Savannah Jewish community and enjoy the perks of life in Savannah, namely having so much family nearby.

"We were lucky to grow up with our grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins all in one place," Kasey says. "It was such a blessing to have all that family around all the time. I know my siblings and I have always wanted the same thing for our families, even before we had families. It was really important to us to have the same family environment we grew up with."

Kasey's brother, Joshua Reeves, felt the same way. Joshua moved back to Savannah with his wife, Amanda Zedd Reeves, in 2006. The move was a no-brainer for Joshua. He loved growing up in Savannah and knew he would one day like to return and raise a family. For Amanda, a native of Rockville, Maryland, the move was equally appealing. And when Amanda's parents moved to nearby Sun City, Hilton Head in 2004, it was the icing on the cake.

Nearly five years later, Joshua, an attorney at Weinstock & Scavo, and Amanda, an associate broker with Hostetter Schneider Realty Partners, have carved out a life in Savannah that includes successful careers, family and friends.

"I enjoy the size and character of the city, all the things that are constantly going on around town and being able to get out on the water," Joshua says. "We are actually busier here now socially than when we lived in Atlanta."

Part of Joshua's busy social life includes his participation in Young Jewish Savannah (YJS), an organization he and Amanda helped organize in 2008, along with Mark and Allison Konter, Ross Kaminsky, David Eichholz, Jake and Miriam Hodesh and Matthew Allan.

YJS, which caters to young Jewish professionals in the Savannah area, offers an array of activities including Judaic, social, community service and leadership programs. Today, YJS boasts



(l-r) Mark Konter, Scott McGhie, and Josh Reeves

50-75 active members, among them Joshua's younger sister, Morgan Reeves McGhie.

Morgan, the youngest of the Reeves siblings, moved back to Savannah in 2008 with her husband, Scott McGhie. They were living in Stamford, Connecticut, at the time and were thrilled to have the opportunity to experience a warmer climate and the dynamics of having a large, extended family around, something Scott didn't have growing up in Hudson, New Hampshire. When Scott was offered a job as an investment manager at the Fiduciary Company, the couple packed their bags and headed south. A year later, their son, Jackson, was born.

"It's a better way of life in Savannah," says Morgan, who works as the general manager of David's Dry Cleaners, her

father's business. "It was a big draw for me that my parents, siblings and a lot of my family were around."

Family businesses are prevalent in the Savannah Jewish community, and returning home to carry on the tradition is commonplace among many native Savannahians.

Lauren Weitz made the decision to move back to Savannah recently when her fiancé, Adam Fins, was offered a position at Friedman's Fine Arts, a business that has been in her family for more than 100 years. She and Adam moved back in December 2010 and are just getting acclimated to life in her hometown.

"It has been over 10 years since I lived here full time," says Lauren, who is currently looking for a job in the medical laboratory field. "I am really looking forward to exploring Savannah as an adult."

Amy Krissman Pine is a freelance writer and editor. A third generation Savannahian, Amy vowed as a teenager to never return to Savannah once she left for college. She has been back home now for 13 years and has never looked back. Amy met her husband, Jonah, at the JEA, in 1997. They have two children, Sarah, 6, and Caleb, 4.

The PJ Library
JEWISH BRITAIN STORES & BOWLS FOR FAMILIES

**Come celebrate the end of Shabbat
and welcome the new week**

**Enjoy an interactive story with Rabbi Leitner
Light dinner with your PJ friends
Tu B'shevat craft project**

**PJ Havdalah Party
Saturday, January 22nd
Hosted by Congregation Agudath Achim
9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah
6pm**

\$10/family

**RSVP to Benjamin Bloom, programming@savj.org
or call, 912-355-8111**

Special present for each child that comes dressed in PJs

PJ Library Havdalah is a joint initiative joyfully cosponsored by the Savannah Jewish Federation and Congregation Agudath Achim





2011
Speaker's Series

Sunday, January 23—7:30 pm
Elliott Chodoff



Mr. Chodoff has spoken in Savannah twice before. He is a political and military analyst specializing in Middle East conflict and the global war on terrorism. His articles have appeared in *The Washington Times*, *National Post of Canada*, *In the National Interest*, *The Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs* and *Front Page Magazine*.

Elliott is a major in the IDF reserves and is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Population for the Northern Region of Israel in Home Front Command.

Sunday, February 27—7:30 pm
Jon Saxe

Biotechnology, The Excitement and Issues

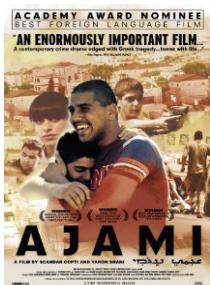


A veteran of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors, Saxe has exploited his experience to become one of biotechnology's most successful serial entrepreneurs. He has put his experiences to use on behalf of a host of young companies, initially as a consultant to venture capital firms and their portfolio investments. He believes that the principles of sound business practice know no boundaries, hence, the companies he is currently involved with span specialty medicines, genomics, ophthalmic drugs and diagnostics, immuno-pharmaceuticals and drug delivery, to name a few.

