

July-August 2015 | Av-Elul 5775, Vol. LXX, No. 6

Campaign Again Exceeds \$1 Million; Funds Allocated



Candle Lighting Times

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Friday, July 17 | 8:13pm |
| Friday, July 24 | 8:09pm |
| Friday, July 31 | 8:04pm |
| Friday, August 7 | 7:59pm |
| Friday, August 14 | 7:52pm |
| Friday, August 21 | 7:44pm |
| Friday, August 28 | 7:36pm |

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Thanks to the generosity of the community and the hard work of Campaign Chair Allan Ratner, Men's Chair Harvey Lebos and Women's Co-Chairs Stacey Schlafstein and Steffi Zerden, the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign raised more than one million dollars for 2015 and the Board of Governors recently approved the recommendations of the Budget and Allocations Committee (BAC) for the distribution of the funds.

The details of the 2015-2016 Allocations are presented in the chart, but here are some highlights about the beneficiaries this year.

The Savannah Jewish Federation not only distributes the money it collects to other organizations, but is concerned and responsible in many other ways for the welfare of our Savannah Jewish community. Through Jewish Family Services, SJF provides food for the hungry, medication and access to medical services for those in need, case management for individuals and families, housing assistance for those in jeopardy and countless other services. SJF provides grants for Jewish youth to attend programs that create and enhance Jewish identity, including Jewish overnight camp, teen travel to Israel and leadership development programs.

SJF is the source of Holocaust remembrance and education through its Yom HaShoah and Kristallnacht observances and programming, both for the Jewish and secular communities. SJF keeps you informed about Jewish life in Savannah and around the world through the eNews, *Savannah Jewish News*, Facebook and periodic mailings. And it provides dozens of other advocacy, social service, cultural and other programs and services to the community throughout the year.

There has been a growing recognition that programming for teens and very young adults should receive more attention going forward. With that in mind, allocations for both BBYO and SCAD Hillel were significantly increased this year. As the school's student body has grown significantly and there is the sense that the Hillel program has not kept up, the SCAD Hillel grant will enable "student ambassadors" to execute new outreach programs (that we will write about in more detail later). Both groups will

Savannah Jewish Federation

2015-16 Allocations

As approved at the June 11 Board of Governors meeting.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Total Campaign | 1,045,654 |
| -2% reserve for pledges uncollectable | 20,913 |
| -SJF programs and services | 462,270 |
| +General donations (<i>non-campaign</i>) | 1,125 |
| +Budget surplus from FY 2013-2014 | 31,108 |
| -Donor-designated gifts (<i>unallocable</i>) | 52,436 |
| Total Funds Available for Allocation | 542,268 |

Allocations

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Shalom School | 23,000 |
| special allocation for security needs | 2,000 |
| Teen Jewish Identity/Experience Fund | 5,000 |
| BBYO | 3,500 |
| SCAD Hillel | 7,000 |
| Taglit/Birthright Israel | 6,000 |
| Overseas (JFNA--JAFL, JDC) | 163,138 |
| Overseas Investment Grants | 9,000 |
| Jewish Educational Alliance | 291,000 |
| Jewish Educational Loan Fund | 2,000 |
| Jewish Council for Public Affairs | 750 |
| Israel Action Network | 500 |
| Jewish Telegraphic Agency | 200 |
| Jewish Education Service of N.A. | 180 |
| Community Special Initiative Funding | 29,000 |

benefit from the services of a new, youth outreach professional position that the SJF hopes to add to its staff later in the year. In addition to its core allocation, Shalom School received a special allocation to address security needs at the school

One of Federation's most successful initiatives, Young Jewish Savannah, received funding once again, as did the Fedx program for outreach to young professionals.

The Jewish Educational Alliance received the same level of funding as the previous year. As beneficiaries

were asked to make funding requests for two years, the Alliance requested 5% less for fiscal year 2016-17. It will be the smallest allocation that the JEA has received in over a decade and recognizes the JEA's slowly improving financial status.

Savannah has again shown a strong commitment to the concerns of our fellow Jews in Israel and elsewhere around the world. SJF maintained its contribution to Birthright Israel, the initiative to send each and every

continued on page 4



Campaign Chair Announced for 2016-2017

At our deadline it was announced that Stacey Schlafstein will chair the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Community Campaigns for 2016 and 2017. Joining her as special counsels to the campaign will be Joan and Eugene "Bucky" Bloom, her parents. More details will follow in a later edition; mazel tov and thanks to the Schlafstein/Bloom families!



JEA Preschool Savannah

Invites you to
the dedication of the

Lyn Stacie Getz Musical Garden

Grown by Carollee & Alan Getz
in memory of their beloved daughter

Friday, August 14th
8:30am

Join us after the dedication for
bagels & coffee
at our monthly Schmear & Schmooze
and for our weekly Shabbat Celebration



Some lucky preschoolers this summer helped unpack and got a sneak peak at the instruments that will be used in the Lyn Stacie Getz Musical Garden!



Do you love to write?

If so we're looking for you!

The Savannah Jewish News is seeking **VOLUNTEER WRITERS** to cover stories of interest to the Savannah Jewish community. If interested, send an e-mail to sjnews@savj.org.



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Savannah Jewish News

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SJF Executive Director: Adam Solender
SJN Editor: Lynn Levine

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

The *Savannah Jewish News* is published monthly ten times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 3rd of the month before publication. There are no February or August issues. All articles for the Winter and Summer issues should be submitted by December 8th or June 8th, respectively.

All submissions must be in MS Word format (articles) or pdf format with fonts embedded (advertisements). All color must be in the CMYK color format; all type in true black; photos in .jpg format.

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

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

Charged with raising, collecting and distributing funds, the SJF seeks to "advance the welfare of the total Jewish community." The Federation strongly supports Israel and world Jewry. Additionally, the organization strives to "preserve the civil, political, economic and religious rights of all Jews" to develop an articulate, intelligent and constructive Jewish community and to promote mutual understanding with the community at-large.

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Skylight to the Future



Steve Greenberg,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Previously, I have written in this column about our community and its aspirations. This time, I offer a message not to you, but to your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and any other young person you believe would benefit. It is a message of building, striving and succeeding, of creating a future.

When I was a junior in high school, we took an aptitude test to gauge our strengths in academics, with an eye toward college. I was already inclined toward law school. I had good grades in civics, history and English courses; I was fair in science and not good at all in math. Once the scores were back, each student met with the school counselor to review the results.

Long story short, she advised me that law was not the direction I should go. But I did not listen to her nor obviously did it change my plans. I innately knew my strengths and I trusted my instincts more than a test. I also knew that one person was not going to dictate where I took my life. I did not tell my parents. I knew what reaction they would have.

In the high school, there were skylights to bring an open feel to the building. One of those skylights was in the counselor's office area. One night someone (identity and reason never discovered and not me) got up on the roof with a ladder, broke through the skylight, put the ladder into the office and climbed down. From there, this mission-driven person made a mess of the counselor's area and some bulletin boards, and then departed into the night, ladder and all.

They say patience is a virtue. I was on the school newspaper and it happened that I was assigned to write the article on the break-in. I dutifully wrote a factual piece. But I also took the opportunity to add a tag line. The sum and substance of it was that I opined that nothing was taken from the counselor's office because there was nothing there of any value in the first place. I figured the teacher advisor would edit it out. He did not.

The day the school paper came out, I was sitting in class after lunch period. Mid-way through the counselor appeared at the door and announced

that the principal wanted to see me immediately and I should bring all my books. Everyone in class turned and looked at me with a pitiful, condemned man expression.

As I walked down the hall, the counselor proceeded to give me her opinion on the article. I said nothing (Fifth Amendment). She delivered me to the principal and I think expected to stay to watch the carnage. He thanked her and asked for the door to be closed. Minor victory.

As I waited for the dressing down to begin, I was calculating the damage. I knew the school newspaper was gone. I did not think I would be expelled since I had no priors. The principal stopped his paperwork, looked up and asked three questions: (1) "Did you write the article?" "Yes sir." (2) "Do you believe the article is accurate?" "Yes sir," (First Amendment). (3) "Would you write the same article again?" "Yes sir," (at

this point I was all in). He went back to his work as I sat there.

Finally the bell rang for the next period. "What we discussed here is between us, understood?"

"Yes sir." I think I saw a slight smile and with that he told me to head to class. I got the point. Major victory. No sanctions. As I left his office, the counselor saw me. I am sure she was convinced I received the requisite lesson regarding insubordination.

I eventually told my parents. Years later the counselor was in my parents' store and asked my mother how I was doing. Mom had been waiting for that moment for years. She smiled and in no uncertain terms stated I had graduated from law school, passed the bar and was practicing law in Savannah. And then she turned and strolled away. Justice served in her eyes.

