SAVANNAH CELEBRATES ISRAEL
60 Years of Statehood

Community-Wide Celebration
Planned For May 18th In Forsyth Park

On May 18, 2008, the entire city of Savannah is invited to help celebrate 60 years of independence for the State of Israel. The Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish Educational Alliance are proud to be sponsoring the biggest festival celebrating Israel ever held in Savannah.

The history of modern Israel is one of a country faced with many challenges. But in its short history, Israel has flourished in every way and in many different fields — culture, agriculture, medicine, science and technology.

The event celebrating this important milestone for this little country that could will take place on Sunday, May 18th in Forsyth Park from 12-4 pm. All activities are free and the entire community is invited to come and enjoy the many fun things planned for kids and adults.

Amos Timna, chair of the Israel at 60 Festival, has been hard at work with a group of dedicated staff and volunteers since planning for the event began last August. He said: “Forsyth Park will be filled with booths, displays, activities and the best of Israeli products, culture and food. It will be a grand opportunity to learn, celebrate, socialize and hear a great concert. But most of all, it is a chance for us to show all of Savannah what Israel has come to mean to us and to the world.”

In addition to all of the activities, there will be performances on the Israel at 60 Festival Stage throughout the afternoon, including the main event on the stage, the annual Jerusalem Concert for Peace sponsored by the City of Savannah Cultural Arts Commission, this year featuring the internationally renowned Pharaoh’s Daughter. Pharaoh’s Daughter has toured all around America, Europe and Israel performing their unique blend of Israeli rhythms with a group of dedicated staff and volunteers since planning for the event began last August. He said: “Forsyth Park will be filled with booths, displays, activities and the best of Israeli products, culture and food. It will be a grand opportunity to learn, celebrate, socialize and hear a great concert. But most of all, it is a chance for us to show all of Savannah what Israel has come to mean to us and to the world.”

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I wish that when I am sixty...

I will see eight of my children win the Nobel Prize.

I will contribute gold medals in different sports.

I will contribute to the fields of medicine, hi tech and agriculture.

I will have more lawyers than I really need.

I will be the biggest polished diamond exporter in the world.

I will have four children among the 300 richest people in the world.

I will be one of eight other people in the world able to send a satellite into space.

I will be one of the 500 richest people in the world.

I will be the only foreign-based rival of the largest company in the world.

I will be able to send a satellite into space.

I will provide the most advanced technology designed to protect airliners from a missile attack.

One of my businesses will be the largest company in the world in the field of voice mail technology.

Both Microsoft and Cisco will build their only foreign-based research and development facilities in my building.

I will have the highest number of personal computers per capita in the world.

Outside of the United States and Canada, I will have the largest number of companies listed on NASDAQ.

I will lead the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce, with 145 per 10,000, as opposed to 85 in the U.S., a little over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany.

I will be responsible for the world's first civilian aircraft equipped with technology designed to protect airliners from a missile attack.

One of my universities will be leading the development of a robotic arm that can respond to the brain commands of a paralyzed person.

My children will have the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world.

I will be even more attractive than in my youth.

I probably will not be able to claim all of that when I turn 60, but Israel, the 100th smallest country in the world, with less than 1/1000th of the world's population, can.

I look forward to celebrating Israel's 60th birthday with all of you at the Festival in Forsyth Park on May 18th!

When Lea & Amos Blank want to know what's happening in the Jewish community of Savannah they read The Savannah Jewish News

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

On May 1, we will observe Yom HaShoah, this sad anniversary, as we are doing each year. We read the names of some, or all, of the six million people who perished in the Holocaust, but it is also a time to learn: to learn that the Holocaust happened because virtually not a single country was able or willing to help us and only a very few offered asylum to our people. This is the sad truth! Israel existed only in dreams at that time.

We learned that we must have our old country reborn again. The Holocaust would never have happened if Israel, as we know today, would have existed at that time. It is our moral obligation to promote the best possible relations between our own USA and Israel. Both are powerful democracies which will assure the safe future for our children and grandchildren.

Just a few words about my family’s recent great achievement:

In November 2007, we secured a positive outcome in the Dresden court for our claim against the German Government for goods taken to Germany from my father’s warehouse in Poland. At this time, the case is on the way from the court to the Restitution Office in Berlin for a practical resolution. We hope to have the final stage of our many years of effort very soon.

Best regards to our friends in Savannah,

George & Marlene Dynin

Dear Friends,

It took 2,000 years to dream it, 60 to plan it, and 60 more to bring it to life. This Yom Ha’atzmaut, the modern state of Israel will celebrate its 60th anniversary with great pride in its achievements and with the knowledge that many more are still to come.

In those short 60 years we’ve accomplished more than anyone present at Israel’s founding could have ever expected. In 60 years we’ve made Israel a shining example of freedom, democracy, and equality. Today Israel ranks among the world’s 25 most advanced and freest countries. In 60 years Israel has become a beacon of hope to the world’s needy. Israelis are in the Amazon working on water purification. Israelis are in sub-Saharan Africa delivering food. In 60 years Israel has even changed it very landscape. Israel has made the desert bloom.

Today Israel is at the forefront of modern invention and innovation. Israeli technology is found everywhere you look. It is inside your computers, your cell phones, your flash drives, and in countless other marvels of human ingenuity. Israeli advancements are literally saving the world. Israel is the global leader in water desalination and conservation technology. Solar panels are found on almost every Israeli roof. Israeli scientists are around the world, working with their colleagues to harness the power of the sun.

We are delighted to commemorate Israel’s first sixty years, and are honored to share this celebration with the City of Savannah. Savannah has embraced Israel by supporting the country and its anniversary with wide ranging cultural events and festivities.

On behalf of the people of the State of Israel, I would like to sincerely thank the City of Savannah, the State of Georgia, the Savannah Jewish Federation, and the Savannah area Jewish community for the kindness they have shown us during our first sixty years. We wish the City of Savannah and its citizens a happy Yom Ha’atzmaut.

This Issue,” telling me where to find particular contents. The use of color, while used sparingly, added greatly to the pleasing look of the paper.

Maybe I had new glasses, maybe I read more carefully, but even the weight of the paper felt good! Please know that the community does read this paper and I, for one, was extremely pleased with the quality and contents of the April Savannah Jewish News. Thank you so much.

Sherry Dolgoff

Ambassador Reda Mansour
Consul General of Israel to the Southeast
Don’t Be a Part of the Silent Majority

Jews are always alert to the threat of overt anti-Semitism. We remain vigilant to oppose those who would threaten the existence of Israel. We all acknowledge the inherent risk of assimilation and loss of Jewish identity which has come with our successful integration into American society. We try to arm our children with information to deal with those who would try to seduce them with other religions cloaked as Judaism. Our Jewish leaders have always taken up the fight to oppose those threats.

Sometimes challenges to Jewish life are less overt and more insidious. I knew that I was not the only person to read in amazement a front page story in the Savannah Morning News that a municipal judge reduces fines and penalties for driving violations if the defendant agrees to attend church—or a synagogue or a mosque. The judge apparently sees no problem with his “urgings” since he does not make church attendance a “condition” of his sentence. I am not a constitutional scholar or an attorney. I have no special insight into the “establishment clause” contained in the First Amendment, but I do think I know a bad idea when I hear one. I think the wise men who wrote our constitution did not intend for the judicial branch of our secular government to mete out sentences which could be satisfied by attending religious services. (I attend quite regularly, and though this may make me a better person, it is unlikely to make me a better driver.)

Is this some overt attempt to establish a state religion? Obviously not. Is this a threat to my right to practice my religion or to Judaism in general? Again, certainly not. So why should I waste my time and yours discussing this? It is not because this may be one more footfall on a “slippery slope” or one small brick loosened from the wall between church and state. Although as Americans, and particularly as Jewish Americans, we should always be concerned about such transgressions.

