

Shabbat and Holiday Candle Lighting Times	
Friday, May 4th	7:50pm
Friday, May 11th	7:55pm
Friday, May 18th	7:59pm
Friday, May 25th	8:04pm
Saturday, May 26th	9:05pm
Saturday, May 27th	9:05pm

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 6th

Annual Levy Concert
Featuring *Strings of the South*
2:00pm, JEA
see p. 8

Thursday, May 10th

Savannah Jewish Film Festival
Dinner, 6:30pm; Film, 7:30pm
RSVP for dinner by May 8th
see CenterPiece

Wednesday, May 16th

JEA 100th Annual Meeting
And Awards Presentations
7:00pm, JEA

Sunday, May 20th

Opinion Minyan
10:00am, JEA
see CenterPiece

SJF, JEA Boards Meet on Important Issues

On April 18th, 2012, the Boards of the Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance had their constitutionally mandated joint meeting to discuss community priorities, review financial positions, and learn about each other's successes and challenges.

After a review of the past month's minutes and financial statements, Federation Campaign Chairs Merry Bodziner and Toby Hollenberg reported that the Annual Campaign currently stood at \$997,401. After four years of declining fundraising, the community has "turned the tide" with a growing campaign. After Federation President Jeff Lasky thanked Merry and Toby and their entire campaign team for their leadership, he recognized JEA Past President Scott Samuels who stated, "We are only \$2,600 away from a million. I'll make an additional pledge right now—who will join me?" A sheet of paper was sent around the room, and five minutes later, Lasky presented the pledges to the Campaign co-chairs with a "Congratulations, the Campaign is now over \$1,000,000!"

The meeting continued with a presentation to Scott Samuels of his framed portrait which will be hung in the "Hall of Presidents" at the JEA (the first color portrait of a JEA President). The "feel-good" tenor of the meeting continued when Federation Past President Linda

Zoller and Scott Samuels asked Josh and Amanda Reeves to come to the front of the room. Both were recognized for their incredible commitment to the Jewish community, displayed leadership, and influence in Savannah. They were presented with a lovely mezuzah for their new home in Charleston, and a second one for "the boys" room.

The major piece of business before the two boards was a motion for the establishment of a new Jewish Early Childhood Education Center as a collaborative effort between the JEA and Rambam Day School. A presentation was made so that everyone understood the timeline on how the proposal arrived before the Boards. Over the past 2 ½ years, meetings were held between leadership of the JEA, Rambam and Federation in which difficult and complex issues were discussed openly and honestly; information gleaned from these meetings went in to crafting the motion which reflected significant compromises by all parties.

There was almost two hours of questions and answers and a spirited but respectful debate between the Federation and JEA Board members, as well as representatives from Rambam Day School. The Board members discussed the critical importance of providing an

Early Childhood Education program (ECE) that would appeal to the families of more than 60 Jewish children who do not participate in our current community programs. The Board also discussed the provision of the motion that contained the principle of maintaining *Shalom Bayit* in the community. It was emphasized that no matter the outcome, the Federation, JEA and Rambam must "support and show good will towards each other and work to continue to find common interests and opportunities to work together for the betterment of the entire Savannah Jewish community in pursuit of our common goal of *Dor l'Dor*." After the debate, a vote was taken.

Overwhelmingly, the Trustees and Governors of the JEA and Federation endorsed a plan to create a new Jewish Early Childhood Center at the JEA opening in 2013. While, at press time, the exact details of the makeup of the new ECE have not been decided, the Federation and JEA have given a clear response to the many young Jewish families in Savannah who have told leadership that they want a Jewish early childhood education program that meets their needs.

To view the written motion passed by the Boards of the Federation and JEA, go to www.savj.org.

JEA's 100th Meeting on May 16

The Jewish Educational Alliance will hold its Centennial Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 16th at 7pm. Yes, it will be the one hundredth annual gathering



of the membership of the JEA. And what a hundred years it has been.

The JEA, whose address for more than half that

time has been its prominent location on Abercorn Street in the center of Savannah, has become the central home for all of Savannah's historic Jewish community. What began as



Bill Sand

See page 6



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2012 Federation Campaign Achievement Update

\$1,000,071!

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MAZEL TOV TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES AND YOUR FAMILIES

You are invited to submit your pictures and records of achievement for publication in our special graduation section of the June issue of the *Savannah Jewish News*.

To be included, please download the submission form from www.savj.org or pick one up at the JEA.

All submissions must be received by the absolute deadline of May 10, 2012. Listings will be published only in the June issue.

Return forms & pictures to:

sjnews@savj.org

or

Savannah Jewish News
5111 Abercorn St.
Savannah, GA 31405

Close to Home

People say far from sight, far from heart, but I have to disagree. I've been here in Savannah for almost eight months now, and though I am far away from home and I have few more months until I go back, there is not a day goes by without me thinking about my home.

What makes a place a home? Is it the place where you were born? Is it the place you have citizenship? Is it where your family is? Where your friends are? Is it the place you have keys to? Or maybe it is an emotional question, and home is the place where you are loved and feel safe, the place that you love and want to protect? How would you define your home? Think about it.

When I think of home I think of different smells, the smell of spices, fresh produce and the people in the crowded markets, the smell of food from around the world, middle-eastern food, European food, Ethiopian food and my mom's cooking that is probably the best of them all. I think of the smell of pine trees that my home in Haifa was surrounded by or next to my sister's house in

Jerusalem or the smell of the sea on my way home from Tel Aviv to my parents' house.

When I think of home I think of a street full with colorful people. Soldiers on their way home, with their olive green uniforms, shiny unit pins and a tired smile of relief, Rabbi Nachman's Hassidic followers dressed in black, dancing in the street because it is a "mitzvah" to be happy, students wearing their political opinions on their shirts and others always arguing about something, all so different. Some will wear suits, some jeans, others shorts, some with dresses, some with skirts, a lot will wear sandals and all of those in the street at the same time.

When I think of home I think of the roads: cars, buses, bicycles, all sharing the same road, honking to each other, just to say hello, to take the right of a way by force, to alert from danger, sometimes to share



Tal Bratman,
Savannah Jewish
Community Shlichah

what we think on each other mothers or just to talk in a long traffic jam. I hear different languages, Russian, Ethiopian, English, French, Spanish, Arabic, German, and all of those languages mingle into Hebrew, with so many accents. The music from each car is different but when twice a year the music changes to the sound of the siren on our memorial days, the silence is the same.

When I think of home I am thinking of small talks that don't say anything but then again say everything. I think of people arguing and shouting not due to lack of respect but because they care. I will hear people say how great will it be to move away and actually wish for it, but when you ask them why they don't move, the answer will be, are you crazy? This is my home.

When I think of home I hear the music playing on the radio, and by listening just to two songs I can tell if something happened, what is the situation, or if there's a holiday coming up. I can hear people blaming each other for different problems, and then due to the same problems I see the compassion and caring between those people.

When I think of home, I think of a homeland that generations before me prayed and wished to go back to. I think of the people who gave their lives for this home. I think of the life I have because of this home, how free I feel due to this home, with my people in the land of my ancestors, and I feel also the responsibility I have for this home.

When I think of home I think of Israel.

I want to share with you this feeling of Israel, and I have a chance to do that. On May 20th we are celebrating Yom Yerushalayim at the JEA. This home that I went on and on about was not always taken for granted, for hundreds of years we had to rely on others to allow us to pray at our holiest site and to observe our holidays and customs there. Only 45 years has passed since we got back to the old city of Jerusalem. On the 28th of Iyar, after a hard battle, Israeli soldiers got to touch again the stones of the Western Wall. The sound of the Shofar now is heard again and the Western Wall floor again filled with the sound of prayer. Join us at the JEA for the celebration of this Israeli national holiday on May 20th at 12:30pm.

SJF CAMPAIGN BREAKS \$1,000,000 MARK



At a April 18th joint meeting of the Boards of the Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance, SJF President Jeffrey Lasky informs co-chairs of the Federation's 2012 Annual Campaign Toby Hollenberg and Merry Bodziner that thanks to donations received at the meeting that evening, fund raising for the Campaign has once again surpassed the one million dollar mark!

The achievement puts an end to a trend of decreasing campaigns and hopefully signifies increased opportunities to further the work of both the agencies supported by the Federation and the Federation's programming and initiatives.

**Mazel Tov to the Campaign volunteers, staff
and to everyone in the community who
Just Said Yes to the 2012 Annual Campaign
You are securing our future!**

Savannah Jewish News

Published by the

Savannah Jewish Federation

5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 355-8111

SJF President: **Jeffrey Lasky**

SJF President-elect: **Stephen Greenberg**

SJF Vice President: **Amos Timna**

SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Allan Ratner**

SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**

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

The Savannah Jewish News is published monthly ten times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 10th of the month before publication. There are no February or August issues. All articles for the Winter and Summer issues should be submitted by December 15th or June 15, respectively.

