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Featured Stories

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Popular, annual "12 Hour" Judaism course at Mickve Israel is back, this year on February 2nd; p15

SJF/JEA Sponsor World-Renowned Children's Art Exhibit

"Children of Jerusalem: Painting Pain, Dreaming Peace," an art exhibit sponsored by the Savannah Jewish Federation, the Jewish Educational Alliance, Live Oak Public Libraries and Savannah State University, opened on January 7th at the Bull Street Public Library in Savannah. The exhibit, on display until February 22nd, consists of 61 moving paintings created by Israeli and Palestinian children as part of a joint project organized by the Institute for the Study of Religions and Communities in Israel and the East Jerusalem Department of Social Activities. The project was designed to use art as a way to open communication between the children. Betty and Norton Melaver also provided generous funding for the exhibit.

The opening of the exhibit marked the official beginning of Savannah's

celebration of the 60th anniversary year of Israel's independence. The paintings from the three-year project are displayed chronologically. Initially, the Israeli and Palestinian children painted separately, but later were brought together to work on some pieces jointly. The exhibit shows the progression of their feelings from fear of war and terror to hopes for peaceful coexistence.

On Sunday, January 13th, the boards of directors of the SJF, JEA and Libraries were invited to an opening reception for the exhibit. Oren Rozenblat, Deputy Consul General from Israel for the Southeast, and Congressman Jack Kingston (R-GA, 1st Congressional District) gave warm, welcoming remarks to the attendees. Rozenblat read a beautiful poem that expressed the same hope seen in much



Community Shaliach Eyal Blank, SJF President Joel Greenberg, Cong. Jack Kingston and Deputy Consul General Oren Rozenblat at opening reception for "Children of Jerusalem"

of the children's art and Kingston spoke of his own hopes for successful peace negotiations. Rabbi Arnold Belzer delivered greetings from Congressman John Barrow (D-GA, 12th District) who was not able to attend

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AM Goldkrand Visits Ukraine To Fulfill Husband's Promise of Equipment for Maternity Clinic

AM Goldkrand recently returned to Savannah following a medical mission to Odessa in the Ukraine. Away from Savannah November 6-18, she also had the opportunity to visit Riga, Latvia, where she was an observer for Jewish Healthcare International. Her visits to both places provided an opportunity for her to see where and how money donated to the annual Savannah Jewish Federation campaign is used overseas. "Without us giving

the money to the people, which puts food on their tables and even provides medicines, the people would really be in terrible positions," AM said.

AM's husband, the late Dr. John Goldkrand, had participated in medical missions sponsored by Jewish Healthcare International (JHI), which is part of the American Joint Distribution Committee, a beneficiary agency of the Federation's annual fundraising effort. After John retired from Memorial University Medical Center, where he specialized in high risk obstetrics, he became interested in JHI and was named head of its Odessa Mission. On a medical mission to Odessa, he promised the maternity clinic there an ultrasound machine because they did



AM and Dr. Postahova, who works in the Maternity Clinic.

not have one. Unfortunately, John died in 2005 before he could complete his promise of delivery of the ultrasound equipment. In his memory, AM established the John Goldkrand Jewish Healthcare Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah to raise the money necessary to buy the machine and fulfill his pledge to the people of Odessa. As it turns out, AM was happy and pleased to use the opportunity of her

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Breaking News

Savannah Jewish Federation Director Lynn Levine announced at press time that this year's fundraising campaign sponsored by the Savannah Jewish Federation has officially bro-

ken the million dollar mark. General Campaign Chair Michael Kooden expressed his appreciation to the community for their support of this year's campaign and added that with everyone's help he believes we can achieve our goal.



A Publication of Savannah Jewish Federation
PO Box 23527
Savannah, Georgia 31403
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2008 Federation Campaign Achievement Update

\$1,029,610

Our Goal: \$1,600,000

Live Generously - Your Gift is Our Future



On The Personal Side...

MISCELLANY. Erica Gal, daughter of Dr. Richard and Merry Bodziner and daughter-in-law of Moises and Sharon Paz, has accepted the position of Program Director for the Lisa F. Brill Institute of Jewish Learning at the Marcus Jewish Community Center in Atlanta. Primary among her responsibilities is to be the Director of the Melton Mini-School, and to oversee other Brill programs, such as Derech Torah and Continuing Education. "Many of you are already familiar with Erica's smiling face and incredibly-efficient work style, since she has been the administrative and organizational anchor here since joining us a few months ago. In addition to work with the Brill Institute, Erica worked hard on the Jewish Book Festival last month, and was instrumental to the success of this huge event. We know that Erica will bring her commitment to Jewish learning and living as well as her concrete skills and enthusiasm to help our program maintain its excellent standards and even to grow further to meet the needs of our community", according to Dr. Edna Miller, Director of the Brill Institute. ... Former Savannahian Jackie Glass, a District Court judge in Clark County (Las Vegas), Nevada, had the distinct honor of presiding over O.J. Simpson's most recent brush with the legal system. Jackie firmly laid down the law with the infamous former football star and doubled his bail before allowing him to be released from his latest incarceration. Jackie was elected to the bench in 2002 and has been a leader in the nationwide effort to improve how the courts deal with mental illness. She is married to Las Vegas city councilman, attorney and former prosecutor Steve Wolfson. They have two daughters.



Jackie Glass

SPORTS. Faye Kirschner won first place in her age group in the Savannah Sand Gnats 5K (3.1 miles) Home Run Trot. She placed third in the Sunrise Rotary Trick or Trot 10 K (6.2 miles) at Wilmington Island and second in the Savannah Bridge Run 5K. Chris Addy won second in her age group in the Trick or Trot.

Vital Statistics

The Bar Mitzvah of Jared Solomon Cohen will be celebrated February 16, 2008 at Congregation Mickve Israel. Jared is the son of Ruth and George Cohen and the brother of Alexa and Laila. He is in seventh grade at Oglethorpe Charter School.



Jared Solomon Cohen

ATTENTION:

ALL GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE SENIORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Forms are available at the front desk of the JEA.

Greetings From Eyal

By Eyal Blank

Savannah Jewish Community Shaliach

In the exhibit, "Children of Jerusalem" that is showing now at the Bull Street Library, there is one picture that talks to me more than any other picture. "The Old City in Mourning" shows the sadness that has been a permanent resident in the streets of Jerusalem since the second Intifada began. This picture takes me back to the winter of 2003. I was a student at Hebrew University then. The streets of Jerusalem were full of fear and Old City was empty.



We used to go the city by taxicabs because the buses were too scary. However, if for some reason one had to use public transportation, a certain procedure was created — where to sit, what to do if you became concerned, etc. It's almost funny to think about it now, but at that time it was very serious.

One relatively warm weekend during this cold winter one of my friends and me went to visit the Old City. It seemed crazy to us that we were living on Mount Scopus, looking down on the Temple Mount every morning

on our way to class and still, since we arrived in Jerusalem, we hadn't been to visit the Old City. The market was beautiful, the few stalls that were actually open tried to sell us everything they had, and almost for free, but the city was empty. I am sure that the Old City was mourning!

That mourning reminds me of a story about Rabbi Akiva. Rabbi Akiva was one of the greatest Talmud scholars. After the second Temple was demolished he walked with some of his fellow Rabbis on the site where the Temple had stood and they saw a fox walking on the place where the room that held the Ten Commandments, the Holy of Holies (Kodesh Kodashim) had been. Rabbi Akiva's friends began crying but he started smiling. His friends asked him: "How you can laugh while foxes are walking on the Holy of Holies?" and he answered that despite this terrible destruction, it was proof of the prophecy that the Jewish people would rebuild the land of Israel in the future.

Only a few months ahead of the celebration of Israel's 60 years of Independence, the cold winter in Jerusalem is much happier than five years ago, and some would say that the mourning is almost over. If you try to book hotel rooms in Jerusalem or Tel-Aviv it will appear that you pay more than ever, and the streets of the Old City are packed like never before. It never is easy to maintain hope during hard times, however seeing those pictures from the unpleasant past, and knowing the reality of life today, makes us understand that the chance for a better life and a true hope for a great future are in our hands and we need to work for Israel's glorious future.



Eyal Blank

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Dr. Philip Haysman

Who died December 28, 2007.

Survivors are: Brothers Dr. Melvin (Roberta Kamine) Haysman, Steven (Gloria) Haysman and Neil Haysman of Savannah and Ronald (Marsha) Haysman of Baxley; and a close friend, Nancy Walker.

Remembrances: Abe & Ethel Kamine Senior Meals Fund, c/o Savannah Jewish Federation, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah, 31405.

Nathan Karnibad

Who died January 5, 2008.

Survivors are: His wife, Anita; his children, Scott and Yvette Karnibad, Drs. Susan and Amos Timna; Steven and

Kathy Odrezin; grandchildren, Jarrett and Colette Karnibad; Adam and Jason Eichholz; Matthew, Dana and Ross Odrezin; three sisters-in-law, one brother-in-law; six nieces and nephews, ten grand nieces and grand nephews, many cousins.

Remembrances: Jewish Family Services of the Savannah Jewish Federation, the JEA, both 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah, 31405; B'nai Brith Jacob Synagogue, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah, 31405.

Rosaleen Vietta Dushoff

Who died January 7, 2008 in St. Louis, MO

Survivors are: Daughters, Judith Dushoff, Rivka (Jordan) Tobin, and Sarah Beth Rhoton; grandchildren, Deborah, Michaela, Eliezer, Laura, Dara and Tamar; and other relatives.