Tickets: \$10 at the Door (Non-member),
\$6 at the door (Member),
FREE for Active Military & Students

The 2011 Speakers Series is made possible thanks to generous support from the Judith Blumenthal Memorial Lecture Fund at the Jewish Educational Alliance.

A Movie & Beer!



Adults 21 and Over—
Join us at the JEA for a movie & a beer!

March 3rd—Ajami—Ajami is an area of Jaffa where Arabs, Palestinians, Jews and Christians try to live together in an atmosphere that is - to say the least - electric. Omar, an Israeli Arab, struggles to save his family from elimination by a gang of extortionists. He also courts a beautiful Christian girl, Hadir, but marrying her is far from obvious. Malek, an illegal Palestinian worker, tries to collect enough money to pay for his mother's operation. Dando, an Israeli cop, does his utmost to trace his missing brother who may have been killed by Palestinians. Binj, Malek and Omar's Arab friend, suffers from being rejected by other members of his community for mixing with an Israeli girl. All of them will meet violence, most of the time ... with violence.

All movies shown at 7:00 pm
FREE to Members with ID

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 11/12/10-12/20/10)

- Brett Bradley
- Tom Broom
- Phillipa (Bunny) Cohen
- Jack & Eleanor Eades
- Paul & Nancy Feldman
- Jane Fishman
- Yisrael & Elisheva Gold
- Manning Goldsmith
- Justin Hart
- Sally Headley
- Austin Hill
- Jacob Holloway
- Taylor Ingram
- Carter Margison
- Bob Marks
- Patrick Martin
- Emily McLaughlin
- Stephanie Page
- Ira & Henrietta Pearlman
- Marvin & Norma Rappaport
- James Rourke
- Jameel Shamsiddin
- Zack & Ashleigh Spurlock
- Patricia Tyson
- Robyn Wainner
- Tony White
- Essie Williams



Tuesday, January 25th—6-10 PM

TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER!

6 pm-Registration
7 pm-Call Time!

Light snacks & refreshments will be available

\$100 Donation to the JEA

- Donation gets \$3000 in chips
- 15 minute blinds; starting @ 25 & 50
 - Blinds double at each level
 - Re-buys 50% of buy in.
 - No re-buys after 4th level
- Add-on's 1000 chips for \$20
- Prizes for final table players

Reserve your seat now

RSVP to: Kim Thebo, 355-8111 or kim@savj.org

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
CELEBRATE
PIECE
PIER
CELEBRATE



JEA After School Care

- ★ **Ages** - Kids Klub: Pre-K to 1st grade
Club "U": 2nd-5th grade
- ★ **Activities** - Monday: Kid's Yoga
Tuesday: Mixed Media Art
Wednesday: Cooking
Thursday: Swimming
Friday: Crazy Game Day
- ★ **Transportation** - \$30/month or \$3/trip
- ★ **Transportation from** - Heard, Jacob G. Smith, Charles Ellis & Hancock Elementary Schools
- ★ **Price** - Member: Weekly (Monday-Friday) = \$50 (\$10/day)
Individual days = \$12
Non-Member: Weekly (Monday-Friday) = \$75 (\$15/day)
Individual days = \$18
Late Registration Fee—Less than 24 hour notice:
Member = \$15 Non-Member = \$20
FULL DAYS OFF SCHOOL:
8 am-6 pm = \$25 (member) \$35 (non-member)
- ★ **Times** - Monday-Thursday—3-6 pm
Fridays—3-5 pm
- ★ Open all 1/2 days off of school
- ★ Vacation Camps
- ★ Certified staff
- ★ Snack / daily activities / homework help



KID'S YOGA

Mondays at 4 pm

Are you looking for a good outlet for your kids to release some of the stress of their everyday life? There is a solution; Kid's Yoga at the JEA. Dawn Tanis, a certified and highly respected yoga instructor in the community, created this class last year for the JEA Aftercare program. The kids will enjoy a variety of yoga-related activities tailored to their needs. Dawn mixes art, games and basic yoga to create a 30-45 min. class that's fun for all! Some of the benefits for Kid's Yoga include increased flexibility, strength and coordination while improving health, finding inner peace and relaxing the kids. If you're looking for a great way for your kids to unwind and have fun, check out Kid's Yoga with Coach Dawn on Mondays at 4:00 pm.

YOU'RE INVITED:

SATURDAY NIGHT OUT

For children 4 yrs to 6th grade.

Older kids can come and help.

Member Cost: \$7 per child, \$20 per family

Non-Member Cost: \$10 per child, \$25 per family

\$5 late fee for those who register after the Thursday deadline

Schedule:

Game Show Mania/Fear Factor—Jan. 22

Put your game show knowledge to the test as you earn points for your team to spend at the JEA prize store!

Wii Challenge—Feb. 12

Come out & show us that you have what it takes to master the "art" of the Wii while enjoying snacks and fun times with your friends!

Saturday Night Extravaganza—Feb. 26

We saved the best for last: A night of surprises you do not want to miss and certainly will not forget!