All submissions must be in MS Word format (articles) or pdf format (fonts embedded for advertisements). All color must be in the CMYK format. All type in true black, photos in .jpeg format.

Please send all SJN materials to:
sjn@savj.org

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

Neither the publisher nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this paper. If you have questions regarding kashrut, please consult your rabbi.

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Why is Federation Different from all other Charities?

As Federation President I get tons of articles emailed to me every day. Some are very interesting and others are not so interesting. Some are priceless gems that contain messages that truly resonate about our work in the Federation.

As you may know by now, our annual campaign, under the leadership of our chairwomen, Toby Hollenberg and Merry Bodziner, has gone UP for the first time in many years. Toby and Merry were able to get many of our donors to "Ride the Wave" and become part of our community's success. On behalf of our entire community, I want to sincerely thank Toby and Merry, all of our division chairs, solicitors and donors for their hard work and continued financial support. We are truly blessed.

Now that we have raised the money, it is time for the allocation committee to meet and recommend to the Federation Board how the funds should be distributed. It is always a difficult and passionate discussion where we have to establish our community priorities and balance those priorities with the money we have available to distribute.

I want to share with you an article I received this month that I consider a priceless gem. I hope it serves as a timely reminder for us all who have committed our time, influence, and money for many years to the Savannah Jewish Federation/Savannah Jewish Council. It's a great reminder of who we are, what we do, and why we do it. The article was written by Cathy Schwartz, the Executive Director of the Hartford Federation.

In my position as the CEO of a local Jewish Federation, I'm asked A LOT of questions. The most frequent being, "Why should I give to Federation when I can give directly to the cause I care about most?" I think what people really want to understand is, "Why is Federation different from all other Jewish charities?"

We have a Successful Track Record. Federation is a social movement based on an innovative, perhaps audacious, concept: TOGETHER, we have the power to change the Jewish world. We created and maintained a vital Jewish community locally; we helped build the Jewish state and now Israel is a 'start-up' nation without peer; we saved Soviet Jewry; we rescued Ethiopian Jewry and brought them into freedom and modernity; we created a local and national advocacy system to ensure that Jews are NEVER AGAIN without political power; and we developed a seamless local and global network of educational, social and human services that ensures the future of the Jewish people. Whenever and wherever there is a crisis or challenge, the Jewish Federation is there to help.

We believe Community Matters. The

Jewish Federation is committed to caring for the WHOLE Jewish community and for ALL Jewish people. That's why we are the region's leading authority on identifying, communicating and efficiently addressing the needs of our local and global Jewish community. At Federation, the Jewish values of Tzedakah, G'milut Chasadim, Tikken Olam, and Clal Yisrael are not simply ideals to which we aspire. They are, in fact, what we do every day. We believe people want to be part of something bigger than themselves and make a far-reaching impact with their philanthropy.

We are the Story Arch rather than the Episode. A community is made up of many people and organizations with, at times, competing interests. There is a delicate balance that must be achieved and maintained in order for the community to meet the current and future needs of the Jewish people. We support a wide range of critical local and international organizations and programs that are the keystone for a rich Jewish life. While other organizations may have a narrow focus, the Federation doesn't have that luxury. We adopt a long range, community based view, taking into account societal and demographic shifts. Often, tough decisions are necessary for the long term, overall health of the community.

We have 'Skin in the Game'. We have made a promise to the Jewish people and our Jewish communities that we'll look out for their interests; that we'll protect their values; that we will rescue them if they're in peril; that we'll educate their children; that we'll feed them if they're hungry; that their parents will live in dignity; that we'll ensure that all Jews have a place in our Jewish community; and that we'll work for the safety and security of Israel. It's an awesome responsibility – one we do not take lightly.

At Federation, we remain unabashedly optimistic about the future of the Jewish community. We believe our best days are ahead of us. We know that the unity of the Jewish people is a powerful force for good, for change and for hope. We are certain there is nothing we cannot accomplish TOGETHER.

Those who want to support their favorite causes and charities should do so. The Federation is not all things to all people. The Federation IS all essential things for the Jewish Community for ALL Jewish people. If you believe in what we believe – that Community matters more than the Individual – then Federation is for you. Like us, you have a stake in the Jewish Community and a role to play in its future. Dayenu!

I hope that you find as much inspiration and truth as I did in this article.



Jeffrey Lasky,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

The Pied Pipers of Savannah

By the time this paper is published, Josh and Amanda Reeves (and their three beautiful boys) will have relocated to Charleston, South Carolina, to pursue a new professional opportunity.

It was approximately five years ago when I was scanning through past issues of the Savannah Jewish News as part of my "due diligence" for considering the Executive Director position here in Savannah that I came across a "queer article" about an event called

"As a couple, Josh and Amanda are a powerhouse, but they also have made their individual marks on our community."

the "Sweet Potato Schmooze." The "Schmooze" was an event held the evening before Thanksgiving to bring together young Savannahians, home for the holiday, with new members of the Jewish community. You couldn't miss the happy faces in the picture that accompanied the article. It was an event conceptualized and organized by Josh and Amanda Reeves. What seemed like a simple social gathering was the genesis of Young Jewish Savannah.

I often refer to Josh and Amanda as our "secret weapons" or the "Jewish community Pied Pipers." Like "moths to a flame," other young people coalesced around them. Josh and Amanda created social events that brought (previously) unidentified young Jewish singles and couples together. They rallied their friends to support the JEA, the Federation Annual campaign, and synagogue life. They made lists, created web information, made hundreds and hundreds of phone calls, and helped design programs. Together, they participated in our Leadership Development program and chaired Super Sunday. They are a super team.

As a couple, Josh and Amanda are a powerhouse, but they also have made their individual marks on our community. Amanda participated in Leadership Savannah, co chaired the Monte Carlo Night at the Telfair Museum and was recognized by the Jewish Federations of North America as a National Young Leadership winner in 2009. Josh was co-membership Chair of The Next Generation at Children's Hospital at Memorial Medical Center, was recognized by the JCC Association of North America with its Esther Leah Ritz JCC Leadership Award, and recently was recognized by Savannah Magazine's Generation NEXT: Savannah's rising stars of business.

In preparation for their move, I called Charleston Federation Exec Judi Cosaro. I told her I was calling to "ask a favor"... to help my friends Josh and Amanda with anything they would need in making the transition. She immediately responded, "That's not a favor; they are a great present to the Charleston Jewish community."

We all feel the same way.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF



Josh, Amanda, Ray, Charlie & Evan Reeves
(Photo Credit: Donna von Bruening)

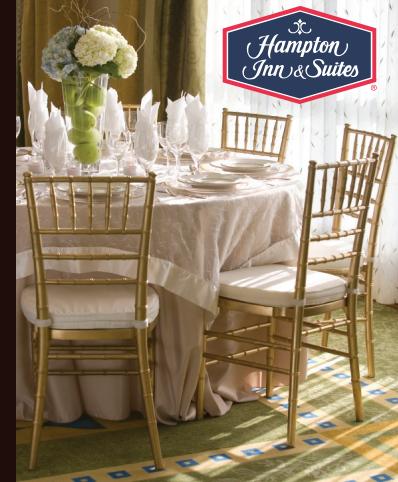
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Rabbi Haas to take Pulpit At Mickve Israel

Congregation Mickve Israel is pleased to announce the appointment of Rabbi Robert W. Haas as its new congregational rabbi, commencing on July 1, 2012.

Rabbi Haas was the Associate Rabbi at Temple Shalom in Dallas, Texas, for four years and then was the Associate Rabbi at Congregation Emanu El in Houston, Texas, for four years. At both congregations he achieved increasing levels and scope of responsibility on a planned growth path toward his desired leadership role as head rabbi of a congregation. Since leaving Emanu El, Rabbi Haas spent four and a half months as a volunteer with American Jewish World Service in Africa, and just returned there for an additional six-week posting before settling in Savannah.

Much of Rabbi Haas' life has been dedicated to learning, teaching, fostering and celebrating Judaism. He has served as a religious-school teacher for twenty years, as a youth advisor for fifteen years, and as a staff member at Jewish camps for eleven summers. His programs, initiatives and accom-

plishments are extensive, but most recently he was chosen by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston as the 2010 Mae and Edmund Hecht Rabbinic Award winner for outstanding rabbinic service to the Jewish community. Rabbi Haas is a former Hillel Director, volunteer Chaplain and elementary school teacher and brings a deep commitment to Jewish community involvement both in the U.S. and abroad.