So, to the younger generations, I write this. Believe in yourself. Trust your instincts. As you choose your career path, always remember you can strive to be what you want to be, not what other unconnected people tell you. And, as much as you might think older generations do not get it, they do. The wisdom of a lifetime is a resource that is unequalled so use it. The world is there for you to take your place. Do it with joy and peace and know that you will make a difference. It is only a question of where and how.

And, if you are really fortunate, you might even become president of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

*"Believe in yourself.
Trust your instincts...
always remember you
can strive to be what
you want to be..."*



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

We Will Be There If the Time Comes

Every year about this time the Savannah Jewish Federation sends out an appeal for support of Jewish Family Services. There are those in the community who find the appeal to be duplicative — "you asked for my Campaign gift. Isn't it supposed to take care of all of the community needs?"

The fact is, the Annual Campaign does directly support the work of Jewish Family Services (JFS) throughout the year. But there are many members of the community who want to do more, can do more, and enthusiastically provide that "extra" money that makes a difference. We estimate that this year we will provide over \$110,000 of direct services to members of the community.

"My husband and I were struggling with health issues and finding consistent work. JFS helped provide us with food cards and financial assistance, along with resources to help us provide for our children."

Your support of the Friends of JFS campaign provided those food cards and financial assistance that got this family "over the hump."

"Coming to Jewish Family Services has changed my life. You gave me the courage to make better decisions and get my life back on track. I can't thank you enough."

Our MSWs work with a myriad of clients, all with very different challenges. From accompanying someone

to a therapy appointment to bringing a hot meal, from assisting a client who was abused to one who needed clothing for a job interview, JFS provides the essential assistance — in whatever form it takes — that our friends and family need.

"I came to the Federation Jewish Family Service because I didn't know what else to do. I was on the brink of homelessness and you provided financial assistance with my rent and electricity. I don't know what I would have done without your help."

Keeping the lights on, providing that prescription, paying the rent, car payment, or mortgage note...JFS provides the necessary assistance and keeps the roofs over our clients' heads. Sometimes it is a no interest loan, other times, an outright grant.

JFS is committed to providing the services necessary to prevent a person's chaotic situation from worsening and to restoring dignity to the individual and family. It might be counseling families in crisis or assisting the "hidden poor" within our Jewish community; it might be much-needed food, shelter, or access to healthcare. More often than you might think, JFS has been the connecting thread that has kept families together and in their homes. It is all done confidentially and with genuine care and concern.

I hope you never need the help of Jewish Family Services, but you know that with generous help like yours, we will be there if the time comes.



Savannah Jewish Federation

Thanks to Friends like You...

Jewish Family Services

- Helps families maintain their residences
- Helps seniors maintain independence
- Provides hundreds of hours of case management to dozens of clients annually
- Distributes over \$10,000 in food cards annually
- Provides referrals to other agencies for support
- And much, much more!

Friends do make a difference.

**Please consider becoming a
Friend of JFS**

Campaign.....from pg 1

young Jewish adult in the Diaspora to visit Israel, as a "birthright." (See stories elsewhere in this issue.) And again, SJF will be funding 18 programs that provide services to Jews overseas that were handpicked by members of the community to receive Overseas Investment Grants.

The SJF's historic overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), through the Jewish Federations of North America proudly will receive 30% of the campaign's allocable dollars, the third consecutive year of increased funding for them, in recognition of the peril Jews face throughout the world. This is an achievement few other communities may claim. As anti-Semitism continues to spread and Israel once again provides safe refuge for the world's Jews, the work of these partners is ever more important.

The grant to the Jewish Educa-

tional Loan Fund was doubled this year. JELF, based in Atlanta, provides interest-free loans to Jewish college and graduate students throughout the Southeast. Many Savannah students have benefited in recent years from the availability of these loans.

As mentioned above, the beneficiaries this year were asked to request funding for two years, with the hope that this method would allow them and the SJF the opportunity to plan better for the future. This will allow the Budget & Allocations Committee to meet every other year, with the Federation's Board of Governors approving allocations in the interim year.

In other Campaign news, it was announced that the 'Main Event' kick-off for the 2016 Community Campaign will be held on Thursday, October 8th, featuring mentalist Sidney Friedman. Mark your calendars now for what will be an entertaining evening like no other!

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Nalaga'at Center

As part of the 2015 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation reapproved the Overseas Investment Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 Overseas Investment Grants, with up to 20 being approved. Eighteen submissions were made this year and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

The Nalaga'at Center was founded in 2002 by Adina Tal and Eran Gur with its show *Light is Heard in Zig Zag*, the world's first and only performance by a theater ensemble whose actors were all deaf-blind. The show was applauded by audiences and critics in Israel and worldwide.

Since then, Nalaga'at ("please touch" in Hebrew) has established itself as one of the most innovative theaters in the world, and one of Israel's leading cultural sites. It is a unique, nonprofit center of culture and arts and a meeting place for the deaf, blind, deaf-blind and the general public. Nalaga'at has created a space that promotes the needs and aspirations of every person with the belief that all are equal and every person has the right to make his or her contribution to society.

The Center, located in Old Jaffa just outside central Tel Aviv, now includes the Nalaga'at Theater, the BlackOut restaurant and the Kapish



Nalaga'at Ensemble performing *Not by Bread Alone*

events complex. In the restaurant — which is kept in total darkness — guests are served by waiters and waitresses who are blind and are invited to fully engage in the eating experience and use their other senses to sharpen their abilities to fully taste and smell their food.

Café Kapish is a stylish coffee shop where deaf and hearing-impaired waiters connect with guests using sign language. The space is used for a wide range of special events such as corporate events, family gatherings, seminars and workshops. It has a special ambiance near the Jaffa port and the staff makes it surprisingly easy to communicate without words. Both BlackOut and Café Kapish are kosher, dairy facilities.

Nalaga'at has added a children's show to its repertoire and its ensemble regularly is invited to tour worldwide.

2015 SJF Overseas Investment Grant Recipients

AKIM: National Association for the Habilitation of the Mentally Handicapped in Israel

Provides services for children and adults with mental disabilities and other developmental disorders in Israel.

American Friends of Magan David Odom

The largest supporter of Magan David Odom, Israel's ambulance, blood-services, and disaster-relief organization.

American Jewish World Service

The leading Jewish human rights and development organization working to realize human rights and end poverty in the developing world.

ARZA

The largest supporter of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism and the Israel Religious Action Center.

Atlit Ma'apalim Detention Camp

A camp established to prevent Jewish refugees from entering Palestine. Tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants were interred here. The camp now is a museum of the history of Ha'apala (the immigration of Jews to Palestine/Israel as a result of the Nazi era/Holocaust).

Chimes Israel

An organization that helps people with disabilities become independent and lead as normal a life as possible.

Comunidad Hebrea Hatikva

Helping to support a small and poor, but vibrant Jewish congregation in Santiago de Cuba that remains committed to Jewish life in Cuba.

Friends of Israel Scouts – Tzofim

Allows for programs that develop and maintain a connection between the Israel Scouts movement and North American Jewry.

Guantanamo Jewish Center

A small but active Cuban congregation in dire need of funds to per-

petuate their communal life.

HIAS

Formerly Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, a global Jewish nonprofit that helps the most vulnerable build new lives in safety and freedom.

IsraAid

A NGO committed to providing life-saving disaster relief and long-term support to areas around the world in crises.

Israel Lone Soldier Center

Provides assistance to the more than 5,700 soldiers serving in the IDF with no local support system: volunteers from abroad, immigrants, orphans and individuals from broken homes.

JDC Poland's Jewish Awakening: Krakow

A project to re-engage a once-major center of European Jewry (decimated by the Holocaust and Communism) with its Jewish history.

JDC Ukraine Relief

JDC's emergency response network to the continuing strife in Ukraine.

Meshi Children's Rehabilitation Center

Located in Israel, it helps children from around the world who suffer from Spina Bifida.

Mir Yeshiva Academy

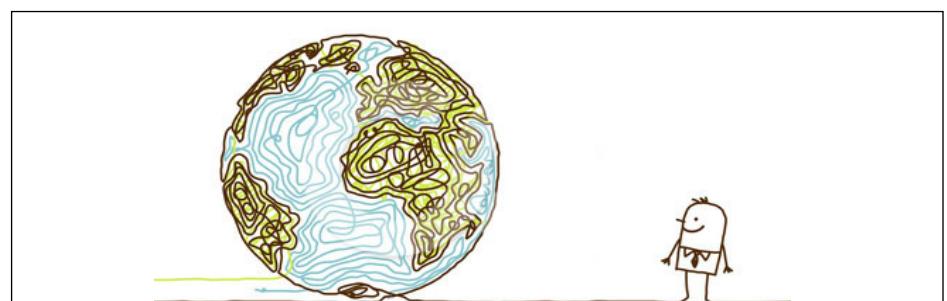
Officially Mirrer Yeshiva, it is the largest yeshiva in Israel and one of the largest in the world.

