Celebrate Israel’s 63rd Birthday at the JEA

On Sunday May 15th at 2:00pm come to the JEA and let’s together as a community celebrate Israel’s 63rd birthday and commemorate Israel fallen soldiers memorial day.

In Israel there’s only sixty seconds separating these two events – Yom Ha’Zikaron and Yom Ha’Atzmaut. The sudden transition from sadness to joy is very hard for everyone, not just for the families that have lost their loved ones during Israel’s wars. The state of Israel is unique in that it decided to mark the fallen soldiers Memorial Day just a short twenty-four hours before the celebration of independence, the close connection of the holidays was intended to emphasize the unbreakable connection between the independence and the heavy death toll paid for this independence.

For 63 years this decision was quite controversial throughout Israeli society. The supporters of this decision claim that this connection is inseparable, it is a big part of the ethos as a nation that rose from dust and fought for its independence, and we have to be reminded that in their death they gave us our lives. The critics of this decision, mostly bereaved families, but not limited to, claim that this transition is unbearable and that the difference between these two days is just too big of a bridge to gap.

There is a difference in the perception of Memorial Day in America and Memorial Day in Israel. It’s a difficult atmosphere to describe being in Israel during this important day, and if you have ever heard the siren and saw everyone stopping their lives for two minutes and standing in honor of the fallen soldiers.

Are You Crazy?

By Paul Kulbersh

“Are you crazy?” That was the typical comment that I received from family and friends when it was announced that I was going to return as President of the JEA for one more year. However, that was not the type of reaction that I got from Harriet, my children or my friends who know me well. Let me explain.

When Harriet and I moved to Savannah 35 years ago, I really did not know what it was like to be part of a real Jewish community. I certainly identified as being Jewish and I was proud of it. I grew up in Tifton, GA, which was the home of about 15,000 people, 25,000 cows, acres of tobacco, and 8 Jewish families, all of whom were merchants. We attended a synagogue in Fitzgerald that had a membership of probably 100 families from all parts of South Central Georgia. We had a full time Rabbi and Friday night services year around, except perhaps during high school football season, and we drove to Fitzgerald each week for Sunday/Hebrew school.

We celebrated holidays and participated in life cycle events. In fact, the Friday of my Bar Mitzvah weekend was November 22, 1963. Ring a bell? While some of my experiences growing up were Jewish ones, I really lived in a community where the life style was southern American and some of the friends that I associated with happened to be Jewish.

Being Jewish is important to me and it is important to Harriet, my children, their spouses and my grandchildren. In Savannah, our lives became immersed in Jewish thought and tradition and belief. Perhaps my style of Judaism is different from yours. But my Judaism is no less important to me or my family than it is to yours. This devotion to Judaism and our community, and respect for all Jewish beliefs was learned in Savannah, GA. My family’s Jewishness was influenced by our synagogue, our teachers, our friends and neighbors and certainly by this wonderful facility.

For me, personally, the JEA helped me to meet and learn from Jewish people of all backgrounds — from Holocaust survivors to observant Jews who wore yarmulkes even when they were not in Synagogue!

I have had the same experiences in Savannah that many of you had. In November of the first year of my den...
My Israel - For Yom Ha’Atzmaut

My Israel is the Negev, the most beautiful place on earth. The house I grew up in, the feeling of a bare foot on hot desert soil, sunsets in shades of red and orange on the sides of the mountain, an unexpected sweet cold water spring at the middle of the road.

My Israel is Jerusalem. The mix between the sacred and the profane; the ancient and the modern; the Jew and the Christian. The old and the new. Wishes and desires lie between the cracks of holy stones. Paratroopers in the Old City. The smell of a bakery in the morning, fresh produce and Falafel for 5 shekels at the Shuk. The absorption center I volunteered a year in. Egged bus number 18 where I had the most fascinating discussions with random people on daily basis.

My Israel is living the history. To stand at the dock in Jaffa and to know that Jonah the prophet sailed to his destiny that having back home for a Shabbat vacation from the army, in the neighborhood’s soccer field, comparing stories, planning together the big trip, and playing until exhaustion or sunset, whichever comes first. To meet new people, and two minutes later realize that you had the same mutual friends from the army, high-school, and youth movement, or worse,you’re related. To wear jeans and sandals to a wedding, and to un-tuck your buttoned shirt, because it’s just too hot. Sitting near the bonfire with a 17 years old shepherd from the nearby Palestinian village, talking about girls and drinking coffee with fresh milk after milking the goats.Walking down Tel Aviv promenade, see a group of excited young Jews touring around, and to know that Israel is more that just the nightlife in Tel Aviv or the holy places too hot. Sitting near the bonfire with a 17 years old shepherd from the nearby Palestinian village, talking about girls and drinking coffee with fresh milk after milking the goats. Walking down Tel Aviv promenade, see a group of excited young Jews touring around, and to know that Israel is more than just the nightlife in Tel Aviv or the holy places.

That is what being Jewish means to me. The richness of my heritage, the continuity that was passed down to me. The feeling of a bare foot on hot desert soil, sunsets in shades of red and orange on the sides of the mountain, an unexpected sweet cold water spring at the middle of the road.

I grew up in a tiny town of Marianna, Florida, population 6000, that includes only four Jews (my daughter, her husband, and two boys ages 14 and 10). Both boys had a strong Jewish background, attending a Hebrew Day School in Melbourne, Florida prior to their move to Marianna last year.

It was very important to Lisa and Ricky that they establish themselves in a Congregation and joined Temple Shomrei Torah in Tallahassee, about one hourdrive away since there are no synagogues in Marianna. Gabriel, age 10, is very proficient in his Hebrew and this became evident to the congregants in his new synagogue. He expressed a desire to read Torah and he became the youngest who was afforded the honor of reading from the Torah on Shabbat. On our way home from his most recent Shabbat torah reading, Gabriel gave me the answer to my question. Here are his exact words:

“What Reading Torah Means to Me
By Gabriel Leff

“Reading Torah is amazing to me because I’m reading the words G-d passed on to Moses thousands of years ago, the words our sages had pondered and we still questions today. There is so much to learn from Torah, not only G-d’s commandments, but also human nature as well as ethics and morals. Beyond what...”

The entire Savannah community is cordially invited to the 99th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Educational Alliance Wednesday May 18th, 2011 7pm

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,Chair by Marcia Konter, presents the following slate for nomination to the JEA Board of Directors:

Office
President Paul Kulbersh
Vice President Jeffery Lasley
Secretary-Treasurer Steve Greenberg
Chair, Communications Committee Allan Ratner
Executive Director Adam Solender
Savannah Jewish Federation

Nominees for 2-year term ending 2013
Michelle Allan
Meredith Bodziner
Russell Bridges
Norman Dolgoff
Louis Freedman
Carol Greenberg
Amy Kaminsky
Joanne Kooden
Arlene Ratner
Degant Ruben

Current Board Members serving 2-year term ending 2012
Carole Cohen
Sandy Goodman
Sally Greenberg
Gale Hirsh
Allison Konter
Alan Lowe
Joshua Reeves
Tricia Rosenthal
David Rubnitz
Raymond Smith

Savannah Jewish News
Copyright © 2011. All Rights Reserved
George Burns? Sylvan Byck?

Once on a trip to Israel, traveling with his wife Judy and friends, Sylvan Byck crossed paths with George Burns. The group was visiting a college to which Sylvan had contributed monetarily. They arrived on campus unannounced. Sylvan didn't want a special tour or any kind of VIP treatment; he just wanted to see where his dollars had gone. Coming upon an alphabetical tribute to the donors, they found Sylvan's name. It was right below that of GEORGE BURNS! His friends chuckle about it to this day. Did it mean Sylvan was as famous as George Burns? Did it mean they were two of a kind? Whatever it meant, I would say George Burns was in very fine company.