Rabbi Haas' farewell service upon his departure from Congregation Emanu El in Houston was attended by more than 800 of his congregants of all ages in an overwhelming display of affection and appreciation. We extend a warm, Southern welcome to Rabbi Haas and look forward to his arrival. Look for a personal interview with him in a future issue.



Rabbi Robert Haas



Do you love to write?

If so we're looking for you! The Savannah Jewish News is seeking **VOLUNTEER WRITERS** to cover stories of interest to the Savannah Jewish community. If interested, send an e-mail to sjnews@savj.org.



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Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

Thank you for responding to last month's photo. We received excellent information!

Your help is also needed in identifying this recently donated photo.

Do you have information concerning the place, time, or identification of individuals?

If so, please contact the Archives :

Lynette Stoudt

Phone: 651-2125, ext. 134

Email: lstoudt@georgiahistory.com

Watch this spot. We will reprint the photos with newly collected information in the coming months...

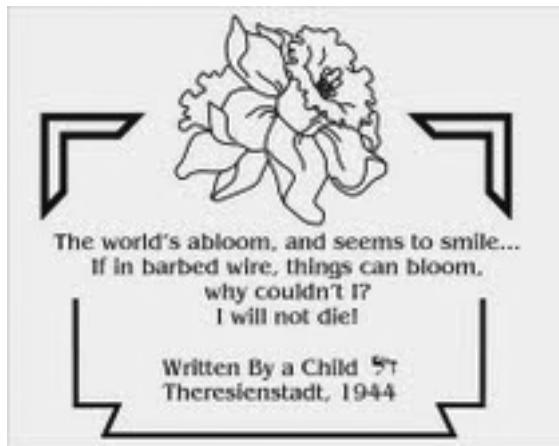


Donated by Martin Rabhan

Garden & Plaque Dedicated

A Daffodil Memorial Garden was dedicated at the JEA on Yom HaShoah, April 19, 2012 and designated with a plaque designed by local artist Rochelle Frank. Rochelle was born shortly after World War II in Hofgeismar by Kassel, a Displaced Persons camp in Germany. Her parents, Luba and Jacob Shmaltz, originally from Poland, were Holocaust survivors and spent most of their early years running from the Germans. After Rochelle was born, they were in the camp for eighteen months awaiting transport to Israel. Rochelle grew up in Israel and came to the U.S. at the age of twelve. Her parents *never* talked about the Holocaust and it was only toward the end of his life that her father, a designer for Calvin Klein, admitted to having been in work camps in Siberia, the death march and some of the worst events of the Holocaust. "With that as a background, how could I say no to this project," she asked?

Frank graduated with a degree in fine art from CCNY and worked in advertising while raising two sons and stay-



ing involved in art and painting. She was Vice President and President of an art association in Chester, NJ, and now is involved locally with The Landings Art Association. "Art is and will always be what I focus on and Jewish art has a special place for me. I create and sell *ketubot* through my web site, www.rochellefrank.com, where I've found a national as well as international following and get to share the happiness of newlyweds. My parents always looked for the positive in life and I try to do likewise."

Jason Rich of Rich Media Technologies graciously provided laser engraving services for the plaque.

The JEA presents the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin *Levy Memorial Concert*

Featuring
Strings of the South



Sunday, May 6th

2 pm (doors at 1:30 pm)

Jewish Educational Alliance
Free and open to the public!
Includes a dessert reception.

Sponsored by the
Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy
Memorial Fund

Visit www.SavannahJEA.org
for more information.



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Meeting.....from page 1

a place for a burgeoning immigrant community to learn English and get a hot shower became also the place for young people to develop athletic skills; a place for a community to pull together after World War II and the devastating news of the destruction of the European Jewish community; a place to garner care and support for survivors of the Holocaust, and later to honor and remember them at community-wide Yom HaShoah observances; a place to send our children to camp for summers of joy; a place to celebrate the birth of the State of Israel and to rally for the nascent country in times of war; a place to welcome Jewish Russian refugees and assist with their resettlement; a place to rejuvenate our bodies with daily fitness routines; a place to rejuvenate our minds with stimulating cultural programs.

A highlight of the meeting will be the investiture of the officers and Board of Directors for the 2012-2014 term. Incoming President Bill Sand said that in recognition of the organization's momentous anniversary, his term of service will focus on "then, now, and tomorrow." Elaborating on this theme, he said: "I think that we need to reflect on and celebrate the first 100 years and do everything that we can to make sure that we can provide for the next 100 years. The JEA is a place in our community that all members of the community should feel a connection to. It has been a source of

belonging, safety, and connection for generations of Jewish Savannahians.

"It is our duty and responsibility to make sure that the JEA is around for the future generations, realizing that we need to adapt to meet the needs of our present community and position the institution to meet the needs of future generations. The present community is not the same as past communities. We are geographically more spread out and involved in diverse activities. Today's families have many needs that are similar to those of families of the past, but they also have different needs. We need to make sure that we are taking care of present community members, while at the same time providing for the needs of new and future community members."

Other highlights of the meeting will include the presentation of the Harvey Rubin Memorial Award, given annually to a high school teen who demonstrates exceptional athletic ability and leadership in the community, as well as recognitions to Board members and other community members who have shown exceptional service to the JEA during the past year.

The meeting, which will take place at 7pm on Wednesday, May 16th, will include a dessert reception. JEA members and all others are invited and encouraged to attend.

*The entire Savannah community
is cordially invited to the
100th Annual Meeting of the
Jewish Educational Alliance
Wednesday, May 16, 2012*

7 pm



Installation of new Board of Directors and Officers
Recognition of retiring Board Members and Officers
Harvey Rubin Award Presentation
Special President's Awards
Year in Review



In accordance with Article 6, Section 3 of the JEA constitution, the Nominating Committee, Chaired by Marcy Konter, presents the following slate for nomination to the JEA Board of Directors:

Officers

President	Bill Sand	Past Presidents	Scott Samuels
Sec/Treasurer	Harriet Kulbersh		Marcy Konter
SJF President	Jeffrey Lasky		Paul Kulbersh

**Nominees for
2-year term ending 2014**

Carol Cohen	Sandy Goodman
Gale Hirsh	Allison Konter
Dayle Levy	Kayton Smith

Retiring BOD Members

Alan Lowe	Joshua Reeves
David Rubnitz	Trisha Rosenthal

**Current Board Members serving
2-year term ending 2013**

Michelle Allan	Meredith Bodziner
Russel Bridges	Norman Dolgoff
Louis Freedman	Carol Greenberg
Amy Kaminsky	Joanne Kooden
Arlene Ratner	Deganit Ruben

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the family of:

Roselee Toporek Gellman
Who died April 19, 2012

Surviving are her daughter, Candy (Alan) Lowe, of Savannah; two sons, Joseph (Karyn) of Jerusalem and Elliott (Evelyn) of New Jersey; eleven grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah, 31405 or Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah, 31416-0190.

At the recent joint meeting of the Boards of the Savannah Jewish Federation and the JEA, JEA President Paul Kulbersh showed Past President Scott Samuels his portrait that will hang in the JEA Hall of Presidents.





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The Higher Ground

By Carol M. Towbin Greenberg

WHAT DID YOU DO? My mother (of blessed memory) would ask, and though there were four of us, and even if I was pretty sure I was innocent of all childhood infractions, I remember more than once cringing while trying to associate my actions of the last few hours with her disappointed scowl.

My children were pretty wonderful and I rarely had to discipline them. Of course there was the time that *her* fingers were in *his* birthday cake before it was served, and the time that he dug up the yard looking for pirate treasure. **WHAT DID YOU DO?** ... I could hear my mother through my voice.



Schlichah Tal Bratman (left) and local Hillel volunteers on planting day

But walking around the JEA the other day, the daffodils were blooming in the memorial garden, the radishes, onions, rosemary and parsley were growing in the community garden, the rotunda flowers were inviting, the playground toys looked cleaner and I saw children engaged in activities all over the building and those same words came back to me, retranslated through time, just perfect for this situation: **WHAT DID THEY DO?**

It could be applied to any of the children (Rambam and Shalom school students, winter camp and PJ Library participants) who helped with our Chanukah daffodil garden planting or Tu B'Shevat Community Garden events, planted with the help of area Hillel students, Rambam teachers and Rabbis, community parents, JEA staff, local business sponsors and Hadassah members. **WHAT DID THEY DO?** Together they pulled weeds, transplanted trees and replanted donated plants. Together they helped create a living memorial that can grow each year.

The daffodil planting was recommended by Tal Bratman, our community Shlichah, as part

of a national project to plant 1.5 million daffodils nationwide in memory of the children who were Holocaust victims. Even though the flowers bloomed early, area school children created and sent hundreds of lovely paper versions that were used at the dedication of the memorial plaque designed by local artist Rochelle Frank and engraved by Jason Rich. **WHAT DID THEY DO?** These children did not know us, yet they tried to share our pain; these adults volunteered and donated and created a meaningful way to mark our children's efforts to remember but not to re-live the past.