What concerns me is that, Jews and Gentiles alike, have begun to tacitly accept the intermingling of religious life in the affairs of state. I suspect that most people who read the article did so with a sense of bemusement: a quirky Southern judge acting just like a caricature of a small town Southern judge.

We periodically read of concerns raised when one community builds a cèdre outside of its town hall in December or mounts a copy of the Ten Commandments on its courthouse walls. Many Jews are uncomfortable with such trappings, but we seldom raise an alarm. Should we have concerns when the Georgia Legislature considers the use of vouchers to divert public monies to parochial schools? It nearly happened this year, but for the inability of our legislature to overcome its internecine squabbling. Do we consider the long term consequences of our national policy to promote the reliance of “faith-based” social programs to remedy social ills? Are we comfortable with a White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives? I fear that as a society we have become so complacent with such stories that we no longer notice.

To be sure, there is much good that comes from faith based programs. Many of us participate regularly in such programming. There are undoubtedly many members of our community who see no reason for concern here. There are also certainly some who feel that I have understated the magnitude of the issue. They may be right on both counts. I hope each of us at least spend some time considering what the Jewish position is in discussions of church and state. Like all things Jewish, there is no one proper position; but it is certainly important to have a position. Be aware. Discuss these issues with your family, your rabbi (or for even more fun, with another Rabbi) and with your Jewish and non-Jewish friends. Wherever you stand, consider what effect the policies of our government and our courts have on Jewish life and, in turn, on our American way of life. Be active. Be outspoken. Jews have never been part of the “silent majority”. We shouldn’t start now.
Celebration in Forsyth Park — cont. from page 1
combined with musical traditions from all over the world. Bring something to sit on and enjoy an afternoon of great performances.

What would the Festival be without the great flavors of food from Israel? An alliance of Savannah’s finest caterers and restaurateurs—Matt Cohen from the New South Café, Murray Gottlieb, of Alan Gottlieb Caterers, David Silverman of Spanky’s Southside and local caterer Harriet Ullman—will be selling favorite Israeli treats throughout the festival: Falafel, Shawarma, Hummus, and Israeli salad along with local favorites like Spanky’s chicken fingers and spuds, with an Israeli twist and Harriet’s famous strudel. There will be delicacies to appeal to all tastes and ages.

The Israel at 60 Festival is made possible with generous support from the Georgia Ports Authority, Wachovia Bank, Betty and Norton Melaver, MASA Israel Journey and others.

Along with Pharaoh’s Daughter, also not to be missed on the Festival Stage are the performances by the children of Rambam Day School and Shalom School in a special Israeli Folk Dance presentation, the Mickve Israel Choir, the Savannah Children’s Choir, and other special acts.

Some of the activities planned for the Festival and described in detail elsewhere in this issue include:

- Time Tunnel of Israeli History — Enter the Festival through a multimedia exhibit that tracks the history of Israel from 1948 – 2008;
- Dig the Past — A ‘real-life’ archaeological dig for ages 3 to 13;
- The Israel Maze — Find your way around Israel and pick up some knowledge along the way;
- Picture Yourself in Israel — Take home a souvenir photo of your “trip” to Israel;

Other activities planned for the younger guests are a place for budding jewelers to create masterpieces (who knows, maybe the next Ayala Bar is right here in Savannah); face painting and story telling for the smaller children; cupcake decorating (and eating!) and much, much more.

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

**Fabulous Foods for Sale at Israel @ 60 Festival**

Enjoy a Taste of Israel

Contemporary cuisine, ancient land: ISRAEL

Authentic Israeli treats including:
- Chicken Shawarma
- Falafel
- Hummus
- Tahini
- Chopped Salad
- Bourekas

and local favorites with an Israeli twist:
- Spanky’s Chicken Fingers, Spuds,
- Harriet’s Famous Strudel and more.

New South Café
Spanky’s Southside
Alan Gottlieb Caterers
Harriet Ullman Catering

**Fun-filled Day Planned for May 18 at Forsyth Park**

**Israel and Me Oral History 60th Birthday Card**

Come by the Israel and Me booth sponsored by Coastal Oral History Project, May 18 at the Israel at 60 Festival in Forsyth Park and record your birthday message for Israel (five minutes or less) right at the Festival! Video clips of the full interviews already completed also will be available for viewing. Did you miss recording your video birthday message for Israel’s 60th? Final appointments for longer interviews can be made at that time.

We would like to make a video of your personal, family or business stories and memorabilia of your connections to the land of Israel since that historic UN vote! Video sessions last between 30 to 90 minutes and are conducted at the JEA. All participants will receive a copy of their interview as well as one of the completed video-cards.

To make an appointment or donate to the project, call Carol Greenberg at 912-927-9922 or e-mail MStarArts@aol.com.

The Israel and Me Oral History 60th Birthday Card is a project of MorningStar Cultural Arts Group in conjunction with the Savannah Jewish Federation, the Jewish Education Alliance, the Southern Oral History Company and the Savannah Community Foundation Arts Ashore Legacy Fund.

**Picture Yourself in Israel**

Choose from a number of beautiful places in Israel to have your picture taken and then take home a souvenir photo of your “trip” to Israel. It’s a miracle – only you will know for sure if you were there!

**On the Festival Stage**

12:00 ISRAELI FOLK DANCE PERFORMANCES
BY RAMBAM DAY SCHOOL & SHALOM SCHOOL
12:30 CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL CHOIR
1:00 ISRAELI FOLK MUSIC SINGER SHAY BAR
1:45 WELCOMES AND PROCLAMATION
2:00 JERUSALEM CONCERT FOR PEACE FEATURED ENTERTAINERS: PHARAOH’S DAUGHTER
3:00 SAVANNAH CHILDRENS CHOIR
3:30 SHAY BAR
Dig the Past
Like Indiana Jones, children ages 3 - 13 can dig for historic artifacts from Biblical times and take home a souvenir of the experience. Right in Forsyth Park we'll be recreating a dig for ancient relics, just like the ones taking place all over Israel! Who knows what treasures you'll find?

Israel at 60 Celebrations Planned around the Country All Year Long
Are you traveling this year? Savannah's Israel at 60 Festival is just one of dozens of events planned around the country to celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary. Jewish communities all across North America are sponsoring festivals, concerts, lectures and more - just 'google' Israel at 60 and the name of the place you'll be visiting and see what pops up.

For example, if you're heading to our nation's capital you can join the Capital Celebration on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., June 1st from noon to 5pm. The event will feature popular Israeli singer-songwriter Regina Spektor, actor Mandy Patinkin, the Israeli band Machina, Sesame Street Muppets Oscar and Oofnik, and others.

MYTHS AND FACTS
A Guide to the Arab – Israeli Conflict
By Mitchell G. Bard

MYTH
"Israel must negotiate with Hamas.

FACT
Hamas controls the Gaza Strip and therefore some people, including knowledgeable Israelis, argue that Israel must negotiate with the terror group. No one seriously believes that Hamas is interested in any lasting peace with Israel, but the advocates for negotiations believe it may be possible to reach a ceasefire agreement in which Hamas promises to stop firing rockets into Israel and Israel ceases its military operations against the group in Gaza. A byproduct of such an agreement is hoped to be a prisoner exchange that would lead to the release of Gilad Shalit who was kidnapped by Hamas 21 months ago.

Israel has not pursued this strategy for a number of reasons. First, Hamas has given little indication it is prepared to end its terror campaign. On the contrary, its spokesmen continue to make belligerent statements. On March 28, for example, Hamas leader Khalil al-Haya, declared: “The Zionist enemy doesn't have a vision of peace. Only force...fighting and holy war works with [Israel].”

Hamas also remains committed to its covenant that calls for the destruction of Israel.