Nalaga'at Art Center

A meeting place for deaf, blind and deaf-blind and the general public that uses artistic and cultural experiences to create dialogue between equals.

Netzer Olami Campers in Ukraine/Crimea & France

Overnight summer camps sponsored by the World Union for Progressive Judaism that allow children to increase their understanding and insights of Judaism and enhance their Jewish and Zionist identity.



Jewish Theater Group Forming

by Joan Silver

Do you like theater? A group of people is forming who are interested in bringing a theater presence to the Jewish Educational Alliance. We are looking for others to join us! If you have any interest in working with or advocating for a theater group at the JEA, we would love to hear from you. We are seeking anyone with any sort of interest in the stage: acting, directing, behind the scenes or if you just have an audience point of view and would like to work with our steering committee to see what we can get off the ground.

We held our initial meeting in late June and hope to soon begin meeting regularly. If you would like to join us, or for more information, please leave a message for Joan Silver at the JEA, (912) 355-8111.

This theater effort at the JEA will join a rich tradition of Jewish theater. There are many contributing factors as to how and why Jewish theater became a part of American culture. Between 1881 and 1925, 3.5 million Jews immigrated to the U.S., with a large concentration in New York City. Having left their old lives behind and dealing with assimilation, theater gave them familiarity and a meeting place; the material presented helped them deal with transitions. And, the performances were in Yiddish. Everyone came; all classes were represented. The less educated and poorer people were the majority, but the ghetto Rabbis, scholars, poets, journalists, the politically active, the learned and the different religious streams also came. Theater became an integral part of Lower East Side culture.

American Jewish theater has its origins in Eastern Europe where theater was a thriving enterprise in the 1870s as part of an active secular Jewish Café life. Skits were developed and troupes were formed. One such troupe was led by Avrom Goldfadn, whose work was well known and admired. But Jewish theater was harassed by both the government and Jewish Orthodoxy and when Jewish theater was banned in 1883 by Alexander III, Goldfadn brought his troupe to America. While Avrom Goldfadn is considered the Father of Modern Yiddish Theater, he was unable to establish himself in New York and stayed only two years. He did return in 1904, living in poverty and dying in 1908.

Shortly before Goldfadn first came to the U.S., 12-year-old Boris Thomashefsky arrived from Tarasche, a Ukrainian shtetl near Kiev. Boris had a beautiful voice and sang at the Henry Street Synagogue on the Lower East Side on Saturday to earn money. Through a series of coincidences and machinations, young Boris ended up playing the female lead in a production of *Koldunye (The Witch)*, a play by Avrom Goldfadn, produced by Frank Wolf, a local tavern owner. The show was a hit; Wolf's company took to the road traveling the U.S. performing Yiddish plays to immigrant communities with great success; and Thomashefsky's career as a great Yiddish actor was launched.

Plays by David Pinski, Shalom

Aleichem, I. L. Peretz, Sholom Asch and others were performed over and over and attended regularly. Classics were adapted to the Yiddish stage and were popular, despite the disapproval of Jewish intellectuals and socialists. Among others, works of Shakespeare, Ibsen and Strindberg were adapted. An acting style that was flamboyant and overstated developed and was compared to Italian opera without the singing. Audience participation was part of the experience: they ate, drank, hissed, booed and cheered and sometimes even spoke to the characters on stage.

Yiddish theater spread to Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland. In 1927, 24 theaters still performed Yiddish plays. Its decline began with the decline of Jewish immigration.

A new generation took over from the foreign-born artists. Names we are familiar with in the 20th century include Samson Raphaelson who wrote *The Jazz Singer* in 1925 (Al Jolson starred in the movie in 1927). Clifford Odets, Arthur Miller, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein wrote and composed for us. Zero Mostel, the first Tevye in Jerry Block's *Fiddler on the Roof* (based on Sholom Aleichem's stories) began a theatrical tradition

that will be repeated next fall with the show's revival on Broadway starring five-time Tony nominee Danny Burstein.

Mel Brooks, David Mamet and



Zero Mostel, who originated the role of Tevye in 1964, and Danny Burstein, who will revive it later this year.

Tony Kushner are just a sampling of recent Jewish playwrights. Poignant for a Southern and Savannah connection is Jason Robert Brown who wrote the music for *Parade*, the story of Leo Frank's lynching written by Alfred Uhry. Uhry's many successes (including *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Last Night at Ballyhoo*) connect Broadway to Jewish life in his native Georgia.

The term Jewish theater is ambiguous. Originally Jewish theater was presented in Yiddish. Today we look for other ways to explore Jewishness, Jewish themes, Judaism and Jewish identity. We are fortunate to have venues where Jewish theater — whether live performance, filmed, discussed, danced, studied or musical — is still presented: the Jewish Theater of the South in Atlanta, Jewish Theaters of Arizona and Detroit and Theater J in Washington, DC, for example.

We look forward to the JEA joining that list as we add to this already rich American history through new cultural offerings to enrich this Savannah community!

Joan Silver has been involved in community theater in the U.S. and abroad mostly behind the scenes, but sometimes on 'the boards,' for most of her adult life. She is happy to be bringing this interest to her new home in Savannah and looking forward to meeting others with similar interests!



Boris Thomashefsky

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Holiday greetings due date: August 3rd

Sharing Israel

by Jamie Cahn

I left Savannah at 5am on May 28th and landed in Israel 26 hours later (via Charlotte-JFK-Moscow) with forty 22-26 year olds, ready to begin our Birthright Israel journey together. We headed to a kibbutz right outside of Jerusalem, luckily just in time for Shabbat. Having Shabbat after our long trip was exactly what we needed — time to rest, get to know each other and gear up for what was going to be an exhausting, yet exhilarating, next nine days.

Each of the participants was so different and interesting — they were engineers, teachers, musicians and everything in between. Each had a unique story. I overheard one participant tell another his "Jewish" story about growing up in an observant family, not feeling like he fit in and pushing Judaism away. He decided at the last minute to come to Israel on Birthright and said to his friend, "this experience is the last chance I am giving to feel connected to Judaism." That was a lot of pressure for me as the group leader!

We spent the next nine days seeing Israel — Tzfat, Golan Heights, Jerusalem, Bedouin tent, Masada, Dead Sea, Yad Vashem and finally Tel Aviv. The participants were awed at every site. And the experiential programs and discussions we had were pretty amazing — and so fun for me, as an educator, to write and execute. Text study turned into skits and songs; discussions were so intense during our Yad Vashem prep that participants needed to console each other; six word memoirs helped frame their experiences from expectations to reality. It was pretty incredible to have these discussions with young adults — many of whom are not or never were part of a Jewish community.

A happy aspect of my experience is that my younger brother Bryan was a participant on another Birthright trip at the exact same time. Although we did not travel together, we met up a few times, and to be able to share our experiences while in Israel was so special. My brother and I are very close — we grew up in a Reform

household and were pretty active in the Jewish community. We went to Jewish overnight camp, participated in youth group and each went to Israel when we were 16. But I have made my life and career in the Jewish community and he hasn't had anything to do with the Jewish community since high school. His high school trip to Israel helped him feel connected to the country and laid the groundwork for him knowing he is Jewish and feeling connected to his Judaism throughout his life. Being on Birthright solidified that feeling for him and opened new conversations and questions.

As part of the Birthright program, eight Israelis join the group for five of the 10 days. It is always everyone's favorite part of the program. For my brother (and for many participants) it was eye opening. He told me that he had met Israelis before — the shlichim at camp and a friend of our mother's — but that was the extent of it. He had never really had a conversation or connection with an Israeli before. Of course he knew that every Israeli went into the IDF when they turned 18 but he told me that he "never really thought about Israel being protected by 18 year olds." He was blown away by that concept.

As we were walking out of Yad Vashem, we had another really interesting interaction. He asked me if any of our family were victims of the Holocaust and then admitted he didn't know anything about our family history. I thought to myself, "How could he not know where our family came from?" And then I realized that while I was learning Jewish

Studies in college and connected to the Jewish community for my career, he was in college studying architecture and spending his nights in studio. Taking a Birthright trip and being in Israel forced him to ask these questions that I don't think would have crossed his mind otherwise. Many of the participants in my group had similar thoughts and questions. Birthright often is the entry point to the Jewish community for young Jewish adults.

The idea of providing the gift of a trip to Israel was initially endorsed by the philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, who believed that if young adults just

got to Israel, they would fall in love with it and hopefully would become advocates for Israel at home, feel a connection to Judaism and join their Jewish communities at some point in the future.

