



In This Issue

Federation President's message, p3
 Executive Director's message, p3
 Shaliach's message, p4
 JEA Centerpiece
 Savannah Jewish Archives, p5
 On the Personal Side, p7

come together

JEA Chanukah Party

December 15, 6:00-7:30 pm

6:00 - Torch parade at the JEA
 7:00 - Festive candle lighting
 Candle making & prizes for children
 doughnuts & latkes

\$6 - adults \$4 - Children

General Assembly Inspires Attendees

At its first General Assembly celebrating its new identity — evident in many ways, from its new name, new CEO, new Chair of the Executive Committee, new logo, new you name it — The Jewish Federations of North America (formerly United Jewish Communities) pulled out all the stops while still putting on a gathering appropriate for the times in which we live. With a terrific lineup of keynote speakers at the plenary sessions (despite the mild disappointment of not having President Obama, who understandably was with the families of the victims of the tragedy at Fort Hood, Texas) and a full menu of forums and workshops for professionals and lay leaders, alike, the meeting November 8-10 offered something for everyone.

Savannah Jewish Federation President Linda Zoller attended with Federation Director Lynn Levine. For us, the GA began with an opportunity to meet and interact with other leaders from similar-sized Federations at an "Interactive Workshop Addressing the Challenges Faced by Small City Federations." It was a great occasion to meet

colleagues from around the country and learn about the different ways we confront challenges and opportunities. Jean Weitz of Savannah also was there representing Hadassah.

Over the course of the three days, we heard remarkable stories from people whose names everyone knows: Michael Oren, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S.; Natan Sharansky, the former refusenik and now the Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel; Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel; Rahm Emanuel, Chief of Staff to President Obama. But we also heard the remarkable stories of people we didn't know before going to the GA: the three young olim from Ethiopia, Russia and Brazil who told about their brave choices to settle in Israel; the young woman from Washington, DC, who barely knew she was Jewish before going on a Birthright trip, but now lives a life as a committed Jew and has brought her family along with her on her personal journey; and Ari Teman, who was voted the Jewish Community Hero of the Year for, entirely as a volunteer, forming JCorps, an organization



Ari Teman



Benjamin Netanyahu

which has fed more than 21,000 meals to the hungry and visited hundreds of seniors and sick children in the US, Israel, and Canada.

Among the highlights, Netanyahu talked about Israel's short history, calling it a nation "small and great, luminous in achievement." He told the

Continued on Page 4

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Study Shows Birthright Israel's Positive Impact is Profound

A recent survey of alumni of *Birthright Israel* trips documents the participants' strengthened connection to Israel, their greater sense of belonging to the

Jewish people and their increased interest in building Jewish families. The study, conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, focused on participants from early rounds of the 10-year-old *Birthright* program.

Taglit-Birthright Israel provides Jewish young adults (ages 18-26) with a free, first-time peer group educational trip to Israel. The program was founded as a gift intended to diminish the growing division between Israel and Jewish communities around the world, to strengthen the sense of solidarity among world Jewry and to enhance the personal Jewish identity of the participants and their connection to the Jewish people.

Since *Birthright's* launch in 2000, more than 220,000 Jewish young adults, including dozens from the Savannah area, have traveled to Israel on the program. Today, the waiting list typically has more than 10,000 names at a time as funding cannot keep up with demand. Elimination of the waiting list has been identified as a primary goal of the Jewish Federations of North America and others in the organized Jewish world, but it will require a strong commitment.



Continued on Page 4

A Publication of Savannah Jewish Federation
 5111 Abercorn Street
 Savannah, Georgia 31405
www.savj.org

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 US POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 207
 SAVANNAH, GA

2010 Federation Campaign Achievement Update

\$616,592

One Gift ... A World of Good





(MIRACLE)

For eight days the candles burned. Light triumphed over darkness, spirituality over materiality. This year and every year, as you celebrate the miracle with foods symbolic of the oil, we wish you and your family a happy and blessed Chanukah.

Publix



How Do You Eat an Elephant, cont.

Having returned from the GA (the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America), I realize how huge the elephant really is. Enormous. The work we do in the Savannah Jewish Federation is like a cog on a very big wheel. The Jewish Federations of North America was until a few months ago, United Jewish Communities (UJC). Before that it was the United Jewish Appeal (UJA) and the United Israel Appeal before that. It is the umbrella organization representing 157 Federations and 400 independent communities across the United States and Canada. Savannah is one of those 157 Federations. There are small federations, intermediate federations, large intermediate federations, and large federations. Savannah is a small federation that acts like a larger one. Our campaign raises more money than most communities our size, so we are able to afford services similar to intermediate federations. The Jewish Federation is one of the largest philanthropic networks in the United States, second only to United Way. That's quite impressive, considering that Jews in America make up less than 2% of the population.

Every year the GA provides a marvelous opportunity to learn and improve what we are doing at the local level. This year's GA was in Washington, DC. Imagine spending two and a half days with 3,000 Jews, all bustling around a large convention center. What fun it is meeting friends you never expected to see (like my neighbor Jean Weitz, who was sent by Hadassah)! The day begins by 8:00 am with small workshops, large plenary sessions (attended by everyone), receptions, a film festival, a huge exhibition and a market selling Israeli goods, and more. I was lucky to get to bed before 10:00 each night, while the younger participants were up well into the wee hours of the morning. It was impossible to take advantage of everything offered.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told us Israel aims to make peace with its Arab neighbors, meet the challenges of a nuclear Iran, and become energy efficient in the coming years. Famed human rights activist Natan Sharansky, now head of the Jewish Agency for Israel, said we are facing a battle for our Jewish identity and that we must connect every young Jew to Israel and connect Israel with every Jewish community. Had it not been for the tragedy

at Fort Hood, I would have heard President Obama speak as well. Rahm Emanuel took the President's place. He underscored the Administration's support for Israel and said that the U.S. is Israel's one true friend.

He spoke of his personal ties to Israel (his father is Israeli), and plans for the upcoming joint Bar Mitzvahs of his son and his brother's son in Israel. Federation Presidents and Executives heard opposition leader Tzipi Livni discuss the peace process and her support of a two-state solution.