Our community lost another irreplaceable member last month with Sylvan's death. He was a very strong and decisive man. His vision was always clear, no matter what the challenge. Those who didn't know him might perceive him as gruff or intimidating, but those closest to him knew him as a man with a very gentle heart. Charitable and caring, he helped many quietly.

Friends describe Sylvan as a giant among men -- in stature, in knowledge and in compassion. "He always knew how things should be done; admired detail, and reached for perfection. His advice was "do it right or don't get involved."

Sylvan was committed to the J.E.A. and Congregation Mickve Israel; Judy was devoted to the Federation. Combined, their support for the Jewish community grew exponentially, and all of us benefitted.

Why Sylvan's devotion to the Alliance? Probably for many reasons, but I was told his father owned the contracting firm that built the center on Abercorn. Somewhere in the course of construction, the JEA ran short of funds. Sylvan's father completed the building, absorbing the loss. Recognizing its value to our community, the Alliance became his passion and he continued to support it for the rest of his life. Out of the love and respect for his father it became Sylvan's passion as well. What a legacy for a father to leave his community. What a son to care for his father's legacy so well.

The Federation joins me in saying goodbye to a remarkable man and a very good friend.

 Truly A Measure

“A good friend is a tower of strength; to find one is to find a treasure.” - Ben Strach

Next month we "add another picture to the President's Hall" when Scott Samuels finishes his term at the Jewish Educational Alliance. Being president is a long journey. For Scott, it has been over a decade in the making - committee work, coaching, and chairmanship, followed by a two year stint in each of the officer positions. If you ask me, I'd say his presidency was in the making over a lifetime.

Scott has been a tireless promoter and leader of the JEA. Not a day has gone by (save Shabbos) that I have not spoken with Scott numerous times a day. We talk about the history of the institution, day to day challenges, and future ideas. We speak about the iron pipes that are rusting in the walls, the wonder of children attending various programs, and senior programming. A typical conversation begins, “What if we...” and off we go on another discussion. I'm not sure if Title Pawn has done any business over the past two years while Scott has been president. It is hard to imagine that any one person has enough to give to his vocation while giving so much to the JEA.

When I first came to interview in Savannah, the Search Committee assigned Scott to take me around the JEA. He wasn't shy in describing the challenges that an aging facility presents. It was a very hot afternoon, I was wearing a suit and tie, and Scott felt obliged to take me into every closet, to see the chiller in action, and to get a tour of the boilers. Even with the maintenance challenges around every corner, he was so proud of the building and so happy to be showing it to me. Scott has missed "nary a step" during his family's personal challenges. Always putting family first (as it should be), Scott has managed to continue attending committee meetings. Even during the most difficult times he has remained at the other end of a computer or phone - always asking, always encouraging.

Lay-professional relationships are often defined with each person playing a very specific role. Typically, the lay leader determines the policy and the professional is in charge of implementation. The effectiveness of the relationship is determined by how complimentary the personalities are. Scott has always made me feel like an equal partner, has given me enough independence to lead, and has been a true partner. We have been complimentary partners.

While our relationship only dates for 3½ years, I feel like Scott has been a friend for a lifetime. While I'll miss him as president, I know he'll always be my friend, and that is truly a treasure.
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC, March 21, 2011 — Congregation Beth Yam will receive the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism’s coveted Irving J. Fain Award for Outstanding Synagogue Social Action Programming, one of the highest honors available to congregations within the Reform Jewish Movement. Winners of the Fain Award have been chosen from a pool of more than 900 synagogues and exemplify the passion for social justice that is the hallmark of Reform Judaism.

Congregation Beth Yam receives this award for its Hunger and Homeless Coalition, an interfaith network of CBY synagogue and local churches to feed the hungry and provide shelter to the homeless. The coalition has implemented several local programs to meet the needs of the local community, including Backpack Buddies, a soup kitchen and the creation of a directory of social service resources.

“Social justice is such an essential component to our Movement,” said Dr. Cheryl Gutmann, Chair of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. “As Reform Jews, we are commanded to be God’s partners in standing up for the voiceless and fixing what is broken in our society. The winners of the Irving J. Fain Award for Outstanding Synagogue Social Action Programming justly embody what it means to profoundly pursue tikkun olam—repairing the world. Their innovation in the pursuit of justice is truly inspiring.”

Established in 1983, the Fain Awards recognize Irving J. Fain, a dedicated member of the Commission on Social Action who served as Chair for a decade and is considered a social justice icon in the Reform Movement. The award is given biennially to select congregations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to social justice in their social action programming.

The Fain Awards will be presented during the Religious Action Center’s Consultation on Conscience, May 1 – 3, 2011, the Reform Movement’s flagship social justice conference. Each synagogue’s award-winning program will be depicted in a booklet that will be disseminated widely to provide examples of best practices. They also will be available on the Religious Action Center’s online program bank at www.rac.org.

The Commission on Social Action is a joint instrumentality of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism and its affiliates. The Commission oversees the work of the Religious Action Center.

Let’s see...What am I going to do this summer?
I could sit in front of the TV all day
I could torture my little sister
I could play with the red ants in the backyard
I could destroy Daddy’s power tools
I could whine endlessly, "I’m bored"
I could become a video game expert with 10 hours of play a day
I could sleep till 11am and then have trouble falling asleep at night
I could do experiments with the family dog
I could teach myself how to use the mixer and blender

OR

I could go to JEA Camp Savannah where
They have two weeks of Camp Invention
I can meet the Israeli Scouts and learn new songs and games
I can make new friends
They have the best counselors in the world!
I can learn new sports like hockey, soccer, and lacrosse
I can become a more confident swimmer!
Gershon will teach us about Israel
I’m going to excel during Color War
They have the new TAG Torah, Avodah, Gemilut Chasidim program to teach Jewish values in a fun, thoughtful, and meaningful way.

They create memories to last a lifetime.

Sign up today for JEA Camp Savannah
Never Again?

By Dr. Misha Galperin

We have heard the words “never again” dozens if not hundreds of times. In association with the Holocaust we all know what these words mean. We will not tolerate the decimation of our people ever again. We have our own homeland, our own army, and the collective memory of the Jewish people. These are ever-present reminders that we remember the past from a position of strength and determination. We will not suffer oppression again.

We say “never again” not only when we as Jews are oppressed by others but when any nation in our global family is oppressed or vulnerable to injustice. We speak from the heart and from personal experience. We give the anguished a voice. We don’t only talk about collective responsibility. We live it. Anything else will not do. Never again. Never, ever again.

And yet could we speak as confidently about the way that we care for the family is oppressed or vulnerable to injustice. We speak from the heart and from personal experience. We give the anguished a voice. We don’t only talk about collective responsibility. We live it. Anything else will not do. Never again. Never, ever again.

It’s true. Twenty-five percent of Holocaust survivors in Israel must choose between meals and medication, a choice few of us will ever have to make. Those who eat often do so alone. They have outlived one of history’s greatest dictators only to find themselves without companionship and the love and protection of a community that should never have let them down. But we have.

We have relinquished our responsibility to our very own heroes. The Jewish Agency is doing something about it. We are partnering with other agencies and non-profits, including the Savannah Jewish Federation, and creating new programs to better daily living conditions for aging survivors living in distress.

JAFI supports the Amigour Sheltered Housing project to provide safe living conditions for low-income seniors who are survivors. JAFI is also a sponsor of Project HEART, the Holocaust Era Asset Restitution Taskforce, that provides the tools, strategy, and information so that the Government of Israel and its partners can get survivors and their families much needed funding. We can never repay survivors for what they lost, but we can and must ensure fair restitution.