Passover was approaching and the JEA Community Garden had plenty of parsley. Volunteers harvested and bagged the parsley and gave it back to the children for their families' seders. **WHAT DID THEY DO?** Hopefully, by our example, they will start to see the connection of the cycle of nature, communal giving and cooperation and Jewish life cycles and want to come back to the JEA to tend their garden.

May 20th, in honor of Yom Yerusha-



Rambam teacher Rabbi Jeffrey Gordon preparing for the 'big dig' to place the daffodil bulbs

layim, the JEA will be hopping with activities and opportunities to participate in some service project, holiday fun activity, educational program, or social event. For the JEA Building and Grounds Committee, your participation, suggestions, donations of time and materials translates to our ability to reclaim useful purpose of all of the JEA property for the benefit of all. We hope to have many opportunities to work together with you to tend the gardens. **WHAT THEY DID** was a good translation but **WHAT CAN YOU DO** may be the best translation to build common ground in this community.

Looking forward to our future with the new Faces of Hadassah

Meet Incoming President
Yelena Chernyak
And let's have some fun
"walking the Land of Israel"
Sunday, May 20, 2012

In honor of Yom Yerushalayim
12:15 Hadassah Green Grocer Kids Lunch & PJ Library
1:30 Israel Travelogue Family Fun
2:30 Hadassah Installation



All following the JEA Opinion Minyan! Spend a fun day celebrating at the JEA with Hadassah!

- Hadassah members, associates (our men), families and wannabees* are welcomed
- Come to Hadassah Green Grocer Free Kids Lunch & SJ Federation PJ Library Activity
- Explore Israel as part of the JEA Yom Yerushalayim Activities with Tal Bratman
- Honor outgoing president Joanna Rich at a luscious reception and
- Stay for the Installation of the new Savannah Hadassah President and her Board

RSVP to Chapter President and hostess Joanna Rich
912-480-4686 or email Joanna@chirpheath.com

HA
DAS
SAH.

Music for the Ages — All of Them!!

Weekends are time to be with the whole family and this year's Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Concert offers a wonderful opportunity to spend an afternoon with family and friends enjoying some of the finest musical entertainment to be found in Savannah.



Strings of the South

The 2012 Levy Concert, to be held on Sunday, May 6th at 2pm at the Jewish Educational Alliance, will feature the *Strings of the South* performing a wide repertoire of music sure to please everyone's tastes, from the young in age to the young at heart.

Strings of the South was formed in 2010 under the careful guidance of Eddie Wilson when the City of Savannah was looking for an act to headline its annual *Picnic in the Park*. Wilson, a talented musical artist and director, assembled a group of some of the finest instrumentalists and vocalists from various local ensembles and productions to create the musical group. *Strings of the South* became an instant hit, so much so that they were the first people the City turned to when it was time to plan for the 2011 *Picnic in the Park*. The group had no trouble adapting to the City's rock 'n roll theme for that year. Their current big project in the works is an album of Johnny Mercer music, to be released hopefully in 2013.

For this year's Levy Memorial Concert, *Strings of the South* will utilize 13-14 instrumentalists and five vocalists. The vocal stylings of the various artists are certain to appeal to a variety of audiences. The vocalists to be featured are: Louise Spencer, known for her dynamic jazz, Broadway and blues

performances; Huxsie Scott, a perennial favorite at the JEA about whom we probably need not say anything but we will remind you that she has been inducted into the Halls of Fame of both the Coastal Jazz Association and the Savannah Tribune Gospel society; Rebecca Patrick Flaherty, the renowned and popular soprano and veteran of Levy Concerts who, together with tenor Steven Dobson, will perform Andrea Bocelli's standard, *Time to Say Goodbye*; and Micaela Slotin, a voice performance major at Savannah Arts Academy who also happens to be the daughter of Bonnie Juengert-Slotin and granddaughter of Nancy and Leon Slotin.

Other things to look forward to at the concert include pieces by local favorites such as lead violinist Jadde Nolty and harpist Kristin King, with performances including music from Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* suite and beloved numbers like *Rhapsody in Blue* or hits from shows like *Phantom of the Opera*, led by Eddie Wilson on piano, whose style has been called "animated, electric and insanely energetic." But lest we spoil all the surprises, suffice it to say that there really will be something for everyone at the 2012 Levy Concert and it will be an afternoon for the entire family to enjoy together.

The annual Levy Concert is free and open to the public and includes a dessert reception, all of which are made possible thanks to the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Fund at the Jewish Educational Alliance. Doors for the 2pm performance open at 1:30pm, Sunday, May 6th.



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Students, Military Personnel & Hospital

Employees receive 3% discount.

*Bring this ad in and application fee will be waived



JEA 100 Year Celebration Tribute Journal

**Wish the JEA "CONGRATS!" on our 100th year!
Sponsor a page in our 100 Year Tribute Journal**

The 100-year tribute journal will be unveiled on September 9, 2012 at *Bites and Bubbly—A Black and White Gala to Celebrate Our First 100 Years*.

This soft-cover, 8.5" x 11" publication will feature oral histories from Savannahians who have been the life-blood of the JEA throughout the years, a written time-line of JEA milestones and highlights, eclectic pictures of our flourishing community and the JEA buildings, tributes from the JEA's past presidents, good wishes from businesses and sponsors, and heart-felt messages from community supporters.

One journal will be distributed to each family who attends the Gala. Additional copies will be available for purchase from the JEA.

Join us as we celebrate the past 100 years and plan for 100 more great years to come!

JEA Tribute Journal Supporter Levels*

Page Size	Dimensions	Price
Full Page	8.5" w x 11" h	\$300
Half Page	8.5" w x 5.5" h	\$200
Quarter Page	4.25" w x 5.5" h	\$100
Eighth Page (text only)	4.25" w x 2.75" h	\$50

- All pages must be submitted electronically, camera ready. (Photoshop, JPEG, Tiff or as a PDF)
- There will be a \$25 setup fee added if your ad needs to be designed in-house by the JEA
- **All ads must be received by the absolute deadline of July 1, 2012. Ads will NOT be accepted after the deadline.**

Jewish Educational Alliance | 5111 Abercorn St. | Savannah, GA 31405
Tel.: 912-355-8111 Fax: 912-355-8116 | anna@savj.org



JEA CAMP SAVANNAH 2012



Creating memories to last a lifetime!



JEA CAMP SAVANNAH PHILOSOPHY

We strive to provide a nurturing environment that fosters self-confidence, Jewish identity, community consciousness, integrity and respect for others. Our camp teaches universal values helping your child to embrace new concepts, develop independence, and create meaningful friendships. We welcome campers from all religious and cultural backgrounds.

Camp starts June 11th, Register online at www.SavannahJEA.org or at the JEA at 5111 Abercorn Street!



Summer Is Here: Make Sure You Know the Sunscreen Basics



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

As the temperatures are rising and we're finding ourselves going outside to enjoy the wonderful weather, ball games, gardening, and watching the children play, we tend to forget about our skin. When you go outside, go sun smart! Use sunscreen and lip balm regularly to protect yourself from the harmful rays of the sun. It's easy!

Sunscreen Basic Info

Always choose and use a sunscreen that is:

- An SPF 15 or higher
- Broad-spectrum (protects from both UVA and UVB rays)
- Waterproof or sweatproof

Apply the sunscreen generously to all exposed skin – most people do not use enough sunscreen and therefore do not get the maximum protection. Reapply every two hours, and even more frequently if you are sweating, getting wet, or are in a windy climate. Apply 30 minutes before going outside. Besides protecting you from sunburn, sunscreens help to prevent other skin damage related to sun exposure, such as premature aging and pre-cancerous growths.

Always wear a lip balm with an SPF 15 or higher – remember that your lips can burn just like the rest of your skin. Reapply often! Lip balm not only protects your lips from burning, but the moisture helps to prevent chapping and dryness as well.

Using sunscreen is an effective way to protect your skin from the sun's damaging UV rays. However, since sunscreen cannot block all UV rays and many people do not apply it correctly, you should always practice additional sun safe behaviors such as wearing protective clothing and seeking shade when possible.

Definition and Workings of Sunscreen:

Sunscreen is a lotion formulated with unique chemical components to absorb UV light. When sunscreen is applied to the skin, the chemical molecules form an invisible, protective layer on the skin that protects from penetrating UV rays. All sunscreens protect from UVB rays, but only "Broad-Spectrum" sunscreens protect from both UVB and UVA rays. UVB rays affect the top layers of the skin and are responsible for **B**urning. UVA rays affect the lower layers of the skin and are responsible for **A**ging. Remember to always buy a sunscreen that is broad-spectrum!