I learned about applying business skills to Jewish Federation work from professors at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management. I heard New York Times author Steven Roberts and his wife, Cokie (of NPR and ABC News) speak. His book, *From Every End of the Earth*, profiles new immigrants and compares their stories to those of earlier immigrants. I heard Dan Senor (Fox News analyst, *New York Times* contributor, investment professional, and husband of television news personality Campbell Brown) talk about his book, *Start Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*. He was a great speaker with a fascinating subject that made me proud of the technological advances coming out of Israel and the young entrepreneurs that are being produced. I learned how to apply data from the recent UJC benchmarking project to our own Federation work. I heard about reorganizing agencies in times of economic downturn. I was blown away by a session of the Pro-Israel Lobby and the media, mostly because there was such spirited bickering among the panelists. What fun it is to hear them go at it!

More than bringing back great ideas, I realized that we are already doing much of what was suggested here in Savannah. To me, the conference validated that we are on the right track as a community, which I think speaks well for the professionals who guide us, Adam and Lynn, and our previous Federation boards and leadership.

December finds us anticipating Chanukah and the upcoming Trading Places project. As always, we volun-



Linda Zoller
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Her Worth is Far Above Jewels

A few weeks ago I opened the Savannah Morning News Home/Accent section to see a picture of Carol and Joel Greenberg posed on the tennis courts promoting Carol's latest initiative to help others in the community. I was not surprised to see Carol there. She is a tireless master of organization.

I first met Carol 2-1/2 years ago when she and Joel stopped by my house in New Hampshire on their way up to Maine. Joel was dropping by my employment agreement to come work with the Savannah Jewish community. They came into the house to schmooze for a few moments, have a drink, and then continue the long drive. Carol wasn't in the house five minutes when she immediately launched into a series of recommendations—schools, doctors, places to live, restaurants to visit, cultural sites to take advantage of... the list went on and on. When Sarah asked her about where someone lived, she jumped up and ran out to the car. Of course, she "always travels with the community directory." (Don't we all?)

As an entrepreneur/activist, she is indefatigable when she has an idea. For three decades she has worked to better our Jewish community, the Savannah community and the world around her. Whether it is a concert, women's empowerment event, a video historical project, or a health series, Carol finds a concept and immediately moves

forward. But it is more than Carol's single determination—she builds programs that involve diverse segments of the community, she involves people who heretofore have never been active, she finds funds, and she builds community.

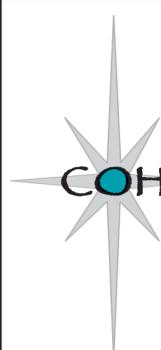
How many recent transplants to Savannah have come to love the community through Carol's lens as she talks to them on the phone, emails back and forth, meets them at the airport, drags them to see the synagogues, JEA, Rambam, and the most enticing tourist stops? (I, for one, had the grand tour with Carol on my first visit to Savannah). How many lunches has she had with perspective new Jewish families? How many follow up phone calls has she made to people all over the country?

All of this is done despite recent challenges. You can't keep Carol down. She is known to have a computer on her lap with a phone to her ear, ever working. Who among us has not received an email from Carol time stamped 2:50am? She's still at it.

She is a blessing to our community; a true Woman of Valor.



Adam Solender



COHEN DENTAL CENTER

Scott A. Cohen, DDS, PC
COSMETIC AND GENERAL DENTISTRY

855 East 65th St., Suite 108
Savannah, GA 31405
Ph (912) 353-9533
Fx (912) 356-0520
www.scottacohendds.com

KAMINSKY

AUTOMOTIVE GROUP



Southern
Motors
Honda
OF SAVANNAH



ACURA
OF SAVANNAH



SPRINGFIELD
CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP



RINCON SELECT
AUTOMOTIVE SALES

927-0700
Shop 24 hours at: www.southern-motors.com

Continued on Page 5



The Circle's Perspective

Two days ago I met up with all of my Shlichim friends who work with other communities all over the US. We gathered at a convention for Shlichim in Maryland. It is very interesting to hear about each other's experiences in all the different communities. It is beautiful to have these different perspectives and see the impact of all of the Shlichim together as group on the entire American Jewish community.

Moreover, for the first time since I arrived in the US, I was surrounded by Israeli people, who speak Hebrew, laugh in Hebrew and understand each

other perfectly.

I asked my self, if everybody here is from Israel, does it feel like home?

Well not exactly.

I feel weird because I used to think: "people make the land" not "the land makes the people." But in our case as Shlichim we are not tourists – we are part of the communities where we are sent to live. After two or three months here we have more than one identity.

I can't really explain it well but the



Udi Tsemach

chemistry of our Israeli group seems to have been affected by the distance, it seems unconnected sometimes to the time and the place where we are.

Then I thought about my community in Savannah and how it seems real and harmonic even with all the differences in it. It seems natural and that is the most important thing in a community. Maybe communities have that special chemistry that bonds the group of people to the place; if it feels natural to them – that's home! Even though I've spent only three days at this conference, I miss that feeling; I miss the community of Savannah, the people in their natural home.

On December 15th we will have a Chanukah party at the JEA, and everyone is invited. I know that every congregation has its own celebration and that is very important and it's a very busy time. However, it is my wish that we will all come together as "Clal Yisroel" for this community celebration on December 15th. That is my wish for Chanukah and I know it is the wish of many others who are helping to plan this party, as well. Please be there to make our wish fulfilled, to make our own miracle. Come and celebrate together as one family, one home.

Birthright Israel.....cont. from page 1

The Brandeis study examined five aspects of participants' Jewish identities and behaviors, including their relationship to Israel, sense of Jewish identity and people hood, communal involvement, religious observance, and family life. The following are key findings:

- Seventy-three percent of participants felt the trip was "very much" (45 percent) or "somewhat" (28 percent) a life-changing experience.

- Participants were 23 percent more likely than non-participants to report feeling "very much" connected to Israel.