In Israel and in our Jewish tradition, our past is our future. We become more compassionate by showing compassion. We become more giving by sharing our blessings. We become more sensitive by making sure that the dignity of the elderly. We are supposed to honor those who have outlived one of history’s greatest dictators only to find themselves without companionship and the love and protection of a community that should never again experience pain and oppression? We cannot. We cannot because over 80,000 Holocaust survivors are living at or below the poverty line in Israel today.

We cannot because thousands of survivors live in unsafe housing conditions, rely on welfare agencies and can barely make it to the end of the month.

Jewish law tells us to stand before the dignity of the elderly. We are supposed to honor those who have profound wisdom to share, especially those who have faced humanity’s darkest hour. But instead, we sit passively while our only witnesses to last century’s devastating losses live out their last days alone and often hungry.

Dr. Misha Galperin is the CEO and President of the Jewish Agency for Israel International Development. The Jewish Agency for Israel is a partner and beneficiary of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

For more information on how you can help, please contact the Savannah Jewish Federation at 912.355.8111 or Yael Shmookler at the Jewish Agency for Israel at 727.362.3389 /yaelsh@jaui.org.

Jewish Agency for Israel

May 2011

www.savj.org

Yom Hashoah. Never again will a Holocaust survivor go without a meal. Never again will a Holocaust survivor go without safe housing. Never again will a Holocaust survivor live without a friend. Never again will a Holocaust survivor suffer indignity after suffering the world’s worst indignities. Say it with me and mean it.

Dr. Misha Galperin is the CEO and President of the Jewish Agency for Israel International Development. The Jewish Agency for Israel is a partner and beneficiary of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

For more information on how you can help, please contact the Savannah Jewish Federation at 912.355.8111 or Yael Shmookler at the Jewish Agency for Israel at 727.362.3389 /yaelsh@jaui.org.

Jewish Agency for Israel

May 2011

www.savj.org

Yom Hashoah. Never again will a Holocaust survivor go without a meal. Never again will a Holocaust survivor go without safe housing. Never again will a Holocaust survivor live without a friend. Never again will a Holocaust survivor suffer indignity after suffering the world’s worst indignities. Say it with me and mean it.

Dr. Misha Galperin is the CEO and President of the Jewish Agency for Israel International Development. The Jewish Agency for Israel is a partner and beneficiary of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

For more information on how you can help, please contact the Savannah Jewish Federation at 912.355.8111 or Yael Shmookler at the Jewish Agency for Israel at 727.362.3389 /yaelsh@jaui.org.

Jewish Agency for Israel

May 2011

www.savj.org

Yom Hashoah. Never again will a Holocaust survivor go without a meal. Never again will a Holocaust survivor go without safe housing. Never again will a Holocaust survivor live without a friend. Never again will a Holocaust survivor suffer indignity after suffering the world’s worst indignities. Say it with me and mean it.

Dr. Misha Galperin is the CEO and President of the Jewish Agency for Israel International Development. The Jewish Agency for Israel is a partner and beneficiary of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

For more information on how you can help, please contact the Savannah Jewish Federation at 912.355.8111 or Yael Shmookler at the Jewish Agency for Israel at 727.362.3389 /yaelsh@jaui.org.
2011 Matthew J. Cranman Endowment Fund Recipient Chosen

By Karen Cranman

The Matthew J. Cranman Endowment Fund is pleased to announce the 2011 recipient of the upcoming Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teacher’s Program, Elizabeth Holland. Ms. Holland is an Honors and Advanced Placement English and Literature teacher at Herschel V. Jenkins High School.

The Cranman Family established this fund in 1999 in memory of their son and grandson, Matthew J. Cranman. The goal of the endowment is to deepen teachers’ knowledge and strengthen their ability to implement Holocaust Studies in the classroom. In doing so, these participants are better equipped to teach a new generation about the Holocaust, Jewish Resistance, and how the lessons of the past serve as warnings for the present and future.

The Holocaust & Jewish Resistance Teachers Program is sponsored by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, American Federation of Teachers Education Chapter, and Jewish Labor Committee with active support of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and others. The program is for teachers of all faith backgrounds who teach the Holocaust in the classroom.

Beth, like those highly qualified recipients before her, will be able to incorporate her experiences in Washington, Germany, Poland, and Auschwitz into her curriculum. Among the important places that will be visited will be the United States Holocaust Museum, Berlin, Auschwitz, and Yad Vashem.

Ms. Holland stated that she was extremely excited and appreciative of the opportunity to travel and learn. She feels honored to be entrusted with this incredible learning experience.

The Cranman family is proud to have such a qualified and enthusiastic participant.

If you would like to make a donation to help support this worthy fund so that teachers in the future can have the opportunity to learn how to teach and better implement Holocaust studies in the classroom, please go to www.savj.org, find the Ways to Give tab on the left and then look for Holocaust Education Funds.

Did you know?

Lag B’Omer occurs thirty-three days after the start of Passover, the 33rd day of Counting the Omer. Its name comes from the Hebrew letters, lamed and gimmel, which together equal 33, according to gematriah in the Hebrew numerical system. On the 33rd day of the Omer, Rabbi Akiva’s students stopped dying. Also on the 33rd day of the Omer, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, the author of the central work of Kabbalah called the Zohar, died. His death is a celebration because on the day of his death he revealed the light of the Torah to his students. In modern day Israel, Lag B’Omer campfires are pervasive among both traditional and secular Jews. Tens of thousands of Chasidic Jews make a pilgrimage to Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai’s grave at Mt. Meron, where huge bonfires speckle the landscape.

Free Children’s Books and Music

Register at www pjlibrary.org or call 912-355-8111

The PJ Library in the Greater Savannah Area is generously funded by:

Jane Slotin and Leon & Nancy Slotin

Savannah Jewish Federation

Harold Grinspoon Foundation
Kol HaKavod to Jerald Gottlieb for successful Israel advocacy seminars led by Neil Lazarus with Rambam Day School, Shalom School and the Community.

A Special Thank You of Support to

Robert Bono
Amy & Charlie Garfunkel
Sarah & Jerald Gottlieb
Sally & Steven Greenberg
Susan & Danny Klugman
LeeAnn & Jeff Kole
Harriett & Paul Kulbersh
Stephanie & Michael Lichtman
Myra & Jerry Portman
Beth Vantosh & Kenneth Richards
Peggy & Harold Yellin
Sheree & Larry Zaslavsky

May 15th 2:00 PM

Yom Ha’Atzmaut

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY
AND ISRAEL MEMORIAL DAY

Exploring Israel - Children activities - Special Ceremony
Israeli food - Israeli music and videos

At the JEA

Chain Links project is hunting for group Confirmation Class or newspaper pictures to complete this page in Savannah’s Jewish History. Many photos between 1880 and 1934 are missing as well as the following years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1880 to 1934</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1935/5695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936/5696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937/5697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938/5698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939/5699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What’s Classical Reform Judaism?

By B.H. Levy

Savannah Jewish News presents a two-part article on Classical Reform Judaism. Part 1 reviews the development of Classical Reform from its historical perspective. Part 2 to be published in the June 2011 issue will describe the enduring significance of its theological principles.

Like most liberal religious groups, today’s Reform Judaism embraces a broad spectrum of interpretation, belief, and practice appropriate to a liberal religious movement that affirms individual and congregational freedom and autonomy. “Mainstream” Reform in contemporary America reflects the widespread embrace of traditional Jewish ritual and observance that has characterized the movement’s theological perspectives, liturgies, and approach to observance over the past forty years.

The term “Classical Reform” is the most commonly used expression to denote the historic expression of Reform Judaism, as it developed in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The use of the term “Classical” is admittedly problematic, as it raises the danger of viewing a vital, dynamic expression of religious commitment as antiquarian. Other terms associated with this interpretation are “Prophetic Judaism,” referring to the centrality of the ethical ideals of the Biblical Prophets, and “Progressive Reform,” reflecting both the dynamic element of change, as well as a spiritual and social liberalism.

