

Anti-Israel Activity Growing on Campuses

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) released a new report that shows an alarming increase in anti-Israel activity on U.S. university and college campuses. The report details an upsurge in anti-Israel events, backing from university departments and a continued Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement designed to demonize and delegitimize the Jewish State of Israel. As a first response to these findings, ADL announced a new social media initiative, @CampusADL, to support students facing anti-Israel activity and anti-Semitism on campus.

The report examines the 2014-2015 academic year but notes that already this fall, more than 150 explicitly anti-Israel events have taken place, up from 105 events during the same time period last year. Also, by

the end of September, university departments on five different college campuses already had sponsored or co-sponsored anti-Israel programs promoting BDS campaigns in the fall semester.

“Student groups at a number of campuses are sponsoring a range of programs and initiatives designed with one goal: to isolate, defame and delegitimize Israel,” said Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL CEO. “Many of these efforts have resulted in increased tension between students and have fostered a hostile atmosphere for pro-Israel and Jewish students. We are particularly concerned by the



Pro-BDS protesters at Loyola University, December 2014

support these initiatives have received from faculty members.”

In 2014, ADL tracked more than 520 anti-Israel events on campus representing a 30% increase from the previous academic year.

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Start New Year at Konter-Weiland Comedy Club

Welcome in 2016 with a smile on your face at the evening of comedy on January 9th sponsored by the *Lawrence Konter and Bertram Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund*. Three popular comics will be showcased, once again in the “JEA Comedy Club” format, featuring a comedy club-like seating arrangement and refreshments that include an open bar and desserts.

Starring in the show this year are Lenny Marcus, a regular in all of the New York comedy clubs; Jon Fisch, a “prolific monologist” who focuses on the idiosyncrasies of city life; and Jeff Caldwell, labeled “smart and funny” by none less than the legendary George Carlin.

The Konter-Weiland Comedy Night is free and open to anyone who either is a member in good standing of the Jewish Educational Alliance or has made a minimum contribution of \$50 (individually) to the 2016 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Seating is limited; tickets will be available beginning December 14th.

Marcy and Jerry Konter, founders of the sponsoring fund named for their fathers, stated: “It is our pleasure to again be able to bring everyone together for a good belly laugh, an evening of humor and fun, and

to have a chance to thank everyone who supports the Savannah Jewish community by being a member of the JEA, a donor to the Federation, or both.”



Lenny Marcus

In addition to being a mainstay of the New York City comedy club scene, Lenny Marcus appeared on *The Late Show with David Letterman* three times

and on numerous other TV comedy shows. He has acted in a number of commercials and has appeared many times on Tru-TV making fun of “the world’s stupidest criminals.” He recently released his third comedy CD, *Vegan Cupcakes*, and directed and starred in his second short film, *The Walker*, which will be released in 2016.

Jon Fisch also is a regular in the comedy clubs and on comedy TV and the festival circuit. When he released his second comedy



Jon Fisch

CD last year, *He Has Friends*, one reviewer wrote: [It] “is a delightful romp through the life of a single, 40-year-old uncle as he navigates adult-

hood... He speaks like someone who has whole-heartedly experienced each scenario he presents, rather than simply relaying the story to you: you are along for Fisch’s ride.”

Known for being clean and clever, Jeff Caldwell is a former civil and environmental engineer who appeared six times on *The Late Show with David Letterman*. He also appeared three times on *The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson* and has done standup on

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Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 4	5:02pm
Friday, December 11	5:03pm
Friday, December 18	5:05pm
Friday, December 25	5:08pm
Friday, January 1	5:13pm
Friday, January 8	5:18pm
Friday, January 15	5:24pm

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Feel the ImpACT in the final 50 days of the SJF Community Campaign. Your gift – and your involvement – make a difference in countless ways, see p5. The 100 Days wraps up with a Teen Weekend for youth from all over our area, see p9

Plan for Jewish Film Festival

— The preparations are just about complete for the 12th Savannah Jewish Film Festival and as always, it’s a great lineup. See the details on p7

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Savannah Jewish Federation

2016 SJF Community Campaign Update

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Lessons from Masada

Several years ago my book club read *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman, a fictional but extremely well-researched novel set in ancient Israel before and during the siege of Masada. With each news report of the recent stabbings and killings in Israel today, spurred on by the hatred and sanctioned violence spewed by some Palestinian clergy, as well as the increased anti-Semitism in other parts of the world, my mind keeps returning to the story portrayed in this novel. But these news reports are not fiction and Israeli Jews cannot and will not retreat to any fortress. "To many Jewish people, Masada symbolizes the determination of the Jewish people to be free in its own land." That determination has not changed.