- Participants were 24 percent more likely than non-participants to "strongly agree" with the statement, "I have a strong sense of connection to the Jewish people."

- Married non-Orthodox participants were 57 percent more likely to be married to a Jew than non-Orthodox non-participants.

- Participants were 30 percent more likely than non-participants to view raising Jewish children as "very important."

"Of all the information generated by the research, that which struck me as most important was the data dealing with comparisons of marriage and family choices — the crux of Jewish continuity," said Birthright Israel Co-founding Chairman Michael H. Steinhardt. "The breath-taking impact of a ten-day Birthright Israel trip on the Jewish lives of its alumni is almost beyond explanation."

"For those of us who had what seemed to be an impossible dream — that of initiating a 10-day educational trip to Israel that could really make a difference — these findings prove that this is exactly what has come to pass," said Co-founding Chairman Charles Bronfman.

Among other findings, the study found that the *Birthright* trips had the most profound impact on participants who came from households with limited Jewish ritual observance; that five or more years after having traveled to Israel, participants continued to be more interested in and more likely to feel confident about their ability to explain Israel's situation; and participants displayed an inclination to be more likely to join synagogues and/or participate in other forms of organizational engagement.

General Assembly.....cont. from page 1

gathering that strengthening Jewish identity is increasingly the responsibility of the Jewish state. On the matter of Israel's security, he was clear that "even a small Israel demands a secure peace. Our goal is not endless negotiations but a permanent peace treaty with the Palestinians. But it is time to stop negotiating about negotiations and get on with it." As for other issues of interest to American Jewry, he also was firm in stating that "religious pluralism will always guide my policy." Netanyahu's speech was briefly interrupted by a protester who had slipped through the tight security at the conference. The PM joked, "I was better received at the UN than here."

Jerry Silverman, the new CEO of The Jewish Federations of North America, reminded the representatives of the local Federations that we have a responsibility to think about the actions we can take to ensure the vibrancy of our Jewish communities; that we need to work on what will get us there and building a common language with the younger generation. He laid out his plans for the national leadership and directions of the organization.

Pinch-hitting for the President, Rahm Emanuel assured the audience of the United States' "unbreakable" ties with Israel. "The path toward peace is not one Israel should be asked to walk alone; that is why the U.S. will remain actively engaged and Israel's one true friend," said Emanuel. He talked about the President's work toward building "international consensus against a nuclear-armed Iran" and grew emotional as he described his personal ties to Israel — his father's native country and the destination of his son's upcoming Bar Mitzvah.

At smaller sessions throughout the conference you could hear philantropists like Adam Bronfman talk about innovations in social entrepreneurship or authors like Dan Senor discuss his new book, *Start Up Nation*, about how Israel attracts more venture capital per capita than any other economy in the world. There was even an evening of top-notch entertainment as DC's popular Capitol Steps performed their special brand of political, musical satire and then American Idol runner-up Elliot Yamin took the stage.

If it sounds interesting and engaging, it was, and next year, the General Assembly will take place November 16 – 18 in Orlando, practically in our backyard. Mark your calendars now and let's plan to take a Savannah delegation!

Identification Statement

Savannah Jewish News
April 2009 Issue

Published ten times each year by
The Savannah Jewish Federation

5111 Abercorn St.
Savannah, GA 31405
912-355-8111/www.savj.org

Linda Zoller
President

Michael Kooden
President-Elect

Jeffery Lasky
Vice President

Steve Greenberg
Secretary-Treasurer

Allan Ratner
Chair, Newspaper Committee

Adam Solender
adam@savj.org
Executive Director
Savannah Jewish Federation

Lynn Levine
lynn@savj.org
Director

kasey's
GOURMET grille
casual eclectic dining

•Daniel Berman
•David Reeves

Lunch
M-F 11am-2:30pm
Dinner
Daily 5pm-10pm

Medical Arts Shopping Center • Waters Ave. across from Memorial
355-9259 • www.kaseygrille.com





2009 Speaker's Series

Sunday, December 6, 2009
7:30 PM at the JEA

Harvey Coleman

Would You Like to Pass the Unwritten Rules of the Game on To Your Children?

One of the best guests to present at the JEA Speakers Series, President and founder of Coleman Management Consultants in Atlanta, Harvey Coleman returns to Savannah. Mr. Coleman possesses a wealth of experience working at America's leading corporations and military organizations including IBM, Xerox and the U.S. Army Security Agency on issues of multi-culturalism.

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

The 2009 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.

A MOVIE & BEER!

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

Dec. 3rd—Waltz with Bashir—

This film presents an intriguing riddle: Is a documentary still a documentary if it's animated? Israel's Ari Folman tried to wrap his head around 1982's Lebanon War: Why do disturbing dreams plague his former army colleagues while he remembers nothing? Folman meets with nine of them to find out. As they speak, animators recreate their experiences. This graphic-novel approach suits their strange, surrealistic stories. If *Waltz with Bashir* isn't a documentary in the conventional sense, it doesn't resemble most animated efforts either. What matters more is the harrowing narrative he constructs from out of the minds of these haunted men.



Winner of 23 Audience Awards

All movies shown at 7:30 pm
FREE to Members with ID - \$7 for Non-Members
FREE Beer, wine, beverages and popcorn

Movie & Beer Night sponsored by Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein

JEA Chanukah Party

Tues., Dec. 15th 6:00-7:30 PM

6:00 Torch parade at the JEA
7:00 Festive candle lighting

Come to the JEA Chanukah Party!