- Historical Background -

This tradition embodies the liberal spiritual ideals, rich intellectual foundations and broad universal vision of the early pioneers of Jewish Reform, initially in Germany, but primarily in the United States. Theologically, Classical Reform was grounded in the Biblical tradition of the Hebrew Prophets, interpreted as the emphasis on ethical action and social justice, rather than on ritual observance or ceremonial law. Intellectually, it was an outgrowth of the modern academic, scientific study of Jewish history and philosophy that emerged in Germany in the early decades of the 19th century. Culturally, it reflected the transformation of Jewish communal life at that time, in response to the emancipation of European Jewry from the social isolation of the ghetto.

In America, the early Reform Movement embraced the pluralistic culture of American democracy and developed a liturgy and rationale reflecting the unique experience of Judaism in the free and open society of the United States. American Reform’s intellectual approach to Biblical interpretation and authority, as well as its progressive response to social issues, also reflected the influence of the development of liberal religion generally in the United States in the 19th Century.

The Classical Reform tradition is rooted in the legacy of the “radical” wing of the early Reform movement, which sought a substantial revision of both synagogue worship and theological principles. Its leading rabbinic advocates were David Einhorn, Emil G. Hirsch and Kaufmann Kohler, as well as the more “moderate” Isaac Mayer Wise. The first major statement of principles of Reform Judaism known as the “Pittsburgh Platform,” adopted by both viewpoints in 1885, remains a formative expression of historic Reform teaching. In particular, its interpretation of the primarily religious nature of Jewish identity, and its emphasis on the ethical and spiritual, rather than the ritual nature of Judaism, continue to influence many Classical Reform Jews today. The subsequent formulation of the Movement’s ideals, known as “The Guiding Principles” was ratified by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in Pittsburgh, Ohio in 1937. This document represented a significantly different focus in its affirmation of Jewish “peoplehood,” and reflected the trend toward reclamation of traditional ritual. Despite the debates on the role of Zionism that divided the two ends of the Reform spectrum in the 1940s and 1950s, what is now called “Classical” in fact remained the broader Movement’s predominant worship style and synagogue culture, until the significant shifts that influenced a major neo-traditionalist trend in the 1960s. Much of this redirection of American Reform Judaism was a response to the tragedy of the Holocaust and to the new dynamic of Jewish identity engendered by the birth of the State of Israel in 1948. These trends were further reflected in the two subsequent formulations of theology and practice by the CCAR over the past forty years— the “Centenary Perspectives” of 1975, and the new “Statement of Principles” adopted in Pittsburgh in 1999. These platforms represented the continuing emphasis on ritual observance and the centrality of the State of Israel for Jewish identity. Classical Reformers fully embrace the theology and practice by the CCAR of the State of Israel for Jewish identity.

This article derives with permission from its original author, Rabbi Howard A. Ber- man, the Executive Director of The Society for Classical Reform Judaism. Founded in 2008 by a group of rabbis and lay leaders from congregations throughout the United States, the Society is the national voice of advocacy for the broad, universalistic ideals of the Classical Reform tradition. B.H. Levy, Jr is the Society’s founding Board President.

Have you tried the new savj.org?
Community calendar, online donations and much, much more!
JEA Campus Goes Smoke Free

On the recommendation of the JEA Health & Wellness Committee and as part of helping our members to take steps towards a healthier lifestyle, the JEA became Smoke Free on April 15, 2011. The Savannah Smokefree Air ordinance became effective January 1, 2011, to eliminate smoking in all work-places. We took it one step further by requiring that tobacco products not be used on the JEA property.

Signs were posted on the lobby doors and at each driveway entrance to the property so that everyone comes in the building was properly informed.

This law reduces your exposure to second-hand smoke and its associated risks. Tobacco use, particularly smoking, is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Eliminating smoking in public places will reduce the number of tobacco-related illnesses and deaths which number more than 11,000 each year in Georgia alone. This law provides cleaner and safer environments for us to live, work and play.

For more information on how to quit, you can contact the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line. They provide free counseling, support and referral services for tobacco users. Quit Line services are available free of charge for Georgia residents ages 13 and over who want to quit. Call 1-877-270-STOP (7867) or visit http://dhr.georgia.gov/gasmokefreeair for more information about cessation resources.

You’re Invited

JEA 99th Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2011
7:00-9:00 pm
Dairy Dessert

Say “thank you” to our retiring Board Members, welcome our in-coming Board Members and President and enjoy being a part of the JEA - The Home of Our Community!

New JEA Members

The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset!

(New Members as of 3/10/11-4/8/11)

Stephen Beasley
Gregory & Jennifer Borak
Mary Casem
Lisa Clark
Regina Cobb
Andria Dent
John Duncan
Ira Harris
Wanda Hughes
Caitlin Jadlocki
Sandy McCloud
Pfeffer McMaken
Dean Moesch
Mark Payne
Patra Rickman
Greg Schroeder
Shirley Sessions
Laura Walker
Amanda Watkins

JEA Donations
(3/9/11-4/12/11)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND
In memory of Marvin Arkin
Marvin H. Shoob
Marilyn Seeman

JEA BUILDING FUND
In honor of Bill & Sharon Sand becoming grandparents
Sarah Danemek & Adam Solender
In honor of Arthur Altman’s speedy recovery
Doris & Amie Goldstein
In honor of Sally Greenberg
Mary & Richard Bodziner
In memory of Sylvan Byck
Sarah Danemek & Adam Solender
Myron & Fran Kaminsky
Stephen Myers
JC Lewis Ford
Sylvia Yellin
Gail Wexler
Geri & Buddy Hudson
Nancy N. Lewis
Gale & David Hirsch
Paul & Mariet Kubersh
Esther & Aaron Buchbaum
Eva Odezin
John & Barbara Lientz
Mrs. Herbert Cury
Derek Brown/Dolphin Magic Tours
Sylvia & Burton Udinsky

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS
In honor of Murray & Sharon Galin
Dick & Joanne Hochman
In honor of Phil Scharf’s 85th birthday
In honor of Frances Wagger’s 90th birthday
Muriel & Murray Bono
In memory of Norton Melaver
Marvin H. Shoob
In honor of Sharon Galin
Joanne Hochman
In memory of Sylvan Byck
John & Carol Divine
In honor of Frances Wagger’s 90th birthday
Sylvia & Burton Udinsky

PEARL & JOSEPH GEFFEN ADULT EDUCATION SERIES FUND
In honor of Eric Meyerhoff’s speedy recovery
In honor of Chrissie Karp’s speedy recovery
In honor of Dot Stuck’s speedy recovery
In honor of Alan Lowe’s speedy recovery
In honor of Jerry Kaminsky’s speedy recovery
In honor of Frances Wagger’s 90th birthday
In honor of Gerald Caplan’s appointment to the MMC Hospital Board
In honor of Ed Wexler’s grandchild
In honor of Jason & Sara’s engagement
In honor of the birth of Stan & Rose Konter’s grandson
In memory of Chaim Melamed
In memory of Norton Melaver
In memory of Bailee Kronowitz
In memory of Isadore Karpf
In memory of Norman Kaplan
Adelle & Ted Geffen

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of Sylvan Byck
Victor & Elise Shernoff

JEA FITNESS FUND
In honor of Frances Wagger’s birthday
Linda Karpf
In honor of Simone Wilker’s 65th birthday
Brenda & Patrick Satter & Bernice Elman

BERTHA & HYMAN KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND
In memory of Basil Lukin
Elaine Becker

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In memory of Abe Klugman
In memory of Evelyn Scharf
In memory of Dr. Barry Levine
Harry & Vicki Center
Upcoming Events
May 1—Family Fun at Starlight Pottery. 2-4 pm. Calling families of all ages for an afternoon of painting pottery and fun. Contact Michelle Allan to RSVP or for more information.