Savannah Jewish Federation will advertise your organization's events occurring 2008-2009 that are in keeping with our theme:

Israel at 60: Then, Now and Beyond

Submit to our calendar of great events or find out how to get involved or participate in any of these at Eyal@savj.org or by calling 912-355-8111

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

A Calendar of Extraordinary Events that Celebrate a Unique Country

ISRAEL AND ME ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Now - April 15 at the JEA

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

CHILDREN OF JERUSALEM EXHIBIT

Through February 22 at Bull Street Library

A multi-media, multi-cultural exhibit with a speaker series to follow. This powerful exhibit, which is free and open to the public, features original art created by Israeli and Palestinian children and teaches valuable lessons about peace, respect and friendship. The paintings demonstrate how art can build a bridge between people and across cultural, religious and political divides. Co-sponsored by Live Oak Public Library.

ISRAELI FILM SERIES

Every Other Thursday at the JEA

Award winning films from various perspectives. Sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein.

ISRAELI DANCE CLASSES

Every other Thursday to follow at the JEA

Fast paced fun for all levels of dancers or want-to-be dancers.

Taught by Lorena Rother. Free for JEA members; Only \$5 per session for non-members.

JEA SPEAKERS SERIES

Saturday, February 2 at the JEA: 7:30 PM

Back by popular demand, Elliot Chodoff, last year's inaugural speaker, will again provide a thought-provoking evening setting the background for the Current Scene in the Middle East. Funded in part through the Phillip Hoffman Memorial Fund.

ISRAEL AT 60 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

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

Sponsor now, volunteer then and participate totally in a day devoted to fun, education and food while checking out advances in culture, technology and science. Sponsorships still being sought!

Now is the Time to Volunteer



Needed Now:

Ideas for educational, fun booths
Committee members to help plan
Liaisons with schools, synagogues
Liaisons with other civic groups

Needed to identify now:

Business incentive give-a-ways
Company Sponsorships
Volunteers to work the festival
Artists, dancers, educators, cooks

Sign up now and we'll call you this month to hear how you would like to help us celebrate.

Event Chairs: Amos Timna, Eshel Hershkovitz, Merry Bodziner ;

Contact person: Eyal Blank 912-355-8111 or Eyal@savj.org

Call or write! Watch for our website in January

**Kenneth Sadler Steps Down As Alderman
Mazel Tov On A Job Well Done**

By Gary Sadler, Twin Brother of Kenneth

It has been a short four years since my brother, Kenneth, ran and won the post of Alderman of the 4th District for the City of Savannah. It was some-time much earlier that he announced at a Friday night dinner that he intended to run. (We all laughed, fell down and said why.) I think I know why but I'll get to that later. With a lot of hard work, help, determination and campaigning door-to-door, he won!!!

Kenneth caught the political bug way back in college when he worked on Capitol Hill for the then Sen. Her-

man Talmadge while attending American University.

From my perspective it was an exciting four years because everywhere I went people would stop and ask me questions and need something done. I would say that's my twin brother but I will get him on the phone for you.

Even just the other day after Kenneth left office someone called him to help with a city matter which he gladly did. That is why I think he ran for office and that is why I think (he did not tell me this) that he will be back in some capacity helping people in the future.

From the Executive Director

This past week we celebrated the festival of Tu B'Shevat which also is known as the new year for the trees. Most of my life, Tu B'Shevat has been a holiday that seemed a bit out of time. For years our boys went to Hebrew School and at Tu B'Shevat would learn about nature, environmentalism, and planting trees in the midst of two feet of snow.

Traditionally, the Jewish community marked the holiday of Tu B'Shevat by collecting money for trees in Israel and eating a new fruit. More recently many of us use this date as an opportunity to encourage environmental responsibility

ture.

The staff of the JEA and Federation is working very hard to address the needs of today and tomorrow by raising our consciousness about what we use every day. It's not enough to "talk the talk." We are working to "walk the walk." The recent reconstruction of the locker rooms was done with this in mind. The dividers between the showers are made of recycled materials and the shower heads are "low flow" fixtures to use less water.



Adam Solender

Environmental economists often refer to the "Three Rs" for the future. We must reinvest, regenerate, and renew.

and our relationship with the land. In the 20th century, the world became incredibly efficient in using the resources around us. We are more efficient with our labor and extract more food from less land. Environmental economists often refer to the "Three Rs" for the future. We must reinvest, regenerate, and renew.

We simply can not use up what is around us and not put back for future generations. Our irresponsible use of natural resources is quickly degrading the quality of our environment and lives. A healthy sustainable society must be productive to meet the needs of today. But we must strike a balance between meeting the needs of today while working to regenerate and renew for our fu-

No, we are not too cheap to turn on the lights, nor did we forget—we are trying to turn off every light not necessary. All bulbs being used throughout the building are now "long life, energy saving bulbs." We are working to be sure all refrigeration is working most efficiently by defrosting and cleaning coils.

Our office staff now recycles all paper. In fact, there is a dumpster in the rear of the JEA for paper. By recycling, we have lessened the flow to the dump and are now receiving a small fee from the waste company who picks up the paper.

We each can do our part to remember the "three Rs:" reinvest, regenerate, and renew, for our world, our children's world, and for generations to come.

Hadassah Presents 2008

"OY!"

A comedy by Rich Orloff

Produced in cooperation with PlayScripts, Inc.

Directed by Kelie Miley

2 Shows Only!

January 30 and 31, 2008

8:00 pm

Savannah Children's Theatre
Crossroads Shopping Center
4160 East Victory Drive (at Skidaway Drive)

For ticket information, call LeeAnn Kole
at (912) 354-9444

"Good laughs. Highly entertaining."

The New York Times



Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

DID YOU KNOW?

The "dry goods" stores of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were fore-runners of the department stores that are found all over the United States today. In many cases, these stores provided the capital and experience for larger endeavors. The Strauss family left Georgia due to an outbreak of anti-Semitism during the Civil War and later founded Macy's in New York. After opening a store in Savannah, the Rich brothers traveled to Atlanta to found a major department store chain. The Solomon family in Savannah and Joseph Jacobs in Atlanta opened large pharmacies, and the Altermans of Atlanta established Food Giant.

Gerstman and Co.; Einstein, Eckman and Co.; W.E. Alexander and Co.; A. and L. Freidenberg; Guckenheimer and Selig; Gomm and Leffler; and M. Ferst and Co. just to name a few.

Excerpted from: Jews and Georgians: A Meeting of Cultures, 1733-1983. Program from an exhibit sponsored by the Atlanta Jewish Federation at the Schatten Gallery, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

REMINDER: ARCHIVES TO PUBLISH NEW BOOK

We are in the final stages of selecting photographs from our collections for a new book. The format will be much like our first book *The Jewish Community of Savannah* (published by Arcadia Publishing in 2002). The first



Store owner, Abraham Buchenholz, in front of his notions shop on West Congress Street, 1900.

Using Savannah city directories, the Archives volunteers are engaged in an ongoing project to identify Jewish-owned businesses in Savannah beginning in 1858. So far, they have indexed over 200 businesses between 1858 and 1875. Early business names include: E. Cohen and Co.; Oppenheimer, Mohr and Co.; M. Cohen and Bro.; Epstein and Einstein; A. Rescher and Co.; Houseman, Alsberg and Co.; S.M. Lederer and Co.; M.S. Meyer Dry Goods; Lippman Bros.; Rosenheim and Co.; Simon

book focused on the early Savannah community with images dating from 1893 to the 1950s. We anticipate the new book will cover the community during the 1950s to 2000.

If you would like us to consider publishing any of your family, business, or club photographs please donate them to the archives as soon as possible. Contact the Archivist for further information at 651-2125 ext. 34, or lstoudt@georgiahistory.com.

2007 SAVANNAH JEWISH ARCHIVES MEMBERS

We are pleased to announce that we have gained 32 new members this year, a record number.

Founders

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Murray Bono
Mr. and Mrs. David Byck, III
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Feiler, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Friedman
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Ms. Jane Kahn
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Dr. and Mrs. Solomon Zerden



My Masada Tikva

By Jordan Cranman

Editor's Note: Jordan is the son of Karen and Paul Cranman and is a senior at Savannah Country Day. He traveled to Israel last summer on BBYO's Passport 2 Israel program with a grant provided by the Savannah Jewish Federation. Ross Kooden and Jules Shelkoff also went to Israel last summer with assistance provided by the SJF's Gift of Israel program. Their reports on their experiences appeared in the October 2007 issue of SJN.

Stepping off the bus, I was immediately engulfed into the dark, burning desert air. With every breath I took the inside of my nose signed and dust felt like ash in the back of my throat. It was going to be a journey, yet it was one that I had heard about from my family for most of my life. Now it was my turn to experience this moment. Although I was surrounded by forty of my close friends, my quest had to be made alone. Ten minutes of walking led us to the ancient steps that ascend to the fortress; they were much steeper than I had imagined. I took one look up through the early morning light and saw the top of the mountain towering over all that surrounded it. Gazing upon the distant stone walls that once held in fellow Jews until their slaughter, my Masada journey was just beginning.

The first steps toward the top were undoubtedly the hardest. It is a test to see if you are willing to follow through in this journey. Every forward movement I made twisted and turned my leg muscles until they felt like they would pierce my skin. I yearned to turn back and see my peers, but I knew that this was one hike that I must make alone. The trail was long and harsh: filled with loose rocks and steep ledges. I sped past the youth groups from Argentina and eighteen year old IDF trainees. It was only around five thirty in the morning, yet it felt as if it was nearly one hundred degrees. The water from my nalgene was warm and left from the previous day. In my early morning daze, I had forgotten to refill it at the hotel. It tasted like sandpaper as it made its way down my throat, but it revamped my body. More importantly, it revamped my soul. The rest of the journey up the mountainside, I soon realized, was more strenuous than the start. As the water in my bottle began to evaporate, so did the trail that I was climbing. With each advancing step, the ledge beside me inched closer to my feet. Finally the sun began to break through the darkness, and a fierce wave of heat struck my back.