B i r t h r i g h t

launched fifteen years ago and as of this month, more than 500,000 young Jewish adults from 66 countries have received the gift of a free trip to Israel — 45,000 this summer alone. It is funded jointly by the Birthright Foundation, the Jewish Federation system, Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the State of Israel. Each trip costs about \$3,000 to give a young adult this gift of 10 days in Israel.

And what has Birthright done for Israel? Since its inception, Birthright Israel trips have contributed an astounding \$825 million to Israel's economy, including activities that have generated three-quarters of a million work days for Israelis. It is estimated that each participant contributes approximately \$2,400 to Israel's tourism sector — through airfare, lodging, transportation, and ad-



Jamie's Birthright group greets the day with Yoga at Masada

missions to tourist sites. Of course, that doesn't include the impact of those who choose to return Israel — often with friends and family — thanks to their first experience with Birthright.

Birthright says of itself: "Ta'glit-Birthright Israel is a social experiment that has created a social movement." Birthright has been called "the most important thing to happen to the Jewish people since the creation of the state of Israel." These are pretty powerful statements. And after my 10 days on Birthright, I would have to agree.

This was the first Birthright Israel trip as a staff person for Jamie Cahn, Savannah Jewish Federation Campaign Director. Jamie has committed to serve as an American madricha on at least two more Birthright trips.



Jamie and her brother Bryan enjoy some family time on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem

WANTED

TEAM CAPTAINS FOR

2015 CHANUKAH Torch Relay

INTERESTED?
CALL (912) 355-8111
TO SIGN UP OR
FOR MORE INFORMATION

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13

Savannah Jewish Federation

New Direction for Facility

by Carol M. Towbin Greenberg



Aaron Tillinger was named the new Chair of the JEA Building and Grounds Committee, following in

the footsteps of Rusty Bridges, Kayton Smith and Carol Greenberg. Native of and fifth generation member of the Savannah Jewish community, Aaron brings a unique perspective to the building because he grew up within its walls and playing on its fields. Now a father of a little girl who attends JEA PreSchool Savannah, Aaron wants little Sofia to have the same opportunities for fun and sport on a safe campus; as a financial advisor who is active in many community and civic organizations, Aaron understands that investing in this building is money well spent to ensure his daughter's children will be able to live and play Jewishly on this campus as well.

With a motto of *Better Building & Greener Grounds*, the B & G Committee has moved past cleaning and repairing the property and into using Jewish models of environmental responsibility to repair the world as part of the committee's strategic plans. Aaron's vision for B&G includes improving the grounds for increased use by all members of the JEA and initiating a recycling program, while maximizing usable interior space to serve the needs of the membership to fullest potential.

Aaron will serve a two-year term with the help of staff member Justin Robertshaw, B & G mentor Bill Sand, past chairs Kayton Smith and Carol Greenberg and committee members Marc Gordon, Jason Rich, Bill Fox, and new appointees Brett Ratner, David Reeves and Matthew Allen, with special project help from Bram Odrezin, currently living in Alabama.

Besides B & G tours scheduled once a season, B & G started a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) home improvement course that will be repeated up to four times annually. The first course on home maintenance and improvements was



DIY instructor Murray Sauerbrei teaches Esther Buchsbaum and Arlene Ratner about rewiring a dimmer switch

taught as three classes and a make-up session by fix-it man Murray Sauerbrei and his assistant Charlie Cordeiro. The next class will be offered at the end of the summer and will include a simple building project. If you have suggestions of DIY class topics, building improvements or building tours you would like to volunteer for or see offered, contact MStarArts@gmail.com.

Vital Statistics

BAT MITZVAH: Mazel tov to... Jordan Jaffie, whose dream of becoming a Bat Mitzvah came true on May 12, 2015. Jordan's seventh grade teacher at Rambam Day School, Chavie Rabhan, and her friends planned a very special day for her.

Jordan's immediate family and classmates met at Morningstar Marina where Captain Jay Epstein took the group on a beautiful and peaceful boat ride several miles down the Wilmington River. The boat stopped and with the sun shining brightly and the birds singing, Morah Chavie stood up and she and the family members recited their parts. Then Jordan gave her speech and concluded the lovely and unique Bat Mitzvah ceremony.

Everyone enjoyed an ice cream party, resulting in a happy group of seventh graders, the happiest of all being Jordan, on the occasion of becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Jordan is the daughter of Monique and Jeff Jaffie



Jordan Jaffie

and the granddaughter of Arlene Jaffie.

MISCELLANEOUS: Mazel tov to... Faye Kirschner, who was named the Armstrong 2015 Alumni Volunteer of the Year.



Sign up today and receive a top-rated Jewish book or CD FREE, every month!

This is the perfect way to share time with your children, share our heritage, and learn the rich values of Judaism.

The PJ Library in Greater Savannah is available to children 6 months to 8 years old and is a gift of the Ceceile Richman JEA Fund, Jane Slotin, Nancy and Leon Slotin, the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Go to
www.savj.org
to register for
The PJ Library.
It's FREE!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

yjS young jewish savannah

a spoonful of honey

Rosh Hashanah Gourmet Honey Tasting & Wine Tasting

Thursday, September 10, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Savannah Bee Company

Thursday, October 1, 2015 7:00 p.m. Jewish Educational Alliance

Mi Casa es SUKKAHsa
A Mexican Fiesta with Snacks & Sangria in the Sukkah!

Young Jewish Savannah invites Jewish young adults to the JEA from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of each month to hang out and talk about Jewish topics with a modern twist! Pizza & beer are ALWAYS provided!



I on Israel

Sporting Women

Women's golf may not be everyone's first viewing choice when surfing the channels on TV, but if you happened to turn on coverage last month of the Manulife LPGA Classic, you would have been pleasantly surprised to see an Israeli flag next to the name of Laetitia Beck, the second-place contender early in the tournament. Beck, 23, finished the tournament 11 strokes off the lead, tied for 19th. She is in her first full year on the LPGA tour, having turned professional last summer after qualifying for the British Open.

Laetitia Beck was born in Belgium; her family moved to Caesarea, home to Israel's only 18-hole golf course, when she was six. (Israel's one other golf course is just 9 holes.) She began taking lessons when she was nine and by the time she was 14, showed enough promise to warrant a move to the U.S. to attend high school at the IMG Pendleton Academy in Bradenton, FL. After graduating, she returned to Israel to enlist in the IDF

and completed her military exams, but was designated a sports prodigy and allowed to postpone service until she completes her golf career. Beck golfer on scholarship at Duke University from 2010-14. In 2011 she was voted the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Rookie of the Year; in 2013 and in 2014 she was an All-American.

Beck is the first Israeli to qualify as a LPGA or PGA player; she displays Israel's flag on her golf bag. She has been quoted as saying: "When I play golf I'm very proud to represent Israel. My goal is to represent Israel and the Jewish people." Beck lives in Caesarea when she is not on tour and keeps kosher at all times.

Despite their significant achievements among Israeli athletes, women actually are underrepresented, in terms of participation and represen-



tation, in the Israeli sporting world according to *Women's Sports Coverage in Israel: Perception Versus Reality*, a report published a few years ago in the *International Journal of Sport Communication*. The report's Israeli authors take to task the unequal funding of men's and women's sports and the minimal representation of women in sports management and on governing bodies of individual sports, especially those such as gymnastics and swimming that have high participation rates for women athletes.

Yet along with Laetitia Beck, women athletes are and have been blazing paths to glory for Israel. Esther Roth-Shachamorov was the first Israeli to reach an Olympic final in any sport when she raced in the 100-meter hurdles final in Montreal in 1976. To this day, she is the only Israeli ever to make an Olympic track-and-field final. Yael Arad became Israel's first Olympic medalist in Barcelona in 1992 when she took silver in Judo, dedicating the medal to the Israeli athletes killed at the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

Hoop Dreams

Women's basketball fans may know the name of Shay Doron. Originally from Ramat Hasharon, where she played her first two years of high school basketball, Doron moved to New York to play her last two years with the renowned Christ The King Regional High School women's basketball team. While there she became the first girl from New York to play on the McDonald's All-American Team, and during her senior year was named the Gatorade Player of the Year from New York and led her team to number one in the country.

Doron was recruited to play at the University of Maryland, helping them to four straight NCAA appearances and a national title in 2006. She holds several school records and started (119x) and played in more games (134) than any other player in school history. Doron was named to the All-ACC third team in 2004, All-ACC first team in 2005, and All-ACC second team and ACC All-Academic team in 2006. In 2005, she led the U.S. Maccabiah team to a gold medal (5-0) and was named MVP. She was named to the U.S. National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

The WNBA's New York Liberty drafted Doron in 2007, but she saw limited game time that season and the team approved her request to leave the following May. Since then, Doron has played in Israel and Romania and currently plays in Israel.