A Movie & Beer!
Adults 21 and Over—Join us at the JEA for a movie & a beer!
May 5th—7 Days (Shiva)—It is 1991 in the midst of the first Gulf War and Israel is under daily missile attacks. In the Ohayon family, tragedy has hit as beloved Maurice has suddenly died. The family gathers for the traditional seven days of mourning (shiva). Jealousy, gossip, long-term rivalry and financial problems come to the fore, as each of the siblings is faced with his frustrated ambitions.

All movies shown at 7:00 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.

Chaverim / I.T. Campers
Week #1 - June 13th-17th
Camp Invention (Create)
Week #2-June 20th-24th
Spirit Week
Week #3 - June 27th-July 1st
Wet N Wild
Week #4 - July 5th-8th
Safari Adventure/Hockey
Week #5 - July 11th-15th
Harry Potter Week
Week #6 - July 18th-22nd
Camp Invention (Spark)
Week #7 - July 25th-29th
Glee Week
Week #8 - Aug. 1st-5th
Lacrosse/Gymnastics
Week #9 - Aug. 8th-12th
Color War

The Miriam Slotin & Jack Malitz Levy Memorial Concert
Sunday, May 8th
2 pm
Back by popular demand
Elliot & Ian Finkel

Elliot Finkel is a pianist, conductor and composer of great magnitude and versatility. Elliot has appeared on the great stages of the world including Carnegie Hall, Hollywood Bowl, London Palladium and the White House. He has played hundreds of recitals across the globe, both as a soloist and together with his brother, Ian Finkel, xylophone virtuoso. He has co-starred on Broadway with Michael Feinstein, Sid Caesar and with Ian and their father, Fyvush Finkel. He has played and conducted for Ginger Rogers, Milton Berle, Danny Thomas, Regis Philbin and Theodore Bikel.

FREE Beer, wine, beverages and popcorn
This free program is made possible by the JEA Endowment Fund in memory of Jack Malitz Levy and Miriam Slotin Levy.

Join the JEA Tornadoes in 2011
Ages 5 & Up
First Practice: Tuesday, May 17th
8 & under—6:00-6:45pm
9 & up—6:45-7:45pm
Need that extra week of fun before school starts?
Stay for an extra week of fun and games.
Available for all age groups.

REGISTER NOW!
Discounts for:
JEA Members
Multiple Children
Please see www.savj.org to download registration forms
Camp Meet & Greet
Sunday, June 12th, 1-3 pm
Meet our counselors, friends old and new, get your camp shirt & dip in our pool!
Post Camp
August 15th-19th
Need that extra week of fun before school starts?
Stay for an extra week of fun and games.
Available for all age groups.

REGISTRATION:
$100/ MEMBERS $125/ NON-MEMBERS
Call Stephanie at 355-8111 for more info.
**Camp Invention Challenges Campers to Spark Their Creativity**

The 2011 camp season is slowly creeping around the corner and soon young campers will be parading around the JEA. This year the Children's/Camp department has been working hard to plan a program that will surely create memories to last a lifetime. Some of the camper’s favorite weeks will be returning again including the ever so popular Camp Invention®. This particular program infuses academics with a camp setting that fuses academics with a camp setting that in-fuses kids to explore fun modules of History, Math, Science and Arts. In the past, Camp Invention® was usually offered during the first week of camp for the 1st – 5th graders. However, this year we will be offering it twice, during the 1st and 6th week of camp.

During the 1st week, the campers will be entering a Create program! Throughout the week they will cycle through 4 modules (Planet Zak, Saving Sludge City, Power Play and Ride the Physics) daily to creatively come up with games of their own. In the 6th week of camp, the 1st-5th grade campers will tackle the Spark program! As with the Create program, campers will cycle through 4 new modules (Edison’s Workshop, Wild, An Atomic Journey and Cypher Club). For example, in the module Wild, campers will embark on a journey to explore some of the most amazing animals and what makes them so unique. While in the module An Atomic Journey, campers will investigate the science of what makes balls bounce using basic chemistry and fun experiments!

**Camp Invention® is sure to be a huge success again this year. Space is limited for these particular weeks of camp. Unlike most surrounding Camp Invention® sites, ours runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to incorporate some pool time and other fun camp activities and is also one the cheapest in town. To ensure that your child doesn’t miss out on all the fun, swing by the JEA and register today!**

---

**Need a Summer Job?**

**Become a JEA Summer Camp Counselor!**

Each day, new challenges are met, friendships are formed, and memories are made at Camp Savannah. We are currently interviewing for Summer Camp Counselors for the 2011 season.

Those applying should possess the following qualities:

- Knowledge and experience working in a camp setting, preferred.
- Ability to be an excellent role model and mature while still remaining youthful.
- Ability to follow supervision and instructions.
- Must be responsible, creative, motivated and professional.
- Flexibility with regard to tasks, work hours, changes in program or plans.
- First Aid and CPR certified (training provided by camp).
- Love the outdoors.

Must be able to commit for at least majority, if not all, of the summer! (June 13th-August 12th)

We are interviewing for the following positions: Sr./Jr. Counselors, Art, Sports and Swimming Instructors

- **Sr. Counselors** (College Freshmen and up. Early Childhood Education Majors and Teachers are a plus but not required)
- **Jr. Counselors** (High School Jr/Sr’s)
- **CIT (Counselors in Training)** 9th & 10th graders. (Volunteers)
- **Specialty Counselors** (Art, Sports, Drama/Dance, Cheerleading/Gymnastics)

Please stop by the JEA Front Desk to get your application!

---

**Yom Ha’atzmaut**

**Israel Independence Day!**

**Sunday, May 15th**

2-5 pm

at the JEA

Celebrate Israel’s 63rd birthday with an exciting ceremony, Israeli-themed children’s activities, Israeli food and music and lots of fun!
**Food Choices that Can Help to Decrease Your Likelihood of Getting Cancer**

Governments throughout the world rarely tell their populations what the individual can do to prevent a disease occurring in the first instance. While all the emphasis is put on building more hospitals, better equipped hospitals and reducing waiting lists, lowering the need for hospital space by preventing diseases largely gets ignored.

Cancer is a good example of a disease where its strike rate can be greatly reduced by the individual taking precautionary measures. The incidence of cancer can, in some cases, be reduced by more than 50 percent by taking simple preventative actions.

The first preventative measure that should be taken is adequate exposure to direct sunlight. The effect of direct sunlight on the skin produces vitamin D, which is vital to good health. While some vitamin D can be obtained from food sources, the individual is unlikely to get enough from sources other than the sun. The exposure for white people need only be 10-15 minutes a day 3 or 4 times a week. However, the further you live from the equator, the more exposure you need. It should be noted that people with dark skin pigmentation require 20 x the exposure stated above to create the same amount of vitamin D. Sufficient levels of vitamin D are crucial to calcium absorption in the intestines.

The individual can further reduce his/her susceptibility to this disease by the choice of foods eaten at meal times. Limit your intake of meat, butter, eggs and cheese. These animal fats increase your risk of developing certain types of cancer (breast, prostate, intestine and pancreas). Eat more fish and poultry instead.

Eating a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables (tomatoes, carrots, leeks, cabbage, broccoli and onions etc) helps protect the body against cancer of the colon, stomach, rectum and lungs. These are also rich in vitamins A, B and C, all of which help to fight free radicals and thereby prevent cancer.

Eat wholegrain bread for its fiber content. Fiber improves intestinal functions and helps protect against colon cancer.

Get as much vitamin C as possible by eating fruits like kiwi, apple, black currant, raw turnip, sorrel, raw green pepper, raw green cabbage and citrus fruits. Also season salads with parsley which is very rich in vitamin C.

Avoid smoked, salted, and barbecued foods which contain substances that are potentially carcinogenic, especially as far as stomach cancer is concerned.