The sudden heat wave had taken my mind off my task. I realized that I needed to take a few minutes to catch hold of my bearings; after all I could have slipped off the edge at any moment. That hint of dawn gently reflected upon the limestone of the moun-

tain's side. I noticed that there was an indentation in the rock just big enough to accompany my backside. The loose rock inside the indentation was a no welcome for my derriere; however it did give me a chance to take a few minutes rest. The landscape was breathtaking. There was indeed a strange beauty to this place. To the naked eye it was a big lake in the middle of the desert. The salt flats from the lake were not particularly pleasing to the eye; the desert was arid and lonesome. The sun made its way up the back of the mountains, and the valley began to fill with more light. I then realized what made this place so magnificent. It was the land of strange occurrences. For thousands of years it had been a place that different nations and civilizations called home. At that moment I was looking out upon the same landscape that my ancestors looked upon generations ago.

I sat inside my alcove gazing upon this sight, and I began to speak. When the words came out I thought I would hear a soft, crackling voice, but instead it seemed as if my voice had a stronger tone than ever. Just as I was about to chant one of my prayers that would have been appropriate for this moment, I stopped myself. Instead, I simply said, "I miss you, man."

I felt like I had overstayed my welcome in the alcove and decided that I had better press on with my journey. I was near the top of the mountain now and the walls of the fortress were more visible than ever. The final leg of the climb was extremely stressful on my mind and body. It was a combination of "I cannot do it" and "I can do it." Finally I felt a great clank under my feet.

I had reached the top. The metal walkway was suspended from the top and led me the rest of the way. With only a few steps standing in my way, I was finally at the top of Mount Masada. Walking up through the stone archway, I found it hard to believe my eyes. It was a magnificent place; much bigger than I had initially thought it would be. Hundreds of people filled the center of the fortress and some perched themselves on the outer walls. Making my way over to those from my group who had started before me, I took my place among them. I, too, found a comfortable spot on the wall and heaved myself up onto it. Even from this height the Dead Sea was still quite visible. The sun had not yet made its way over the mountains of Jordan, and I was eager to experience the sunrise that I had been told about for years.

"It's somethin' you'll rememba fa a lifetime," my grandmother had told me when the topic of Masada had come up before I left home. It was now my turn to come back with my own story.

Sitting on the ledge of the wall, I began to feel the warmth of the sun brush against my face; however, it was not displeasing. The sun seemed to slow

my pulse and calm my body. I was totally relaxed for what I was I was about to see. Just as I felt like I was going to dose off, a great beam of light shot out from over the distant mountains. My eyesight had been blurred from the wave that shot across the valley. As my vision came back into perspective, every single mountain peak looked as if it had burst into flames. The horizon was on fire. Beautiful colors of orange, yellow, and red filled the sky and flowed into the valley of the Dead Sea. Within seconds the entire valley had come alive. The salt flats below me turned a bright, blinding white and the Dead Sea gleamed red. Then, it was as if everything fell into place. The colors seemed to fade as the sun took its place in the sky. The landscape seemed to gently glow like embers.

By that time all forty of us had taken our places on the wall. All of us stared out at the land with the same expression on our faces. It was truly like nothing we had ever seen. We sat in silence waiting for someone to speak. Maybe it would be one of our staff members or maybe our Israeli tour guide. Minutes seemed like hours in the dead silence; no one spoke. Finally, a voice broke the silence.

"For most of my life I have been searching for something." My lips closed gently. It was I who had spoken out. I was not sure why I had chosen those words, but I knew exactly where I was going with them. In the same strong tone that I had found on my way up the mountain, I began to say:

"I'm not really sure what that something is, but I do know why I am searching. Many of you have seen me picking up stones whenever we go to great places like the Western Wall, the Sea of Galilee, or Masada. Many of you ask me why I do this, and I give a half answer like, 'Oh, they are for a relative,' or 'they are to take back home.' The truth is that they are actually for someone's headstone. My brother, Matthew, died



Jordan Cranman

could not fight off the Romans, they ended their lives on this earth rather than send their families to certain capture, slavery, or execution. Before I came to this place I did not really understand the significance of this story, but as I sit here in front of you today, I can understand their actions. My brother had a long road ahead of him if he had lived longer. It, undoubtedly, would have been a very painful one at that. I only hope that at his death, my brother realized that he would be better off living free in eternity rather than in pain on this earth. It has taken me a long time to realize this fact, yet it is because of Masada that I realize it in the first place. My brother did not lose his life.

Continued on Page 6

Identification Statement

Savannah Jewish News
January-February 2008 Issue

Published Ten Times Each Year
by the
Savannah Jewish Federation

P.O. Box 23527
Savannah, Georgia 31403
912.355.8111
www.savj.org

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My Masada Tikva..... cont. from page 5

He still lives on in eternity. I know this because I can feel him. I felt him beside me on the way up this mountain, and I feel him sitting beside me while I speak right now. This place is a line between what we hold physically on this earth and what we look towards in eternal life. My brother is dead, yes, that is true, but only in body. Physically, he is not sitting next to me on this wall, but in spirit he is right beside me where he has always been. It has just taken me until now to realize that. Today we started up this mountain with forty four people in our group. Sitting here now, there are at least forty-five."

My mouth was dry. I did not know what provoked my impromptu speech, but I think that my words had been conveyed to everyone sitting around me. There were a few soldiers that had stopped to listen as well. Strangely, no one's eyes had been focused on me. They had all been peering over the wall into the valley for the duration of my talk. The sun was now perched higher in the sky and from its position the first light reflected tranquility off of the sea and into the eyes of those watching. At first I thought it was just then way the light was reflecting onto them, but I then came to realize that their eyes were glazed over from my words. Some people let them stand to catch a pool of liquid that slowly driz-

zled down their cheeks, while others quickly wiped tears away. I felt that my point had gotten across to them just fine.

We took sometime to silently reflect on the sights and gather our thoughts. Ten minutes went by and then came the loud, crackling sound of our tour guide's megaphone. We gathered our water bottles, hats, and bags and prepared to set out for the rest of the day. We still had to hike down Masada, swim in the Dead Sea, and be back in Jerusalem for Shabbat at the Western Wall. I heaved myself off the wall with as much strength as I could summon; however, I did not feel like leaving. For most of my life I had been searching for a reason as to why my brother had died. I did not find my answer at the top of Masada; however, I realized that it is not my place to ask that unanswerable question. I could spend three lifetimes searching for that and still find nothing. Masada showed me something much more valuable. I did not need to ask those questions because Matthew had been right beside me all along. My brother's presence was stronger on that wall than at any other time I can remember in my life. I know that even to this day my brother sits beside me. Someday, maybe we will return to Masada together and watch the sun rise just one more time.

Children's Art Exhibit..... cont. from page 1



"To Freedom" from the exhibit

intrigued by its hopefulness, so while home in Israel this past fall, Eyal made the connections to bring this project to Savannah, which previously had been displayed only in major cities such as Jerusalem, London, Geneva and San Francisco.

What: Children of Jerusalem: Painting Pain, Dreaming Peace

When: Through Feb. 22

Where: Bull Street Public Library, 2002 Bull St.

Hours: 9am - 9pm Monday through Thursday; 9am - 6pm Friday and Saturday; 2-6pm Sunday

Cost: Free

because he was in Iraq.

Eyal Blank, Savannah's community shaliach from Israel, was instrumental in bringing the exhibit here. Eyal had learned about the exhibit and was

Goldkrand UK Visit..... cont. from page 1

visit there to let them know that General Electric has promised to donate the ultrasound equipment in John's memory and that the money donated by Savannahians for the equipment would instead be used to provide additional all new and badly needed equipment for the medical



Dr. Nelli Nuneaparova, who is in charge of the Hospital Clinic.

clinic at Gmilius Chesed. The Gmilius Chesed is a welfare organization that helps needy, disabled and solitary Jews. Among the activities they perform are medical consultations, meals programs, home visits to the elderly and loans of medical equipment. The

Odessa citizens surprised AM by naming the medical clinic for her husband. It was a distinct honor, she said.

AM says that by no means was this her last visit to the maternity clinic. More supplies are needed and more money must be raised. "My work is not yet done," she said.



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Nicholas Learns About Israel on birthright Tour

Below is a report from Nicholas Seward about his trip to Israel

I'll never forget my New Year's trip to Israel. We spent four hours on December 27th going through customs and eating our last cheeseburger before getting on the plane for an eleven hour flight to Israel. The flight seemed much shorter than eleven hours although we stopped once in Shannon, Ireland to refuel. We landed in Tel Aviv on the 27th of December. Wow, I can't even begin to tell you how much I literally felt at home from the moment my foot touched the ground in Israel. It was like I belonged there and I had lived there my whole life sort of feeling. It was really amazing!

The weather in that country became confusing very quickly as we traveled in Israel. One moment it was really hot, the next it was cold with gusty winds, and then it was 98 degrees and dry with a heat index of 110 degrees. We didn't go anywhere without water. The first thing that I brought while in Israel was a jar of honey-flavored Skippy peanut butter, a strawberry mango-flavored Fanta and a bar of Israeli chocolate with pop rocks in it. The combination was wonderful, believe it or not.

The first day we went to kibbutz Daganian which was the first kibbutz ever established, located not far from Tiberias. It was Friday so we hurried in and unpacked. Then we quickly prepared to welcome the Sabbath. The next morning Saturday December 28th we woke up early for Shaina's Shabbat Yoga which was followed by a fun-filled relaxing day, ending with a group Havdallah service.

On Sunday December 29th the fifty of us loaded onto the bus for a day-long journey through the Golan Heights. It was a bus ride up and around mountains with elevations of up to 2000 kilometers and the sharpest most jagged zig-zaging and daring turns on a bus larger than a greyhound driving on a two lane road along the side of a mountain with nothing but a three foot aluminum railing between us and a 3,000 foot plunge. But we made it to the top where we then climbed by foot even higher. Later we had coffee, tea, cake and cookies at a Yeshiva before descending down. We stopped at the Golan mall and winery. We also went inside one of the old bunkers used during the Yom Kippur War.