Sherry Dolgoff,
President of the
Savannah Jewish
Federation

In the 1920s, Hebrew writer Isaac Lamdan wrote "Masada," a poetic history of the Jewish fight against a world full of enemies. According to Professor David Roskies, Lamdan's poem, "later inspired the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto." More than two thousand years have passed since the fall of the Masada fortress, yet the indomitable spirit of the Jewish people of Israel (and in the Diaspora) remains.

When my dear friend, Debbie Rotkoff, returned from Houston recently she brought me a *Jewish Herald Voice* (the Gulf Coast's Jewish newspaper since 1908). In this October 8, 2015 edition was an editorial: **#Israeli lives matter**. The words in this article echoed my own thoughts, cementing the ideas running through my mind. I'd like to share some of the editorial with you:

A killing spree is underway on the streets of Jerusalem, and the world takes no notice because of who the victims are.

If the victims were Palestinians, it would be international headline news. In response, anti-Israel protests would appear in capitals and major cities around the world. Demonstrations would be organized on college campuses. Condemnations would be heard from governments and leaders. Anti-Jewish cartoons and editorials would appear in segments of the press. Attacks and violence against Jewish targets outside of Israel might even occur.

But the victims aren't Palestinians. They are Israelis- and Jews.

Four were killed in two terror attacks in three days. The violence began on the Temple Mount, where Muslims are allowed to pray, but Jews are not. A mother and father were killed in front of their four children. Then two more people were killed in a stabbing

attack in the Old City. And the attacks continue, unabated.

Human rights groups are mum. The world yawns, and looks the other way. What little news coverage there has been focused on Israel's response to the violence, often in critique. What's needed is a different social media campaign. The hashtag: Israeli lives matter.

As history consistently shows, violence can escalate if people of conscience remain quiet. Israel supporters need to find their voice.

Over the years, teaching about the Holocaust began to feel like my reason for becoming a teacher. However, that was only part of it, of course. Being with children, encouraging them, celebrating each accomplishment with them was wonderful. Teaching kindergarten was especially and uniquely wonderful. The thrill when a child realized that, yes, they were reading! They were writing words and understood what those words meant. The changes in those children were amazing. My middle school students were realizing that the world was larger than our classroom, larger than Savannah and that they would be part of the larger world. Not only did they think outside of the box, many made their own "boxes" through reading, writing and collaborating with each other. I loved watching them grow as they learned about themselves and life through literature. Some of that literature was about the Holocaust. It was difficult for all of us as the truth of history is sometimes painful. Would I change anything about those experiences? No, because understanding about life made those children stronger, more aware and better prepared for the future.

I think of the children in Israel, trying to accomplish normal things. Family, school, soccer, playing with their friends. Living. That's not too much to ask. But the life lessons those children have to learn are very serious. Their lives are precious. We must remember that they are in harm's way every day. Unfortunately, they are not invulnerable.

Never have I forgotten the feeling I had looking out over the land from the top of Masada to the Dead Sea. It was a feeling of belonging, of pride in Israel's strength and, yes, determination to ensure Israel's future. We cannot just sit back and remain quiet. Hatred never simply dissipates. It escalates over and over. Silence in the face of violence is extremely effective for those who are more focused on hatred rather than peace. We must focus on living, remember...AND speak up against injustice because **#all lives matter!**



Jamie Cahn,
Campaign Director,
SJF

Southern, Jewish Hospitality

Jamie Cahn, Savannah Jewish Federation Campaign Director, is the guest columnist this month for Adam Solender.