Equal Time

It's only fair that we recognize the accomplishments of some of Israel's notable male athletes, too. While a woman was first to earn an Olympic medal, all of Israel's medalists since then have been men. Of the five Israeli men to medal in the Olympics, only one, windsurfer Gal Fridman, has medaled twice, and he is Israel's only gold medalist in any sport. (Fridman's first medal — bronze — was earned *here* when Savannah hosted the sailing events for the 1996 Atlanta Games.)

Basketball may be the unofficial Jewish sport, seemingly everyone's favorite to play. Omri Casspi was the first Israeli to play in the NBA, signing with the Sacramento Kings in 2009. Since then, he has played for Cleveland and Houston and currently is back with the Kings. Gal Mekel was the second Is-

raeli to join the NBA, signing with the Dallas Mavericks in 2013. In 2014 he suffered a knee injury, was waived by Dallas, signed by New Orleans and then waived after only four games. He currently plays in Russia. Previously, Yotam Halperin of Tel Aviv had been selected in the 2006 NBA draft by the Seattle Supersonics, but wasn't signed, and the Minnesota Timberwolves currently own the draft rights for Lior Eliyahu, who now plays for Hapoel Jerusalem of the Israeli Super League.

Tennis is one of the most popular sports in Israel but the country has yet to produce a breakout star. Dudi Sela, once ranked 29 on the ATP singles list, now stands at 85. He probably is Israel's best male tennis player to-date, but he has no career titles and has not made it past the fourth round of a Grand Slam event. All eyes now are turned to Yshai Oliel, a 14-year-old, left-handed phenom from Ramla in central Israel. Oliel



Gal Fridman



Omri Casspi

won the prestigious 2014 Junior Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships for the second time, becoming one of only a handful to have done so in both the 14- and 12-and-under brackets.

Greatest of all?

Israel's most beloved athlete may be Keren Leibovitch. While training to be an IDF officer in 1992, Leibovitch's back was badly injured in an accident, leaving her greatly paralyzed from the waist down. She began swimming as part of her rehabilitation and went on to become one of the world's elite disabled swimmers.

Among her many accomplishments, Leibovitch won three gold



continued on page 9



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

July-August 2015



Children's Programming



Just a couple of weeks left of JEA Camp Savannah

| | | | |
|--|--------|--|---|
| | Week 7 | Into The Woods July 13th – July 17th | Highlights: Movie Theater Field Trip Dress-Up Days: Villain Vogue Off, Prince Charming's Soirée Shabbat: Medieval Times Banquet Celebration |
| | Week 8 | Camp Ruach July 20th – July 24th | Highlights: LIT/CIT Sleepover & On-site Extreme Obstacle Course, Black Out Pep Rally Dress-Up Days: Ultimate Sports Fan, Neon Tutus and Ties Shabbat: Camp Fire Cook-Out Celebration |
| | Week 9 | Glee July 27th – July 31st | Highlights: All-Camp Sleepover, Glee Performance Dress-Up Days: I Love the 80's, Celebrity Look-Alike Shabbat: Drive-in Diner and Movie Celebration |

Visit www.SavannahJEA.org to download camp brochure and registration paperwork.



Join Us for the JEA Gatsby Gala

Join Us for a Roaring Good Time!

Purchase your ticket online at
www.SavannahJEA.org or
at the JEA front desk

Jewish Educational Alliance's AFTER SCHOOL Enrichment Program

At the Savannah JEA, we believe that your child should have happy memories every day. We provide a foundation for their future, help shape their lives, and take part as your children grow and change.

At the JEA's After School program, your pre-k through 6th graders will participate in activities such as swimming, sports, homework help, daily snacks, cooking, fitness fun, art, and much more!

After School hours are Monday-Thursday, 3-6 pm, Fridays 3-5 pm. We pick up from Garrison, Charles Ellis Elementary and Jacob G. Smith Schools.



Aftercare Prices: \$18/day plus transportation
\$75/week plus transportation

Member Value Prices: \$12/day plus transportation
\$50/week plus transportation

Register in person at the JEA at 5111 Abercorn Street
Phone (912) 355-8111
Email DJ Horton, camp@savj.org

Meet the Chef for Our Gatsby Gala



Chef Jeffrey Quasha

The JEA is excited to announce that Jeffrey Quasha and his team will once again be in the kitchen preparing amazing kosher delights for guests at our August 30th Gatsby Gala.

According to Anna Berwitz, Great Gala coordinator, acquisition of Jeffrey and his services came through an amazing set of circumstances:

Says, Anna, "In December of 2013 I got a call from my mother-in-law who lives in Florida saying that she had spoken with a woman in Boca Raton who mentioned her son Jeffrey, daughter-in-law Laura and two grandsons, Joshua and Austin, were moving to Savannah. The woman asked my mother-in-law if I would mind calling them since they were my age and welcoming them to Savannah. I called and invited them to the Tu B'shevat celebration at CMI. Jeffrey said they would love to come and that his parents would be in town that weekend so he would bring them along. When they arrived at the event I was chatting with Jeffrey's parents, asking them questions about where they are from. Both of his parents are from Milton, MA, which is the same town my dad grew up in. I asked if they knew my grandfather, Dr. Samuel Shuman, who was a very well-known doctor in the community. They looked shocked—Samuel Shuman, my grandfather, had been their doctor growing up. Additionally, Jeffrey's father, Steven, had an uncle that was at one time married to my grandmother's cousin. Talk about a small world!"

So in a nut shell, we are sort of related. After that I asked Jeffrey if he would mind cooking for the 2014 gala, and he accepted. Since then we have kept in touch. This summer his boys are in camp here and we continue to joke about how we both have "family" in Savannah."

For the past 25 years Jeffrey Quasha has surrounded himself with the passion, intensity and finesse of the culinary industry.

While attending Florida State University Jeffrey honed his culinary techniques in some of north Florida's finest restaurants and under the watch of some of their finest chefs. After graduating Jeffrey took his talents to West Palm Beach and spent the next several years working in the kitchens of the world renowned Breakers Hotel. There, Jeffrey's passion for classical cooking was developed under Chef Kevin Ives. It was during this time Jeffrey was chosen to represent the Breakers as a competitor in the Chaines De Rotisseurs, Jeunne Commis, best young chef's competition. While working in Palm Beach Jeffrey also graduated from Florida Culinary with a degree in Culinary Arts.

In 2004 Jeffrey moved his talents to the mid-south and began training under the renowned Master French Chef Jose Gutierrez at Chez Philleppe in the Peabody Hotel. After several years Jeffrey became the Executive Chef of the Capriccio Grill. During his tenure there, Jeffrey earned top honors including distinguished marks ranging from Three Stars, Three Diamonds and several Dirona and Food and Wine Awards.

In 2008 Jeffrey became the Executive Chef of the Old Hickory Steakhouse and Senior Executive Chef of the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.



Adult Programming



- Bridge** - Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Scrabble** - Wednesdays 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Mah Jongg** - Mondays 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Thursdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



Community Garden

Love to garden, but don't have the space? Be part of the JEA Garden Club and help work one of the 18 garden boxes at the Midtown Miracle Community Garden, three blocks north of the JEA. Excess produce and herbs will be donated to Second Harvest to aid them in their mission to feed up to 6000 children daily. For more details, "like" **Midtown Miracle Community Garden** on Facebook or email Carol Greenberg MStarArts@gmail.com.



Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

- July 16th - "Live Your Life to the Fullest," with speaker Pat Feigin
- July 23rd - Israel Update with Motti Locker
- July 30th - "Introducing the Savannah Voice Festival," with Maria Zouves, Exec. Director VOICEExperience & Savannah VOICE Festival
- August 6th - "KulturFest Review," with Carol Greenberg
- August 13th - "Learn More about Low Vision and How You can Improve Your Safety at Home," with Occupational Therapist, Hilary Schweiger Robertshaw
- August 20th - "The Magic of Water Exercise," with JEA Aquatics Director, Kaylee Grue
- August 27th - JEA Preschool visits Lunch Bunch!

In 2010 Jeffrey shifted his culinary focus from the fast pace of the kitchens to creating healthy and enticing meals for child nutrition in South Carolina as a district chef for Sodexo. It was during this time that Jeffrey became a member of the Chefs Move to School Program, Chef and Child Chair for the Midlands Chapter, and an adjunct culinary arts professor at the University of South Carolina.

In 2012 Jeffrey was chosen to lead a culinary team in London, England as the Executive Chef of the London Olympic Parks and Stadium.

Recently, Jeffrey was the Senior Executive Chef of Memorial Hospital in Savannah, Georgia and currently Jeffrey was promoted to Corporate Executive R and D Chef for Morrison Healthcare.

Jeffrey has also been an active supporter and culinary certification board member of Savannah Technical College, Chef and Child Chair for the Low Country Chefs Association and Midlands ACF Chef of the Year.