On day four we briefly stopped at the Lebanon boarder where we watched the sun set over Lebanon as we sat there. We heard a couple of gun shots far in the distance, however we told us not to worry because if you heard it, it didn't hit you! But right as the sun set over Lebanon everyone in the entire valley below us just started singing. Although it was Islamic, it was very powerful and moving to all of us.

On day five we went to Zefat which is one the holiest cities because that is where the Messiah is supposed to return with Abraham sitting on a donkey. We stood in the exact location where it is all to supposed to happen! That night we stayed in Bedouin Tents. Right before New Years, I was able to move



On A birthright Tour; Nicholas is the grandson of Fran Wilson

the more than 180 people who were on birthright tours from around the world from sitting in small isolated circles to being together in one gigantic group for a really big New Years celebration. The next day we went hiking and camel riding through the desert! Later we went to a really nice art gallery out in the middle of nowhere, where we learned a group meditative dance. Before I left the gallery I paid forty shekles for a very large jagged piece of rose quartz and a wooden hand painted 2 inch foot that sticks to the side of my fridge. That night we stay at our third kibbutz where we ate a nice dinner.

On day six we all were up at 4:50am, had coffee and biscuits quickly and were on our bus and ready to go. We were headed for the Masada, an historical mountain where King Harod built one of his castles elevated a little more than 3000 feet above sea level. The bus was could only take us to the base of the mountain and from there we had a very long hike and climb to the top. We were able to make it to the top quickly so we rested while we sat there and waited for the sunrise. Later that day, after spending hours at the top of the Masada and then another forty minutes climbing down the other side on what was known as the snake path, we had breakfast and went to the Dead Sea which was a lot of fun, until I stuck my face in the water and went blind from the salt. I think the Dead Sea water and the Mud Bath was the only the thing that kept me from realizing I was very thirsty and I was a fifteen minute walk or 10 minute run in 110 degrees of heat from lunch and the main building. As soon as I got back I sat drinking fresh water for a long time. Then we rode for a little less the two hours returning to the Holy City as the sun was setting. The feeling that I got as we entered Jerusalem is indescribable. I felt so connected to the land of Israel.

For the rest of the trip we were going to be staying in the Jerusalem Gold Hotel which was huge! We took a tour of old Jerusalem that day and basically went everywhere but the Kotel (the Wailing Wall). We had our Shabbat service at the hotel and spent most of Saturday resting. That night after sunset we went to the Kotel for Havdallah. Over the next few days we went to Herzl's Grave as well as the Israeli Military Cemetery, and Ben-Gurion Street.

Saying goodbye to everyone on the last day was not easy. I had made many good friends on my birthright tour.

Facts about Israel:

- Israel declared its independence May 14, 1948.
- Jerusalem is the capital city of Israel. The country is a democracy and has an elected president and a Prime Minister. The Parliament, or house of government, is called the Knesset.
- Jerusalem is holy to the three biggest monotheistic religions in the world: Christianity, Judaism and Islam.
- Israel is the only democratic country in the Middle-east. Every Israeli citizen has the right to vote or to be a candidate, including its 980,000 Muslim citizens.
- Population of Israel: 7,192,200 people – 76.2% Jews; 23.8% Non-Jews. The official language of Israel is Hebrew and Arabic; English is also semi-official, but there are currently 33 languages and dialects spoken in local communities. Israel supports an ethnically diverse mix of people.
- Religious affiliation and practice is a matter of personal choice, with religious freedom guaranteed by the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel.
- Israel comprises an area of 8,522 square miles – By comparison, Georgia's area is about seven times larger at 59,411 square miles.
- Three Israeli Prime Ministers have won the Nobel Peace Prize! Eight Israelis have won the distinction of Nobel Laureate.
- Israel has peace agreement with two of its four neighbors- Jordan & Egypt.
- Israel has a long history of providing financial and humanitarian aid to people and countries in need. Recently they donated 5 million dollars & received refugees from war torn Darfur.
- Israel sends agricultural teams to developing countries in Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia and share their advanced water technology with neighboring countries.
- The first quick messaging program (ICQ) was invented by an Israeli company.
- Intel develops their newest multi-core microprocessors in Israel.
- Education is valued very highly in Israel. Israel is second in the whole world in its ratio of new books per person.

dinner.....lunch.....weekend brunch

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AUDITIONS TO BE HELD

The Savannah Jewish Federation, as part of its annual Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance, is looking for kids 13 – 18 years old to give dramatic readings at the community-wide observance program on Thursday, May 1, 2008 (7:00pm).

Open Auditions

**Sunday
January 27, 2008
12:30pm – 3:00pm**

**at the JEA
5111 Abercorn St.
355-8111**

We are auditioning for five (5) parts, males or females, 13-18 years old.

You should bring a **one-minute** (not longer) dramatic reading (monologue, poem, etc.) of your own choosing and you may be asked to read something of the committee's choosing.

**For more information, contact
Sue Adler, (912) 856-0323**

Connect with Local Hadassah

The Savannah chapter of Hadassah is in the midst of its annual membership drive. Hadassah is the largest women's organization in the United States, with more than 300,000 members. Savannah's is one of 1,200 Hadassah chapters in the United States.



Since it was founded in 1912, Hadassah has been committed to making a difference. Hadassah offers members countless opportunities to change their lives – and change the world.

Its membership consists of a strong and effective force that can, in the words of founder Henrietta Szold, “dream great dreams and then take the practical steps to make them a reality.”

If you are new to Savannah, or have never been a part of Hadassah, you are invited to join Hadassah now. Please contact Sue Adler, Membership Chair, at 856-0323 or adlersavannah@aol.com.

If you are already a member, feel free to contact Sue with any updated contact information.

Toda Rabah to the dedicated volunteers who worked so hard in creating the 2008 JEA Community Shabbaton

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Sophie Arkin | Betty Lasky |
| Caroline Bradley | New South Café Staff |
| Arlene Belzer | Amy Rosen |
| Audrey Biloon | Judy Rosen |
| Sheeri Bornstein | Thelma Rosen |
| Brooke Bradley | Francis Rudikoff |
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| Allison Hersh | Charlie Stark |
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| Marcy Konter | |

Special thanks to our wonderful service leaders

- Rabbi Arnold Belzer Julie Hirsch Rabbi Kenneth Leitner

Ballroom Dancing Lessons at the “J” “THE NEXT STEP!”

Classes begin on Tuesday, February 5th



You've seen them at Bar Mitzvahs and weddings. You've admired their style and abilities. If you missed our last set of lessons, here is your chance to join in the fun and learn how to “trip the light fantastic.”

If you have always wanted to learn how to ballroom dance but never knew where to start, this is the right place for you. You can start learning the Waltz, Fox Trot, Cha-Cha, salsa, Swing . . . or –for those of you that have attended one of the JEA's previous dance classes, we will take you to the NEXT STEP & help you refine some of your class (or is it “classic” moves.

The first ballroom dance lesson will begin on Tuesday, February 5th and continue for five consecutive Tuesdays: February 12th, 19th, 26th & March 4th and 11th. Lessons begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be one hour. Learn the traditional ballroom dances, step-by-step.

Taking lessons as a couple is fun and can greatly improve your confidence and poise on the dance floor as well as in your everyday life. It can also be a therapeutic tool for mental and physical health; but we won't mention it's curative benefits . . .

Oh, Did we mention it's also fun?

Remember, Salsa may be a good adjunct to Mexican cuisine, but it's even more enticing as a dance.



Come join us in the dance room on the second floor. Maxine Patterson & Mary Gail Gaddy will instruct.

Cost is \$25 for JEA members & \$40 for non-members. Call 355-8111 or drop by the JEA to sign-up.

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2008 Speaker's Series

**Saturday, February 2, 2008
7:30 PM
at the JEA**

CURRENT SCENE IN THE MIDDLE EAST Elliot Chodoff

Small Weapons and Tactical Unit expert; author and college professor. Tickets: \$10 at the Door, \$5 for Students, FREE for Military.

The 2008 Speakers Series is a program of the Jewish Educational Alliance, with funding provided by the JEA Phillip Hoffman Memorial Fund, The Savannah Jewish Federation and members of the community.

CHILDREN OF JERUSALEM: PAINTING PAIN, DREAMING PEACE

This powerful exhibit, which is free and open to the public, features original art created by Israeli and Palestinian children and teaches valuable lessons about peace, respect and friendship. The paintings demonstrate how art can build a bridge between people and across cultural, religious and political divides. The paintings were created by Palestinian and Israeli children from East and West Jerusalem.

The exhibit will last from **Jan 6th to Feb 23rd** in the Public Library on Bull St. (2002 Bull St.)



Israel & Me Oral History Project



Jan. 15—Apr. 15 at the JEA

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

Sponsored by MorningStar Cultural Arts Group.



ISRAELI DANCE CLASSES

Held every other Thursday
6:30 pm

Fast paced fun for all levels of dancers or want-to-be dancers. Taught by Lorena Rother.

Free for JEA Members.
\$5 per session for non-members



Ballroom Dancing Lessons "THE NEXT STEP!"

Classes begin on Tues., February 5th—7:30 pm

Learn the Waltz, Fox Trot, Cha-Cha and more. For those who attended one of the previous classes, we will take you to the Next Step and refine your moves. Lessons begin Tues., Feb. 5th and continue for 5 consecutive Tuesdays. Taking lessons as a couple is fun and can improve your confidence and poise on the dance floor.

Cost is \$25 for members
\$40 for non-members

Call 355-8111 to enroll.



The Black Heritage Festival and the Jewish Educational Alliance

present:

The Spelman College Jazz Ensemble Free Concert On Mon., Feb. 4 - 7:00 PM

From the all women's college in Atlanta, Georgia, this unique combination of vocalists, wind instrumentalists and rhythm section has thrilled and excited audiences across the country with their innovative and soulful sound.