From Israel's perspective, a ceasefire would be exploited by Hamas to build up its forces. Without Israeli counter-terror operations, the group will be free to continue to smuggle in weapons and money from Iran and elsewhere, and to develop longer range missiles capable of striking Israeli population centers.

In exchange for a short-term respite in attacks, many Israelis fear they will be allowing Hamas to become a far more dangerous adversary in the future.

It is often said that you don't make peace with your friends, you make peace with your enemies, but this assumes the enemy you are negotiating with is not committed to your destruction. Golda Meir said it best when she explained the conflict had nothing to do with territory. “We're the only people in the world where our neighbors openly announce they just won't have us here,” she observed. “And they will not give up fighting and they will not give up war as long as we remain alive. Here...They say we must be dead. And we say we want to be alive. Between life and death, I don't know of a compromise.”

You Can Help!
Volunteer Committee Chairwomen JoAnne Kooden and Sally Greenberg still have a job for you at the Israel at 60 Celebration at Forsyth Park on May 18. Events like this take an enormous amount of volunteers...that's why we look to YOU. Would you be willing to help? Israel @ 60 needs many people to help set up and man booths, assist in organization, and more. There is a role for everyone — young and “young at heart.” To volunteer, call Eshel at the JEA at 355-8111 or send an email to eshel@savj.org.

Time Tunnel of Israeli History
Enter the Festival through a multimedia exhibit that tracks the history of Israel from 1948 – 2008. Take a journey through time with us and re-acquaint yourself with the amazing story of the small country that in 60 short years became one of the most modern and technologically advanced countries in the world.

American Friends of Magen David Adom
The American support group for the Israeli affiliate of the Red Cross will be here with an actual Israeli ambulance for you to explore. Learn about how this important group, active since 1940, is helping Magen David Adom upgrade their emergency medical and blood services.

You Can Help:
Start the fun on May 18th at a special schmooze, just for singles, at Smooth coffee and smoothie bar. Meet us at a little while before joining the fun in Forsyth Park.

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

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

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

Kasey's Gourmet Grille
Kasey's Gourmet Grille is a Savannah favorite! A unique blend of casual and eclectic dining. Traditional New York Strip, Sushi, Thai, Italian, Seafood, Vegetarian, and much more! Kasey’s is the perfect location for your next casual dinner or cocktail. Enjoy our new Weekend Brunch Buffet every Sunday 11am-2:30pm. Kasey's is a complete package with a fully stocked bar and full service dining. Come see why Kasey's is a Savannah favorite!

Kasey's Gourmet Grille
Kasey's Gourmet Grille, 3215 Waters Avenue, Savannah, GA 31405
Tel: (912) 626-1558 • Fax: (912) 236-9301
Email: info@kaseysga.com
www.kaseysga.com

Myths and Facts is brought to you as a service of the Community Relations Council of the Savannah Jewish Federation.
Israel at 60: A Remarkable Story

By Uriel Heilman, JTA

Though many basic questions about Israel's character remain unanswered 60 years after the state's founding, its successes and quasi-normalcy in the face of relentless challenges make the story of Israel at 60 a truly remarkable one.

In all likelihood, Herzl would not even recognize the place.

"I think Herzl would be so perplexed," says veteran Israeli journalist Yossi Klein Halevi, a senior fellow at the Shalem Center, a conservative think tank in Jerusalem. "He wouldn't know in what proportion to be thrilled and disappointed. Israel bears no resemblance to what Herzl imagined, conceiving a Jewish state from the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire."

Herzl envisioned a socialist utopia that would combine the best of European culture and Jewish ingenuity. In his famous work "Altneuland," Arab hardly merit mention.

Halevi says Herzl would find Israel's radical Jewish diversity most perplexing.

"The East-West mixture, the racial mixture of Israeli, Ethiopian culture, Moroccan music — all the elements that make Israel so unpredictable and so interesting are elements Herzl couldn't conceive of sitting in Vienna in the beginning of the 20th century," Halevi says.

In many ways, however, Herzl's dream of a Jewish state has been fulfilled.

Israel has secured its place among the nations even though its leaders bemoan the existential threat posed by Iran and the demographic threat represented by Israeli Arabs. A state like any other, Israel boasts metropolitan cities, concert halls, theaters, centers of science and learning, skyscrapers, a stock exchange and a thriving non-profit sector.

Of course, as a state like any other, Israel also has poor people, failing schools, government corruption, rundown neighborhoods, traffic, drug problems and criminals.

And after 60 years, Israel still faces basic questions of existence and character most countries have resolved long ago. Can the state be both Jewish and democratic? What will the final borders of the country look like? Where, exactly, is the balance between religious and secular, Arab rights and Jewish character, change and preservation, future and history? Sixty years on, the battle for Israel's soul is far from over.

Tel Aviv leftists debate right-wing settlers about whether the final borders of the state should encompass the West Bank or run along the pre-1967 border. Secular yuppies from Herzliya lobby to be able to buy pork products and shrimp in their local supermarkets while Knesset-sanctioned inspectors slap fines on malls that open on Shabbat.

Russians and Israelis say Israeli immigration policies unfairly exclude their non-Jewish relatives, while yeshiva rabbis warn that an influx of foreign laborers and non-Jewish immigrants erode the state's Jewish character. Arab Israelis from Jerusalem ask why their Palestinian cousins from nearby Bethlehem are barred from visiting their Palestinian cousins from nearby Bethlehem while a Jew from Chicago can become an Israeli citizen simply by showing up at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv with a letter from her rabbi.

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Yet all the while, Israelis have gone to cafes and raised their families.

Looking at the Old City of Jerusalem

Agricultural settlements have matured into sprawling cities, the 1948 population of roughly 800,000 has swollen to more than 7 million and — perhaps most important of all — the Jewish state has become home for Jews from Russia, Europe, Iran, Ethiopia, Argentina, Egypt, North America, India and too many other places to count.

Sixty years on, Israel has much to celebrate, having raised a vibrant, diverse and occasionally bewildering society virtually from scratch.

Israel has become an increasingly stable, growing power in the Gaza Strip, Israel has become an increasingly stable, growing power in the Gaza Strip, and preservation, future and history? Sixty years on, the battle for Israel's soul is far from over.

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Keeping track of the notable developments

Israel has more companies listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange than any other outside the United States. Israel has the highest proportion in the world of university graduates per capita. Outside of Europe and North America, Israel leads in the number of patent applications.

Israelis invented the video camera that fits inside a pill, giving doctors a new non-invasive way to view their patients' insides. Four young Israelis invented the first instant-messaging technology, known as ICQ, which was later sold to AOL. The disk-on-key, now almost universally used in place of diskettes, was created in Israel.

"Israel has the highest concentration of talent in the world," says Moshe Kaveh, the president of Bar-Ilan University.

Despite the worrisome headlines about Iran, Hezbollah's resurgence along the Lebanon border and Hamas' growing power in the Gaza Strip, Israel has become an increasingly stable, normal country. In 2007, terrorism-related deaths in Israel fell to 13 — the lowest level in years.

The question for Israel isn't so much whether people will be able to live in the country in 10, 20 or 30 years but whether they will want to.

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Yet all the while, Israelis have forged communities, launched companies, started rock bands, built cities, gone to cafes and raised their families. This perseverance — the carrying on of daily life, despite all the craziness in the country — is what makes Israel at 60 a story worth telling.
Reflections on Israel from Savannahians living there

A Continuing Miracle
from Daniel Kahn

After living in Israel for the past seven months, seeing this country turn 60 is something that I look forward to with great excitement. Through the countless wars and unforeseen events that this country has faced, it is quite clear to me that Israel is a country of miracles. The one thing that continues to fascinate me is the fact that no matter how grave the challenge or threat that Israel is faced with, it is always moving forward. From the cranes that fill the horizon in Netanya to the innovations in science and technology, nothing seems to slow Israel down. I look forward to watching this country continue to grow in the coming years.