Due to the variables with food dependent upon where it came from, how it is stored, how fresh it is and how it is cooked, it may be prudent to take a multivitamin and mineral tablet to ensure there are no deficiencies. The vitamins crucial to preventing cancer are A, the B-complex group, C, D and E. As vitamins are largely ineffective without minerals, it is best to take a combined vitamin and mineral tablet. These are readily available in health food shops, or can be ordered over the Internet for delivery via the mail.

Don’t let yourself get too fat: persons who are 40% or more above their normal weight stand a much higher risk of getting cancer.

The above simple measures should cut in half the likelihood of you contacting cancer in your lifetime!

**Art at the JEA**

**Richard Law - Biography**

Born in Savannah, Richard Law’s work is inspired by his upbringing in the deep South, black culture and the landscapes of the low country of Georgia and South Carolina.

His paintings reflect the experiences of his life. “I paint things that are around me and things that I grew up with,” he said, “such as barbershop pieces, musicians, container ships that pass through Savannah’s ports, and museum pieces, many of which portray low country scenes of Georgia and South Carolina, and their inhabitants.”

Law’s work is a blend of folk art, jazz and contemporary, all drawing from his unique background and religious principles. ‘Our life experiences tell a story, and there’s a story behind every painting that I put on canvas.’

**Roosevelt Watson - Biography**

Roosevelt Watson was born in Jacksonville, FL, and has been painting for over 30 years. He received an associate of Graphic Design degree from the Tampa Technical Institute and then studied at The Atlanta College of Art, which is now the SCAD Atlanta Campus.

His first show was in the May Cohens Department Store in Jacksonville and his art in that show depicted early religious influences. As he has matured as an artist, he has mastered several techniques which display his life, influences and experiences. His styles range from abstracts, caricatures and landscapes, to portraits and surrealism.

Roosevelt has received several design and drawing awards including first place in the 3rd Annual Juried Art Show in Jacksonville, and the 14th Annual Art Fair at the Telfair Art Museum in Savannah. Several private collectors have requested commissioned artwork from Roosevelt. Roosevelt has also completed commissioned pieces including sculptures, a mural and a 25th Anniversary vase for a church in Jacksonville.

Roosevelt is the co-creator and founder of Deepressionist, a movement begun with two fellow artists, and they have had a documentary centered on their collective work.

**May Artists—Richard Law & Roosevelt Watson**

Artwork available for viewing May 1-31, 2011
Reception May 19, 2011, 6:30-8:30 pm
It’s A Funny Thing

A Humorous Look at Jewish Life and Savannah

By Melinda Stein

May’s a special time in Savannah -- graduations, weddings, warm weather, and especially, school’s out. The kids are delirious about the start of summer vacation while moms reach for aspirin (or Manischewitz) bottles.

Here’s some humor from and about the younger generation. The first three are true stories from Savannah children.

A four year old girl came home from her pre-school class, proud of having learned to recite, “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our G-d, the Lord is One.” Mother praised the child, who then asked, “But Mommy, when is the Lord our G-d going to be?”

An eight year old boy at a Passover Seder, after asking the Four Questions, said, “I have another question. I learned at school all about the things that happened -- slavery, the Exodus, and crossing the Red Sea -- to the Children of Israel. But…where were their parents?”

I once divided my fifth grade Hebrew School class into teams for a Jewish Knowledge competition. Team A was asked, “Name three men of the Torah.” The kids yelled out, “Abraham!” “Moses!” “David!” Then Team B received a similar question, to name three women from the Torah. No answers were forthcoming. “Come on,” I urged, “think!” Finally, a hand was raised and a voice asked tentatively, “Mrs. Abraham, Mrs. Moses, and Mrs. David…?"

A curious youngster asked his mother, “How did human beings come to be?” Mom replied, “Well, in the beginning G-d created Adam and Eve, the first people. Then they had children, who had children, and so on. And we’re descended from them.”

The boy then asked his father the same question. Dad’s response was, “Well, in the beginning, the Lord our G-d created Adam and Eve, the first people. Then they had children, who had children, and so on. And we’re descended from them.”

The youngster returned to his mother and asked why her answer and the father’s answer were so different.

“Oh,” said mom, “that’s because I was talking about my family, and Dad was talking about his!”

Have you tried the new savj.org?

Community calendar, online donations and much, much more!
The Savannah Jewish Federation proudly provides space for a half-page ad to each local congregation in each issue of the Savannah Jewish News.

AGUDATH ACHIM

ANNUAL CRUISE RAFFLE AND DINNER

The grand prize winner will be able to choose from many cruise destinations of their choice by Oceania Cruises or they can choose $5000 cash.

The tickets are only $125 each or you can purchase 3 for $250

Tickets include a fun “Summer Spectacular” dinner, open bar and other prizes. Only 500 Tickets will be sold

**To Purchase your ticket(s) please call the Synagogue office at 352-4737 or you can come by, our address is 9 Lee Boulevard**

Join Us At Mickve Israel

Mickve Israel extends to you an open invitation!

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

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

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

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

For more information on the third oldest Jewish congregation in America founded in 1733, which is right in your community, contact Mickve Israel at 912.233.1547 or visit www.mickveisrael.org.
Four Questions for the Rest of the Year
Jerry Portman

1. Having grown up in Savannah, what do you appreciate most about Savannah now and what do you miss about Savannah of the past?

Having visited many big cities around the country, I now appreciate the quality of life that Savannah offers. We have a great climate all year long. We’re close to many outdoor recreational activities like rivers and the beach. There are lots of cultural opportunities throughout the year. Savannah is rich in history which can be seen and visited in the downtown area. Our vibrant Jewish history is not only evident within our community; it can now be visited in our Savannah Jewish archives at the Georgia Historical Society building.

I miss the JEA as it was when I was a child. Almost everyone lived near the JEA and spent most of their free time at the JEA, participating in lots of activities in the community as I did. There was the community Hebrew School, 4 days a week in the afternoon. Then, there was gym class before, arts & crafts or modeling class afterwards and AZA, young Judea or Boy Scouts in the evening. Once school was out for the year, we lived at the JEA with summer camp and the pool. Today we are all spread out living in different areas, with many different interests.

2. You and your family have a very successful, multi-generational musical instrument store, what keeps you going in the business?

I was raised in the business as a teenager and beyond. What keeps me going is the love of music and more importantly the chance to help others learn and enjoy the ability to play and perform their favorite music on an instrument of their choice.

New musicians today find that learning to play a musical instrument is one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives. We now teach over 500 people a week between the ages of 2 and 80. They are learning how to play all types of brass, woodwind, percussion and string instruments as well as piano and voice. Many customers today who shop at Portman’s Music Superstore are children, grandchildren, or even great-grandchildren of my parents’ customers of yesteryear.

3. As incoming President of Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, what plans do you have for your term that differs from your predecessor that you’ll share with the greater Savannah Jewish community?

Bnai Brith Jacob has been in continuous operation in Savannah in 4 locations for 150 years. Year after year there are many things that each president has to do to preserve the integrity and continuity of the synagogue. During my term I will be facing 2 major projects.

The synagogue needs a new roof on the entire building. Also, our kitchen, which has had minor refurbishments in the past 50 years, now needs an entire overhaul from top to bottom to bring it up to today’s standards.

What else will I do during my term as president... being a community minded person I am going to try to bring more professional Orthodox Jewish people to Savannah to live and be a member of our synagogue, the JEA and our community.

I will also reach out to other synagogues and the JEA to do the same. Another project that I am going to do is to reach out to past members who are no longer affiliated and try to get them back as members of the synagogue and the JEA.

4. Being a synagogue president can be trying position, why did you want to take on the congregational leadership position at BBJ?