Organized in 1983, this talented, nationally-renowned, all female jazz ensemble has shared the stage with jazz greats such as Wynton Marsalis, Consuela Lee, Nancy Wilson, Dee Dee Bridgewater and numerous others.

The ensemble has performed at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and concert performances in Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia and many more!

The Ensemble has just released its fourth compact disc, "Feelin' Good," which includes a tribute to Nina Simone.

The event is presented by the Black Heritage Festival and the Jewish Educational Alliance and sponsored by the City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs.

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
CENTERPIECE



Changing Faces at SJF/JEA

The Savannah Jewish Federation and the JEA said goodbye to Todd Helm, our Executive Administrator, on December 28th. Todd was a critical part of the administrative team for both organizations since November 2003, never more so than this past year during the search for a new Executive Director. We will miss Todd's organizational skills, his thorough attention to details, his peaceful demeanor, his lovely renditions of the Star Spangled Banner at our functions and perhaps most of all, his institutional history. The SJF and JEA wish him all the best in his new position at the Agudath Achim Synagogue.



WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Laura Kellogg moves to the Executive Administrator position from the SJF/JEA Finance Department where she was an assistant to the controller and also served briefly as interim controller. We are very happy that she will be bringing her talents and abilities to this position. A native of Atlanta, Laura has lived in Savannah since 1991. She is an active member of the Jewish community. She is married to Steve Kellogg and has three children.



Elaine Fox is our new Health, PE and Recreation director. Elaine joined the JEA directly from Hourglass Weight Loss and Fitness where she was the manager. Elaine is a certified yoga instructor, personal trainer, tai chi instructor and osteoporosis prevention advisor. She has a master's degree in education from the New Jersey City University. She and her husband, Bill, moved to Savannah in 2005 from New Jersey. Her yoga classes at the JEA already are a big hit with the members!



Dawn Tanis is the JEA's new Sports Director. She is a native Vermonter and comes to the JEA with a passion for athletics and working with young people. Dawn most recently coached youth basketball at the JCC in San Francisco. She also taught middle and high school in southern California and coached in various other capacities. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia from 1998-2000 and earned a B.A. in English from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA, where she played Division I Basketball. Coach Dawn also is a teacher of English as a Foreign Language and a yoga instructor. She is currently teaching community yoga classes in Thunderbolt, as well as assisting with Rambam P.E. classes here at the JEA.



Bonnie Kane takes over as Controller for both the JEA and Federation. Formerly, Bonnie was the comptroller at W. Frank Newton Inc. in Marietta, GA, where she managed all day-to-day accounting and financial activities for the business management consulting firm. Prior to that, she was the director of program administration for the community development block grant program in Cobb County. Bonnie is a graduate of the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. She and her husband, Sean, relocated to Savannah in 2005.



Ashley Frankel's face is a very recognizable face at the JEA. Our new Aquatics and Family Activities Director, Ashley has worked at the JEA as a lifeguard and swimming instructor since January 2007. She has a Bachelors degree in psychology and early childhood development from Rollins College and has worked at several JCCs. Originally from Pennsylvania, Ashley lived in Denver, Colorado, before moving to Savannah.



JEA & SJF & Goodwill & YOU!

In support of Goodwill's Computer recycling initiative, the JEA and Savannah Jewish Federation are teaming up to collect your old computers, printers, monitors and assorted peripherals. PCs are processed and identified as either "refurbish" or "recycle". PCs refurbished are then sold at an affordable price at the Goodwill Computer Store at Sallie Mood Dr. PCs recycled are sold to a certified recycle dealer.

Save the Earth



DO A Mitzvah



DROP OFF YOUR OLD COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, MONITORS AND PERIPHERALS AT THE JEA!



A MOVIE & BEER!*

February 7th - Nina's Tragedies - An Israeli comedy narrated by Nadav, a 14-year-old with an knack for blending humor and sadness. After Nadav reveals his yearning for Aunt Nina, the cast of his life is revealed in flashbacks: his mum, a fashion designer obsessed with zippers; his dad, a retired pilot becoming more Jewish by the day; Menahem, a peeping Tom and Nadav's best mate; Haimon, Nina's grumpy husband; Avi, Nadav's romantic rival; and, above all, Nina herself, who is beautiful and stoic.

February 21st - The Syrian Bride - Mona's wedding day may be the saddest of her life. Once she crosses the border into Syria, she will never be allowed back to her family in the Druze village of Majdal Shams. Shot in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, *The Syrian Bride* is a film about physical, mental and emotional borders and the courage it takes to cross them. Told with humor and compassion, its story provides a stirring look at the human side of political conflict, focusing on the hopes and dreams of one family trapped in a no-man's land between two nations.

8:00 PM at the JEA. FREE to Members. FREE Beer, wine, beverages, popcorn and peanuts. *Adults 21 and over only please

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



SENIORS

Paper Children: An Immigrant's Story
by Marcia Fine

Senior Lunch Presentation - Thursday, February 21st at 1:30 pm

Marcia Fine, an award-winning author, has based her book upon events in her family history. Growing up listening to her grandmother's stories about her privileged girlhood in Poland, Ms. Fine was fascinated with tales of gypsies, of young love and dashing suitors, and her grandmother's immigration to America with her husband, a success-driven businessman. This book offers a trio of stories encompassing 3 generations of strong, passionate women, a view of privileged pre-war Polish society and an unforgettable story of the Holocaust and its survivors.



Teens & Tweens!



Come see what has happened to your teen lounge! Fresh paint, new games and a whole new look, just for you!

Purim Carnival



We need help planning the Purim Carnival for March 21st. If you are interested in helping, please call Ashley, 355-8111, ext. 225.



Watch for Shabbat Across America, coming March 7th

Junior Swim League



Hey Swimmers, want to stay fit and competitive all year long? Then the Junior Swim League is for you! Kids of all ages are welcome to take part in this skill building after-school activity.

**Mondays and Wednesdays
4:15—5:15 PM
Begins February 4th**

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Members: \$45 Non-Members: \$60
Coach: Connie Buckley
Call Dawn, 355-8111, for more information

Art at the JEA



This artwork will be for sale and for viewing from Feb. 1-29, 2008

Angela Taylor was born in Everett, WA. While growing up, Angela's experience with the arts was primarily music. Her father was a choir director and gave private voice lessons. She moved to Savannah, GA, and at the age of eleven started having seizures and was diagnosed with epilepsy. While in high school she was put in the learning disability classes as her medications were causing her to fall asleep. In 1997 her neurologist recommended brain surgery to help control the seizures, but the surgery was unsuccessful. The procedure was very painful emotionally and physically.

She learned to cope by becoming involved with the arts. Her father started community theatre and she began participating in theatre, too. If she had a seizure, she'd be carried backstage until it was over.

In 2003, a friend taught her the basics of painting. Even with medication her seizures become more frequent and intense. Her doctor recommended giving surgery another try and she had successful brain surgery in June of 2003, although her left side was temporarily paralyzed after surgery. Upon completion of physical therapy she began to paint again. She became more serious about painting because it helped her cope with her emotions. She now finds painting very therapeutic. She still suffers from seizures at night and severe anxiety.

Inspiration comes in the most unlikely places.

According to Angela, "One day while at the post office, a man working there told me he had moved here because his friend died on 9/11. He was too sad to continue living in New York. Having been inspired by this man's story, I made this painting. It is in honor of those lost on 9/11 and for those in mourning. Whether there or not, we were ALL affected by this event, therefore I am donating the proceeds of this painting to help the 9/11 victims."

Artist's Reception - Mon., Feb. 4th, 5-7 PM



Chair Yoga

Every Thursday 11:30 a.m.

Chair yoga is a gentle form of Yoga, designed for both men and women. This 45-min. class is held in the auditorium just before Senior Adult Lunch.

Chair Yoga is practiced sitting in a chair or standing using the chair for support. You will learn techniques to increase strength, improve mental acuity, stimulate all the systems of the body, loosen stiff muscles and relieve back pain.



Yoga for a Healthy Back

8 Thursdays from 7:00-8:15 PM
January 3-February 21, 2008

This yoga class will help you to relieve tension in the neck, shoulders and lower back. There is still room for others to join this amazing class! Bring a mat and blanket and wear loose fitting clothing. Eat a light meal at least one hour prior to class.

FREE For Members
\$40/Non-Members



Bunçha Losahs!

There is a new program getting under way for members only. This class is for men and women 18 and over interested in trimming down or toning up.