Embracing the Diverse Collective
from Lisa Bodziner

People. When I walk outside of my apartment, I am taken by the people I encounter. Benyamin’s market (mini-market) has just opened up, run for 45 years by an 80-year-old Israeli man who grew up in the neighborhood. As I stroll along my little street, I encounter two more shop owners, Yemenites, the lady I call ishah yaffa (pretty lady) and her husband. They wait for business; there is always a siddur with him; I wonder, is he chanting psalms and prayers, hoping for wealth, a life of health, a life of peace? I cross over Betzalel Street, named for the biblical figure that was, as his name suggests, “on the side of G-d.” Betzalel was instructed to build the tabernacle. The midrash explains Betzalel heard all that G-d told Moshe, he was however, “on the side,” therefore G-d only had to reiterate Betzalel’s righteousness, skillfulness, talent, and strong heart. A simple street name carries me back through thousands of years of history and meaning, and also carries me forward as I think in wonderment of what this country has to offer, has to teach, and has to give.

I cut through the alley ways, where men are crawling out of their shetip’las (small schuls). Morning prayers have been said; it’s a regular day in Jerusalem. The Sephardim, the Ashkenazim, the Te’emanim, the French, the Americans, the Poles — everyone is heading to the shool. The smells of delicious Israeli and Turkish coffees brewing, fresh hok-lava baking, pitot ready to be stuffed for lunch, Maccabee beers ready to be tapped open, delight us all as we head to the shool.

The shool (market) is a microcosm of the Jewish people and the diversity of Israel today. What produce will you buy due to the Shmitta year? What Ethiopian spice for your green peppers? Which Russian liquor for your Shabbat after dinner drink? Will your challot come from the hippie natural bakery or from your neighbor who runs a bakery outside their house? The options are limitless as every person; every Jew, rich or poor, Israeli or American comes together at the shool. Musicians are playing in the road, the Rabbis are encouraging everyone to get home earlier to light Shabbat candles. Security guards monitor the entrances, secular Israelis are headed to Tel-Aviv for the weekend, and all of us together, standing at the shool, are the diverse collective. We sit at the same tables to eat falafel. We sit at the same tables to drink our Cafe Hillel coffees. We sit at the same tables to play Shaftshais.

We should consider, what does it mean to be a collective of individuals, all with different skills, customs, codes, all with different mother-tongues, mothers, colors of skin? Israel, in 60 years, has brought an infinite diversity of people together, in one homeland. We, as Jews, whether inside or outside of the homeland, have an obligation to know that we are also a part of that diverse collective.

Greetings from the Holy City of Jerusalem
from Lee Rosenzweig Dor-Shav

As we prepare to celebrate the sixtieth year of the modern State of Israel, we are overwhelmed with a great mixture of emotion. My family and I are grateful to be living in the land of our fathers—to walk daily in the footsteps of history and to participate in its great adventure. Our children proudly accept responsibility for building the Jewish homeland by serving in the army or doing other National Service. We share the growing pains—of which there are many—and take pride in the daily accomplishments and miracles. We are threatened from every side; our borders are not yet secure; tensions run high, but life is full of joy.

Holiday time is a national happening, felt on the street, in shops, school, radio and TV. It is shared by people from every corner of the earth and every variation of Jewish culture. The hills and fields are full of people enjoying the beauty of spring flowers. Even the youngest will remind us not to pick them because, “They should be for everyone to enjoy.” I think the flowers are saying that despite the difficulties, the beauty of our land blooms forth. This Independence Day is especially meaningful. It reminds us how far we have come and how far we still have to go!

Come! Share the journey, visit and experience the strength and beauty of our amazing country. Let us sing with all Am Yisrael the words of Hatikvah, “to be a free people in our own land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem.”

Estate Home for Sale

312 Jackson Woods Boulevard
Habersham Woods - Savannah, GA
Within walking distance of Synagogue

Elegant 1 story 3000 sq ft Custom Brick Home in Prestigious HABERSHAM WOODS on Jackson Woods Blvd. Lg Beautifully Lndsp’d Lot, Bricked Privacy Wall, patio, & pool. Dbl Car Gar. w/Utly Rm., Lg Lndry Rm., 2 Mst Br., 2 Guest Br., 3 Full Ba, 1/2 Ba., Lg Den w/Fp, Wet Bar. Frml LR & DR.

Appt. only 912 354-1895 or 656-9933. $425,000.00
One Girl’s Ultimate Jewish Teenage Experience

from Naomi Bayla Gordon

I had booked a ticket to Israel with the group flight that was organized by the school. It was me and about 40 new faces with whom I’d spend the next ten months in seminary discovering our Jewish homeland.

Despite our exhaustion, once we arrived at our new home for the year we had a trip to the Kotel (Western Wall). This included Kriah (the tearing of one’s clothing), some words from the Torah (Bible) and some personal time by the Kotel. It felt like it was too good to be true, like one was living in a dream.

This year brought me a tremendous amount of growth, independence, direction and most importantly, a deep connection with my Creator. May all of you have the opportunity to gain more depth and clarity to lead a more fulfilling life.

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This year brought me a tremendous amount of growth, independence, direction and most importantly, a deep connection with my Creator. May all of you have the opportunity to gain more depth and clarity to lead a more fulfilling life.

Naomi Bayla is the daughter of Rabbi Jeffrey and Shelley Gordon. She is studying at P'ninim Seminary in Jerusalem for a year.

Reflections on Israel’s 60th birthday

from Steve and Thelma Miller

After living in Israel for most of the last 30 years, it is worth reflecting on our personal feelings on its 60th birthday. We often ask ourselves whether it was the correct decision for ourselves and for our children to come here rather than immigrating to a Western country.

The country is very Western in its technology but the people in many ways are similar to the type of people in the area in which it is situated. The Zionism which we saw when Israel was established is basically dead. This has been replaced by religiously based Zionism brought to this country by Jews who emigrated from Arab countries and by the local religious population.

Israel has also changed from an egalitarian country to a country where the gap between the rich and poor is growing wider all the time with many conflicts between different sectors of society. There is continual change, politically, socially and culturally which makes it an exciting country to live in. We never know what tomorrow might bring.

Are we happy we came here? Yes and no.

We love the excitement of living here with our family and being with fellow Jews but we miss the calm, the caring and the community of Savannah.

How Savannah Helps Israel, One Student at a Time

from Beverly Kramer

For many college students, spring break means sandy beaches, gallons of beer, and wild parties in destinations like Miami Beach and Acapulco. This March, I decided I wanted to do something different for spring break. I traveled with over 100 other college students to Israel on Jewish National Fund’s Alternative Spring Break volunteer trip. For six days, we worked in vineyards, farms, and forests in the Negev Desert in order to bring much needed assistance to the residents of those communities. We cleared land, painted old buildings, and insulated a farmhouse with mud.

One of the places we worked was a single-family farm. Originally, there were three families that worked on the farm together, but as time passed, two had to leave. Now, there are only three people living on that farm: a man, his wife, and their four-month-old baby. This one man is responsible for several acres of farmland. His farm grows grapes to make wine, but as he is the only one working on the farm, he is able to produce a batch of wine every four years or so. He told us that because of the work we did, he would be able to make wine this year.

Although JNF is most famous for planting forests and creating green areas in Israel, the organization aids Israel in countless other ways, which I was able to learn about on my trip. Building irrigation systems, roads, and infrastructure for new communities are all part of JNF’s work. Alternative Spring Break is sponsored by various JNF benefactors who paid for the trip’s expenses. In order to participate, I was required to raise at least $1,000 in donations which will go directly to JNF’s Blueprint Negev campaign to populate, develop, and preserve the Negev Desert.