SPF... What's it All About?

SPF stands for "Sun Protection Factor." Always wear a sunscreen with an SPF 15 or higher. SPF was developed to describe the amount of protection that a sunscreen provides. No sunscreen can protect your skin from all of the UV rays, but a higher SPF number indicates protection from more rays. The SPF number tells you how much longer you can stay outside without burning while wearing the sunscreen product as opposed to not wearing any sun protection product. SPF measures "time to burn."

Sunscreen vs. Sunblock

Sunscreen contains chemicals that absorb UV rays before they damage the skin and sunblocks

contain particles that physically block UV rays from reaching the skin. Sunscreen needs to be applied about 30 minutes before sun exposure so that the chemicals have time to soak into your skin and form a layer of protection. Sunblock does not need to be applied before going into the sun – it will begin to work as soon as you rub it on because it sits on top of the skin.

Environmental Factors Related to Sunscreen Performance

Certain conditions can actually increase the intensity of UV rays and put you at greater risk for skin damage. These conditions may also decrease the time that sunscreens keep you safe in the sun:

- Higher altitudes
- Low latitudes
- Clear, sunny days
- Mid-day sunshine (10am-3pm)

When any of these factors are present, you should be sure to wear a sunscreen with an SPF 15 or higher and re-apply your sunscreen every 2 hours – or better yet, minimize UV exposure by wearing cover-up clothing, a hat, sunglasses or goggles, and seeking shade when possible.

Simply put, a little bit of pre-planning will save a lot of pain.



JEA FITNESS CLASSES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	5:00-6:30 am Master Swim		5:00-6:30 am Master Swim		5:00-6:30 am Master Swim
9:15-10:15 am Pilates	8:30-9:45 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:45 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:45 am Firm It Up
10:15-11:15 am Total Body Blast	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am SilverSplash		10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize
	10:30-11:45 am Gentle Yoga		10:30-11:45 am Gentle Yoga		
	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers MSROM	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers Cardio Circuit	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers MSROM	10:30-11:30 am SilverSneakers Cardio Circuit	
1:00-2:00 pm Extreme Toning					Noon-2:00 pm Noon Basketball
	5:30-7:30 pm Karate	5:45-6:30 pm Zumba	5:30-7:30 pm Karate		
		6:00-8:00 pm Savannah Kenpo	6:00-7:00 pm Boot Camp	6:00-8:00 pm Savannah Kenpo	
		6:30-7:30 pm Total Body Blast		6:30-7:30 pm Yoga Flow	
	6:00-7:00 pm Eve. Water Aerobics		6:00-7:00 pm Eve. Water Aerobics	6:00-7:00 pm Eve. Water Aerobics	
		7:00-9:00 pm Sav. Fencing Club		7:00-9:00 pm Sav. Fencing Club	

Art at the JEA

May Artist - Edward Jones

Edward Jones - Biography

Ed Jones says, "All the wood that I carve is recycled from trees that have fallen or had to be taken down. The cedar that I've carved is from sign or fence post. Hug a tree; feel its energy."

Edward works hard at being an artist. He works as a regional maintenance supervisor for five apartment complexes, but wants to be doing art full time. He studied art, metal smithing and design at Rhode Island College and worked as a jewelry designer.

Says Edward, "I left the jewelry business because my head was going to explode. I was the only designer for the company and they seemed to suck the creativity out of me. I still make and sell jewelry but I have to really be in the mood for sterling silver to be creative. What I work hard to do and think about is carving wood. The wood that I use for my art is recycled wood. That is, it is from trees that have fallen or had to be taken down. I also use cedar fence or sign post. I love to work with the figure and that is what I carve the most. I also love to work with geometric shapes in wood, as well as in my jewelry designs. This is Edward's third show at the JEA!"



Artwork available for viewing May 1-31, 2012
Art Reception May 9, 2012, 5:30-7 pm

JEA Donations (3/12/12-4/10/12)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In honor of Isser Gottlieb
Marilyn Seeman

JEA BUILDING FUND

A generous donation
Darren Cole
Arnold & Ruth Young
In honor of Ashley Samuels' speedy recovery
Merry & Richard Bodziner
In honor of Stacy Lasky
In honor of Ashley Samuels
In honor of Kelly Gordon
Judy Byck
In memory of Sylvan Byck
Sandy & Skippy Goodman

ETHEL COHEN MEDDIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Dr. Joan Epstein Schwartz
Chuck Palefsky
Sherry & Johnny Macchia
Michelle & Louis Meddin

JACK & MIRIAM LEVY CONCERT FUND

In honor of Dayle Levy's birthday
Esther & Aaron Buchsbaum
Thoroughbred Communications, Inc.

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Simone Wilker's birthday
Elise & Victor Shernoff

JEA "CONGRATS!" on Our 100th Year! Sponsor a Page in Our 100-Year Tribute Journal

The 100-year Tribute Journal will be unveiled on September 9, 2012 at
Bites and Bubbly—A Black and White Gala to Celebrate Our First 100 Years.

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One journal will be distributed to each family who attends the Gala.
Additional copies will be available for purchase through the JEA.

Join us as we celebrate the past 100 years and plan for 100 more great years to come!
Contact Anna Berwitz for details. 912-355-8111 or anna@savj.org

2012 JEA TORNADOES SWIM TEAM

The Tornadoes Swim Team is a fun, competitive team which competes in the Savannah Coastal Swim League. By all accounts, this team is best described as a recreational team with a competitive spirit.



Open to all swimmers between 5 and 18, the JEA Tornadoes Swim Team strives to foster a love of swimming while providing a fun, safe way to keep kids active during the summer months. Not only do our coaches focus on stroke development and individual success, they also work hard to encourage team spirit while never losing sight of the importance of having fun.

And yes, we do win! The regular meet season begins in June and continues through July. The regular season consists of six meets, to include the final meet; City Meet.

In addition to weekday evening practices and Tuesday evening meets, our swimmers and their families are also invited to participate in an out-of-water event such as a water park trip to Splash in The Boro. The season concludes with an awards banquet held at the JEA outdoor pool.

2012 Registration is live on line at <http://savannahjea.org/page.aspx?id=251536>. Swimmers do not need to be members of the JEA to join our team. There is also a link for swim team suits. If you are unsure of your child's size, visit Colleen at The Swim Shop and the Chatham County Aquatics Center.

Registration ends June 1, 2012.

Summer Time and the JEA Pool

The most exhausting season is the summer season. During summer you become exhausted from the scorching heat, and the water level in your body gets quickly depleted. We find ourselves lathargic, we tend to get bored, and we even sit at home for the whole day. To refresh yourself, make your summer the coolest one by joining us at the swimming pool. You will definitely enjoy it.

Despite the hot weather outside, you can have fun in the fresh, cool water of the pool. As soon as you enter the pool, the fresh water helps your body relax; it will refresh your dull mood within no time. The water slide and the pool games only add to the enjoyment.

This year, there are going to be some added pool parties that are going to be fun for all. These will be combined with our Sunday grill. If you are interested in hosting a party, scheduling a birthday party, or volunteering around the pool on Sundays, please contact Stephanie at stephanie@savj.org for more information.

Since Shavout falls on Memorial Day weekend this year, we have decided to open the pool a couple of weekends early. We will be open on **May 13** and **May 20** from **11am -4pm**. The week of **May 21** we will have the pool open from **3pm-6pm**. Beginning May 29th and for the remainder of the summer season the schedule is as follows:

Outdoor

Sunday	11am – 4pm
Monday – Thursday	10am – 7:30pm
Friday	10 am – 4pm

Indoor

Sunday	9am – 4pm
Monday – Thursday	6am – 8:30pm
Friday	6am – 4pm

Consul General Aviran Visits Savannah

Israel's Consul General to the Southeast, Opher Aviran, recently traveled to Savannah for his first official visit in the "Hostess City." He spent almost three full days here (April 2-4) identifying areas where Savannah and Israel can work together.

Accompanied throughout much of his trip by Savannah Mayor Edna Jackson and Savannah Jewish Federation/JEA Executive Director Adam Solender, the Consul General met with executives from Gulfstream, The Georgia Port Authority, Savannah Visitors Bureau, the Savannah Economic Development Authority and World Trade Center, as well as with leaders from Savannah State University and the Savannah College of Art and Design.



Dr. Murray Arkin and Charlie Grossman talk with Consul General Aviran after his address to the community.



Savannah Jewish Federation president Jeffrey Lasky greets Consul General Aviran before his address to the community.