Call Elaine for appt., fitness assessment & personal history, 355-8111

Basketball

The noon pickup basketball group is looking for men to join them for their lunchtime run. The group meets **Monday, Wednesday & Friday** from **12:30-2:00 PM**



February 2008

	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Selected Daily Events	Indoor Pool - 9 am-5 pm	Indoor Pool - 7 am-9 pm AquaSize-10 am Gentle Yoga-10:35 am Sr. Fitness-10:30 am Senior Lunch -12:30 pm Mah-Jongg-1 pm Water Aerobics-6:30 pm	Indoor Pool - 7 am-9 pm Kibitzers Club 10 am AquaSize-10 am Water Aerobics-6:30 pm	Indoor Pool - 7 am-9 pm Gentle Yoga -10:35 am Senior Lunch -12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm	Indoor Pool - 7 am-9 pm AquaSize - 10 am Mah-Jongg - 10:30 am Senior Fitness - 10:30 am Chair Yoga - 11:30 am Evening Water Aerobics - 6:30 pm	Indoor Pool - Open AquaSize-10 am	
						1	2 JEA Speaker's Series- Elliot Chodoff- 7:30 pm
3		4 Art Gallery Reception- Angela Taylor-5 pm Spelman College Jazz Ensemble-7 pm	5 Yiddish - 3 pm Ballroom Dancing - 7:30 pm Women's Only Swim - 8 pm	6	7 Sr. Lunch Program-Eyal Blank - Israel Update - 1:30 pm Beer & Movie Night - 8 pm	8	9
10 Tween Event-2 pm Kids Night Out-7:45 pm	11	12 Ballroom Dancing - 7:30 pm Women's Only Swim - 8 pm	13	14 Sr. Lunch Program- LeeAnn Powell, <i>Warm Hearts, Warm Houses</i> - 12:30 pm Israeli Folk Dancing—6:30 pm	15	16	
17	18	19 Yiddish - 3 pm Ballroom Dancing - 7:30 pm Women's Only Swim - 8 pm	20	21 Sr. Lunch Program- Marcia Fine discusses her book, <i>Paper Children: An Immigrant's Legacy</i> - 1:30 pm Beer & Movie Night - 8 pm	22	23	
24	25	26 Ballroom Dancing - 7:30 pm Women's Only Swim - 8 pm	27	28 Sr. Lunch Birthday Lunch & Program-Rabbi Adam Singer - 1:30 pm Israeli Folk Dancing—6:30 pm	29		



JEA Youth Basketball Tips Off With Opening Ceremony

By Dawn Tanis

The Jr. NBA Youth Basketball League at the JEA began the winter season with an Opening Ceremony on Sunday, January 13th. Parents and families came out to show their support for the program, as teams and individual players were introduced. In addition to a few words from the JEA staff, talented local musician and teacher, Angela Lindsay, sang the National Anthem at the beginning of the ceremony. Also taking center court was guest speaker, Jeff Burkhamer, Men's Head Basketball Coach at Armstrong Atlantic State University, who spoke to the kids about the importance of listening skills and making good decisions both on the basketball court and in life.

The program has about 50 kids from the JEA who are playing on six different teams. These teams compete against other teams from the area. Two teams make up the 6 and under division: Hunter Army Air Field and the JEA Dragons. The Dragons, coached by Dawn Tanis, are: Erin Horesh, Jordan Horesh, Nathan Skidmore-Hess, Hannah Boblasky, David Byck, Sammy Rabins, Moshe Schachter, Benny Garfunkel and Nathan Pritzker.

The 8 and under division has four teams participating – Hunter Army Air Field, Notre Dame School, JEA Hawks, and JEA Fruit Flies. The Hawks, coached by Ross Kooden, are: Abby Fishman, Uri Locker, Ben Cohen, Philip Boblasky, Abigail Kahn, Yaakov Schochet and Isaac Lichtman. The Fruit Flies, coached by Jay Epstein, are: Alex Kovensky, Ben Serface, Shlomo Garfunkel, Griffin Bliss, Rachel Rabins, Michal



Junior NBA teams at Opening Ceremony

Gold and Richard Epstein.

The 10 and under division also has two JEA teams – the Suns and the Scorpions – in addition to Hunter, Notre Dame, and the Carver Heights Stallions. The Suns are Rose Fishman, Max Strauss, Sam Raskin, Allison Samuels, Moshe Schochet, Chaya Schochet, and Aiden Bliss. They are coached by Scott Samuels. The Scorpions, spearheaded by Coach Doug Goldstein, are made up of Haylee Snaid, Nathan Luskey, Tomer Locker, Aaron Goldstein, Ray Steinfeldt, Yehudis Gold and Jordyn Stoltzman.

The oldest group of players is the 12 and under division, composed of Hunter, Carver Heights, Habersham YMCA, and JEA Litigators. Mills Fleming and Bruce Finkel are the coaches of the Litigators, whose players are Isaac Freedman, Alexander Fleming, Josh Goldstein, Tzvi Rosen, Alex Finkel, Moshie Gold, and Marissa Levine.

All games are played in the JEA gymnasium on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm from now until Mid-March. Come out and show your support for youth basketball!



JEA Sports Director Dawn Tanis introduces the 2008 Junior NBA teams

Shalom School Emphasizes Family Bonds

By Jules Kerness, Principal

I recently had the pleasure of attending the National Biennial of the Union for Reform Judaism, thanks to the support of my congregation and the Shalom School. My week in San Diego was filled with worship, music, and most of all, Jewish learning. The overwhelming theme of the Biennial, stressed time and again in workshops and addresses throughout the week, was the maintenance and perpetuation of Judaism and Jewish life through the building of community in the hearts and minds of our families.

Jewish continuity doesn't come easily. In America, especially, the future of Judaism faces unique challenges. Because of the unparalleled opportunities accorded to American Jews in this great country and the concomitant breaking down of the walls of Anti-Semitism, our intermarriage rates have grown significantly, giving rise to fears of the loss of Jewish identity in the next generations. Indeed, the 1990 National Jewish Population Study found that more than half of new Jewish marriages involved a non-Jewish partner and, even though intermarriage rates have leveled off since then, as shown by the 2000-2001 NJP Survey, many Jewish leaders continue to feel that the future of Judaism is in peril.

The presentation at the Biennial of a recent study by Leonard Saxe, Fern Chertok and Benjamin Phillips of the Cohen Center for Jewish Studies and Steinhardt Social Research Institute of Brandeis University sheds considerable light on this important issue. The Brandeis Study, entitled "It's Not Just Who Stands Under the Chuppah: Jewish Identity and Intermarriage," found that when the Jewish background of the Jewish partner in an intermarriage is taken into account, the differences between inmarried and intermarried families in terms of Jewish beliefs and practices is relatively insignificant.

In other words, it is not who a person marries that determines whether the family practices and perpetuates Judaism through their children, but the quality of Jewish experience in

their home and community. According to Saxe: "The objective doesn't have to be conversion but the creation of positive, rich Jewish experiences... Jewish education, Jewish home experiences, Jewish camp, Israeli experiences – that's what leads to engagement in Jewish life whether one is intermarried or not."

Fran Chertok continued: "The usual model says you get intermarried and you lose your Jewish identity. That's not true... A far more powerful predictor of what you're going to do in your home are such things as did you have a Jewish education growing up? Were you raised with Jewish rituals in your home? What was your high school social network like?"

Here at Shalom School, where the majority of our children have interfaith backgrounds, inmarried and intermarried families have brought themselves and their children to us for a Jewish education. This is a profound responsibility, both for us and for the families themselves. To be Jewish, we must commit ourselves to 'doing' Jewish, and to being part of an active and vibrant Jewish community of which we and our children can be proud and readily identify. Indeed, our School's philosophy stresses that Jewish education cannot be effective in the absence of strong bonds created between our children and their families, their synagogues and the Jewish community. The answer to the question, "Will My Children/Grandchildren Be Jewish?" lies in the efficacy of these bonds, and presents a challenge to all of us.

We at Shalom School continue to do our part through presentation of sound and innovative Jewish learning with, as a basic component, the active involvement of our families through our new CHAI Curriculum, and in our Shalom School for Parents. More on these in future articles...

Until then, B'Shalom,
Jules Kerness



Jules Kerness

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Rambam Happenings

Buckingham South

Wednesday morning, December 5th, the 3y, 4y and 3rd graders went to sing Chanukah songs for the residents of Buckingham South. The children did a wonderful job. The residents were beaming from ear to ear to see the next generation singing songs that they sang years ago.

Thank you to all the drivers who helped transport 34 children!

Mrs. Jaffie, Mrs. Neil, Mrs. Russ, Mrs. Felser, Mrs. Cohen, Mrs. Eichelbaum,

Mr. and Mrs. Wheelock, Miss Lindsey, Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Herring and Rabbi Gordon



Ester Y. Rabhan

Language Art Classes

Middle school students will participate in an in-class spelling bee on December 17-18. There will be two winners selected from each grade level. These winners will then go on to participate in a school wide spelling bee which will be held in January. An

exact time and location TBA. The winner of the school wide spelling bee will then go on to participate in the district's spelling bee.

What is life like in Israel?

The 2nd grade had a visitor speak to them about life in Israel. Mr. Locker spoke about the symbol of Israel is a Menorah. This is different than a Chanukia that we light on Chanukah. He also told us about



week's winner in the box top drawing.

This is a wonderful fundraiser for the school. Box top labels are on everything from paper goods to food items. Please help support our school and remember to tear off the labels (keep the whole date attached) and send them to the RDS office. Don't forget to write the name of your child/children on the back of each label and maybe you will be next

the houses people live in, their transportation and their restaurants. The class learned about the size of the state and where the water they drink comes from. Thank you Mr. Locker for coming. The children learned a lot.

week's winner.

Yearbook Ads

The 8th grade has begun working on this year's book. Please send your ads in as soon as possible.

Hold the Date

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Come to a celebratory dinner in honor of Rambam's 18th Year of Excellence! More information to follow!

"Isaac Jeremiah Welcomes the Sabbath"

New children's book illustrated by Inbal Singer and written by his grandfather Lyle Thomas. The book features Yitzchak Yermiah.

\$5.00 from every copy goes directly to Rambam Day School. Cost \$18.00

Congratulations

...to Richard Epstein for being this

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
APPLY BY MARCH 31, 2008**

Jacob & Ida Ullman College Scholarship Fund
offered through the Savannah Jewish Federation

This scholarship is given based on need, availability and the applicant's participation in the Savannah Jewish community.

Henry W. Center College Scholarship Fund
offered through the JEA

This scholarship is given based on need, availability and the applicant's scholastic achievement.

To receive an application for either of these scholarships, contact Lynn Levine (355-8111 or lynn@savj.org). All applications must be submitted by March 31, 2008. All submissions are confidential.

Do we nurture our students' minds, bodies, or souls?



Yes.

The educational decisions you make for your child are difficult. Should a school promote academic achievement? Jewish identity-building? Creating a moral foundation that will last a lifetime?

The simple answer is: Yes.