- ◆ Torch Parade - Three runners will carry the light from our three synagogues leading the torch parade
- ◆ Festive candle lighting - In the presence of the three Rabbis. Includes a special children's show for Chanukah
- ◆ Children's Activity Station - Candle making & Chanukah crowns
- ◆ Special food for Chanukah - Including doughnuts, latkes and salads

\$6 – adult \$4 – children
Please call 355-8111 to RSVP

JEA Donations (as of 11/10/09)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Buddy Kulbersh
Steven & Elizabeth Arkin

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Sam Radetsky
Sylvia Dane
In memory of Buddy Kulbersh
Stacy & Jeff Lasky

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In honor of Bezy Forstot's Birthday
Thelma & Frank Hoffman
In memory of Sam Radetsky
Arnold & Ellen Levin
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Buchsbaum
In memory of Buddy Kulbersh
Renate Jacobs
Gift from Linda Pittman Adelman

RAYMOND & MORRIS ROSEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Sam Radetsky
Michael & Marcia Schwarz
Laurie & Jeff Rubnitz
In honor of the recovery of Sam Jospin
In memory of Sam Radetsky
In memory of Anne Richman
Gail Rosenzweig

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Barbara Rubin	
Barbara & Leon Aronson	Rachael Kronowitz & Mark Lewis
Merry & Richard Bodziner	Lowell & Hillary Kronowitz
Mona & Bobby Segall & Family	Silvia Lipson
Arnold & Chrissie Karp	Anita & Donald Estroff
Michael Karpf	Jackie & Julian Toporek
Harriet Konter	Arlene & Allan Ratner
Hedda Ginsberg & Terry Piell	June & Murray Arkin
Virginia & Shields Jarrett	Judy & Sylvan Byck
Allen Shensky	Donna & Tony Eichholz,
Sally & Steve Greenberg	David & Helen Kelly
Ava & Isser Gottlieb	Lisa & Scott Cohen
Suzanne & Michael Konter	Sherry & Norman Dolgoff
Sandy & Skippy Goodman	Sissy & Henry Levy
Nancy & Sandy Rosenthal	Joanne & Barney Portman
Gail Robinson	Marlene & Michael Dobbs
Sally Krissman	Ellen & David Byck
Doris & Arnie Goldstein	Debbie & Joel Rotkow,
Reggie & Mel Goldstein	Harold & Rochelle Javetz
Dayle & Aaron Levy	Don & Kaye Kole
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt	Sharon & Murray Galin
Marsha Hirsch	Louise & Freddie Harkavy
Dena & Jack Schultz	Arnold & Bess Colton
Paul & Lori Robinson	Melvin & Linda Haskins
Bailee & Ronnie Kronowitz	

In honor of Amy Rubin's speedy recovery
Victor & Elise Shernoff

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Sam Radetsky
In honor of Geraldine Greenberg's birthday
In honor of Bernice Forstot's birthday
Harriet Konter
In honor of Harriet Konter's birthday
Sylvia Yellin

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Sam Radetsky
In memory of Harriett Karesh
In memory of Barbara H. Rubin
Leo and Simone Center

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE
CENTER



Need After School Activities?

Join us at the JEA After School Program!

Who: Our program is available to all children ages 4years-5th grade. Our college-degreed instructors will offer homework help in all subject areas to every age.

What: In addition to homework help, we have gymnastics with Coach Wayne, Kids Yoga, art, cooking, sports, swimming and much more! We will also be doing appropriate holiday crafts.

Where: We pick up from Rambam and provide transportation from most local schools to the JEA (Heard Elementary, Jacob G. Smith, Charles Ellis)
Minimum Participation Required

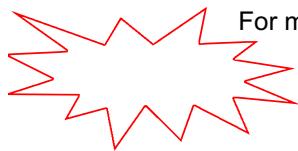
When: Our after school program ends at 6 pm Monday-Thursday and 5 pm on Friday (the JEA closes at 5 pm on Friday).

Price: Members-\$50/week (\$10 per day). \$12 for individual days (\$15 late registration fee)
Non Members-\$75/week (\$15 per day). \$18 for individual days. (\$20 late registration fee)

Transportation: \$30/month or \$3 per trip.

Supersaver: All 1/2 days off from school are included for the regular price of aftercare.

For more information, contact Ashley Frankel, 355-8111, ext. 225.



Art at the JEA



December Artist—Susan Weiss

Susan Weiss - Susan Weiss works in the visual arts in various capacities including painting, photography and graphics. After graduating from the University of Michigan, she moved to San Francisco and received an MA degree from Mills College in choreography and production. She performed, choreographed and produced dance concerts in the Bay Area for many years. She then began studies in drawing and painting at the San Francisco Art Institute. She received an MFA degree in painting in May of 2003. Photography has been an interest of hers for many years.

Susan's work explores the issues of personal identity and the psycho-social landscape of contemporary dog portraits, which were metaphors for the exploration into human social dynamics. In 1997, she won third place in painting at the Wichita Dog Show, the major juried competition for art about dogs.

A work title, *I Have an Oval-Shaped Face*, was accepted into the Texas Fine Arts Show, "Transcending Limits" in 1999, and toured the state for two years. This piece was a collaborative drawing project with police sketch artists to create Susan's portrait based on her written description.

In 2000, Susan was commissioned by the Jewish Museum of San Francisco to create their holiday card. She created a series of 7 images including drawings, photographs and text, which transformed traditional Jewish symbols and myths into contemporary imagery.

In 2008, her photography series, "Parking Lot People," candid portraits taken in Wal-mart and Target parking lots throughout the country, showed at the JEA in Savannah.

Artwork available for viewing December 1 - 31, 2009
Artist's Reception - December 6, 2009, 4-6 p.m.



Young Jewish Savannah Events

Sat., Dec. 12th - 7:30 pm

Chanukah Cocktail Party

Celebrate Chanukah with YJS. This event will be held at Bistro 45 at The Marshall House.

Fri., Dec. 25th

Trading Places

Be a part of the Federation's Annual "Trading Places" program.

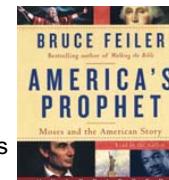
YJS Book Club

An exciting new event for Young Jewish Savannah — Book Club! Join us on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 3 pm at the JEA for discussion, food and friends! Two authors, Jonathan Rabb and Herman Cranman, will be coming to speak at our meetings!

Dec. 20th

America's Prophet

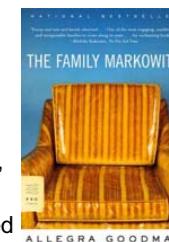
In this ground-breaking book, native Savannahian and NYTimes bestselling author Bruce Feiler travels through touchstones in American history and traces the biblical prophet's influence from the Mayflower through today.