Stay Posted for More Details

Check Your Mail

To RSVP, email camp@savj.org

JEA Donations

(as of 12/17/10)

JEA BUILDING FUND

- In honor of Richard Levy's engagement
- In honor Eric Meyerhoff's speedy recovery
Sarah Denmark & Adam Solender
- In honor of David Meddin's speedy recovery
Aaron & Esther Buchsbaum
- In honor of Melvyn Goldstein's special bday
Arnie & Doris Goldstein
- In honor of Ashley Samuels' speedy recovery
Lynn & Jay Javetz
Sharon & Murray Galin
Shannon & Scott Javetz
- In memory of Julius Rudikoff
- In honor Ashley Samuels' speedy recovery
Judge Michael Karpf

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

- In honor of Ashley Samuels recovery
Merry & Richard Bodziner

ETHEL COHEN MEDDIN MEMORIAL FUND

- In memory of Paul Bryan
- In memory of Mr. Dave Sims
Chuck Palefsky
- In memory of Mrs. Babe Mordecai
Chuck Palefsky & Lorry Richmond;
Sherry & Johnny Macchia and
Louis and Michele Meddin

JACK & MIRIAM LEVY CONCERT FUND

- In honor of Aaron Levy's birthday
Esther & Aaron Buchsbaum
Arlene & Allan Ratner
- In honor of Richard Levy's engagement
- In honor of Aaron Levy's birthday
Jane Winter

RAYMOND & MORRIS ROSEN MEMORIAL FUND

- In honor of Ashley Samuels speedy recovery
Laurie & Jeff Rubnitz

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

- In honor of Norton Melaver's speedy recovery
Chuck, Marsha & Family
Patrick & Brenda Salter & Bernice
- In honor of Michael Strear's speedy recovery
Patrick & Brenda Salter & Bernice
Elise & Victor Shernoff
- In honor of Ashley Samuels speedy & complete recovery
Elise & Victor Shernoff

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

- In memory of Milton Towbin
Doris & Martin Greenberg

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- In memory of Maggie Martin
- In memory of Jules Rudikoff
- In memory of Dr. Darnell Brawner
Tony Center
- In memory of Chester Simmons
- In memory of Evelyn Scharf
- In memory of Isadore Karpf
- In memory of Dr. Lester Gretenstein
- In memory of Bailee Kronowitz
- In memory of Julius Rudikoff
- In memory of Matilda (Tillie) Center Lefkowitz
Simone & Leo Center





Coming Soon!
JEA Art Gallery—March 2011

“Garage” Art Sale!

Got artwork you no longer have space for? Donate it to the JEA Garage Art Sale! We will re-sell it for you during the month of March, with all proceeds going to help support the JEA.

A Wine and Cheese Reception will be held as well. Watch for further details.

Contact Kim Thebo to donate your piece of art, 355-8111, ext. 211 or kim@savj.org.



T-Ball & Baseball!

Hey parents! It's time to start thinking about t-ball and baseball for your young ones. Even though winter just started, spring is right around the corner. Registration starts January 2nd and ends February 25th.

Practice start dates

- **March 6th** for baseball at **Guy Minnick Park**
- **March 13th** for t-ball behind the **JEA**

T-ball information:

- * Parent guided
- * Plays in the Hunter League
- * Practice days & times TBD

Baseball information:

- * Hunter or City League for U8
- * City League for U10 & U12
- * Pitching machine for U8 & U10
- * Kid pitch for U12
- * Practice days & times TBD

We are always looking for parental volunteers and sponsors. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know. You can find the registration forms on the JEA web site or at the front desk at the JEA. If you have any questions, you can contact me at 355-8111 or by email at stephanie@savj.org.

Jr Swim League 2011

With Coach Connie Buckley

Tuesdays & Thursdays
4:30pm — 5:30pm

JEA Members—\$50 per month
Non-members—\$75 per month
Runs from January thru April

Ages 5 & Up
(Children required to swim length of pool)

Program Objectives:

- Stroke & Turn Development
- Technique Improvement
 - Muscle memory
 - Endurance

Registration forms and pricing can be found on the JEA website or at the front desk at the JEA. Registration is required for each month.

For more information, contact Stephanie at 355-8111 or Stephanie@savj.org

Member-Get-a-Member

Don't miss this great opportunity to share the JEA with your friends and neighbors and receive a gift back from the JEA!

Its simple: The JEA will give current paid referring members a \$50 credit towards one of the events listed below, for each new member that they refer and who joins the JEA. The new member must write the referring member's name on the membership application.

- Speaker Series
- Jewish Film Festival
- JEA Golf Tournament
- JEA Poker Tournament
- JEA Annual Gala Event
- JEA Summer Camp

JEA

Membership Matters

JEA

Contact Kim Thebo for more info:
355-8111 or kim@savj.org

Starts June 13 Coming Soon

JEA SUMMER CAMP 2011

K'toni / Yeladim Campers

- Week #1 - June 13th-17th**
Around the World
- Week #2-June 20th-24th**
Spirit Week
- Week #3 - June 27th-July 1st**
Knights and Princesses
- Week #4 - July 5th-8th**
Safari Adventure/Hockey
- Week #5 - July 11th-15th**
Harry Potter Week
- Week #6 - July 18th-22nd**
Ocean Commotion
- Week #7 - July 25th-29th**
Drama/Dance
- Week #8 - Aug. 1st-5th**
Soccer/Gymnastics
- Week #9 - Aug. 8th-12th**
Color War

Chaverim / L.I.T. Campers

- Week #1 - June 13th-17th**
Camp Invention (Create)
- Week#2-June 20th-24th**
Spirit Week
- Week #3 - June 27th-1st**
Camp Invention (Spark)
- Week #4 - July 5th-8th**
Safari Adventure/ Hockey
- Week #5 - July 11th-15th**
Harry Potter Week
- Week #6 - July 18th-22nd**
Ocean Commotion
- Week #7 - July 25th-29th**
Drama/Dance
- Week #8 - Aug. 1st-5th**
Lacrosse/Gymnastics
- Week # 9 - Aug. 8th-12th**
Color War

Details coming soon.