I found that the people of the Savannah community were so willing and eager to donate to JNF. In just a few days of fundraising, I was able to not only meet my minimum goal, but to actually raise over $3,100 for the land and people of Israel. Thank you, Savannah, for participating in such an important mitzvah!

Beverly Kramer is the daughter of Andy and Cherie Kramer. She is a sophomore at the University of Maryland.
2008 Speaker’s Series

Sunday, May 4, 2008
4:00 PM at the JEA

Consultant to Television’s West Wing
John Podhoretz
Author, political pundit, journalist and commentator

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

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

Yom HaShoah
Holocaust Remembrance Day
An Evening of Readings, Reflections & Remembrances

Thursday, May 1, 2008—7:00 pm

This program will feature local students and participants of all ages presenting special readings, poems and dialogues about the holocaust, including original works. Winners of the student writing and art contests will also be introduced during the program.

Also, part of the program will be a children’s candlelit procession, a memorial candle lighting ceremony by local Holocaust survivors and their families, and a Yellow Candlelight ceremony.

Other Programs in Observance of Yom HaShoah:

- Holocaust Book Fair
- Student Holocaust Art Exhibit
  Wednesday, April 30 through Monday, May 5
  JEA Lobby

- Reading of the Names of the Victims
  Thursday, May 1—9:00 am-9:00 pm*
  JEA Lobby
  *Names of family of Savannah Jewish community members will be read at 3:00 pm

- Screening of Angel of Ahlem documentary
  Sunday, May 4—See article upper right of this page.

Yom Hazikaron

To honor the memory of the Fallen Heroes Of Israel’s Wars and Victims of Terrorism

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Doors Open at 6:50 pm
Program from 7:00-8:00 pm

For additional information, please call (912) 355-8111

Angel of Ahlem

Angel of Ahlem, tells the story of how in 1995, World War II veteran Vernon Tott saw a notice in a veterans’ newsletter from someone trying to find a GI who had photographed the liberation of the Ahlem concentration camp 50 years earlier. Tott realized he was the photographer, pulled the photos that had been in a shoebox in his basement, contacted the survivor and then began a fevered quest to find each of the survivors in his photos before his own demise. His journey took him across the U.S. and Europe and resulted in an unbreakable bond between this Midwestern Gentile and a small group of Holocaust survivors.

First Screening
Sunday, May 4, 2008—11:00 am
Coffee and bagels will be served

Holocaust Survivors’ Panel Discussion—12:15 pm
With Ben Berkenwald, one of the survivors photographed by Tott and featured in Angel of Ahlem

Second Screening of Angel of Ahlem
Sunday, 1:45 pm

JEA Donations

ARLIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND
Wishing a quick & speedy recovery to Marilyn Seeman
Sally & Steve Greenberg

RAYMOND & MORRIS ROSEN MEMORIAL FUND
In honor of Marilyn Cranman’s speedy recovery
In honor of Marcia Schwarz’s speedy recovery
Laurie & Jeff Rubnitz
In honor of Marilyn Cranman’s recovery
In honor of Marcia Schwarz’s recovery
Harriet S. Rosen

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of Sadie Poller
Madeline Rubin

JECA FITNESS FUND
In honor of Andrea Gordon
Best wishes for the recovery of Marilyn Seeman
Evelyn & Phil Scharf

ALBERT & ROSALIE TENENBAUM YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD FUND
In memory of Gladys Epstein
Lorlee & Arnold Tenenbaum

It’s Sundae on Thursday at the JEA!

JEA
96th Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 29, 2008
7:00-9:00 pm

Say “thank you” to our retiring Board Members, welcome our in-coming Board Members and enjoy a delicious sundae, all at the 96th JEA Annual Meeting!
**2008 JEA Golf Classic**

The JEA will be hosting its’ 2008 Golf Classic Fundraiser on May 12th, 2008 at The Savannah Golf Club.

The JEA Golf Classic is a great day of golf supporting the JEA. Last years golf outing was a sellout! Michael Kooden and Danny Klugman’s team won first place. We had great prizes and plenty of food and drinks.

Don’t miss the 2008 Classic. Registration forms will be mailed soon.

For more information, please contact Kim Thebo at the JEA 355-8111 or kim@savj.org.

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**Harvey Rubin Award**

We are now accepting nominations and applications for the Harvey Rubin Award. As some of us may recall Harvey Rubin was the son of Irvin & Madeline Rubin, brother to Abram Rubin and Elise Shernoff, and nephew to Ruth Sadler. Throughout his life Harvey displayed a commitment to athletics, especially in the area of Youth Athletics. With this in mind Barney & Ruth Sadler established the Harvey Rubin Memorial Fund. The Harvey Rubin Award has been given to youth JEA athletes in honor of their accomplishments.

To receive the Harvey Rubin Award one must be a JEA member for at least 3 years and must have participated in at least 1 sport per year (it need not be the same sport each year) for at least 3 years. He/she must have participated on a varsity level team for at least 1 season, must have displayed exceptional sportsmanship while participating in athletics, must have displayed leadership in the community through volunteerism, youth group participation, etc.; carry an above average grade level in his/her school work and have a history of good conduct in his/her school. The candidate must be nominated by a member of the JEA.

The award has been given since 1988. The past five recipients include, Alex Zerden, Daniel Brody, Steffi Yellin, Aaron Kooden, and Sean Dane – Kellogg.

An application must be filed with the Harvey Rubin Award Committee by May 20. The winner will be announced at the JEA Annual Meeting on May 29th.

Contact Elaine Fox or Dawn Tanis for an application if you know a young athlete who would qualify.

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**AARP Defensive Driving Class**

Please reserve both June 22nd and 29th, 1:00-5:00 PM (8 hrs. total) for AARP Defensive Driving class. For Drivers who want a discount on their auto insurance. Materials provided by instructor. Make checks payable to class instructor on the first day of class. Call 912-355-8111 to RSVP. Class size is limited.

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**Savannah Arts Academy**

**Silver Winds Ensemble**

**Thursday, May 15th - 7:00 pm**

**FREE & Open to the Public**

This program is titled “Dance” and is a musical presentation of classical dance music written by great classical composers.

Each year, SWE members audition and are selected to the Governor’s Honors Program, various University honor bands, the Georgia Music Educators Association District One Honor Band and others. The Georgia House of Representatives and State Senate has commended Silver Winds on several occasions in the area of performance.

Michael Hutchinson, SWE’s conductor, now in his 25th year of teaching, was named Savannah Arts Academy’s 2000 Teacher of the Year.

Please join Silver Winds for a magical music extravaganza!

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**JEA Tornadoes Swim Team**

Our program provides an environment where children of all talents can participate and feel as though they have contributed to the team’s success. All children are welcome to join the team as long as they can swim safely. You don’t have to be fast to be on the team, you just have to want to come out and have fun!

**FOR KIDS AGE 5 AND UP**

**Registration:**

- Thru April 25th: $100/Members
- $125/Non-Members
- After April 25th: $125 Members
- $150/Non-Members

Swimming builds strong bones & lean muscles, discipline, confidence and self-esteem.