Consul General Aviran shares a celebratory drink with Mayor Edna Jackson and Karen Isenberg Jones



At a news conference at City Hall detailing the economic, cultural and educational areas in which Savannah and Israel can and do cooperate, and announcing Mayor Jackson's upcoming trip to Israel for the International Conference of Mayors meeting: Karen Isenberg Jones, dir. of media & public affairs, Israeli Consulate to the Southeast; Consul General Aviran; Mayor Jackson; Councilmember Sprague; Savannah Jewish Federation Executive Director Adam Solender



In front of a Gulfstream jet made in Israel are Mayor Edna Jackson, Israel Aerospace Industries Test Pilot Ronen Shapira, Consul General Opher Aviran, Stan Dixon, Gulfstream VP for Mid Cabin Programs, & Ira Berman, Sr. VP & General Counsel



On a tour of the Port of Savannah from the Savannah River are City Council members Mary Ellen Sprague, Carolyn Bell & John Hall, Harbor Captain Sam Meyer, Consul General Aviran, Mayor Jackson & City Manager Michelle Small-Toney

Countdown of the Century: In 5772 Make Moments Count with Hadassah!



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Making History!
100 years ago women imagined that they could change the world... and they did! Join & Participate! Life membership **\$212**

2012:
Sunday, May 20

Start your morning with **Opinion Minyan** and then join **Hadassah for Yom Yerushalayim** At the **JEA!**
12:15 Hadassah Green Grocer, Israeli Map Programs and more...

2012:
Sunday, May 20

... This is the last official event of our programming year. Do not miss it!

12:15 Hadassah Green Grocer
1:30 Israel Travelogue Fun
2:30 Hadassah Installation and reception for Joanna & Yelena

2012:
October 15- 17

Hadassah National Convention in Jerusalem!

For info on all these, membership, volunteering and more Call Joanna 912-480-4686 or email at Joanna@chirphealth.com

Meaningful Beginnings

We have an interesting phenomena with the Jewish calendar. The Jewish New Year is in the Hebrew month of Tishrei when Rosh Hashana is celebrated, however, the Jewish month of Nissan is considered the first month of the year, which is when the Exodus took place.

There is a reason for this two-fold beginning. Let's think about when a child is born. There is great joy and celebration; however, there is also trepidation as we wonder who will this child grow up to be? What will his future be like? There is always the concern that something tragic may happen either to the child's life or as a result of poor choices on the child's part. So the joy we feel, and the great fortune we feel is all in the hope that the child will live a productive and constructive life.

Rosh Hashana commemorates the creation of the world and man. However, in the beginning of time, the creation of man was not yet deserving of celebration. How did we know whether or not man would harness his abundant capabilities and bring honor to his place in the world?

The Exodus was the birth of the

Jewish people as a nation unto G-d. This nation with its appreciation of liberty, human life and human dignity was given the Torah as a guide for proper living. Why not have Rosh Hashana occur in the same month as the Exodus? Because each beginning is significant unto itself, and each deserves to be acknowledged on its own merit. When we acknowledge these two ideas separately, yet bring them together with the understanding that one plays an important role to the other, we then can relate to the impact of the world being created and man taking his rightful place within it.

As the memory of our seder experience ebbs away, may its profound message accompany us in all of our endeavors – the world was created for each of us, and it is the creation of man that gives the world meaning, however, it is how we choose to live that gives our lives meaning.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

Megilat Ruth

My favorite holiday is the holiday of Shavuot! Unfortunately it doesn't get the attention it deserves among the Jewish holidays. In Shavuot we celebrate the day that the people of Israel got the Torah; in the time of the Temple, Shavuot was also the day when all farmers would walk up to Jerusalem to bring their first ripened fruit to the temple. Those two reasons should make Shavuot a worthwhile holiday to celebrate, not to mention the blintzes and other traditional dairy favorites that we eat on that day.

But there is another reason why I find Shavuot so special. In Shavuot we read the book of Ruth (Megilat Ruth). The story is about an Israelite family from Bethlehem (Elimelech, Naomi and their two sons) who, in time of famine, immigrate to the nearby country of Moav. About a decade later, Naomi loses her husband and her two sons and finds herself alone with her two daughters in law. She urges the two young women to go back to their respective families, but one on them, Ruth, virulently refuses to abandon Naomi and declares "... Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be

buried..." (Ruth 1: 16-17 NKJV)

Ruth is the paradigm of the "righteous convert" who with great sacrifice forsakes her former life and identity as a Jew. Her wish and decision is to become part of the Jewish people.

In essence, we are all "Jews by choice", having undergone that very process ourselves on the first Shavuot of history when we assembled at the foot of Mount Sinai as God's people.

When I think about our students at Shalom school I hope they'll see in Ruth the same role model I see in her. If today they come to study Judaism because their parents make them, I hope that Judaism will touch them the same way it has touched Ruth. I hope they'll always choose to stay part of the Jewish people even when it is not the easiest choice: I hope they'll choose a Jewish sorority in college even if others are "cooler", I hope they'll choose to go on birthright over a month program in Asia, I hope they'll choose to have a Jewish home and be to be part of their Jewish community.

There is so much to learn in Judaism that any Jewish teacher will tell you how frustrating it can be when you are working with a short time frame and yet, Shalom School chooses many times the quality over the quantity or more precisely the experience over covering a little more. We are hoping that through art, music and role play our students will get touched the same way Ruth has been, so they'll make all those choices out of love for their faith.

As for Ruth, following her heart was wise: she remarried with a far relative of Naomi and gave birth to the grandfather of King David!

Wishing you a wonderful Shavuot.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

Eva Locker

Have you tried the new savj.org?

Community calendar, online donations and much, much more!



WHY AIPAC MEMBERSHIP IS WORTHY OF YOUR CONSIDERATION!

We are entering a window of time in the coming months where critical decisions will be made in America, Israel and around the world that will determine how these events unfold. If these headlines worry you, you should be part of AIPAC! If you believe Israel has a right to exist as a sovereign Nation, you should be part of AIPAC! If you believe the innovations and technology coming out of Israel are a benefit to the world, you should be part of AIPAC! And if you believe that lobbying our elected officials on behalf of a safe and secure Israel is crucial to her survival, then you should be part of AIPAC!

Therefore, we urge you to join us and become an active member of AIPAC at whatever level you feel comfortable. Your support is critical at this time and will truly make a difference for generations to come.

If you are already a member of AIPAC please continue and thanks for your support.

Happy to discuss.

Sincerely,

Leon and Barbara Aronson 786-4785 (H)
Art and Ina Altman 598-9350 (H)

Dick and Lynn Berkowitz 598-9251 (H)

Harold and Charlotte Black 355-0649 (H)

Bucky and Joan Bloom 598-1124 (H)

Richard and Merry Bodziner 598-0258 (H)

Scott Center 698-9899 (C)

Jerald and Sarah Gottlieb 352-7588(H)

Freddie and Louise Harkavy 598-8685 (H)

Paul and Harriet Kulbersh 598-8080 (H)

Buddy and Julie Metzger 598-0496 (H)

Jerry and Biff Montana 598-4949 (H)

Steve and Melinda Stein 598-8090 (H)

Alan and Barbara Tanenbaum 352-8836 (H)

Amos and Susan Timna 598-7758 (H)

Paul and Judy Todfeld 598-1161 (H)

Stu Weiner 358-0766 (H)

Allen and Sherri Weiss 349-0339 (H)

Larry and Sheree Zaslavsky 598-4009 (H)



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-Sharon, local.yahoo.com



Adam Kaminsky



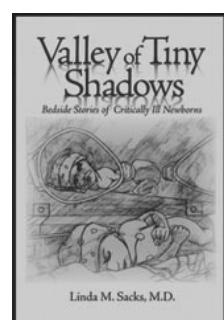
Ross Kaminsky



Four Questions for the Rest of the Year

Dr. Linda Sacks

For this edition of Four Questions, we spoke with Dr. Linda Sacks, who recently published *Valley of Tiny Shadows*, her first book, which she describes as “a semiautobiographical, nonfiction work.” It is the account of one doctor’s journey through the changing culture,



technology, and morality of the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) from 1975 to 2006. Linda practices clinical neonatology at Memorial University Medical Center where she also is an associate clinical professor of pediatrics at Mercer University School of Medicine. She is a former member of the Board of Governors of the Savannah Jewish Federation and she and her husband, Steve, are members of Congregation Agudath Achim.

Who was the audience you had in mind when you sat down to write this book and do you think the completed book is for that audience?

That’s a good question. Originally I had delusions of grandeur that this book would be for anyone — the general public, health care professionals, parents — and everyone. I don’t care what anyone says, the first book a person writes really ends up being for the author himself. Now that it’s done, I think the audience for my book is much narrower. “Valley” ended up being a book more for people such as medical or nursing students or pediatricians interested in neonatology or for other people interested in the heart-wrenching, but heart-warming stories.