Jan. 17th

The Family Markowitz

Alegra Goodman's voice is fresh and distinctive as she pens a wry, funny portrait of an American Jewish family in a novel composed of interlocking stories. Rose Markowitz, stubborn, outspoken, kvetching, survivor and an individualist whose youth was spent in Vienna and London during WWII, is 73, living with her second husband in Manhattan, when we first meet her.



Parent's Night Out 2009-2010

Saturday, December 12th 7:30-10:30

Glow in the Dark Chanukah Party

Earn points to "buy" presents while playing super silly glow-in-the-dark games!

Saturday, January 16th 7:30-10:00

Mystery Night

Get into character and follow the clues to solve a JEA mystery with your friends.

All children ages 4yrs-5th grade are welcome. Any teens who want to help out are welcome.

BY RESERVATION ONLY—NO DROP-INS

\$5.00 a child, \$15.00 a family

Call Ashley, 355-8111, to RSVP

Must RSVP by the Thursday before the event.



Winter Camp is Coming!

Winter Break runs Dec. 21st-31st and have we got a deal for you!

Winter camp includes field trips for ice skating, bumper cars and bowling. Enjoy a day in your pajamas on movie day, experience the Winter Olympics-JEA Style, scavenger hunts, *Iron Chef* cookie baking competition, and of course, daily swimming in our indoor heated pool . . . mmmmm warm!

Ages 4 years-6th Grade—9:00 am-5:00 pm daily

Week 1

Dec. 21st	M:\$25	N/M:\$35
Dec. 22nd	M:\$25	N/M:\$35
Dec. 23rd	M:\$30	N/M:\$40*
Dec. 24th	M:\$25	N/M:\$35

Week 2

Dec. 28th	M:\$25	N/M:\$35
Dec. 29th	M:\$25	N/M:\$35
Dec. 30th	M:\$30	N/M:\$40*
Dec. 31st	M:\$30	N/M:\$40*
Jan. 1st	M:\$25	N/M:\$35

* Field Trip Day

Discounts:

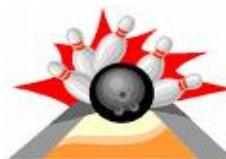
- 10% off—paid registration by December 1st
- 5% off—Sign up for ALL days
- 5% off—Multiple child discount

Need even more childcare?

- Rise-n-Shine - 8 am-9 pm — add \$2/day
- Stay-n-Play - 5 pm-6 pm — add \$2/day

LATE FEE: \$10 per day/per child for less than 24 hours notice.

Please Send a Kosher Dairy Lunch Daily



Hebrew for Kids!

Udi, is beginning a Hebrew program for kids in 2nd & 3rd grades. The program consists of 5 sessions to be held on Dec. 1st, 3rd, 10th, 15th and 17th (Tuesdays & Thursdays) at 4 pm.

The program includes:

- Learning the basics of the modern spoken Hebrew in an enjoyable way.
- Strengthening the understanding of the Torah while learning the logic of the Hebrew language.

The class requires a minimum of 7 students, maximum of 12 students. Knowing the basic Hebrew Alef Biet is required.

The cost is \$25 for all the sessions.

For more details, call Udi at 912-355-8111 or via email, udi@savj.org.

Hebrew for Adults

Want to chat in Hebrew? Want to have a taste of the original Torah in Hebrew? Then come to Udi's Hebrew class! The program consists of 5 sessions on **Tues. at 7 pm** (Dec. 15, 22, 29 \$ Jan. 5 & 12).

Knowing Hebrew Alfa-Biet is required (pre-lessons for learning Hebrew Alfa-Beit are optional)

The cost is \$30 for all the sessions.

For more details, contact Udi at udi@savj.org or 912-355-8111(o) or 912-844-1067 (m).

WINTER 2009 FITNESS CLASSES						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	5:00-6:00 am Master Swim	8:30-9:15 am Spin Class	5:00-6:00 am Master Swim	8:30-9:15 am Spin Class	5:00-6:00 am Master Swim	
9-10 am Pilates	8:30-9:30 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:30 am Firm It Up	8:30-9:30 am Pilates	8:30-9:30 am Firm It Up	
10-11 am Total Body Blast	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize		10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	10:00-11:00 am Aquasize	
	10:30-11:30 am Gentle Yoga		10:30-11:30 am Gentle Yoga			
	10:30-11:30 am Senior Fitness		10:30-11:30 am Senior Fitness	10:30-11:30 am Senior Fitness		
	Noon-2:00 pm Noontime Basketball		Noon-2:00 pm Noontime Basketball		Noon-2:00 pm Noontime Basketball	
	3:45-5:15 pm Yoga for Kids					
	4:00-6:00 pm Open Court Racquetball	4:00-5:00 pm Open Court Racquetball				
	4:00-7:00 Maxine Patterson Dance	4:00-7:00 Maxine Patterson Dance	4:00-7:00 Maxine Patterson Dance	4:00-7:00 Maxine Patterson Dance		
	5:30-7:30 pm Karate		5:30-7:30 pm Karate			
	6:00-7:00 pm Spin Class					
	6:30-7:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics	6:30-7:30 pm Step & Weight Aerobics	6:30-7:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics	6:30-7:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics		
	7:00-8:30 pm Aikido	6:30-7:30 pm Badminton	7:00-8:30 pm Aikido	7:00-8:00 pm Total Body Blast		
	7:00-8:00 pm Yoga Power Hour	7:00-9:00 pm Savannah Fencing Club	7:00-8:00 pm Yoga Flow	7:00-9:00 pm Savannah Fencing Club		



Basketball Time



Join us for Jr. NBA and Jr. Jammers Basketball Leagues where your players will join other players each season to enhance their skills in this exciting sport.

Our volunteers are highly regarded in their field. They build partnerships with your family to ensure that your needs are met from not only a program perspective, but from a strong relationship and understanding of your child's specific skill needs.