**First Practice: Monday, May 19th**

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**Jeff Burkheimer’s “Shooting for the Stars” Basketball Camp Here at the JEA**

**June 30th-July 3rd**

**Boys and Girls ages 6-16**

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

**$85/Members $100 Non/Members**

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**Kids Klub**

**2 years - Kindergarten**

**Monday-Thursday 3-6 pm**

**Friday 3-5 PM**

**PRICE:** $200 (per month)

**NON–MEMBERS:** $240

**ACTIVITIES:** $45 (per month)

**TRANSPORTATION:** $20 for 1/2 days

$25 for full days

**Featuring:**

- Mon - Cooking
- Tue - Art with Maggie
- Wed - Gymnastics with Coach Wayne
- Thu - Sports with Coach Dawn
- Fri - Nature Walks

**Must Sign Up One Day Prior**

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**Club U**

**1st - 4th Graders**

**Monday-Thursday 3-6 pm**

**Friday 3-5 PM**

**PRICE:** $200 (per month)

**NON-MEMBERS:** $240

**ACTIVITIES:** $45 (per month)

**TRANSPORTATION:** $20 for 1/2 days

$25 for full days

**Featuring:**

- Mon. - Art with Maggie
- Tues. - Sign Language
- Wed. - Gymnastics
- Thurs. - Water Kickboxing
- Fri. - Sports

**Must Sign Up One Day Prior**

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Sunday, May 4th, Noon-4:00 PM
Test your skills! Boys and girls ages 8-13 may participate in this FREE event. Registration is the day of the event.

Basketball - 12 Noon in the Large Gym
Tennis - 1 PM on the Racquetball Courts
Soccer - 2 PM on the Soccer Field
Track & Field - 3 PM on JEA Back Field

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

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

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

Family Discounts: A 5% discount is offered for families with more than one child or a sibling of a camper enrolled in the same camp session. The discount will apply to the lower fee and does not apply to extended care or specialty camps.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scholarships: Financial assistance is available so every child can come to camp, regardless of ability to pay. Submit your camp application, scholarship request form and a $25 deposit. Requests are kept confidential and are awarded based on a demonstrated need basis. Applications for financial assistance are available at the JEA front desk.
The University of West Georgia Jazz Ensemble is a band of musicians under the direction of Dr. Daniel Bakos, professor of music at UWG (Carrollton). The ensemble performs big band jazz music of famous and historic bands such as Count Basie, Buddy Rich, Duke Ellington, and Stan Kenton, and more contemporary works from artists such as Tom Kubis, Lew Anderson, John Fedchock and others. Chris Vadala, Vince DiMartino, and Gary Foster are some of the well-known musicians who have played with the ensemble.

The ensemble performs extensively throughout the Southeast, toured Europe in 2001, and currently is looking toward a second European tour. The jazz ensemble hosts the annual Sunbelt Jazz Festival during April. The Jazz Ensemble will present a concert, free to the public, at the JEA immediately following the Senior Adult Lunch Program at 1:30 PM on Thursday, May 15th.

**Thursday, May 15th at 1:30 pm**
FREE Lunch Time Concert at the JEA

**Special JEA Monthly Supplement**

**Please contact the JEA office for availability and more information.**

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**University of West Georgia Jazz Ensemble**

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**Art at the JEA**

**This artwork will be for sale and for viewing from May 1-30, 2008**

Moments of clear understanding of life have been the ones that have led me to art and to the producing of spiritual art.

For the past twenty five years I have studied Hermetic literature, Kabbalah and the related mysticism of other religions in an attempt to better understand what I do. Yet, the knowledge of the printed word seems to pale to the creative experience which comes infrequently, but is more than worth pursuing and sharing.

After graduating from UGA in Athens, I spent thirty years as a Visual Arts teacher. I have attended honor seminars for the top teachers at the S.C. Governor’s School of the Arts and was an AP Master teacher. I have won several juried contests and love to teach, as well as produce.

**Artist’s Reception - Sun., May 4th, 2-4 PM**

**Carole Fleischaker Cohen**

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<td>4 Angel Of Ahlem Screening - 11 am &amp; 1:45 pm Jr. Olympic Skills Competition-12 pm Art Gallery Reception-2-4 pm JEA Speaker’s Series Event - 4 pm</td>
<td>5 JEA Golf Outing- Savannah Golf Club-11:30 am 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-Jong-1 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm</td>
<td>6 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Klitzers Club- 10 am Aquasize-10 am Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm</td>
<td>7 Yom Hazikaron Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Ta Chi-10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch-12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm Yom Hazikaron Program-7-8 pm</td>
<td>8 Yom Ha'atzma'ut Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch-12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm Yom Hazikaron Program-7-8 pm</td>
<td>9 Indoor Pool-7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am</td>
<td>10 Indoor Pool-7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>12 JEA Golf Outing- Savannah Golf Club-11:30 am 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-Jong-1 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm</td>
<td>13 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Klitzers Club- 10 am Aquasize-10 am Yiddish- 3 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm</td>
<td>14 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Ta Chi-10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch-12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm</td>
<td>15 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch-12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm</td>
<td>16 Yom Yerushalayim Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am</td>
<td>17 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am</td>
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<td>18 Israel @ 60 Celebration-Forsyth Park - Noon-4 pm</td>
<td>19 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Klitzers Club- 10 am Aquasize-10 am Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm</td>
<td>20 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Ta Chi-10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch-12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm</td>
<td>21 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Ta Chi-10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch-12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm</td>
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<td>23 Lag B’omer Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am</td>
<td>24 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am</td>
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<td>25 JEA Pool Opening-11 am 26 Memorial Day Fitness Center and Pool Open 9 am-5 pm Offices Closed</td>
<td>27 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Klitzers Club-10 am Aquasize-10 am Yiddish-3 pm Water Aerobics- 6:30 pm</td>
<td>28 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Ta Chi-10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch-12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm</td>
<td>29 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch-12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm</td>
<td>30 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am Gentle Yoga- 10:35 am Senior Lunch-12:30 pm Bridge-1 pm Evening Water Aerobics-6:30 pm</td>
<td>31 Indoor Pool- 7 am-9 pm Aquasize-10 am</td>
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Real travel is about more than seeing sites. It’s about delighting your senses, meeting new people, coming home transformed. This is the kind of experience we’ve planned for you in Israel. From the opulence of a luxury hotel to the simplicity of a remote desert. From world-class restaurants in Tel Aviv to a meal in a Bedouin tent. Discover a completely new Israel. **UJC NATIONAL MISSION FOR YOUNG SINGLES AND COUPLES.** It’s more than a vacation. It’s the trip of a lifetime. [www.ujc.org/getisraelright](http://www.ujc.org/getisraelright)
Distance Learning —
the Savannah/Israel Way
By Joseph Shaw

Ten-year-old Malka Shaw reads into the mouthpiece of the headset which rests atop her light brown hair tied back in a pony tail. Her petite body doesn’t fit her father’s office chair, but nobody notices the incongruity as she sits alone in the quiet room of her home in Jerusalem while she reads to a listener 7,000 miles away.

The listener is Malka’s great-grandmother, Sylvia Slotin, a busy young woman of 81, who is helping Malka learn to read English. She corrects Malka’s mistakes, asks questions, and explains unfamiliar words to her phone pal.

“The only thing that reminds me of my age is my age,” says Sylvia.

Sylvia’s grandson, Joseph Shaw, has lived in Israel for eighteen years, where he and his wife Chana are raising Malka and her siblings. Their children speak English at home but Hebrew everywhere else. Malka’s parents, who are teachers, want their children to know English better than just a second language.

“Her English teacher suggested that she read to an adult for 20 minutes a night. Well, with four other children with similar assignments, it became impractical for us,” said Malka’s mother. But her father came up with an idea. He phoned his grandmother so she could follow along as Malka reads. He ordered the book from an online discount bookseller which, coincidentally, funds literacy initiatives around the world.

Six weeks later, Malka finished the 340-page book. Her father ordered the next book in the series to be sent to Savannah.

What does Malka say about it?

“I’m happy that I’m learning to read English, and even happier that my Great-Grandma and I have become special friends.”

Cookbook Offers Recipes for
Food and Remembrance
by Sherry Dolgoff

There are so many wonderful cookbooks these days that one more might go unnoticed. But when someone dear to me gave me the Holocaust Survivors Cookbook as a gift, I knew at once that this particular cookbook could never go unnoticed. This is not your ordinary cookbook. It is not divided into sections such as soups, appetizers, and desserts. This cookbook is different.