Jeffrey Quasha is a Certified Executive Chef (CEC), Certified Culinary Administrator (CCA) and Approved Culinary Evaluator (ACE). Jeffrey and his wife, Laura, moved to Savannah in 2014. Their two boys, Joshua and Austin, attend summer camp at the JEA Preschool Savannah and JEA Camp Savannah.



Health & Wellness

How To Use the Principle of Progression in Fitness



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Exercising can bring about physiological benefits, but if you continue to do the same exercises, time after time, your body eventually becomes accustomed to the exercises. A recent study concluded that once this happens, your body does not have to work as hard to perform the exercises and

the physiological benefits - including calorie burn, fat loss and muscle strength - begin to slow. The study noted that one way to prevent this plateau is to apply the principle of progression to your fitness routine.

Intensity - Increasing the intensity of your exercise is one way to add progression to your fitness training. You can apply this principle to your resistance-training program by increasing the amount of weight you are lifting with each repetition. If you want to boost the intensity of your cardio program, increase the pace of your exercise or the incline of your work surface.

If you are using a treadmill, jog faster or increase the incline on the machine so that you are walking or jogging uphill.



Duration - Add the principle of progression to your workouts by exercising for longer periods of time. This is especially effective when beginning running programs. Increase your endurance and fitness by running an extra few minutes every time you run. If you want to apply this principle to your resistance training, add more repetitions of the same exercise to each of your sets or increase the number of sets of each exercise you perform.

Rest - Increase the intensity of your workouts by manipulating the rest period after each exercise. Resistance training becomes more difficult when you reduce the rest time between repetitions and sets within the same workout, even if the amount of weights and the number of repetitions remains the same. Eliminate rest between two resistance exercises if the exercises focus on different muscle groups. Known as a superset, this is an efficient

way to increase the intensity of your exercise and perform more work in less time. Increase the intensity of your cardio by adding interval training in which a short period of intense exercise is followed by a short rest period. Decreasing the rest period progressively makes the exercise harder.

Frequency - Increasing the frequency of your workouts is another way to apply the principle of progression to your fitness routine. If you are currently working out two times a week, increase that to three or four days a week. Allow for adequate rest periods between workouts. The American Council on Exercise recommends a minimum of 48 hours between training of the same muscle groups to allow your muscles to recover and grow after strength training. Adequate rest periods are also necessary for intensive cardio workouts such as plyometrics and interval training.

Joining a fitness class and alternating them frequently will keep you on the right track. The JEA currently offers 23 fitness classes per week with a variety to choose from. If classes are not your thing, then schedule an appointment with one of our trainers to keep your fitness level progressing.



PJ Library and JEA Preschool Savannah Pool Party

Sunday, August 2nd
11 am - 1 pm

Join PJ Library and JEA Preschool Savannah for a fantastic pool party! Beat the heat and cool off in our pool!

For more information, please contact Jamie Cahn or Jodi Sadler, 912-355-8111.

Summer Fitness Classes

Sunday

9:15 am - Power Pilates
10:30 am - Total Body Blast
1:00 pm - Extreme Toning

Monday

8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Tuesday

9:15 am - Power Pilates
10:00 am - SilverSneakers Splash
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
5:45 pm - Zumba
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Wednesday

8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Billy's Boot Camp

Thursday

9:30 am - Barre Blend
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
6:30 pm - Yoga Flow
7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Friday

8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga
10:00 am - Aquasize

Fall Soccer Registration

- For children ages 4 to 10.
- Registration for the JEA Fall Soccer season will begin July 1, 2015.
- Practice days and times are to be determined. We practice behind the JEA.
- Make sure you bring water for your child.
- Must have cleats and shin guards.
- Practice will start the second week of August.

Our goals for the season are to develop the JEA's six core values of honesty, fun, caring, respect, responsibility and faith.

Cost: \$50 - Member
\$75 - Non-Member



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now for 2015-16

- Limited Fall openings 16 months-24 months, 4-year olds
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for the toddlers and two-year-olds
- For full details, visit our website at www.SavannahJEA.org

Contact Jodi Sadler, Director, at Jodi@savj.org or 912-355-8111

JEA Preschool Savannah Meet 'n Greet for 2015-2016

Wednesday, August 5th
3-5 pm

Visit the classrooms, drop off school supplies and meet the teachers

Summer Fun at JEA Preschool Camp Savannah



Providing for the social, emotional and cognitive growth of young children in a Judaic setting.

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 5/9/15-6/15/15)

Mashama Bailey
Jerrie Batey
Requita Dawson
Sebastian & Sheila Edwards
Jake Ehrlund
Judy Farabaugh
Lucie Findlay
Jean Frost
Brittany Gardner
Tom & Connie Glaser
Anthony Graves
Carva Harding
Cametrice Heyward
Weston Johnson & Claire Partlow

Joseph Joynes & Brandi Sellers
Meg Lego & Carolyn Golden
Carlos & Diana La Luz
Christy Lax & Amy Atterberry
Leslie Lovell
James & Paula Metts
Alexandra Moshier
Katie Musler
Daniel & Kimberly Pelletier
William Richards & Karen Kendall
Krista Roach
William & Jessica Roberts
Adil Ryouq & Carole Benton
Suzie Schulz
Jay Self
Schavawna Sims
Rachel Teegarden
Carlos & Nancy Victorica
Jakob & Elizabeth Von Trapp
Ebony Williams

JEA Donations (May 12, 2015 - June 15, 2015)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In honor of Marilyn Seeman
Steffi & Sol Zerden
Rita & Alan Asher
Doris Klugman
Penny & Ed Berman
Sylvia Yellin
Betty Lasky
Sally Sanders
Vivian Slotin
Jackie Friedman
Sally & Steve Greenberg
Marcy & Jerry Konter
In memory of Sam Jospin
Marilyn Seeman
Lisa & Lawrence Arkin
Eva & David Arkin
Marilyn & Jonathan Arkin

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Sam Jospin
Eva Odrezin
Judy & Larry Odrezin
In memory of David Silverman
Donna & Tony Eichholz & Family
In honor of Toby Hollenberg
In honor of Harriet & Paul Kulbersh
In honor of Linda & Michael Zoller
Arlene & Allan Ratner

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Sam Jospin
Ruth Katz
Emma Adler
Thelma & Frank Hoffman
James Yekley
Spring & Tom Asher
Joanne & Bruce Remler
Michael Karpf
Leigh Ann & John Adler
Cindy Paradies & Larry Moscow
Carol & Avram Goldberg
Catherine & Ron Fagin
Charlene & Murray Gordon
Betsy & Harvey Applebaum
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt
Berna & Noah Levine

In honor of Joel Greenberg
Maya & Jerald Greenberg
Michael Karpf
Chrissie & Arnold Karp
In honor of Kaye Kole
Beth & Steven Roth

ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND
In honor of Kaye Kole
In memory of Carol Ann Rosenthal Shear
Harriet Ullman

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND
In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy
Marilyn Seeman
Vera Hoffman

ETHEL COHEN MEDDIN MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of Sam Jospin
Chuck Palefsky
Sherry M. Macchia
Louis Meddin

JEA FITNESS FUND
In memory of David Silverman
Steffi & Sol Zerden

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of David Silverman
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Bernice Elman
In memory of Isie, Madeline & Harvey Rubin
Elise & Victor Shernoff
In honor of Elise & Victor Shernoff
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In memory of Sam Jospin
In memory of Walter Carson
Tony Center
In memory of Sam Jospin
In honor of Andy Kramer
In honor of Louis Freedman
Vicki & Harry Center
In memory of Sam Jospin
In memory of Helen Spiers
In memory of Candice Peagler
Miriam Center

Sporting.....from pg 8

medals at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney (100-meter backstroke, 100- and 50-meter freestyle); gold, two silver and bronze medals at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens (100-meter backstroke, 100- and 50-meter freestyle, 200-meter individual medley); has been a three-time World champion; a five-time European champion; and has held world records in three different events at various times. It is usually noted that her medals and records in the freestyle

events are particularly remarkable because her injury required her to start races in the pool, competing against other swimmers who could begin from a diving position.

Leibovitch was given the honor of lighting the torch at the 2001 Macabiah Games in Jerusalem. In a 2005 poll conducted by the Israeli news website *ynet* to determine who the general public considered the 200 Greatest Israelis, she ranked as the 46th greatest Israeli of all time.



Looking for something to do?

Check the Community Calendar at www.savj.org. Exciting programs are added regularly, check for new events each week!



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Savannah, Georgia 31405

Discover the Credit Union difference...

Whether you are skilled at theater crafts, interested in enjoying more performance and class offerings or just like discussing the people who do—

JACC
Join our next Jewish Arts & Culture Center event
To learn more contact Jamie Cahn 912-355-8111
Promoting live theater and performance:
Acting, directing, stage craft & theater design with a Jewish flair!