Rambam Day School strives for excellence through a well-rounded curriculum in both secular and Jewish studies. Our experienced faculty emphasizes mathematics, English, science, art and social studies while enriching

each child's education with Jewish history, laws and customs, language and values.

See for yourself how the interplay between academic excellence and Jewish knowledge creates a positive learning environment that every child deserves.

☆ Celebrating 18 years of academic excellence. ☆



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Savannah, Georgia 31405
(912) 352-7994 Fax: 352-1920
www.rambamdayschool.org

Rambam Day School

cordially invites you
to join us as we proudly celebrate
Eighteen Years of Excellence
and honor
Our Past Presidents

Wednesday, the Twenty-seventh of February
Two thousand and eight
at seven o'clock in the evening
Jewish Educational Alliance
Savannah, Georgia

Celebratory dinner \$18.00 per person
Please respond by February 13
Rambam Day School 912.352.7994



Marilyn's Mandel Bread Prevails

Marilyn Seeman's mandel bread, baked right here in Savannah, GA, stole the show in the Civil War of mandel bread bake-offs, held in November in the offices of MediaVest, inc. in New York City, where native daughter, Tess Konter, is bidding her time amongst the Yankees. Unable to stand by idly while her co-worker, Raychel Fensterstock, bragged incessantly about her New York grandma's mandel bread, Tess enlisted Aunt Marilyn and the rest is now history. With her cookie tin loaded for bear, Tess returned to New York after the Thanksgiving holiday for the showdown. She reports that Marilyn faced some soft competition (soft mandel bread?) but that Raychel's grandma got bonus points for "interesting use of raisins." Marilyn's use of sprinkles, on the other hand, may have saved the day. It was a very tight competition, but the surprising (only to the northerners) victory went to Marilyn's southern mandel bread. Mazel tov!

Marilyn's award-winning recipe:

Marilyn's Mandel Bread

4 jumbo eggs at room temperature
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup oil
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups all purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1-1/2 to 1-3/4 cups chopped nuts
Sprinkles

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine the eggs, sugar, oil and vanilla in a large bowl. Mix well. Separately, combine the flour, baking powder and nuts and then add to the egg mixture.

Grease 3 metal ice tray pans. Divide the dough into 3 parts and form loaves in the pans. Put sprinkles on top.

Bake for 15-20 minutes until done and then turn onto a cutting board and slice loaves. Place slices on a cookie sheet and toast until crisp.



60's High School Reunion Planned

An attempt is being made to organize a reunion for Jewish graduates of all local high schools from years 1960-1962. The reunion will take place in May of 2008.

Addresses, E-mails, and telephone numbers are needed in order to contact everyone once details are finalized. Please contact the following people if you are part of this group or you know the whereabouts of anyone who is but no longer lives in Savannah:

Nancy Wagman Rosenthal
24 Delegal Rd

Savannah, GA 31411
(912)598-04
Nrosent892@aol.com

Rochelle Boblasky Javetz
1 S. Coffee Bluff
Savannah, GA 31419
(912) 925-3154
Qte2sh@comcast.net

Lois Homans Chepenik
2647 Forest Point Court
Jacksonville, FL 32257
(904) 737-2335
lchepnik@comcast.net

12-Hour Judaism Course Will Be On February 2

Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer's annual 12-hour course Judaism: Are You Curious? will once again take place at Congregation Mickve Israel on February 2 from 10 am to 10 pm. Yes, it is 12 hours!

This Sabbath experience includes two meals, Sabbath worship, Havdalah (the service that ends the Sabbath), discussions, lectures, and question and answer periods. This popular and informative class offers a modern perspective on living in today's complicated world and is a complete interactive experience.

The class is open to the entire community—Jews and non-Jews—and is for those who wish to know more about Judaism (in order to deepen their understanding of the roots of the Abrahamic tradition) and also for those contemplating conversion to Judaism.

You will explore: Jewish spirituality, Jewish values and traditions, Jewish ethics, and Jewish history within the context of human history. You may meet your fellow congregants, your neighbors, and/or strangers who all want to learn more about the Jewish religion and the Jewish people.

Preregistration is required and space is limited (in 2007 there were 120 participants). For more information call Congregation Mickve Israel: 912-233-1547.

Below are some comments from previous class members:

The class was excellent even though I have taken it before. I think the group dynamic played a great deal in creating a wonderful atmosphere.

Marvelous! As usual, Rabbi Belzer is inspiring, tough and gentle.

Thank you! I came here knowing nothing, thought I learned a lot, [and] realized how much more there is to learn!

I had a wonderful time. I need a refresher course. This was a good day. Thank you!

I really enjoyed this experience and learned so much. The food and fellowship were outstanding and the hospitality of this congregation is warm, welcoming and an excellent example of the best of the south.

I have waited two years to attend this seminar. It was a wonderful experience.

I learned more about my own faith and congregation concerning core concepts in Judaism than I did in years of study that culminated in bar mitzvah, confirmation and marriage.

This has been a wonderful experience—the knowledge, fun and fellowship have been wonderful. Certainly this has added vastly to my knowledge of Judaism and all of our relationships to God.

AA Sisterhood Torah Fund Event Planned on March 15

The Agudath Achim Sisterhood Annual Torah Fund event will take place Saturday, March 15th, with the Kiddush luncheon following services. This year the honorees will be the

“Platinum” members of Sisterhood. The honorees will be listed in next month's edition of the Savannah Jewish News and the synagogue newsletter, the Hayom.

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by email at hgray@grsmb.com.**



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- B'nai Tzedek Donor Fund
- Meredith Monsky Bodziner & Richard Alan Bodziner Family Philanthropic Fund
- Carole and Jerald Cohen Family Philanthropic Fund
- Amelia Beatrice Eichholz & Caroline Margaret Eichholz Bnai Tzedek Fund
- Benjamin Sheftall Eichholz Family Philanthropic Fund
 - Formey Family Philanthropic Fund
- Linda & Herman Friedman Philanthropic Fund
 - Joan & Murray Gefen Memorial Jewish Film Festival Fund
- Morris & Marla Geffen Family Foundation
- Kenneth M. Gold Fund for Children with Special Needs
 - John Goldkrand Jewish Healthcare Fund
 - Lisa & Danny Kaminsky Holocaust Memorial and Educational Fund
- Pauline C. Karp Family Philanthropic Fund
- Marcy & Jerry Konter Family Philanthropic Fund
- Michael & Joanne Kooden Philanthropic Fund
- Paul & Harriet Kulbersh Family Philanthropic Fund
 - Jeffrey & Stacy Lasky Family Fund
 - Barbara & Leon Longwater JEA Fund
 - Mazel Philanthropic Fund
- Joanne & Barney Portman Family Philanthropic Fund
 - Allan & Arlene Ratner Family Fund
 - Barney Sadler Family Philanthropic Fund
 - Savannah Chai Fund
 - Schlafstein Philanthropic Fund
- Victor & Elise Shernoff Family Philanthropic Fund
- Ed & Linda Wexler Family Charitable Foundation
- Harold & Peggy Yellin Family Philanthropic Fund
 - Solomon & Stephanie Zerden Family Philanthropic Fund

FUTURE FUNDS

- Barbara & Leon Aronson Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob Endowment Fund
 - Meredith Monsky Bodziner Lion of Judah Endowment Fund
 - Dana Braun Fund
- Jerald & Carole Cohen Charitable Remainder Trust
- Sharon S. Galin Lion of Judah Endowment Fund
- Paul & Harriet Kulbersh Charitable Remainder Trust
 - Sharon S. Paz Fund for Jewish Education
- Jerry & Myra Portman Family Philanthropic Fund
- Linda M. Sacks Lion of Judah Endowment Fund
 - Louis Wiley Charitable Remainder Trust
 - Ruth & Arnold Young Charitable Fund



JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SAVANNAH

DESIGNATED FUNDS
(Endowed)

- Benzion and Jennie Baruch Endowment Fund for the Needy
- Dena Yaschik Bodziner & Lawrence S. Bodziner Foundation Fund
- Irene & Lee Braun Fund for Social Services
- Phillipa Sherman Cohen Jewish Museum and Fine Arts Fund
 - Matthew J. Cranman Holocaust Teacher Education Endowment
 - Herta & Warner Danziger Family Fund
- Hymie & Bertha Scheer Friedman Family Fund
- AM Goldkrand Lion of Judah Endowment Fund
- Lloyd & Sandra Goodman JEA General Fund
- Nancy & Lawrence Gutstein Annual Campaign Endowment Fund
- "Uncle" Max Handshu Rambam Preschool Fund
- David & Merle Horwitz Fund for Israel/Overseas Needs
 - Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah General Fund
 - Jane & Buddy Kahn General Fund
 - Abe & Ethel Kamine Senior Meals Fund
 - Lawrence Konter & Bertram Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund
- JEA Fred & Rene Lehrberger Fund for Children's Community Services
 - Charles & Josephine Lorant-Glauber Fund
- Annie Shapiro Lowenkopf & Walter Lowenkopf Fund for the Visually Impaired
 - David Portman JEA Memorial Fund
- Dr. Jacob & Beatrice S. Rubin Campaign Fund
- Julie Rudikoff JEA Athletic & Health Club Fund
- Isadore (Junior) Scheer Children's School Fund
- Sarah & Sam Steinberg Family JEA Camp Fund
 - Steirn Fund for Contemporary Jewish Music
- Ralph & Pauline Tenenbaum Fund for Social Services
- William & Mildred Weichselbaum Campaign Fund
 - JEA Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Building Fund