Both my mother and father worked for the BB Jacob synagogue all of their lives. My mother served on the building committee of our current synagogue as well as president of the synagogue sisterhood twice. My father served as president of the BB Jacob as well as brotherhood president and he was President of the BB Jacob Chevra Kadisha for many years. It is time for me to step up and fill some of their shoes.

I am going to be the president of the BB Jacob Synagogue to help make sure that our orthodox synagogue will be there for holidays and with a minyan twice daily for our children and grandchildren just as it was for our fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers. We must continue the Savannah orthodox way of life Dor L’Dor (From Generation to Generation) and this is my responsibility and privilege.
Seeing Creates a Clarity of Vision

In Parshas Metzora the verse reads, "and for the person being purified, there shall be taken two live, clean birds, cedar wood, crimson thread and hyssop." One who speaks slanderous of other people, not only hurts the feelings of the person they spoke about, but as well displays their own arrogance. The underlying cause of gossip and slander is arrogance, and it breeds contempt and callousness towards others. The cedar symbolizes arrogance and the crimson thread (which obtains its color from a dye derived from an insect), and the hyssop, a lowly bush symbolize humility. These items serve as a formula for serving G-d. We must be proud to serve Hashem, and we must be strong in that conviction and in remaining true to the ideals that G-d wants us to be engulfed in.

As well, we must be humble and without any doubt, understand that all we accomplish is a result of Hashem's desires. I am humbled when I walk the hallways of Rambam and see all that our children are learning; Math, Science, LA, Social Studies, Chumash, Navi, Jewish History, Jewish Holidays, Israel, the Alphabet, the Aleph Bet...there is never a completed list, ideas come up all the time. At the same time it would be easy to become arrogant with all the pride I feel due to all that is accomplished in Rambam, however, the fact remains there are still too many who don't know what Rambam is all about. What they know is not what they have seen for themselves. That lone thought keeps me humble. I want Jewish education for every Jewish child, and if Rambam can be there for someone for who is not already attending our school, then we still have some reaching out to do. Please help us reach out by taking advantage of our offer to come see what we are all about.

When G-d was creating the world, the verse says, "and G-d saw the light, and it was good." We tend to look closely at what we do to self praise and gratify ourselves on our efforts. Did G-d really need to look to see that the light was good? The gesture was for our benefit. We need to truly look to see the good in things. So I offer again, please come see Rambam for yourself, and you'll have a much clearer perspective of what we are all about.

Shhh … The Kids Are Listening!

"Daddy, would I be dead if Hitler was the president?"

Questions from a child about the Holocaust will often take us by surprise and, therefore, unprepared. Our reaction toward talking to our children about the Holocaust is ambivalent: we want to protect them from discovering the horrors of this time while we want them to learn about our history. More worrying: what if our answers will turn children away from a positive Jewish identification if this is what it meant to be Jewish.

If the Holocaust is difficult for us to understand, how can we possibly explain it to children?

We cannot always control what our kids hear, or when they hear it. It could be a reference in a book, in a movie, or in a discussion. Whatever our own conflicted feelings, avoiding children's questions leaves them vulnerable to distortion and information taken out of context. We leave them unprotected if we leave them unprepared.

The real challenge is to present the facts with enough information but without overwhelming details that might make them feel vulnerable.

The first time I was confronted with this issue as a parent was much earlier than I expected it. My children, then 5 and 6 years old, had a whole week of preparation on the subject in their class in Israel. There, the surrounding reality will force you to address the Holocaust that early: whether it is a friend who is the grandchild of survivors, the woman with numbers tattooed on her arm on the bus, or the sirens and two minutes of silence that is observed by all every Remembrance day. There opportunities for questions are everywhere.

Luckily we don't need to address those questions at such an early age here. Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Authority, who has worked on the age question with psychologists, recommends that outside of Israel children should begin learning about the Holocaust in the 3rd or 4th grade. It also recommended that we do not dismiss questions from younger children but that our answers should emphasize bravery and heroic stories rather than horror and suffering.

Study of the Holocaust is essential, not only because it is part of our past, but also because it will assist our children in developing an understanding of the roots and ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping in any society. It also provides a context for exploring the dangers of remaining silent and indifferent in the face of the oppression of others and it will remind them that democratic institutions are not automatically sustained, and need to be nurtured and protected.

We can often decide how our children learn and be pro-active with the process rather then avoid it. Eventually, they'll discover that humans are capable of terrible things. Not all humans; not all the time. And sometimes, humans are capable of being godly. They'll need to be reminded of this capacity then, too.
The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

SJF/JFNA 2011 CAMPAIGN
In honor of Sharon & Murray Galin
Merry & Richard Bodziner
In memory of Basil Lukin
Millicent Zahn Rudnick
In memory of Norton Melaver
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt

JEWSFAMILY SERVICES FUND
In memory of Abe Klugman
Sara & Sam Jospin

SHALVA FUND
In memory of Basil Lukin
Ira & Sue Ruby

LISA & DANNY KAMINSKY
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AND EDUCATIONAL FUND
In memory of Chaim Melamed
Natalie Gibbons
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt
Carolyn & David Slipakoff

EDWARD & LINDA WEXLER
FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
In memory of Sylvan Byck
In honor of Richard M. Meyerhoff
In appreciation of Harriet M. Meyerhoff
In honor of Sharon Wexler's Birthday
Edward Wexler

RALPH & PAULINE
TENENBAUM FUND FOR SOCIAL SERVICES
In honor of Sheldon Tenenbaum
Merry & Richard Bodziner

ROSS KOODEN B’NAI TZEDEK FUND
In honor of the speedy recovery of
Daniel Ginburg
The Koodens

MATT KLUGMAN B’NAI TZEDEK FUND
In memory of Abe Klugman
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt

Condolences
We express our sympathy to the families of:
Sylvan M. Byck, Jr.
Who died on April 6, 2011
He is survived by his wife, Judy Appel

Byck; one daughter, Donna (Tony) Eichholz; one son, David (Helen) Kelly, and four grandchildren, Amelia Eichholz, Caroline Eichholz, Charlotte Kelly and Kurt Kelly.

Remembrances: Jewish Educational Alliance

Tailoring our services to fit your company and personal requirement.

Allan Ratner
Specializing in all types of Business & Personnel Services

2 Tomochichi Lane · Savannah, GA 31411
Phone: 912.598.5070 · Fax: 912.598.2907 · Mobile: 843.687.1726

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

Here’s a tax tip.
Instead of selling your appreciated securities and paying tax on the resulting capital gains, transfer the securities to Savannah Jewish Federation and save 20% on the taxable gain while receiving an immediate tax deduction based on the fair market value of the securities.

How it works
Transfer the shares to the SJF Foundation. Receive an immediate donation receipt for the market value of the shares.
When the shares are sold, an endowment fund will be established in your name.
The proceeds of your fund can be designated to a community institution or field of interest.
Since only the income is used, your gift ensures that a permanent legacy in your name will exist in perpetuity.

GIFT OF MARKETABLE SECURITIES
Value: $10,000

If you SELL the securities first, then donate the proceeds...
If you TRANSFER the securities to SJF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes payable on gains</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift to SJF</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable receipt issued</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital gains</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift to SJF</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Tax Savings (×30%)</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spring Lamb from Gefilte Girl

Chai y’all!
I love the spring lamb. It’s simply delicious. Funny enough, as a child I really and truly disliked lamb. My mother would lovingly roast a lamb leg in the oven and the aroma seemed to permeate every inch of the house...a wonderful treat for most, but not for me. Nope, I turned my nose up at my plate. My mom and dad would drizzle gravy over the pink meat, add a dollop of mint jelly, chewing and moaning with pleasure. Me? I pushed around my mashed potatoes with my fork and asked to be excused from the table. What changed my stubborn mind might you ask? When I owned a small cafe (by now in my late 20’s) my food purveyor had a great deal on frenched New Zealand lamb racks at a price that I could not refuse. Patrons had been requesting a lamb dish, I was finally in a position to oblige them. The conundrum I then faced was how to prepare the meat in such a way that I could find it palatable. What I created ended up being the most requested recipe that I ever designed. I do hope that you enjoy it.