Art at the JEA



Crime - Punishment - Redemption—Allen



Let's Go to Mars—Baltz



Tybee Lighthouse—Mayo

January Artists—Kirsten Allen & Chase Baltz

Kirsten Allen - Biography

Kirsten Allen covers the meaning of her art with bright colors and high contrast. She coats the vinegar of her work with honey to attract more viewers. She is twenty-years old, attends the Savannah College of Art and Design, and aspires to make a living drawing pictures for people. She is always open for commissions, internships and contract work. This is her first showing in Savannah, Georgia, and she looks forward to discussing her work with as many people as often, criticism is warmly welcomed. One day, Kirsten hopes she will be painting a picture for you.

Chase Baltz - Biography

Chase Baltz is 20-year-old visual artist/illustrator from Chattanooga, TN. He is currently in his Junior year at Savannah College of Art and Design, majoring in Illustration and minoring in Drawing. Pursuing his BFA in Illustration, he hopes to one day work for *Rolling Stone* magazine, creating editorial pieces as well as creating various work for bands and shows.

Artwork available for viewing January 2-31, 2011

February Artist—Irene Mayo

Irene Mayo - Biography

Irene Mayo was born in New York City. She studied Art History and oil painting under noted Cuban artist and professor Daniel Sera-Badue at St. Peter's College.

She subsequently attended the Universidad Autonoma de Centro America in San Jose, Costa Rica, and studied watercolor and drawing intensively. She also studied pastel drawing with Jim Theologos at the Centro Cultural in San Pedro, Costa Rica. Upon returning to the United States, she continued her studies at Fordham University and later at Georgia Southern University from which she received a BA in Fine Arts. Savannah became her home in 1987.

Her paintings have been exhibited in various galleries in and near Savannah. Her works have been auctioned for many local fund raising efforts, including the Historic Society, the Ossabaw Island Foundation, the Elizabeth & Curtis Anderson Cancer Institute, the Telfair Ball and others.

Artwork available for viewing February 1-28, 2011

Art Reception February 3, 2011, 6-8 PM

January-February 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16 AARP Class Part II— 9:30 am	17	18	19	20 Tu B'Shevat Senior Lunch— 12:30 pm Rambam Science Fair	21 Rambam Science Fair	22 Sat. Night Out— 6 pm
23 JEA Speakers Series— 7:30 pm	24	25	26	27 Senior Lunch— 12:30 pm	28	29 Savannah Jewish Film Festival— 8 pm
30 Savannah Jewish Film Festival beginning at 11 am	31	Feb. 1	2 Savannah Jewish Film Festival— 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm	3 Senior Lunch— 12:30 pm Savannah Jewish Film Festival— 1:30 and 7:30 pm Art Gallery Reception— 6 pm	4	5 Savannah Jewish Film Festival— 8 pm
6 Savannah Jewish Film Festival beginning at 12 pm	7	8 Black Heritage Festival Jazz Concert-	9 Rambam Pre-School Rodeo Round-Up— 6 pm	10 Senior Lunch— 12:30 pm	11	12 Sat. Night Out— 6 pm
13	14	15	16	17 Senior Lunch— 12:30 pm	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Senior Lunch— 12:30 pm	25	26 Sat. Night Out— 6 pm
27 JEA Speakers Series— 7:30 pm	28	Mar. 1	2	3 Senior Lunch— 12:30 pm Movie & a Beer— 7 pm	4	5



Jewish Savannah has a History of Its Own

By Nancie Meddin Clark

There was a time in the not too distant past when conventional wisdom for many Jews was that "Jews only live in New York, Miami and Israel". But the people who thought that obviously had never been to Savannah, today a thriving tourist magnet.

In fact, Savannah is the third oldest Jewish community in the U.S. Congregation Mickve Israel began with 41 Jews in 1733, just after General James Edward Oglethorpe settled the original colony. Most of the early congregation was Sephardic, having escaped the ongoing inquisition in Portugal, but two families, the Sheftalls and Minises, were Ashkenazic from Germany. The Sephardim left Savannah in 1739 fearing Spanish troops amassed in Florida and poised to attack Savannah. But today the congregation still includes descendants of the Sheftall family. Mickve Israel, now affiliated with the Reform movement, offers weekday tours of its 1876 sanctuary and museum. It also hosts the Jewish Food Festival every October.