If your loved one is a Hospice Savannah patient, they can now choose to live in the comfort and convenience of Hospice House.

People with a gift for helping.TM

HospiceSavannahHelps.org

To find out more about the private room rates for residential stays on the east wing* please contact Mindy Yates at **912.355.2289**.

*The west wing continues to be utilized by Hospice Savannah patients as an alternative to a hospital-stay (Medicare hospice benefit); for respite care (Medicare hospice benefit); or for short-term transitional stays (sliding-scale fee applies).



Lisa Elkin,
Shalom School
President

Returning to the Farm

I am a private person by nature and despite having lived in Savannah for the past twelve years and serving as president of the Shalom School Board for the last two, I hope most folks in town have no idea who I am.

Just before my thirteenth birthday, my family moved to Buffalo, NY, for my parents to take better jobs. Despite the logistical challenges for two working parents, I was enrolled in our temple's religious school that, not unlike Shalom School, served the families of two congregations: one Reconstructionist, the other Conservative. There I finished preparing for my bat mitzvah, completed confirmation classes with five other students and later attended the JCC-sponsored Hebrew High School. Even though Buffalo was a bigger city than Savannah, the group of Jewish kids I knew was small.

When I left home to attend college, I had to find the Hillel chapter on campus with a microscope. The other Jewish students and I ventured out to other colleges in the area where we went to services, parties

and other events. When I came home for graduate school, I enjoyed the perk of returning to the congregation I had grown up in.

Then, at 25, I loaded up a Ryder truck and moved to Cincinnati, chasing after a nice Jewish boy. I loved living in the city that, like ancient Rome, sits in a valley surrounded by seven hills and is named for Cincinnatus: farmer-statesman who was called to lead, served and then eagerly returned to his farm. Of course I sought out a Jewish home. Cincinnati, home of the Hebrew Union College, had an abundance of congregations to choose from. So many, in fact, it was hard to decide between them. By the time I caught that boy, married him and we moved away, we had tried out so many I lost count.

When we arrived in Savannah, we felt warmly welcomed by the Jewish community and joined Mickve Israel soon after our arrival. As our children came along and became old enough, they started attending Shalom School. On Sunday mornings, I drove them downtown, quietly dropped them off and snuck out to Target. But in a town the size of Savannah, it is hard to stay completely anonymous.

Eventually, I was invited to join the school's Board. I was reluctant, but felt like it was time to do my part.

And, I realized that if I expected my children to share my commitment to being a part of a Jewish community, I must model that behavior for them, the same way I wear a bike helmet hoping that when they are old enough to make their own choices, the example I set will stick with them. When I was later asked to serve as president of the board, I reminded myself that I would be doing this just as much to set an example for my children as to try and give something back to the community.

And so I found myself president of the Shalom School Board, ready to work hard but not knowing what to expect. In the end, I could not have predicted what lay ahead. It turned out to be quite a bumpy road and I wondered often if I could travel to its end. Thankfully, many good things can come out of adversity. I met many amazing, intelligent and kind people whose paths I would not have crossed otherwise. I was fortunate that the principal and Board of the school were wonderful to work with. I was lucky to have had the support and guidance of so many great people who not only offered helpful advice but frequently connected me with the person who possessed exactly the expertise the school needed at the moment.

The school also benefited from facing the challenges it did over the last

two years. Greater scrutiny of the school forced the Principal and Board to reexamine and improve in a number of ways. From addressing student security to introducing more family-friendly programming to starting a Hebrew tutoring program as an alternative to traditional "Hebrew School," we have looked for ways to keep pace with the needs of our families. The academic year ended with over 90 children from Congregations Agudath Achim and Mickve Israel enrolled in Shalom School and we look forward to more next fall.

But Shalom School is about more than providing Jewish children with a religious education. It is about gathering as many of them as possible together, so they can socialize, make friends and start to find their own Jewish community. It is my hope that Shalom School, a cooperative endeavor, will continue to unite children and provide them with a strong Jewish foundation. And I hope that just like that school in Buffalo did for me, it will instill in our children the importance of maintaining a connection to whatever Jewish community one might find oneself in.

And now that my term is up, like Cincinnatus I am looking forward to returning to my "farm," to tend to my two sprouts. I hope they have their helmets on!



MARVIN ARKIN

31 October 2001
Interviewed by Harriet Meyerhoff

I was born in the St. Joseph Hospital. I was the second child. I had an older sister, Claudia. We lived at first on West Bolton Street in the same building that the Steinbergs - that was Sadie Rabhan's parents. We lived there until I was about 3 years old and we moved to Broughton Street. My father had a store on the 400 block of Broughton Street between Montgomery and West Broad. We lived over the store there. I say I remember, but I just realized that when I was about 3 years old, like in September of '25, I went to the JEA to kindergarten there. So I started when I was a little before 4 years old, and went to kindergarten at the JEA for several years there. I distinctly remember we had the kindergarten down in the basement of the old Alliance on Barnard Street. Also I remember they had a tiny toilet in there for kids. I've never seen - I don't think I've ever seen one that was a child's toilet. It always impressed me. That was my beginning connection with the Alliance, and I guess I've been connected ever since for the last 75 years or so.



Sensory Summer at JEA Preschool

Our JEA Preschool Savannah Summer Program has been filled with days of meaningful play and hands on experiences for the children.

Swimming in the kiddie and big pools, splashing at the water table, or performing yoga poses in the shape of the Hebrew letters, the children are busy interacting with the materials and each other as they grow and develop.

Children learn best through the sensory activities designed especially for them. With this learning style in mind, here's what we've learned during our summer program at JEA Preschool Savannah about our children and families through the sights, sounds, and smells happening here:

Sights

- Daddies walking their toddlers into JEA Preschool Savannah for the day
- Mommies carrying their toddlers home for the day
- Children painting moons and stars
- Teachers doing the hand motions to "Five Little Monkeys"
- Smiles on children's faces during water play
- Shabbat candles lit on Friday
- Children floating on their backs at swim lessons

My reflection: Children are engaged in hands-on activities and they are happy to walk through the doors of the Preschool. They are learning in all areas of development: physical, social and emotional. Celebrating Shabbat together creates a sense of community between children, teachers and parents.

Sounds

- Crying at drop-off from the children who don't want daddy to leave
- Crying at pick up from the children who don't want to leave
- Laughing at a friend who put a bucket on his head
- Laughing at a funny story being read by the teacher
- Singing a favorite rocket song
- Yelling for joy outside riding a tricycle
- Giggling with each other in the housekeeping corner
- Our favorite "Shabbat is Here" song



'Miss Jodi' is the focus of the summer program sensory activity one day — the children have a great time painting her!

- Splashing water at the little pool

My reflection: Children experience all emotions when they are here and the teachers work hard to honor those feelings and assist the children in working through them. There is much language and literacy developing for the children through songs, stories and dramatic play.

Smells

- Fresh baked "alien" cookies
- Dirty diapers (that quickly are taken away)
- Sunscreen
- Teachers' lunches
- Chlorine from the pool
- Challah
- Diaper cream

My reflection: I know summer is here with the strong scent of sunscreen permeating the air. This tells me that the teachers are being diligent about taking care of the children. Teachers are nourishing their bodies with healthy foods so they can feel satisfied and fueled when working with the children.

Now that I have shared some of my reflections I would encourage you to come visit our wonderful program and experience the sights, sounds and smells for yourself. You'll be glad you did!

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Workshop provided by your JEA Buildings & Grounds Committee

The Savannah Jewish Federation proudly provides space for a half-page ad to each local congregation in each issue of the Savannah Jewish News.

July/August Services

- July 3: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- July 4: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- July 10: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm
Off Site
- July 11: Shabbat Morning Service
Commemorating our 282nd
Anniversary, 11am
- July 17: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm
Off Site
- July 18: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- July 24: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm
Off Site
- July 25: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- July 31: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm
Off Site
- August 1: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- August 7: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm
Off Site
- August 8: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- August 14: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm
Off Site
- August 15: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- August 21: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm
Off Site
- August 22: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- August 28: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
Featuring Cantor Bill Wood
- August 29: Shabbat Morning Service & Bar
Mitzvah of Noah Linfoot, 11am
Featuring Cantor Bill Wood

Everyone is welcome to join us for our services and events!

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For more information about off site services visit mickveisrael.org or call 912-233-1547

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October 25, 2015

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Tuesday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

Friday Shacharit 7:00 am & Kabbalat Shabbat 5:45 pm

It's a Funny Thing



Melinda Stein

Sol opened a clothing store and was trying to manage it to the best of his capabilities. Once day he overheard his cashier say to a customer, "No, we haven't had it for a while, and it doesn't look like we'll be getting it any time soon."