BEQUESTS

- Ed Wexler

SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

- The Byck Foundation
- The Kole Family Foundation
- The Levy Foundation

JEA FUNDS

- Arkin-Clark Garden Fund
- Brian Blumberg Basketball Camp Fund
- Judith Blumenthal Lecture Series Fund
- Jason Brodski Memorial Camp Fund
- Dave & Bunny Center Campership Fund
- Henry W. Center College Scholarship Fund
 - Ethel Cohen-Meddin Memorial Fund
- Pearl & Joseph Geffen Adult Education Series Fund
- "Uncle" Max Handshu Rambam Preschool Fund
 - Phillip Hoffman Memorial Fund
 - JEA Building Fund
 - JEA Endowment
 - JEA Fitness Fund
 - JEA General Donations
 - JEA Kitchen Fund
- Bertha & Hyman Kanter Young at Heart Fund
 - Jack & Miriam Levy Concert Fund
- Annie Shapiro-Lowenkopf & Walter Lowenkopf Fund for the Visually Impaired
 - NCJW Camp/Youth Fund
 - Raymond & Morris Rosen Memorial Fund
 - Harvey Rubin Memorial Fund
- Dora F. Salkin & Selma R. Salkin Memorial Fund
 - Sarah & Sam Steinberg Family JEA Camp Fund
- Albert & Rosalie Tenenbaum Youth Leadership Fund
 - Allan Ullman Playground Fund
 - Jacob & Ida Ullman College Scholarship Fund

BNAITZEDEK FUNDS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Benjamin Adler Fund | Elliot Kooden Fund |
| Louis Brody Fund | Ross Kooden Fund |
| Elle Byck Fund | Stephen Lasky Fund |
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| Matt Klugman Fund | Sam Slotin Fund |
| Amy Robinson Kole Fund | Stephanie Yellin Fund |

For information on establishing a fund to create a Jewish legacy in our community, contact Lynn Levine, 355-8111 or lynn@savj.org

How to trade securities for a more secure community (.....and save the capital gains tax)

Here's a tax tip.

Instead of selling your *appreciated securities* and paying tax on the resulting capital gains, transfer the securities to the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah and save 20% on the taxable gain while receiving an **immediate tax deduction** based on the fair market value of the securities.

How it works

Transfer the shares to the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah.
Receive an immediate donation receipt for the market value of the shares.
When the shares are sold, an endowment fund will be established in your name.

The proceeds of your fund can be designated to the Federation, your synagogue or field of interest.

Since only the income is used, your donation ensures that a legacy gift to our community in your name will exist in perpetuity.



JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SAVANNAH
Savannah Jewish Federation



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, January 24

A Movie and A Beer

The Barbecue People- Gathering for a barbecue in celebration of the formation of Israel

JEA—8:00 p.m.; Free to members; Adults 21 and over only please. Sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein.

Wednesday & Thursday, January 30 and 31

Hadassah Presents

A comedy directed by Kelie Miley Two performances

Savannah Children's Theatre, 4160 E. Victory Dr. – 8 p.m.

For ticket information, call LeeAnn Kole, 354-9444

Saturday, February 2

2008 Speakers Series

Current scene in the Middle East featuring Elliot Chodoff, small weapons and tactical unit expert, author and college professor.

JEA- \$10 at the door; \$5 for students; free for military

Sponsored by JEA Phillip Hoffman

Memorial Fund, Savannah Jewish Federation and members of the community.

Monday, February 4

JEA Art Gallery Reception

Greet the February artist of the month, Angela Taylor.

JEA Art Gallery; 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.; free; 355-8111 for information.

Spelman College Jazz Ensemble

Free concert

JEA – 7 p.m.

Sponsored by Black Heritage Festival and the JEA

Tuesday, February 5

Ballroom Dancing Lessons--

Learn the waltz, fox trot, cha cha, salsa and swing.

JEA –7:30 p.m.; Five consecutive

Tuesdays

\$25 for members; \$40 for non-members. Call 355-8111 to enroll.

Sunday, February 17

Agudath Achim Installation of Rabbi and Honoring Past Presidents

Rabbi Leitner to be installed as pulpit rabbi and all past presidents will be recognized.

Agudath Achim Synagogue –6:30 p.m. for cocktails followed by program \$50 per person for dinner. Call Motti Locker, 352-4737 for more information.

Friday-Sunday, February 22-24

Well-known artist Mordechai Rosenstein will be appearing in Savannah. The Hebrew alphabet is the essence of his art and the flowing forms of the letters is present in all of his works. His work includes tapestries, paintings, murals and silk screen prints in which he gives a contemporary meaning to the art of Hebrew calligraphy.

Check the community calendar at www.savj.org for the location of his art display.

Through Saturday, February 23

Children of Jerusalem Art Exhibit

Powerful exhibit, free and open to the public, features original art created by Israeli and Palestinian children
Public Library, 2002 Bull Street

Wednesday, February 27

Rambam Day School 18th Anniversary Celebration

JEA- 7:00 p.m.

\$18 per person for dinner. RSVP by Feb. 13. Call 352-7994 for more information.

Through Tuesday, April 15

Israel & Me Oral History Project

Share your stories about Israel

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

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



Trading Places 2007

Whether it was babysitting during services at the First Baptist Church or preparing and serving meals to the homeless on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at the Old Savannah City Mission or running their tuches off serving meals throughout Christmas day at Buckingham South, or filling in at the front desk or control desk at the JEA, volunteers from the Savannah Jewish Federation were very busy with Trading Places for



Aaron and Joanne Kooden help serve at Old Savannah City Mission's Christmas on the Corner



Allison and Jared serve the sweets

2007. A number of the volunteers reported that their experiences were the most meaningful they've had yet and the Federation is grateful to all who



Scott Cohen and Ashley Samuels at Christmas on the Corner

participated and help to make this a successful program year after year.

Agudath Achim To Install New Rabbi, Honor Past Presidents on Feb. 17

Congregation Agudath Achim will host an important event February 17 when the congregation will install Kenneth R. Leitner as the new rabbi for the synagogue. The evening program will also include a gala dinner honoring all of the congregation's past presidents.

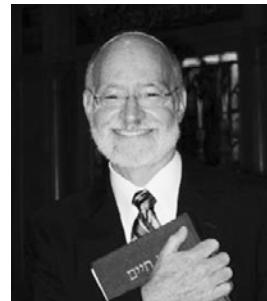
"The installation of our new rabbi is a momentous time for our synagogue and the local Jewish community since the Rabbi at Agudath Achim plays an important role in the entire Jewish community, not just our own congregation," said Buddy Metzger, president of the congregation. "In honoring our past presidents, we unite in a salute to members whose many hours of service to AA stands as a grateful thank-you to these devoted men and women." Lynn C. Reeves is serving as the event chairperson.

Each past president will be personally highlighted and thanked for his/her distinguished service and leadership of the congregation.

Agudath Achim past presidents are Oscar Levy, 1928-29; Samuel Tenenbaum, 1930-42; Morris Cohen, 1942; Meyer Tenenbaum, 1942-43 and 1951-57; Albert Tenenbaum,

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For more information call Motti Locker at 352-4737 or email at mottilocker@aol.com.



Rabbi Leitner



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In honor of your anniversary
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Lincoln Goes to Jerusalem—An Alternate History

April 14, 1865

An original poem by
Carol M. Towbin Greenberg



Editor's Note: February 12 is Lincoln's Birthday

What if the assassination had not occurred or Lincoln had lived? Israel, even before it was a modern nation was an inspiration to great men and women whose influence spread all over the world. The poem below was written while Carol was thinking about both the upcoming Israel@60 celebrations and President's Day. She also was thinking about President Bush going to Israel and President Lincoln never having the opportunity.

*Lincoln dreamed of Jerusalem in April 1865
He needed to be stroked and consoled
He wanted space to think: how peace to survive
The bloody war had taken its toll.*

*A house divided against itself
Is more than just civil strife
Then he lost his son—his Will to be
And melancholy overtook his sweet wife.*

*So when she suggested the theater one night
He said, "that wouldn't do it my dear--
I need to break out of my role:
I need to escape from here."*

*"I have always regretted we haven't traveled more:
Out west perhaps, where it's wild and free?"
"Its too uncivilized and dangerous," she dismissed
"It's not where I'd want to be."*

*"Then let's take a cutter across the known world--
To Paris and London and Rome?"
"How long would we be gone?
Your term is not up and
It is too far away from home!"*

*"Just once in our lives be impetuous, my love.
A change in perspective is what we so need.
We'll go to the cradle of civilization,
I'll play diplomat, you'll sightsee, we'll read."*

*"What are you on about? I hope you're not feverish
That would be too bad for we'd miss tonight's play--
And after such a long winter we need to get out
Leave your daydreaming for another day."*

*"You know I've longed to sojourn to Jerusalem
The Israelites survived so many civil wars it was true
Despite years of suffering and being dispersed
Each found the secret to remaining a Jew.*

*We have lost some of ourselves in this great travail
We are at once desert—deserted and parched
We need Jerusalem peace – the light of all nations
As a vision of hope while to bloody conflict we marched.*

*"Hush now, time to leave Abe--
Tonight's entertainment will give you a thrill;
And your adoring public will sooth your soul,
And these diversions will comfort your mind still."*

*When they carried him away he was not in pain
And it is recorded he smiled softly before his decease
His war was over: mercifully his thoughts wandered
away
For he was dreaming of middle east peace.*

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Happy New Year!





A WORLD OF GOOD

GAIL PAGE (z"l) LOOKED ACROSS THE DESK at the federation professional, who had just told her that it would cost \$1200 to send her four children to Jewish summer camp, \$300 each. Then, Gail remembers, he asked, "How much can you afford to pay?" Gail thought about it: summer camp was a luxury for a receptionist and mother of four. After more than a few seconds, she answered, "Unfortunately, all I can afford is \$8.00 for each child." The federation professional said, "That's great. The federation can take care of the rest." Gail remembers the day like it was yesterday. 30 years later, her son David is married to a Jewish woman, is raising a Jewish son and is so proud that his mother had the courage to ask.

Day in and day out, Jewish federation is there to provide food and shelter for the needy, rescue for those in harm's way, education for our children, care and compassion for our parents. You can help.

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