Savannah's Orthodox Synagogue, B'nai B'rith Jacob (BBJ) was established in 1861 at the beginning of the Civil War. It was started by Rabbi Yaakov Rosenfeld, a *moyel*, and a group of Ashkenazic

immigrants and housed in Armory Hall, a frame building erected in 1866 on State and Montgomery Streets. In the early 1900s the congregation dedicated an architecturally-significant onion domed building that now is the student union building for Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Today BBJ is Savannah's largest congregation with a membership of more than 400 families. Some of those families (Garfunkel, Rabhan, Freedman, Friedman, Meddin, Wilensky, Rotkow, and others) can boast of having been part of the Orthodox community in Savannah for well over 100 years.

As recently as the 1930s there were two other congregations: the Yeshrun and the Agudath Achim. Today there is only one. The Agudath Achim (AA) dates from the early 20th century. Its first building was at Montgomery and York Streets with a more impressive building dedicated in 1940 at Drayton and Waldburg Streets. A few years later the congregation became the first in the state to affiliate with the Conservative movement. In 1972 the AA moved to its current home on Lee Boulevard. Some family names still parts of its history include Tenenbaum, Kaminsky, Lasky, and Warshaw.

Even Savannah's burial sites are of

interest. The Jewish Colonial Burial Ground has real historic significance — Mickve Israel holds the key. It's for the most part behind a locked stone wall just west of MLK Boulevard. Jewish colonial residents were originally buried on Oglethorpe Avenue near the Juliet Gordon Low birthplace, but as the city grew most of the graves were moved. Today a stone marker on Oglethorpe Avenue lists their names. It was followed by a community cemetery at Laurel Grove, which tells some intriguing stories. The current Jewish burial ground at Bonaventure Cemetery may be one of the most beautiful in the nation with its majestic oaks dripping with Spanish moss along the Intra Coastal Waterway.

The Jewish Educational Alliance (JEA), Savannah's Jewish community center, is the hub of Savannah's Jewish communal and cultural life. Once located downtown in what now is a SCAD dorm, the JEA on Abercorn Street is a large, multipurpose facility, home to a fitness center, indoor and outdoor pools, summer and winter camps for children, other recreational facilities, and an art gallery. It also hosts an annual Jewish Film Festival, a historical display of the Jewish community and various concerts,



SCAD Student Center - formerly Bnai Brith Jacob

Rambam Day School, housed in the JEA, offers secular and religious education through the 8th grade. There also are two afternoon schools: The Hebrew Community School run by BBJ and The Shalom School that operates as a cooperative effort of the Mickve Israel and Agudath Achim Synagogues.

The Savannah Jewish Archives are maintained at the Georgia Historical Society and tours of Jewish Savannah are available from several sources. Inquiries at the JEA or on www.savj.org will reach "Grow Savannah," the Savannah Jewish Federation's outreach effort to those wishing to relocate to Savannah and affiliate with the Jewish community and its long history of Southern hospitality.

Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES
Newspaper article and pictures from the Archives celebration!

ARCHIVES CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY!
BY JEFF KOLE

SAVANNAH, GA The Savannah Jewish Archives -- the repository for preserving the personal papers, business records, photographs, oral histories, and other memorabilia that documents the distinguished role the Savannah area Jewish community plays in our city's history -- celebrated its 15th anniversary in October. Several hundred of the Archives' closest friends and supporters gathered in the JEA auditorium to enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, and to acknowledge the accomplishments of this grassroots, volunteer-driven organization.

Among the highlights of the afternoon was a reading of excerpts from the collection of oral histories, the "insider's view" by archivist Lynette Stoudt, and the presentation by descendants of the founders of our Jewish community, complete with Marion Mendel Levy's display of the unusual hat worn by her forebear, Revolutionary War patriot Sheftall Sheftall.

Just as Archives founder, my mother Kaye Kole, thought the celebration was concluding, she was surprised to receive a Mayoral proclamation congratulating her, the volunteers, and the Board of Directors on the accomplishments of the organization. Kaye received a well-deserved standing ovation.

My mother's labor of love on behalf of the Archives is well known. For fifteen years my mother, Stoudt, and a dedicated group of volunteers have met weekly at the Georgia Historical Society -- where the Archives is housed -- to sift through recently donated materials. She has

from October 3, 2010



SJA Board Members:
Nancy Feldman, Neil Brecker, Jeff Kole, Bill Raffel, Kaye Kole, and Phillipa "Bunny" Cohen (Anniversary Chair)



Marion Levy Mendel with Sheftall Sheftall's famous hat



Georgia Historical Society Senior Archivist, Lynette Stoudt

guided other volunteers in the process of recording oral histories of our community's longtime residents. She has worked tirelessly to recruit volunteers and raise money to keep the Archives vital. When people ask my mother when she will be finished collecting, her answer is always the same: "Never."

The Savannah Jewish Archives is more than a repository of artifact. It has published three books about the Savannah Jewish community, and recently hosted a tour of the buildings of the Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) that were once part of our Jewish community. To learn more about the Archives, and to see more photos of our 15th anniversary celebration, please visit our website at www.savannahjewisharchives.org.

And, we hope you like the look of our new space: your "family photo album." We invite you to visit us in the coming issues of the *Savannah Jewish News*, view the page we've turned for you, and share the depth of our collection.