Sol quickly assured the customer that they'd have it next week – no questions asked. After the customer left,

Sol read his cashier the riot act. "How many times do I have to tell you? Never tell the customer that we're out of anything! Tell them we'll have it next week. Now, what was it that she was asking about?"

"Rain."

Abe and Irv were neighbors in a Florida retirement community, and both proud pet owners, always trying to one-up each other about how smart their dogs were.

"My dog is so smart," Abe bragged, "that every morning he waits for the paperboy to come around. He brings the kid his tip and then brings me the paper, along with my morning medicine."

"I know that," said Irv.

"How could you know?" asked Abe.

"My dog told me," Irv replied.

Jacob comes home from work on a freezing winter day. He steps into the kitchen and his wife welcomes him, saying, "Darling, what would you say to a nice hot bowl of matzah ball soup?"

And Jacob replies, "It depends on what the soup said to me first!"

Rachel was going out on a blind date. She called her best friend Becky and said, "Would you call me in about 30 minutes? If I can't stand the guy, I'll make an excuse that it's my mom and she needs me."

The date was a flop, so a half hour later when Rachel's phone rang, she spoke for a moment, then told the fellow, "I have to go, my mother's electricity just went out."

He replied, "That's okay – my dad was about to have a leak in the basement pipes!"

A new patient was quite upset when the doctor's nurse led him to a small, curtained cubicle and told him to undress. "But I only want the doctor to look at an ingrown toenail!" he protested.

"Our rule is that everyone must undress," replied the blond nurse.

"That's a stupid rule," grumbled the patient, "making me undress just to look at my toe."

"That's nothing," growled a voice from the next cubicle. "I just came to fix the phones!"

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth... After that, everything else was made in China.



Don't miss the chance to include your holiday wishes in the next issue of the Savannah Jewish News!

Download the Holiday Greetings Order Form at www.savj.org
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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Frances Hirshberg Wagger
Who died June 26, 2015

She is survived by her daughter, Margie Wagger Smith of New Mexico; her son-in-law, Michael Karpf of Savannah; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Larry Wagger; her daughter, Susan Wagger Karpf; and her brothers, Sy and Bernard Hirshberg.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405; the Savannah Jewish Federation, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; Hospice Savannah, Box 13190, Savannah 31416.

Florence K. Alterbaum
Who died June 23, 2015

She is survived by her daughter, Lisa (Tommy) Cohen of Alpharetta; her sons, Tommy Alterbaum, of Atlanta and Steve Alterbaum, of Savannah; four grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Alterbaum.

Remembrances: Karpf Youth Fund,



c/o Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.

Stanley Irving Weiss
Who died June 16, 2015

He is survived by his wife, Sheila Karesh Weiss; a son, Eric Alan (Laurie) Weiss, a daughter, Jan Weiss (Norman) Epstein; four grandchildren; his sister, Betty (Larry) Lasky; sisters- and brothers-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, 250 West Green St., Athens, GA 30602.

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so good**



Join us as we start this exciting year!

Contact Jean Weitz

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jweitz@hadassah.org

GIVE, JOIN, DO!

www.hadassah.org/southeastern

Go to Savannah Chapter for calendar updates.

**Savannah Hadassah
is entering
it's 90th season!**

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Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Exhilarating and Life-Changing

by Hannah Slotin

Birthright. An experience that is made available (and constantly mentioned by their Bubbies) to young Jews aged 18-26. Jewish young adults are given the free opportunity to change their life in a very meaningful and spiritual way through Taglit Birthright. Little did I know, but the trip that I applied for and was placed on was about to change my life for the better.

I had the privilege to attend an Israel Outdoors national trip with Jewish students aged 18-22. I went with the perfect mix of some of my best friends from the University of Georgia, as well as new best friends from all over the country. Our group, Bus 132, instantly clicked and we were so fortunate to have the most incredible staff, tour guide, and Israeli soldiers around. The trip was amazing to say the least. It didn't matter how long and hot the hikes or days were, I knew that I was growing and becoming a more knowledgeable and passionate Jewish individual.

Our group ended each day with personal reflections and endless moments of enhancing our Jewish identities. We, as Jews, owe so much to Taglit Birthright. Although I feel that I started my Birthright experience with a strong Jewish foundation and identity, this trip greatly impacted my Jewish pride and connection to my heritage. My favorite part of the trip was watching Birthright connect so many Jewish teens to Judaism and Israel who had little to no Jewish identity prior to this trip. For example, getting to watch some of my new friends become Bar or Bat Mitzvah and being given Hebrew names were memories that I will cherish forever.

I am still in constant contact with my group—Israeli soldiers included—thanks to social media. I also had the amazing opportunity to extend my trip a few extra days with



Hannah Slotin (far right) with her old and new best friends in the Golan Heights.

friends that easily became family in such a short period of time. This trip pushed me so far out of my comfort zone, in the best possible way. I am now adding “staff a Birthright trip” to my bucket list.

We are very fortunate to have the Savannah Jewish Federation helping fund Birthright trips for thousands of Jewish teens around the world. I will never be able to repay or thank Taglit Birthright enough for the most exhausting, dehydrating, exhilarating, and life-changing ten days of my life.

Hannah Slotin, 20, is a junior at the University of Georgia, double majoring in Communication Studies and Spanish. She is the daughter of Susan and Frank Slotin. (Her ‘bubbles’ are Harriet Ullman and Vivian Slotin.) Hannah went on a Birthright Israel trip during the current summer session. Taglit-Birthright Israel, a beneficiary of the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign, provides free, peer group, educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26 with the belief that a trip to Israel strengthens Jewish identity and is the best way to build a lasting bond between young Jewish people around the world and their peers in Israel. For more information, contact Jamie Cahn at (912) 355-8111 or see www.birthrightisrael.com.

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LASTING LEGACIES

“She was just a beautiful soul,” Arlene Richman Ratner said of her cousin Ceceile Richman, who died in 2014 at the age of 99. “She was quiet, unassuming and always had a smile on her face,” Arlene continued.

Upon her death, Ceceile Richman left a generous bequest to the Jewish Educational Alliance that was used to establish the **Ceceile Richman JEA Fund** at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah. With advice from Arlene and her cousin David Cohen (Ceceile’s nephew from Charleston), it was determined that annual income from the Fund would be used to support The PJ Library in Savannah and the Health & Wellness Center at the JEA.

‘Ceil,’ as she was called, was a professional librarian for all of her career, first in Baltimore and then in Savannah, where she retired. “Books were her major love,” said Arlene. She also had a deep concern for the connection between the mind and the body as relates to overall wellness. Because The PJ Library provides a free book (or sometimes CD) each month to Jewish children ages 6 months to 8 years old, it was a natural choice to help share Ceil’s enthusiasm for reading and learning. Arlene said that she and David felt that it and the Health & Wellness Center reflect both of Ceil’s passions.

Speaking of his aunt, David said:

“When I think of her, I am always reminded of a passage in Ethics of Our Fathers [Pirkei Avot] that basically says ‘we all should

be pleased and happy with our lot in life,’ and she was. That personified Aunt Ceil and that’s why I always loved her so much.”

Arlene notes that “Ceil was such a quiet person; she never wanted recognition for anything and she probably would have a hissy fit if this was known about while she was alive.”

Ceceile Richman’s generosity to the community will be felt and her name will be remembered for generations to come.



Ceceile Richman

Create a Fund

A designated fund can benefit a specific purpose dear to your family or the community at large. Funds can be created and activated now or established with a bequest or other financial instrument. To discuss establishing a Lasting Legacy for your family with a fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, contact Adam Solender at (912) 355-8111 or adam@savj.org.

SAVE THE DATE



Savannah Jewish Federation

2015 Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, September 9th
7pm at the JEA**

**Investiture of new Executive Board
and Board of Governors**

Awards and Honors

Updates on the Federation

Please plan to be there!

\$1,045,654

What can One Gift Do?

Thanks to Donors like You, a World of Good!

The Savannah Jewish Federation provides support wherever there is need.

Thanks to you, members of our community continue to live dignified lives when they face difficult economic times.

Thanks to you, we are able to care for and feed the neediest among us.

Thanks to you, the Savannah Jewish Federation continues to focus on Jewish education and Jewish identity, maintaining support for Shalom School, the JEA, JELF, BBYO, SCAD Hillel and programming to combat the growing threats of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

Thanks to you, we maintain support for local children to attend Jewish overnight summer camps, and for teens to participate in Jewish leadership development programs, to travel to Israel for educational tourism and yeshiva study; and we are able to support Birthright Israel and other programs that inspire a deep love of Israel and Jewish life.

Thanks to you, we are able to respond, on a moment's notice, to the critical needs of our fellow Jews in Ukraine or anywhere else in the world.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the 2015 Annual Community Campaign a success.

We will do a world of good.



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