Recipes from families of Holocaust survivors — that may include soup and dessert — are placed together along with the story of that survivor. The editors ask that as you serve the recipes you also read the story of the survivor. By doing this you will keep both the recipes and the stories alive for years to come.

So often we remember the millions of Jews who died in the Holocaust. This is very important. Now we have a way to celebrate some of the survivors’ lives and memories in our own homes.

The two women who compiled and edited the book, Joanne Caras and Gisela Zerykier, traveled to Israel to visit their children who had made aliyah soon after their marriage. The young couple volunteered at the Carmei Ha’ir Soup Kitchen. Carmei Ha’ir serves over 300 meals every day to poor hungry Israelis. Waiters take orders and serve meals to people at their tables. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Those who are able to pay do; those who cannot pay do not. There is a tzedekah box near the door.

Joanne was so moved by what she saw that she decided to raise money to support the soup kitchen with a new book of Jewish recipes. Soon after, Gisela’s mother, a Holocaust survivor from Belgium, passed away and Gisela wrote a moving tribute to her mother.

After reading it, Joanne thought of a new concept for the cookbook: great Jewish recipes from the families of Holocaust survivors, accompanied by the stories of those survivors.

I don’t know about you, but for me, there is meaning above and beyond delicious recipes. These are stories you want to read and share with children and grandchildren. These books will be available at the JEA during the Holocaust Book Fair from April 30th to May 6th. They are $36 each and we have only 50 books to sell. I look forward to seeing you there.

The Jewish Influence in My Art
by Carol Fleischaker Cohen

As with all learned skills, Art and its many expressions take different directions as the originator learns and grows in all life areas. So it has been with my work. Jewish themes such as the Chuppah, the state of Easctasy, the Book of Life, Soul Mates, the Universal Unconscious, Creation, Zim Zum, the 23rd letter of the Hebrew Alphabet and enlightenment, have evolved into visual enlightenment, have evolved into visual thoughts on canvas.

Knowledge and growth in one area effect changes in the expression of others. I have searched continuously for hints of knowledge which could improve the way in which my Art might better communicate my experiences and feelings. The first such knowledge came when I read that the words of Hashem were black fire on white fire and that the white fire was the real word, but we have lost the understanding of this negative space. It was a wake-up call for me, for artists work with negative space as much as positive space. Three quarters of the world are totally unaware of negative space. So I began my search. Initially I was interested in the mystical aspects of communication with Higher Entities, I wandered through literature on the major religions through Theosophical and Theological approaches, up the Meditation Experience and down the Hermetic Ladder of arcane secrets. After more than two decades of searching, I came back to my roots (don’t we all?). I made a hair pin curve down the Hermetic Ladder to see the traditions and the Teachings of my People, The Jews. I found that we stand eye to eye with any other practical religious and esoteric philosophy. I became fascinated with both practical Kabalah and Hermetic principals such as “As above so below” or “All is mind. Everything is thought.” The Baal Shem felt that Kabalist knowledge was to be shared with everyone. I attempted to do this through my art.

Why are there so many creative people of Jewish heritage in the “ARTS”? Everyone except the Jew is shocked when I dwindle down to my answer to hear we are but one quarter of one percent (0.0023) of the World’s population. What makes us creative out of all proportion to our numbers (beside pushy parents)? Could it be the inheritance of our ancestors in both genes and a love of searching for better answers? I’m convinced that I have been the recipient of such Jewish gifts and I am thankful.

Carol Cohen’s art is on display in the JEA Art Gallery for the month of May.
Savannah Jewish Archives

Savannah — proudly supporting the people and State of Israel for more than 60 years!

United Jewish Appeal food and clothing drive, November 1946. L-r: Elizabeth (Eisenman) Bernstein, Hyla (Lewis) Hirsch, Edith (Berman) Silverman, Ruth (Weiser) Silverman, Sophie (Richman) Black, Minnie (Bronitsky) Feinberg Robbins


Bonds for Israel dinner, 1961. L-r: Ethyl (Richman) Rosenzweig, Abba Eban, Isadore “Izzy” Karpf

The Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan visits Savannah for a program of song and dance at the JEA, July 1987

Savannah’s celebration of Israel’s 50th anniversary, May 1998. Scott Spech and Millie Melaver

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Lesson of Tolerance Repeatedly Taught at Rambam

In Parshas Eikev, Chapter 10, Verse 19, it states the Jewish law of being kind to a convert because we were once strangers in a strange land. The lesson found within this mitzvah is the need to understand how important it is far an individual to be tolerant, sensitive and caring. The commentator Rashi explains the commandment by expressing that a person should not say about others what is true about himself. This idea emphasizes not judging an individual until you are in their shoes and to keep in mind that we ourselves are not perfect.

The lesson of tolerance and how one should act is a lesson that repeatedly comes up in the learning experience of Rambam children in their Chumash (Bible) studies. What is beautiful about Rambam is when the lessons learned in Chumash are reinforced in the children’s secular Social Studies class is learning about tolerance. I accompanied the 8th grade class with Ms. Fields to go to the Inner City Night Shelter.

The children brought food that Ms. Marie (the school’s cook) prepared and they served the 70 homeless individuals that came for dinner. The children worked hard but at the same time were exposed to a group of people with whom they wouldn’t ordinarily mingle. The children left appreciative of their own homes and families and proud of the deed they had done. They conversed with the homeless and marveled at how they were the reason for these people smiling and expressing gratitude that evening.

The eighth grade, as a continuation of their studies, visited Jenkins High School. They went onto the open field and were engaging with some moderately mentally challenged students. They were teaching the students how to play golf as they were preparing for the Special Olympics in which these students will be participating. The Jenkins High School students were so happy to see new faces. These students were so thrilled to have these children take the time to show them how to hit the golf ball, run and collect the balls for them and cheer them on! When it was time for the Rambam students to leave, there were hugs and lots of smiling, happy faces saying goodbye.

Shalom School Celebrates 275 Years of Savannah Jewry

In this, my closing article for this school year, I would like to report on a special event where our Shalom School students had the opportunity to learn about and commemorate the two hundred seventy fifth anniversary of the founding of Judaism in the State of Georgia. Special thanks go to one of our most talented teachers, Teresa Victor, who devoted many weeks to the creation of special program materials geared to the interests and abilities of children from Kindergarten through Confirmation class.

In addition, to set the stage for our school-wide Georgia Anniversary Day, our children, under the creative direction of our wonderful art teacher, Rochelle Frank, prepared an extraordinary mural of the William and Sarah, the ship that carried the forty-two original Jewish settlers from England to the shores of Savannah in 1733.

The children then returned to their classrooms and were furnished writing prompts for a page of a journal. They were encouraged to imagine what it would have felt like to be a teen in some previous part of the congregation’s history from the time the conversos left Portugal, traveled through England, and lived in Savannah through some of the turbulent early times.

The younger children were treated to a board game created to trace the partially imaginative history of the historic 13th century Sephardic Torah from the time it was scribed to its current location at Mickve Israel Synagogue in Savannah, GA. They enjoyed pretending to see the history of the congregants through the eyes of the Torah as they moved from space to space on the board game.

Each of our students explored an age-appropriate history of the families of the first Jews who sailed on the William and Sarah, landing in the colony of Georgia on July 11, 1733. Each student left with an appreciation of the history of the local community in which they live and study...

B’Shalom.

Do we teach Kindness or Science?

The following, in Teresa Victor’s own words and accompanied by appropriate photo illustrations, is a record our March 9 school-wide celebration:

"... (Our) students were introduced to the history of the early Jewish settlers in Savannah, Georgia’s colonial capital. Each group was given an age-appropriate tour of the extensive collection of memorabilia housed in the museum at Congregation Mickve Israel. The tours were conducted by Savannah native Bobbie S. Levy, a regular docent of the sanctuary and museum.