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



Image by Attic Fire Photography

Join Us At Mickve Israel

Mickve Israel extends to you an open invitation!

To Worship: In addition to special children services and holiday events, we have Shabbat services on Friday evenings at 6:00 pm. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, our Friday evening services will be held at 6:30 pm. Instead of being held in our historic sanctuary, these Exotic Resort Location services will be hosted at member homes around the community. Our Saturday morning services are at 11:00 am and are followed by a Kiddush lunch.

To Tour Our Historic Sanctuary and Museum: We offer docent-led tours Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and again from 2:00 to 4:00 pm with the last tour starting approximately 30 minutes before the end of the session. The suggested donation for a tour is \$5 per person.

To Shop: Our Judaica Shop is stocked with a variety of items for children and adults. If we don't have what you are looking for, we can order it for you! The shop is open during tour times and other times upon request.

To Eat: The Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival will be held in Forsyth Park on Sunday, October 30, 2011, from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm.

For more information on the third oldest Jewish congregation in America founded in 1733, which is right in your community, contact Mickve Israel at 912.233.1547 or visit www.mickveisrael.org.

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Saturday Night at the Movies

By Annette Carnow

I love movies. Not the over-the-top car chases and explosions, but the ones that haunt you and make you think about the human condition. Unfortunately, Savannah is not a great market for this kind of film. (Yes, we are extremely fortunate to have the Savannah Film Festival, Reel Savannah, and the Savannah Jewish Film Festival, but our pickings are still pretty slim.) So when the Jewish Women of the Landings was looking for a new activity a couple of years ago, I was delighted when they embraced the idea to start a movie group. My charge and that of my co-chairman, Sheila Grossman, would be to select films that had some connection with Jews, Judaism, and values we try to uphold.

In these days when the term Wikileaks is ubiquitous, and the character of Julian Assange is suspect, our last program proved to be not only entertaining and instructive, but provocative and

timely. Patriot or traitor, state secret or information vital to the electorate, these are questions that our nation has grappled with before and are put forth in the Academy award-nominated film for best documentary, The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers.

Tracing Ellsberg's transformation from a brilliant PhD. Harvard economic graduate, to rifle platoon leader in Vietnam, to Rand think-tank insider, to consultant to Secretary of Defense McNamara formulating war theory, the film documents Ellsberg's reluctance to protest the Vietnam war until he became overwhelmed by his knowledge of the secrets contained in McNamara's study of U.S. Decision-making in Vietnam, 1945-68 (later known as the Pentagon Papers). As Ellsberg's awareness of how the American people were kept from the whole truth of our involvement in South Vietnam, starting with Truman and all the succeeding administrations (both Democratic

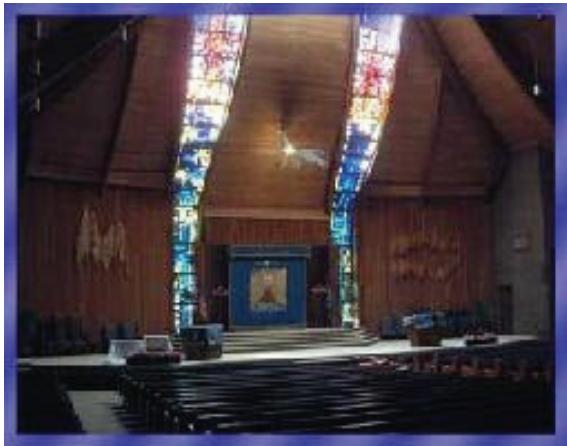
and Republican) on through Nixon, his courage and conviction grew that he must take drastic measures to alert the public. Risking the possibility of life imprisonment or worse, he and his children sat up night after night secretly photocopying some 7,000 pages of documents which he first released to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and then in a coordinated effort to *The New York Times* and 17 other major newspapers. Ellsberg was arrested and prosecuted by the government on 12 felony counts and faced a possible sentence of 115 years. However, the case was dismissed on grounds of governmental misconduct against him, and led to the convictions of several White House aides and contributed to the impeachment of President Nixon.

With the proviso that "we all agree to disagree agreeably" after viewing the film, there was no dearth of opinions and questions about not only Ellsberg as hero or traitor, but as to the role of the free press in a democracy. What

constitutes a "state secret"? Can diplomacy be conducted without a veil? In a post 9/11 world, would we view Ellsberg's actions differently? With the rise of the internet and the demise of the newspaper industry as we know it, is our society more or less at risk? With the fragmentation and politicizing of the news today, can we even agree on the facts?

As for me, I believe that this is an important film that needs to be discussed by everyone who votes or who will vote. It needs to be viewed in schools as part of U.S. civic courses and discussed by parents and their high school and college age children. Our founding fathers believed that democracy is predicated on an educated electorate. They also believed that a free and open exchange of information via the press was a key to preventing the corrupting power of institutionalized power. So get a group of friends together, view this movie, and question what it takes to make our great democratic experiment work.

Annette Carnow is a JWOL member, Landings Resident, Mickve Israel docent, and a retired Adult Services Librarian.