You relive some difficult cases in the book. What was the experience of writing this book like for you?

Writing the book helped me to clarify many of the feelings and emotions I’ve had over the years, but perhaps didn’t realize I was harboring. A lot of anger and frustration came out that I didn’t realize I’d been holding back. I had to confront the conflict between what I knew was the right way to behave in certain situations, such as dealing with difficult parents, and how I really wanted to handle the circumstances. The book ultimately shows the development of a physician’s psyche.

Some of the events that occur in the stories told in the book I can just picture myself doing and saying like it was yesterday. I’ll never get rid of those

‘pictures.’ But for some details

I needed to review the old case files to help me recall all the facts. It amazed me to remember just how sick some of these babies were and could still survive, or survive for as long as they did. The stories are told in chronological order and I was amazed again by the advancements in medicine over the last 30 years.

In the preface to your book, you write that in the case of medical care for infants, doctors rarely initiate or discontinue life support or other heroic treatments without discussions with the infants’ parents and their (the parents’) “informed acquiescence” for the decided course of treatment. Could you talk about whether or not religion — yours and the parents’ — plays a part in these discussions?

Absolutely it does. I must be respectful of the parents’ religious beliefs. If you are caring for a brain dead patient, you can insist on discontinuing life support, but brain death is rarely the case with an infant. If a parent says “Only G-d can decide when my baby will die and until then you do everything you can,” we have to honor their wishes. We live in the Bible belt and parents who say they “don’t want to play G-d” don’t see that providing life support and intervention could also be viewed as playing G-d. My Jewish background tells me not to be an obstacle between a dying person and the release of death, and I might see starting an IV or some other treatment as doing that, but I can’t impose my beliefs on someone else.

I’ve learned that it is important to keep my religious upbringing separate when trying to maintain objectivity. But through my spiritual involvement in the Jewish community in Savannah, and through my relationship with the chaplains at the hospitals, I’ve also learned the value of pastoral care.

It may be that these life and death questions eventually will be answered as a matter of finances — that as technology improves, the decisions will no longer be dictated by what parents want but by how much society is willing to spend to save and maintain a life; and that won’t apply only to neonatology or whether or not you have insurance.

You wrote that originally you thought you would write a book when you retired, but you didn’t wait to retire to write this one. Now what are you planning to do when you retire?

I don’t know when I’m going to retire, but I think I’d like to write another book, the one with neonatal stories with happy endings



It’s A Funny Thing

By Melinda Stein

Quite a few years ago, an exchange student from Scotland arrived in our city. The principal of the high school he would be attending introduced him at a student assembly and remarked, “I hope that you will all show him a true Savannah welcome.”

After school, a group of the local youngsters gathered around the newcomer. The first question they asked of the young man was, “Do you speak any English?”

Max is a student at the University of Georgia who could not decide on a major. One day he calls his mother.

“Hi mom,” he says, “I thought you should know that I’ve just switched courses again, this time I’m taking Psychology.”

“Oy vey,” says his mother, “I suppose you’ll now be analyzing everyone in the family.”

“Oh no, mom,” he replies, “I don’t take Abnormal Psychology until next term.”

It’s time for winter holidays on the East Coast of the USA, and a plane full of Jewish New Yorkers is heading south to Miami.

After a while, a woman stands up at the front of the plane and shouts, “A doctor, I need a doctor! Is there a doctor on the plane?”

There is a pause, then a young man stands up and replies, “Excuse me, madam, but I’m a doctor.”

“Good!” says the woman, “Come here

and meet my daughter, what a nice wife she’d make!”

Some New One-Liners (new meaning that I haven’t heard them before):

1. Sign on Synagogue Bulletin Board: Under Same Management for Over 5,763 Years.

2. Sign seen over the urinal in a bathroom at Hebrew University:

The Future of the Jewish People is in Your Hands

3. What part of “Thou shalt not” don’t you understand?

4. My mother is a typical Jewish mother. Once she was on jury duty. They sent her home. She insisted SHE was guilty.

5. Everyone should have kids. They are the greatest joy in the world. But they are also terrorists. You’ll realize this as soon as they are born and start using sleep deprivation to break you.

6. We need a twelve-step group for compulsive talkers. They could call it On Anon Anon.

7. Why is it when we talk to G-d we’re said to be praying, but when G-d talks to us we’re schizophrenic?



Melinda Stein



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Join us at Mickve Israel in May for Heritage, Music & More

Jewish American Heritage Month

Celebrate Jewish heritage locally with a tour of Congregation Mickve Israel's historic sanctuary and museum. Don't miss our Centennial Girl Scout exhibit "In the Beginning We Were There", which highlights the diversity of scouting and the involvement of our own Jewish community from the founding of Girl Scouts.

Docent led tours are offered weekdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and again from 2:00 to 4:00 pm with the last tour starting approximately 30 minutes before the end of the session. Be sure to allow extra time to visit our Judaica Shop while you're here!



The Music Series Presents the Elaris Duo on Sunday, May 20 at 5 pm

Our first concert in the music series coincides with National Chamber Music Month. It will feature the internationally acclaimed soloists, chamber musicians and teachers, Larisa Elisha on violin and Steven Elisha on cello. The Elaris Duo concert will include works by Boccherini, Beethoven, Mozart, Kodaly and Halvorsen.

Tickets for the concert are \$15. Mail your payment for your "will call" ticket to Mickve Israel, PO Box 816, Savannah GA 31402 or call the Temple for more information.



Mickve Israel is an active congregation affiliated with the Reform movement. Everyone is welcome to worship with us! In addition to special holiday events, we have Shabbat services on Friday evenings at 6:00 pm and on Saturday mornings at 11:00 am, followed by a Kiddush lunch. For more information, contact 912.233.1547 or visit www.mickveisrael.org.

Elaine Fox is a 'Dancing Star'

Elaine Fox, JEA Silver Sneakers instructor and personal trainer and former JEA Director of Fitness & Wellness Education, is a "Star" in the Alzheimer's Association's **Dancing Stars of Coastal Georgia** fundraiser. The main event will be held on May 18 at 6:30pm at the Alee Temple. Elaine is working to raise \$5,000 to fight this dreaded disease. There are several ways you can help her in this effort.

Elaine, a Yoga teacher for many years, will lead a special Yoga class at the JEA in support of the Alzheimer's Association. Attend this one-time only class on Sunday, May 6th, from 11:30am - 1:30pm for a suggested donation of \$15.00 (or any amount). All proceeds will go toward the Dancing Stars event.

You also can go online to www.danc



ingstarsofcoastalgeorgia.kintera.org to make a donation by voting for Elaine Fox. Or you may purchase a ticket or a whole table for the Dancing Stars event in Elaine's name. Another way to make a donation is for you or your company to be a sponsor of the event at the \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000 level. Sponsorships include tickets to the event and recognition in all promotional materials on radio, TV, online, and in social media.

If you cannot go online you can call Elaine at 912-544-0073 to arrange to make a donation.

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Yom HaShoah Observance Solemn and Hopeful

By Melinda Stein

The Holocaust, or *Shoah*, is the pivotal event of the 20th century in terms of malevolence, mass killings, and ethnic extermination. To this day, even scholars well-steeped in the study of this period do not completely comprehend it. The difficulty in grasping what occurred between 1933 and 1945 is not solely about the madness of Hitler, or his lunatic henchman like Goering and Goebbals, or even the German masses following the ringleaders of horror as though under a spell. The incomprehensibility comes when looking at the millions of Europeans in at least fifteen countries who willingly cooperated with the Nazi invaders, freely informed on Jews and others, volunteered to be guards in camps, and performed, enthusiastically, the myriad tasks involved in the annihilation of most of the continent's Jews. How can we also understand the thousands of highly educated individuals, professors, and doctors that fully believed, justified and acted upon the philosophy of human beings as equivalent to toxic germs?

This is one of the reasons, in addition to reminding ourselves to never forget, that the Savannah Jewish community observes the annual Yom HaShoah Day of Remembrance.

The 2012 Holocaust Remembrance took place on April 19th. Some aspects of the commemoration are done every year, such as the volunteers reading, all day long, the names of the victims. As part of the evening's Observance, memorial candles are lit, the head Rabbis from Savannah's three synagogues participate, local survivors and relatives of deceased survivors are recognized.

There is the Annual Art and Essay Competition for area students, the winners of which are announced and the projects placed on display. This year, though, several new components were introduced to the Observance.

The Daffodil Garden was dedicated, consisting of an area outside the JEA which was planted with a great many bulbs. The flowers will honor the memory of the nearly 1.5 million children that were annihilated. A plaque designed by Rochelle Frank completes the memorial.