Youth basketball season operates December through March. Pre-registration is required within the month of November. Practice times are established by the coaches according to their schedule and availability of courts. Games will be officiated by qualified officials. The goals of this program are to build the child's self esteem, teach the skills of basketball, build good relations among peers and to create a fun atmosphere.

Prices:	Member	Non-member
Under 6	\$50	\$75
Under 8	\$65	\$90
Under 10	\$75	\$100
Under 12	\$75	\$100

Volunteer Coaching

Our basketball coaches will tell you how critical coaching is to the league, and how it is a truly gratifying experience. Coaching has the potential to provide a positive experience for players and their families, and can bring you enjoyment as well.

We invite you to consider joining the ranks of our volunteer coaches!

Coaches receive support and access to coaching resources and tips. We want to ensure that you learn as much as possible about the sport as well as various teaching methods and techniques.



JEA Team Savannah will be attending the JCC Maccabi Experience

JCC Maccabi Games - Richmond, VA
Aug. 1-6, 2010 - 13 spots available
Must be Jewish and between ages 13-16 on July 31, 2010.

Visit www.iccmaccabigames.org for more info and to view a promotion video.

Since we are going to be in Richmond, VA, please take a look at their web site as well as www.maccabirichmond.org.

Participants can compete as individuals or join another team in all sports except for Basketball (7 person team minimum)

Boys -

Basketball
Baseball, Soccer,
Bowling, Tennis,
Golf, Swimming,
Table Tennis



Girls-

Basketball, Tennis,
Soccer, Bowling, Swimming, Table Tennis

*For information contact
Stephanie Johnson at 355-8111
or stephanie@savj.org!*

Go Team Savannah!!

December 2009

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2009	Daily Calendar Events ➔ On-Going Programs	Aquasize-10 am Gentle Yoga-10:30 am Sr. Fitness-10:30 am Senior Lunch -12:30 pm Water Aerobics-6:30 pm Yoga Power Hour- 7 pm	Pilates- 8:30 am Kibitzers Kafe-10 am Aquasize-10 am Step & Weight Aerobics- 6:30 pm	Sr. Fitness - 10:30 am Gentle Yoga-10:30 am Senior Lunch -12:30 pm Bridge-1pm Water Aerobics-6:30 pm Scrabble-6:30 pm Yoga Flow- 7:00 pm	Pilates- 8:30 am Aquasize - 10 am Mah Jongg - 10:30 am Senior Fitness - 10:30 am Senior Lunch -12:30 pm Senior Program-1:30 pm Evening Water Aerobics - 6:30 pm	Aquasize-10 am	JEA Closed
	Nov. 29	Nov. 30	1	2	3 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program Movie & Beer Night- 7:30 pm	4	5 BBYO Dance - 6 pm
	6 BBYO Breakfast - 9 am Art Gallery Reception - 4 pm Speakers Series - 7:30 pm Jr. NBA practices start	7	8	9	10 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program	11 Light 1st Hanukkah Candle	12 First Day of Hanukkah Parent's Night Out - 7:30 pm YJS Hanukkah Cocktail Party-Bistro 45 - 7:30 pm
	13	14	15 JEA Hanukkah Celebration-6 pm	16	17 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program Rambam Hanukkah Program - 6:30 pm	18	19 Last Day of Hanukkah
	20 YJS Book Club - 3 pm	21	22	23 Blood Drive - Noon-6 pm	24 JEA Offices close at 6 pm Trading Places	25 JEA Offices Closed. Fitness open 9 am-5 pm Trading Places	26
	27	28	29	30	Dec. 31 -12:30-2:30 Senior Lunch & Program	Jan. 1 JEA Offices Closed. Fitness open 10 am-5 pm	Jan. 2



From The Shalom School

I am writing this article in the midst of this, my tenth year as Principal of the Shalom School and I am pleased to reflect on our progress during this past decade. Our School has undergone significant changes over these years, strengthening and maintaining quality Jewish education for a growing number of students from Congregations Agudath Achim and Mickve Israel. We have introduced new programs, including our successful pre-kindergarten class for three and four year olds, and pioneered new curriculum approaches, including school-wide implementation of the CHAI Curriculum, whose themes are grouped around the three mainstays of Judaism: Torah, Avodah (worship) and G'milut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness). Parent education continues as a high priority and our Shalom School for Parents is now in its fourth year, this year engaging in an intensive study of Torah.

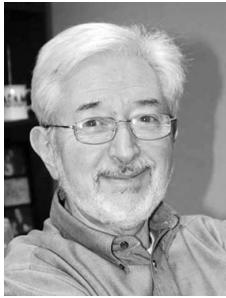
Shalom School continues to make use of the services of the many talented Shlichim sent to us from Israel, and this year Udi Tsemach has joined our ranks to enrich our midweek Hebrew program.

Going beyond retrospect, I would like to report on a wonderful event which took place just a few weeks ago on Shabbat morning, November 7. Our sixth, seventh and eighth graders led

an entire service at Congregation Mickve Israel. They displayed excellent Hebrew skills, even including the reading of extensive Torah and Haftarah portions, and one of our sixth graders volunteered

to prepare, and superbly presented his own D'var Torah on VaYerah, the Torah portion of the week. They led the congregation in joyful prayer and music and impressed all of us with their excitement and enthusiasm. Bravo to you all, my students, I am thrilled and so proud of you! More Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning Shalom School services will take place at our congregations in the coming months.

Shalom School, like most if not all Jewish religious schools throughout the United States, continues to meet the challenges of attracting and retaining students post-B'nai Mitzvah. We have created exciting and challenging programs for our students and will explore them in detail with you in the coming months, even as our Board undertakes a far-reaching effort to reinvigorate our efforts.