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Thoughts from Rambam Day School

In Parshas Vayigash, Yosef requests of the brothers to leave Binyamin in Egypt while they return to their father. Yehudah steps forward and explains that he cannot do that as he is responsible for returning Binyamin unharmed to his father. The words Yehudah uses to express that he must return with Binyamin are; "For how can I go up to my father if the youth is not with me?" This verse should serve homiletically for each of us. How can we in 120 years go up to our Father in Heaven having to explain the many incidences in our lives that we know deep down are not worthy of an explanation and fall only in the category of having been done with *excuses* to offer as *lame* reasons?

Those of us who have partnered with Jewish education and/or have sent their children to Rambam, are well prepared to face the Almighty in 120 years, because the Almighty will most definitely ask parents, "Did you provide your children with knowledge of their heritage?" If we say yes, G-d will as well want to know if what we provided was sufficient knowledge, so that our children grew up to be adults well versed in their heritage and bonded with the very ideals that strengthen our relationship with G-d?

Prior to Moshe passing away, G-d instructed him to write the words of the Torah that he had been taught on Mt. Sinai on a scroll. Moshe wrote the scroll and gave it to the tribe of Levi to guard and to be used to teach the generations to follow. The other tribes in bewilderment cried out to Moshe asking why they were not entrusted with a Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll) to use to instill within their children the teachings of the Torah.

Upon hearing this request, Moshe declares, "Hashem did not give to you a heart to know, eyes to see and ears to hear until this day!" Only now, after Moshe has spent years with the Jewish people, NOW, right before his death he claims they finally have the qualities of humans - a heart, eyes and ears? What Moshe means is on this day, the day they requested their own Sefer Torah it became crystal clear to Moshe that the Jewish people were committed to God and His Sacred Torah. What gave

them away? Their concern to have a means to transmit the word of G-d to their children? They weren't jealous of the physical scroll that was given to Levi; they were concerned that they too wanted a Torah Scroll to teach their children from and to hand over to the next generation to hand over to the generation after them and so on. This process is called TRADITION! Moshe was overjoyed that the Jewish people were clearly stating their devotion for ALL times to Hashem.

Just moments ago I followed the sound of a drum. It led me to the Rambam lunchroom and a sight that brought tears to my eyes. Rabbi Russ was playing the drums, Rabbi Gordon the guitar, and Rabbi Landon, a recorder. Rabbi Gold was dancing with several of the classes while other classes were sitting in front of the music and singing Chanukah songs. There was laughter, there was joy; there were Jews, young and old, bonding in celebration of Chanukah and the gift of their heritage.

On December 9th, Rambam presented its Chanukah program. Pre-K sang a Chanukah song and Kindergarten sang a few Chanukah songs. Elementary and middle school presented a program of skits and songs emphasizing the importance of middos, (good character) and how the second Temple was destroyed due to the Jewish people lacking good character traits. Everyone commented how it was definitely one of the best programs ever, from the presentation to the auditorium being decorated to resemble a laboratory. All the skits were done as part of a scientist being alerted through his special mid-dos machine when children on earth were not behaving appropriately.

Everyone, those that were Jewish and those that were not, left feeling great! If our own people find themselves threatened by too much exposure to their heritage then we have bigger concerns to address than anti-Semitism.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Shalom School Prays with Meaning

It happened last month at Agudath Achim Synagogue, and, for all who were there, it was really special in so many ways: The Sanctuary was packed, and still the age average was below 20. Shalom School students were lining up to lead us in for the Friday night service and the atmosphere was uplifting. Our children, including the youngest, in complete harmony with the Rabbi, took over for a serious part of the service. And that was really exciting!

BUT then I couldn't stop asking myself, how engaged were they, really? How much of a connection with G-d did they really feel?

How do we make *Tefilah*, *worship*, meaningful for our students? How can we help them take ownership? How can we give our students the ability to make it a personal time of meaningful connection to G-d?

Since the beginning of the year, I have undertaken the responsibility of establishing a school service for all of our sessions, and as the initiator, I also lead those services. The first challenge I had to face was the perception of praying that the children had. They spend numerous hours in the classroom memorizing, translating and understanding the messages of our prayers. But that process, while being included in fun and creative ways in the curriculum, is still far from being a spiritual experience. Even though our students and their families do attend regular services, the setting is often overwhelming; they are dressed in their best attire and against the promise to be on their best behavior, they are being included in our synagogues rituals.

As we spent our first school semester

taking care of the mechanical aspect: becoming familiar with the prayers, pronouncing the words and learning tunes, we can now focus on the experience.

Children, like adults, are spiritual beings. Our role as

Jewish educators is to introduce and acquaint them with their spiritual voice. To make *praying* meaningful to a child, it has to feel personal and special to him/her. And that's why a child needs to be told from a very young age that s/he has a relationship with G-d, that s/he can share his/her worries and desires with G-d. That G-d created each one of us so He understands us better than anyone else.

Through our weekly routine, the children have learned to take ownership of the sanctuary; it is now their space as much as the grown-up crowd. But this is just a baby step in this process of connecting with God through our prayers.

This process may take an entire school year, but these students do mature and begin to take their place in the *minyan* and start their own personal dialogue with God. The results may not be immediate, but the ultimate goal of sincere connection and meaningful dialogue is worth striving for; and what we saw on the bima that Friday night definitely tells me that we are heading toward the right direction.