Further connecting the theme of daffodils to the Observance, hundreds of daffodil templates were sent to younger students citywide, who returned them brightly colored and decorated. These blooms adorned the JEA walls, providing a hopeful counterpoint to the serious mood of the day.

During the evening program, additions to the program included a flute performance of Yiddish lullabies by Mickve Israel member and Shalom School teacher Holly Lloyd, played while a photographic slideshow of mothers and children was projected. Sarah Fay Goldstein, a senior at Savannah Arts Academy and the daughter of Joe and Toby Goldstein, performed an interpretive modern dance on the same theme.

For the first time there were two keynote speakers, a mother and daughter. Melinda Stein spoke about her experiences as a child growing up with her survivor parents. She told of their lives during the Shoah, in particular that of her mother, a journalist, sent to a slave labor camp and forced to work manufacturing bullets for the German war effort. The courage of her mother and aunt in trying to sabotage those



School children line up for the Yom HaShoah memorial candle procession

bullets, their severe punishment, and the subsequent story of her family, are told in full in an article published on Yom HaShoah in the Savannah Morning News. (<http://savannahnow.com/column/2012-04-19/stein-holocaust-through-grandchilds-eyes#.T5R-BeIQP6E>)

Deganit Ruben, Melinda's daughter, then presented the perspective of the third generation. She discussed the vulnerabilities and moral choices facing women during the Shoah. Deganit also explained how her generation

differs from her mother's, and how her own approach to the Holocaust takes an alternate direction:

"My way of contributing to Jewish survival has been to actively engage in the community. By serving on various Boards and committees, teaching at the religious school, and planning Jewish programs, I can help to ensure that we don't give Hitler a posthumous victory – but instead maintain Jewish continuity. That is the greatest gift our generation can give to those that perished."



One of the winning entries in the Yom HaShoah student art contest, *What If*, by Katie Ferraro of St. Vincent's Academy.

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Creating a Jewish Legacy — the Benefits of a Charitable Bequest

We all desire significance — to lead happy and fulfilled lives surrounded by family and friends. And for many of us, there is a compelling need to make a difference — to leave a lasting impact on the people dearest to us and the world in which we live. The search for significance and desire to plan for the future leads many to ponder their legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave? A bequest is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you. And a bequest may be an effective way to make a gift and lessen the burden of taxes on your family and on your estate.

A charitable bequest is an instruction written in a will or trust that directs a gift to be made to a qualified exempt charity when you pass away. One benefit of a charitable bequest is that it enables you to further the good work of an organization you volunteer with or support long after you are gone. Better yet, a charitable bequest can help you save estate taxes by providing your estate with a charitable deduction for the value of the gift. With careful planning, your family can avoid paying

income taxes on the assets they receive from your estate.

An Easy Gift to Make

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to a charity as part of your estate plan.

A Variety of Options

A bequest may be made in several ways.

- Gift of a percentage of your estate
- Gift of a specific asset (i.e. real estate)
- Gift of the residue of your estate
- Gift of a specific dollar amount



Example 1 — A Bequest to Further Good Work

Linda and Marty Silver were volunteers for many years with their favorite charity. The work of the organization was very important to them. They made current gifts, but wanted to do more. The Silvers learned that they could help by making a bequest. Their

attorney revised each of their wills to include a provision gifting a percentage of their estate to the charity. The Silvers liked the fact that the bequest was easy to do, they could continue to use their assets during their lives and their estate would be permitted a charitable deduction for the gift at their death. Best of all, the bequests would help achieve their goals by assisting the organization's mission far into the future.



Example 2 — A Bequest with Tax Savings

Eva Morris was a widow with two grown children. She had a great love for the work of a special charity and wanted to include a charitable gift in her estate plan. Eva's estate included some stocks, real estate and savings bonds. Eva learned that if she gave her savings bonds to her children, very little would be left for her family after paying estate and income taxes. Her attorney recommended that she

give the appreciated stock and real estate to her children, because these assets would receive a step-up in basis in her estate. The children could then sell these assets immediately and pay little or no tax. On the advice of her attorney, Eva designated the charity as the beneficiary of her savings bonds. Eva was delighted that she could make tax-friendly gifts to her children and a favorite charity and her estate would receive a charitable deduction for gifting the bonds.

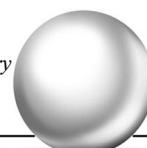
For more information on this or other ways of creating a legacy gift to the Jewish community, please contact Adam Solender at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, adam@savj.org or 355-8111.

This information is intended as an educational tool. The information presented is to provide general information only and should not be construed as legal or accounting advice. Because tax and financial consequences involved with any gifting program depend on personal financial circumstances, individuals should consult with their own financial, legal and accounting advisors to review any charitable estate planning options.

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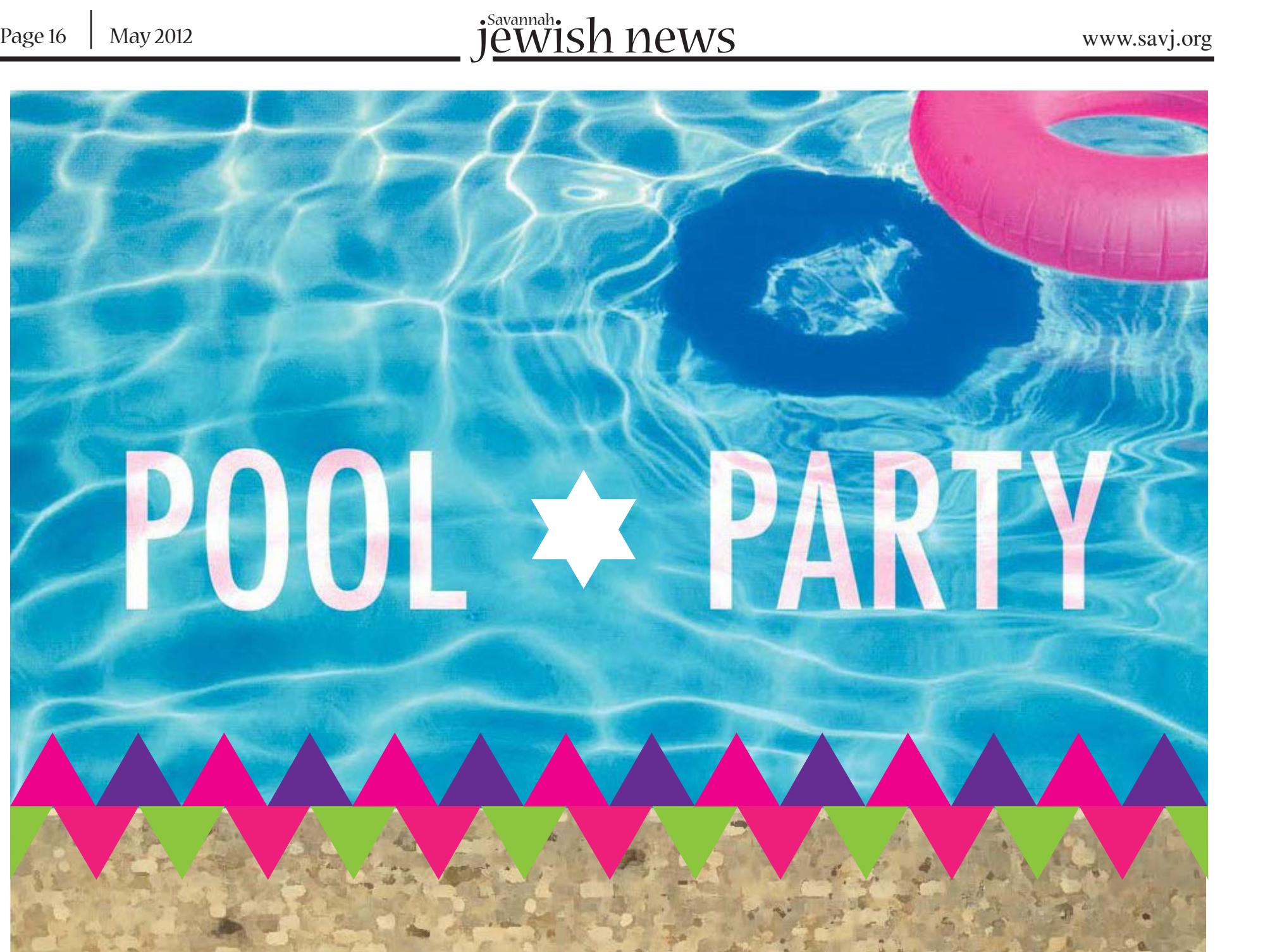


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*The JEA Pool will open on May 13 with reduced hours.
Please see the "Summer Time and the JEA Pool" article in
Centerpiece for a list of hours.