**Frenched** in butchering means removing the meat, fat and membranes that connect the individual rib bones—gives the lamb rack a clean look.

SAFFRON SCENTED SPRING LAMB LOLLIPOPS

Half the recipe if only doing one lamb rack-
1 onion, chopped
5 cloves garlic, chopped
2 tbs honey
½ cup olive oil
2 pinches saffron
1 teaspoon ground cumin
kosher salt (liberal amount)
cracked pepper
2 “frenched” racks of spring lamb, cut into chops (the “lollipops”)
white wine for deglazing

For the marinade: Put all above ingredients (except lamb) into a food processor, purée until it makes a paste. Marinate the lamb in Ziploc baggies overnight.

To cook: Preheat oven to 350*. Heat olive oil in a sauté pan. Remove lamb from marinade, remove excess marinade with your hands, do not rinse off. Cook the chops in the sauté pan, turning when sides brown. Deglaze the pan with white wine and finish chops in the oven. Cook to desired temperature.

Serve with mango chutney if desired.

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

Jewish Family Services is a program of the Savannah Jewish Federation. It is made possible thanks to your generous support of the Annual Campaign and the support of many generous donors in the community who are committed to take care of the vulnerable and to give a hand up to those in need.

Do You Know What This Is?

If you don’t know what this picture is, consider yourself lucky!

In today’s challenging economy, the Savannah Jewish Federation’s Jewish Family Services has been called on as never before.

Thanks to your support this year we have
- supplied over 120 Food Vouchers to members of our community this year;
- assisted with utility bills on 17 occasions;
- provided social worker case management to scores of families and individuals;
- subsidized rents, paid mortgages, provided shelter, and assisted with tax payments;
- granted funds for scholarship, medicine, clothing, and childcare;
- worked with area professionals to provide dental, medical, and psychological care;
- supported families and individuals confronted with crisis situations or sudden difficulties;
What’s In A Name?

By Nancie Meddin Clark

If you ask Naples, FL resident, Marshall Sutker, “what’s in a name?,” his response might be nearly 2700 relatives (some of them in Savannah) and a multigenerational labor of love.” For the last 25 years, he like his father before him collected names and built the Sutker family tree.

His father, Leonard L. Sutker OBM began collecting family information when they lived in Chicago and Marshall has continued that tradition. Not only has he collected the names but also stories, life statistics and photos of 9 generations, He has managed to trace his ancestors with the help of a Polish researcher, to the period before the use of surnames. From his father’s list of 660 relatives, Marshall has located another 2000 plus.

When Leonard, retired, he and Marshall’s mother, Lillian travelled. Each time they came to a new city or town, he would check the phone book for the name Sutker and call the people. He found relatives in New York, Savannah, Atlanta, Charleston, Charlotte, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale and Israel. Marshall uses other resources as well. With the advent of the Internet he has information from sites like JewishGen.org, Ancestry.com and records from US immigration and census sites.

From Yad Vashem in Israel he found some descendants from part of the family line he thought wiped out during the Holocaust. In the Lomza Verkcin section of their Chicago cemetery, he was able to find his great grandfather, Kielman Sutker. From the Polish National Archives in Lomza, Poland, he was able to enlist the help of Leszek Kolkon, a researcher who located many of the tree’s 18th and 19th century additions.

The family, Marshall was told, came from Czyzewo-Sutki, a small town about 35 kilometers from Lomza and took their name from that location when the government demanded that everyone take a surname. And while Lomza is now Poland, it was Russia when his Kielman Sutker lived there. Later generations dropped the i from their name. Polish names, like Jewish ones (Marshall ben Leonard for example) can carry the father’s name as well. Kolkon located Kielman’s father, Matthathias then his father, Zelka Ickowicz and from that name Ick as Zelka’s father. “Weicz” is the Polish equivalent of “ben”.

Most of the Sutker family members Marshall and his father found in Savannah have passed away or moved away, but some others moved here to replace them. A portion of the Sutker family tree is part of the Savannah Jewish Archives genealogy collection.

Birthday

..................................................................................continued from pg 1

tal practice, I received a call from a prominent member of the Jewish community. This person wanted to come by and visit and talk. Right? I knew what was going to happen...I had been warned! Of course, it was the dreaded UJA call. But I survived and UJA and all things Jewish became a big part of my life after that. My Rabbi in Fitzgerald would not believe that the fat little kid who, along with friends and cousins, had terrorized him at every opportunity, would actually grow up to be a President of Jewish organizations and actually travel to Israel more than six times.

The synagogues in this and in every community are and should be the centers for Jewish religious life. But not everyone finds their Jewish fit in the synagogues. Perhaps it is being part of Hadassah, part of BYOB, a member of the JEA or a supporter of Israel that connects some to their Jewish heritage; however for most of all of us, our varied life experiences make us who we are. I am very fortunate to have been associated with many aspects of our community including synagogue, Federation and the JEA. But I have really never considered myself to be a JEA person or synagogue person or whatever. I feel that I am just Jewish and a member of a community.

As most of you know, there are major changes going on all over the world and even sleepy Savannah is not immune to these life changing times. Jewish communities are rethinking how to attract young people and how to reach them in their environment. We are no different. Time and demographics have altered the balance. Once vibrant and stable parts of our communities — Jewish community centers, synagogues, day schools, afternoon schools and international organizations — are struggling. Our JEA is no different. I want to try to help and I am asking each of you to pitch in to help, not only the JEA, but our Jewish way of life in Savannah. The JEA is intertwined with most if not all of these things.

The JEA has been in Savannah for over 99 years helping Jewish families in need, helping Jewish businesses to establish themselves and seeing to the physical and cultural well being of the community. The JEA will continue to offer programs on Jewish identity and culture, provide hot meals, give our children a safe place to play and have fun. The JEA provides activities such as a game room, sports and fitness facilities for strengthening our bodies, and philosophical and psychological assistance from noted scholars such as Sir Charles Grossman. The JEA provides venues for life style and life changing events, Holidays and Shabbat observances...the list goes on and on. There is no other facility or organization in our community that can offer this wide array of services.

In Savannah, people of every ethnic origin and background know where the JEA is located. It is recognizable in the very center of our city at the corner of Abercorn and DeRenne as a strong symbol of the importance of the Jewish community in Savannah. The JEA is a main link in the chain of Jewish life in Savannah and I think that we all have a responsibility to help maintain this important link. Over 500 years of Jewish history, tells us that the Jewish religion will survive. As with every group, we will survive as a united group, not just as individuals. We need each other and even those who do not think that they need the JEA really do. It is an identity. It is a common history. It has to be a shared future.

Okay, here it comes. What does he want? He wants more of the thing that I now have less of: my money. Okay, I am guilty of that, but everyone and everything needs money to operate. Some people would rather give you their money than their time. For others, they would be better off giving you their time not their money. Others can offer their brain power, their physical power, their skills and their enthusiasm. Currently, the percentage of Jewish households who are members of the JEA is less than 30%. Yes, it is a surprisingly low number! If 75% of the Jewish people in Savannah were members of the JEA in one membership category or another, many of our long term financial problems and demographic issues would be minimized or eliminated.

In our community and our religion, we come together to celebrate, to honor, to laugh and to cry, to help and support and to remember. But always, we do it as a community of relatives and friends who share a common past and future. And most often, whether it is for a joyous holiday observance such as Chanukah, Purim or Israel Independence Day or for a solemn observance such as Yom HaShoah, we do it as one community at the JEA. In your own personal way, please support the organization that has been and promises to be, an integral part of Jewish longevity and identity in Savannah.
Happy 63rd Birthday Israel!