Jules Kernes,
Shalom School
Principal

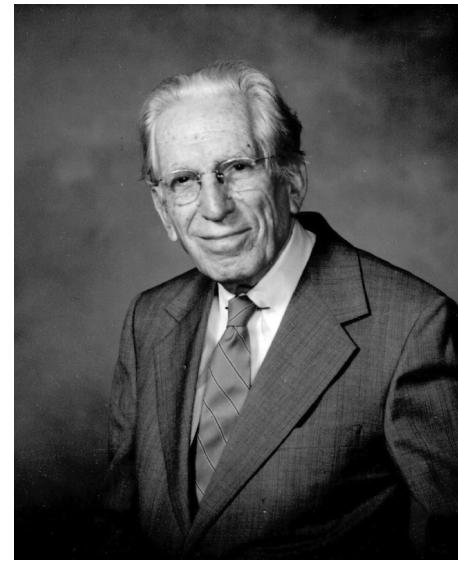
Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

Oral History Excerpts

Our Archives holds an excellent collection of oral histories. In the coming months we'll continue showcasing excerpts from the early interviews. Other excerpts appear in our publication *Voices of Savannah*.

SAM STEINBERG (1901-1997)
interviewed February 1997

I work for J.C. Lewis Motor Company. I came here directly from a business college that I went to for nine months... They had a place on Bull Street, right across from the old DeSoto Hotel. It was a grocery market, I think, Stewart Grocery Co., right there on the corner... Then later on they moved out and somebody moved in and had a garage. So, in the back of the building they repaired automobiles... Mr. Lewis had an idea that the city was using horses to patrol the streets, and he said, "You know, that costs them a lot of money because these horses eat whether they work or they really don't work." And feed for the horses was expensive and would keep going up. And he had to hire an auditor to keep those horses. He had to rent stables and had a stableman. And on weekends, those in the office, me



Sam Steinberg

and the office guy, the office clerk, one or two others - we even had a Jewish girl working for us, and she got on a riding habit so she could go out riding with us... We rode horseback riding on Montgomery Street because we had to ride on unpaved streets. We couldn't ride on a cobblestone street because that would be bad for the horses and for the rider, too... But after a while, we said, "You know, in figuring the horses and the stables and feeding the horses and having a stable man, it would have been cheaper for him to give the city the horse. No charge! Keep them!"

If you wish to read more from this oral history or from another in the collection, or if you wish to purchase a copy of *Voices of Savannah*, contact archivist Lynette Stoudt at (912) 651-2125 or lstoudt@georgiahistory.com.

Linda Zoller.....cont. from page 3

teer on Christmas and Christmas Eve to relieve our non-Jewish friends of their jobs so that they can enjoy their holiday. I have loved going to the Old Savannah Mission. The facility is immaculate, the program is organized, they use the volunteers well, and it serves a very needy population. Barbara Kooden and Vivian Slotin are chairing the project for a second year

and do a marvelous job. If you haven't signed up for one of the many volunteer jobs available, please make sure you do. It provides a much needed service and its fun.

Whatever you do, enjoy the month of December with its hustle, bustle, and days off work to spend with family and friends. Michael joins me in wishing you a very happy Chanukah.

We couldn't do it without them!
Help us thank our advertisers —
Please support their businesses!

Rosenthal

DENTAL GROUP
general and cosmetic dentistry

MATTHEW S. ROSENTHAL, DMD

New Patients
& Children Welcome
Insurance Accepted

American Dental Association
Georgia Dental Association
Academy of General Dentistry
Southeastern Dental Society

352-7808

1 Mall Terrace

JOHN DAVIS

FLORIST

We are your full service flower shop.
Please call us at
(912) 233-6077 or (800) 868-6077
and allow us to help you.

Jerald M. Gottlieb, Ph.D.

LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

Therapy for Marital and Other Relationship Problems
School Problems (including ADD/ADHD), Depression, Anxiety, Phobias,
Conduct Problems, Major Mental Disorders and Psychological Trauma

5302 Frederick St., Suite 107 • 224-5841

(Between 70th & 71st Streets)

Visit our website at: www.drpsych.com or email us at: coolpool@aol.com



Fagin—“Hero” and Friend

Ron Fagin is a doctor's doctor—"the highest compliment for a doctor". Recently a colleague spoke: "You go to him, you send your wife and your kids. Ron is everybody's doctor. He's what you want in a doctor. Everybody likes Ron Fagin."

This past October, Savannah Gastroenterologist Ron Fagin was awarded the Physician Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ninth Annual Georgia Medical Society Healthcare Heroes banquet.

By his own candid description, and by the assessment of colleagues and patients alike, Dr. Fagin has always had his patients' best interests in mind. As an independent practitioner most of his career, he was able "to do what I thought was right for my patients."

Contrasting medicine as practiced today, and medicine as Ron Fagin always practiced it, he believes the change is manifest in the art of medicine being taken over by the advancement in technology—from a "hands-on personal approach to a hands-off technology-driven medical care."

CT Scans—a remarkable diagnostic technology—while helpful and important, have taken away the heart of medicine, tilted now in favor of the era of documentation. While important, he emphasizes, it has put a wall between patient and physician. "Maybe it's more efficient," he offers. "But it is not necessarily what the patient is looking for."

Unfortunately, for "everybody", Ron Fagin, after practicing gastroenterology in Savannah since 1972, has recently retired from the practice of medicine. Now, he's simply everybody's friend.

Dr. Fagin was born in New York City, his father a dentist, his mother, a

bacteriologist, and his grandparents, immigrants from Kiev who never learned English. They communicated in Yiddish! With an undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College, Dr. Fagin attended Duke University Medical School. After internship and residency at Bellevue Hospital in New York and a fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of Chicago, he served as head of the department of gastroenterology in the United States Army at Fort Ord Hospital. In 1985, he was elected chief of staff of Savannah's Memorial Medical Center, and has received many other accolades in his field.

Not one to retire completely, Dr. Fagin now volunteers at the Chatham County Community Health Mission, where he has started a gastroenterology clinic.

With a boyish, dimpled—and relaxed—smile, Fagin admits to enjoying life—traveling with Catherine, his wife of 30 years, being grandparents to 10 in their blended family and, taking up a newly cultivated hobby—make that obsession—of painting. Oil is his medium of preference, but he is learning to draw in charcoal and pastel, and dabbles in watercolor. Taking studio classes, and working in a converted bonus room as a home studio, Ron says art is teaching him how to see. It has "exploded in my mind."