Wishing you a meaningful prayer experience.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School



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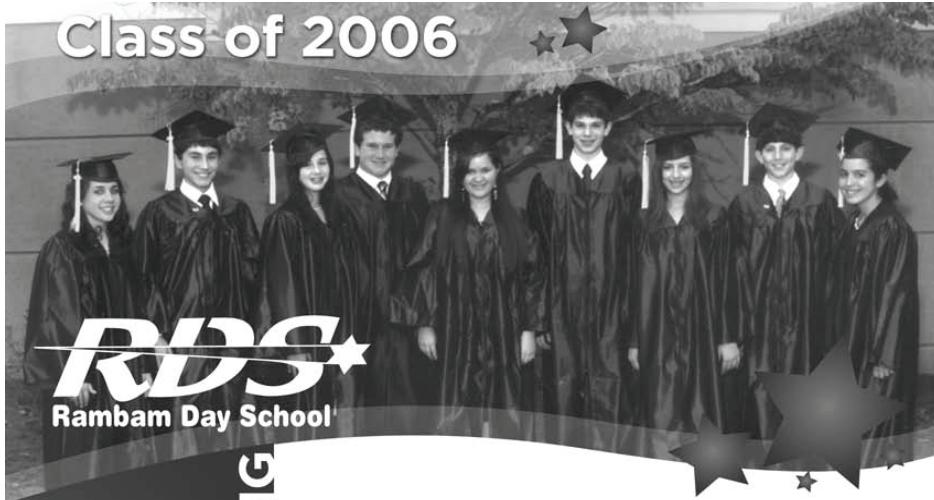
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Cooking with Black Eyed Peas from Gefilte Girl

Chai y'all!

One of my favorite things about celebrating New Year's Eve is cooking a big ole pot of black eyed peas for good luck. It wasn't until I was researching this article that I discovered that this wasn't originally a Southern tradition, but a Jewish one for Rosh Hashana. It is written in the Babylonian Talmud that "Abaye [d. 339 CE] said, now that you have established that good-luck symbols avail, you should make it a habit to see *qara* (bottle gourd), *rubiya* (black-eyed peas, Arabic *lubiya*), *kartei* (leeks), *silka* (either beets or spinach), and *tamrei* (dates) on your table on the New Year." It was in fact the Jewish settlers to Georgia that brought the tradition with them, and it was adopted by non-Jews sometime after the Civil War. Here are a few black eyed pea recipes that I hope that you will try and enjoy.

SOUTHERN STYLE BLACK EYED PEAS

3 bags frozen black eyed peas
1 smoked turkey leg (in the meat section, Publix has nice ones)
2 cups smoked beef sausage, diced

1 diced medium yellow onion
1 Tbs. garlic salt
1 Tsp. kosher salt
1 Tsp. pepper
1 Tsp. sugar water

In a large soup pot put turkey leg, sausage, onion, garlic salt, kosher salt, sugar and pepper. Add enough water to cover, cook over medium heat with a lid until turkey becomes tender (about 45 minutes- 1 hour). Add black eyed peas and cover with water so that they're submerged by 1 inch. Cook covered for one hour or until the peas are soft. Eat them with vidalia onion chutney and cornbread! Delicious!

When I lived in Florida these West African ladies always had a food cart at street fairs and they sold the most scrumptious black eyed pea fritters called Akara. Here's the closest that I've come to duplicating their recipe-

AKARA: WEST AFRICAN BLACK EYED PEA FRITTERS

Makes about 1 dozen

1 cup fresh black-eyed peas (or 1 cup dried, soaked in water overnight)

1/2 medium or 1 small red bell pepper, seeded and minced
1/2 hot chile pepper (jalapeño works well), seeded and minced (optional, does make it spicy!)
1/2 small onion, minced
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
Peanut or other vegetable oil
Hot sauce

Grind peas in a food processor until a thick, pasty consistency. Stir in peppers, onion, salt, and pepper. Add 1 to 2 tbsp. water to make a very thick batter.

Pour 1/2 inch oil into a medium sauté pan and heat over medium heat to 350°. Drop in batter by the large spoonful (fritters should be roughly golf-ball sized) and fry until deep brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Serve hot with your favorite hot sauce.

The last recipe is for "Cowboy



*Gefilte Girl
Elizabeth
Hale Ratner*

Caviar". It's a super simple recipe and a wonderful alternative to traditional salsa, great to make for that big Georgia football game!

COWBOY CAVIAR

1 1/2oz can of white corn, drain well
1 15 oz can of black eyed peas, drain well and rinse

3 roma tomatoes, chopped
1 ripe avocado, chopped
4 green onions chopped
2/3 cup chopped cilantro

DRESSING:

1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 Tsp. minced garlic
1/8 Tsp. black pepper
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
1 Tsp. cumin
Salt to taste

Combine vinaigrette with the vegetables and refrigerate for one hour before serving with tortilla chips. This salsa is also great in wraps and salads!

Elizabeth Hale Ratner is a proud new Savannah resident and member of Congregation Mickve Israel. Visit her website at savannahci.tycatering.com.

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