The older children then completed a scavenger hunt to locate facts about the history of Savannah’s Jews. The oldest children then moved to the historic 1876 neo-

See for yourself how the interplay between academic excellence and Jewish knowledge creates a positive learning environment that every child deserves.
Yom HaZikaron Program Honors American Hero

By Eyal Blank

During the last sixty years, more than twenty thousand Israeli soldiers and civilians died defending the State of Israel and her right to exist. Every year we honor their memory on Yom HaZikaron. The very next day we celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day. Is it a bit unusual to have a day of remembering and grieving and then, right after, to have twenty-four hours of joy and celebration? Perhaps, but that is the only normal way for us in Israel – we remember those who can’t be with us on joyous occasions and then we celebrate life, and we always feel like they are with us.

We will observe Yom HaZikaron this year on Wednesday, May 7th, at 7:00pm at the JEA with a memorial service followed by a screening of A Hero in Heaven.

Behind every Israeli soldier who died serving Israel there is a story: a story of family, friends, neighbors, people who met him or her once. And then there are stories we will never hear. A Hero in Heaven is the story of one of these very brave soldiers.

On August 1, 2006, Michael Levin was killed in combat at Aita-Al-Shaab in Lebanon. Born and raised in the United States near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Michael grew up in a traditional, loving Jewish home. At the young age of sixteen, Michael decided that he wanted to move to Israel and join a front line combat unit in the Israeli Defense Forces and defend his Jewish homeland. The story of how Michael made his dream come true is one of perseverance and incredible bravery. He was the only American to die in the 2006 war with Hezbollah and was buried in Israel’s national military cemetery on Mount Herzl on Tisha B’Av. He was 22 years old. To this day, he is mourned throughout Israel as a true hero.

We believe we must never forget our fallen heroes, even when we are happy and joyful. We carry with us their smiles and laughter and we will always remember that they gave their lives for us and for Israel. We celebrate those lives — for who are we if not because of them?

What: Savannah’s Yom HaZikaron Observance
When: Wednesday, May 7, 2008
Time: 7:00 pm
Kooden was also elected Moreh (the new member recruiter/trainer).

The Dixie Council Tree of Life Award was presented to Ross and Barney Sadler for signing up at least six ATIs (new members) for the year. The Spring Convention was the culmination of BBYO’s 2007-2008 program year.

BBYO is known as the largest and most effective provider of identity-building and leadership development programs for Jewish teens. Savannah BBYO is a beneficiary agency of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

Vital Statistics

In honor of Louise Harkavy’s speedy recovery

In honor of Amy Trestman’s birthday

In honor of Sharon & Murray Galin

In honor of Dayle Levy’s Birthday

In honor of Paul’s son

In honor of Harriet & Paul’s son

In honor of Judge Frank Cheatham

In memory of Ruth Zelizer

In memory of Marlene Dobb’s mother

Ed Wexler

Paul & Harriet Kulbersh

Victor & Elise Shernoff

In memory of Elaine Tanenbaum’s father

* A son, Benjamin Aaron, to Jill and Ken Goldstein of Atlanta on February 28, 2008. Grandparents are Sandy and Skippy Goodman of Savannah and Judy and Ronnie Goldstein of Atlanta; great grandmother is Bea Goodman. A brit milah was performed in Atlanta by Rabbi Shmuel Khoshkirm.

How do we make our children’s Bar and Bat Mitzvah the life-changing meaningful experience that we wish it could be? What can we do as parents to make this important rite of passage an introduction to life as a responsible, giving Jew and human being?

The Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah’s B’nai Tzedek youth philanthropy program offers an engaging solution. By giving kids the opportunity to be philanthropists, we place in their hands perhaps the most important B’nai Mitzvah gift we can give them—we teach them how to give.

By learning to give, our children become more conscious of the world around them.

B’nai Tzedek is simple: Your teen is invited to establish an individual B’nai Tzedek fund by making an initial gift of $250 (or more) to the Foundation. The Foundation will match the initial $250 contribution in your child’s name. Each year your teen will be able to donate a percentage of his or her fund to a qualified charity.

For more information on creating your child’s B’nai Tzedek Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah please contact Lynn Levine at lynne@savj.org or (912)355-8111.

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For Sale, Two Bedroom / Two Bathroom Condominium at 6401 Habersham in a Gated Community, Unit 5A, $205,000. If interested, please contact Harvey Gray at 404-870-7376 or by email at hgray@grsmb.com.
On The Personal Side

MISCALLLANY. Savannah businessman and environmentalist Martin Melaver, CEO of Melaver Inc. was a featured speaker for Fortune Magazine’s first-ever “Brainstorm: GREEN Conference” April 21-22 in Pasadena, Calif. This was an invitation-only event with business and environmental leaders gathered to discuss the impact of the green movement. Melaver was part of a breakfast roundtable on the future of green cities... Linda Zoller is currently serving as Chairwoman of Savannah’s Youth Futures Authority Board. She is leading the agency’s response to a challenge from Mayor Otis Johnson to tackle the problems of youth in Savannah... Milton Towbin and the Greenberg family want to thank everyone for their well wishes, kind thoughts and prayers during his recent illness.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Louis B. Eisner, M.D.
Who died April 9, 2008.

He is survived by four daughters, Erika Eisner and husband Martin Young, Gainesville, Florida; Adrienne Eisner and husband Eric Clark, Hartford, Connecticut; Kate Larsen, Ponte Vedra, Florida; and a grandchild, Eliana Eisner and husband Asaf Rosental, Florida; and a grandchild, Erika Eisner and husband Martin of Blue Hill, Maine; daughter, Kimbery Kron Traub Ribbens and grandchild,{(a)} of Athens, Georgia, and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: B’nai Brith Jacob Synagogue.

Sadye Yermovsky Poller

Survivors include daughters, Renee Teller of Athens, Georgia, and Marcia Poller Goran of Bend, Oregon; a son, Michael Poller of Savannah; a brother, Ralph Yermovsky of Waycross and a grandchild, Roseanne.

Remembrances: Vista Care Hospice of Athens, GA.

Herbert S. Traub, Jr.

He is survived by his son, Herbert S. Traub, III, daughter-in-law, Dr. Ulrike Patzl, and grandson, Herbert S. Traub, IV, of Vienna, Austria; his son, Richard Lilenthal Traub, daughter-in-law, Mary Whiting, and granddaughters, Sarah and Rebecca Traub of Blue Hill, Maine; daughter, Kimberly Kron Traub Ribbens and grandchild, Pieter and Lucas Ribbens of Savannah; his brother, Stephen L. Traub and sister-in-law, Elizabeth Traub of Savannah, and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation, Herbert S. Traub Jr. Award, 11935 Abercorn Street, Savannah, 31419.

Gladys Epstein
Who died March 2, 2008 in Birmingham, Alabama.

She is survived in Savannah by her daughter, Marlene (Michael) Dobbs and by other loving family, elsewhere.

Remembrances: charity of your choice.

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

Governor’s Gold Seal Award Recipient

Be a Part of a Record Breaking Event

Join us at the JEA on Wednesday, May 7, when Savannah will sing Hatikva simultaneously with other Jewish communities all around the world in honor of Israel’s 60th anniversary.

Hatikva – the hope - is Israel’s national anthem. Even before Israel became a country in 1948, the song was a popular representation there of the dreams of the Zionists for a homeland.

This world-wide event will be held in hundreds of cities and is being monitored for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records in hopes of setting the record for the “most people singing an anthem simultaneously.”

We will be singing at exactly 3:50pm (10:50pm in Israel). Let’s make history!

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2 pm • Forsyth Park Main Stage

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Spanky’s South Side
Alan Gottlieb Caterers
Harriet Ullman Catering

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