"I wish I had learned as a kid what I am learning now," he confides. "But... you are never too old to learn."

--By Jane Kahn



Dr. Ron Fagin

A New Bloom in Our Garden

The Savannah Jewish Federation is proud to announce the hiring of Benjamin Bloom as Programming Associate. In this position Benjamin will staff many of the Federation's signature community programs including The PJ Library, Young Jewish Savannah, and Savannah Jewish News.

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Benjamin has an undergraduate degree from Johnson & Wales University with a concentration in travel and tourism. He later attended the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles from which he recently graduated with a Masters Degree in Jewish Communal Service/Non Profit Management.

Benjamin has had a great number of varied experiences in the Jewish world

including positions teaching at Temple Israel in Memphis, as an Education Specialist at the Henry S. Jacob Camp in Mississippi, working with the Hillel in Memphis, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, and with the Los Angeles Chapter of the Anti Defamation League.

As a native Southerner, Benjamin is excited to be returning to his roots and is looking forward to a very successful career at the Savannah Jewish Federation. He will begin work the first week in December. Please stop in to meet Benjamin and make him feel at home!



Benjamin Bloom



VIBE
entertainment

*High Energy Emcees, DJs,
Live Bands, Dancers, &
Other Entertainers!*

www.vibeentertainmentinc.com

BRENDA GELFAND
Sales Coordinator
brenda@vibeentertainmentinc.com

VIBE ENTERTAINMENT INC.
6065 Roswell Road
Northside Tower, Suite 217
Atlanta, Georgia 30328
Office (404) 257-0206
Fax (404) 257-0208
Cell (770) 256-2303

LEVY JEWELERS



MEMBER
AGS
AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

Serving Savannah Since 1900

<p><i>Downtown</i> 912-233-1163</p>	<p><i>Oglethorpe Mall</i> 912-238-2120</p>	<p><i>Savannah Mall</i> 912-238-2920</p>
---	--	--

Outside of Savannah Toll Free: 800-237-LEVY (5389)

levyjewelers.com information@levyjewelers.com

The January/February issue of the
Savannah Jewish News
will be in homes January 19, 2010

Deadline for submissions is January 4, 2010

DAVID M REEVES

640 East President Street
@ East Broad Street
232-8181

4525 Habersham Street
@ 62nd Street
352-1155



david's
DRY CLEANERS

Ready to Buy or Sell?

Call the Professionals at



REALTY CO.
Savannah, Georgia

Your
Home Town
Realtor for
Over 47 Years

Call Us Today! (912) 354-9314

Or visit us on the Internet:
www.konterrealty.com








JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES & SONGS FOR FAMILIES

Come join us for...

A hands-on animal presentation

PJ Library storytelling

Refreshments

Access to exhibit areas with many fascinating animals



**Sunday, December 6th
1-2:30 pm at the Oatland
Island Wildlife Center**

**Kids 8 and younger
Mommies and Daddies
welcome, too!**

RSVP to
pjlibrary@savj.org or
355.8111

*Admission into Oatland Island:
\$5 Adults; \$3 kids 4 and older
kids 3 and younger are FREE!*

*Meet in the Oatland Island
"Kindergarten Room" at 1pm for the
program, storytelling & refreshments.
Then spend some time visiting all the
animals you learned about!*

Each month, *free of charge*, The PJ Library brings high quality Jewish books and music to families with children six months to eight years old in the Greater Savannah area allowing parents to create special moments with their children enjoying and celebrating their Jewish heritage.

To sign up for The PJ Library go to www.savj.org



Time to Order Mah Jongg Cards!

Attention Mah Jongg Players! It's time to order your 2010 Mah Jongg cards. The standard card is \$7.00; the large card is \$8.00. The deadline for placing orders is February 1, 2009.



Make checks payable to the AA Sisterhood and send to:
Betty Lasky
402 Wheeler St
Savannah, GA 31405

ON THE PERSONAL SIDE

MISCELLANY: Jacquie Stein has been named New Territory Manager/Licensee



Jacquie Stein

for the greater Savannah area for NuBarter. Jacquie formerly was a business manager in Boston. NuBarter is a community of global businesses that barter their goods and services. "Jacquie will help us grow the greater Savannah area faster and better than ever before." said NuBarter President, Gary Field.

TRADING PLACES

TRADING PLACES

TRADING PLACES

TRADING PLACES

Sign Up for Trading Places www.savj.org

Don't forget me Trading Places Blood Drive Dec 23rd 12-6



Trading Places is a Savannah Jewish Federation program started more than 15 years ago to provide volunteers to local non-profit organizations to fill in for our non-Jewish friends and neighbors so they can have time off to be with their families and loved ones on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

This year, we will be providing assistance throughout the city to groups such as the Old Savannah City Mission, Union Mission, Coastal Pet Rescue, Buckingham South, and even filling in for our favorite staff at the JEA so they can be with their families.

Trading Places is a wonderful opportunity to do a mitzvah in a meaningful way.

**We have limitless opportunities for volunteers!
Won't you and your family answer the call?**

**SIGN UP TODAY BY CALLING 355-8111 OR
GO TO WWW.SAVJ.ORG AND CLICK ON THE EDDIE MURPHY ICON**





I am:

- TIRED
- DEPRESSED
- COLD
- SICK
- A MOTHER
- LAID OFF
- UNEMPLOYED
- WORKING PART TIME
- SINGLE
- MARRIED
- DIVORCED
- ADDICTED
- ALONE
- LATE WITH RENT
- PROFESSIONAL
- SCARED
- BROKE
- AN IMMIGRANT
- A REFUGEE
- JEWISH

Though the economic crisis may have affected each of us differently, the Savannah Jewish Federation is the one place we can all turn to for help. In fact, more of us are relying on the services of Federation-funded agencies to help make ends meet, feed our families, and pay our mortgages than ever before. Yet for every story of hardship and despair, there are countless stories of love and hope that you can be a part of. **You can help. You can make a difference. You can make the world a better place.**

Yes, I can help. I want to make a donation or learn more at www.savj.org.