People often ask me what I like about living in Savannah. My answer is always (besides

living closer to my family and *finally* living in the same city as Steven), I love the southern hospitality. I love that people are warm and welcoming and that I truly feel like part of the community. Southern hospitality is still a strong value here in Savannah. I am reminded of it in the thoughtful phone calls I get each day while I am at my desk, in the handwritten notes that I receive, and in the gracious invitations to holiday and Shabbat dinners. If we all believe in this value of southern hospitality, why is it such a crazy, innovative thought to bring the idea of southern hospitality into the work that we do as a Jewish community?

In Judaism, this idea of southern hospitality translates to the value of *hachnasat orchim* or welcoming guests. Abraham and Sarah left their tent open to welcome guests. In those days, people walked by and entered their tent. Today, it is our job to go out into the community, get to know the people and then invite them into our tent, into our community.

This is the idea behind the Savannah Jewish Federation's new initiatives. They are ways to extend that southern hospitality and idea of welcoming to the Savannah Jewish community. Sixteen months ago, the Savannah Jewish Federation Board of Governors funded the new plan to re-JEW-venate Young Jewish Savannah. In those 16 months, about 200 young adults in their 20s and 30s have been identified and over 120 have attended a Young Jewish Savannah event. These Jewish young adults in Savannah just wanted to be asked to come to an event, they wanted to be taken out for coffee and they wanted to connect to the Jewish community – they just didn't know how! When Young Jewish Savannah relaunched last year, the emails and

phone calls I got were from people of all ages asking, "where is this kind of program for me?" The answer is, they are coming!

This year, the Savannah Jewish Federation has continued its investment in initiatives that create authentic and personal connections with so many people in the community. Whatever you want to call it – southern hospitality or *hachnasat orchim* or engagement – the idea is the same. It is up to us to go out and connect to people in the community to engage them in Jewish life. The initiatives for SCAD Hillel and BBYO are engaging college students and teens in Jewish life. We didn't know some of the teens and students existed before a few months ago – and many of them didn't know about us.

At Young Jewish Savannah's November Mitzvahs & Martinis program, I spoke to a girl I had never met or heard of before. I asked her how she heard about our event. She told me that she was a senior at SCAD and had been approached by one

"...about 200 young adults in their 20s and 30s have been identified and over 120 have attended a Young Jewish Savannah event... The special part about Savannah is that each individual we engage is significant and has an impact."

of the SCAD Hillel Student Engagement Ambassadors. She then went to the SCAD Hillel Sukkot event where she met Devra Silverman, SJF Engagement Coordinator, who told her about Young Jewish Savannah – and here she was! She is graduating in

May and planning to stay in Savannah to continue her career as an artist. Not every story is like this – but we hope there are many more stories of the many entry points we offer into the Savannah Jewish community. The special part about Savannah is that each individual we engage is significant and has an impact.

One member of Young Jewish Savannah who moved here a few months ago, recently came to me and told me, "I feel more at home and connected to the Jewish community in Savannah than I have anywhere else in my adult life." It is the ability to reach out and create these genuine connections to each person that makes Savannah and the work that the Savannah Jewish Federation does so special.

Anti-Israel.....from pg 1

There were 19 campuses where students introduced divestment resolutions and referenda, a 21% increase from when 15 campuses considered such campaigns in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Of concern is not only the increasing number of events and campaigns but also the messaging. Many of these programs promoted false claims about Israel, including that it is an apartheid state or that it is not interested in achieving peace with the Palestinians.

The ADL report noted that some of the largest groups responsible for these activities, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), began using new tactics last year. Seizing on the opportunity to connect unrelated events that dominated the news at the time, SJP chapters began sponsoring events that linked Gaza and Operation Protective Edge with police brutality cases in Ferguson, Baltimore and New York, attracting new audiences to their cause. They used these events as opportunities to build coalitions with other student groups they previously had not been able to reach.

For example, in September, 2014, the Palestine Solidarity Committee at the University of Texas-Austin sponsored "From Ferguson to Palestine: Connecting Struggles." The program featured two UT-Austin professors and was co-sponsored by the school's Pre-Law National Black Law Student Association and the Association of Black Psychologists.

While the BDS resolutions and referenda introduced in student governments were not binding on their institutions, they often had the effect of creating divisive atmo-

spheres on the campuses where the campaigns played out. At Loyola University there was "Loyola Divestment Week," a week-long program of organized events promoting BDS and Loyola divestment, despite the fact that the school's president had already published an open letter to the Loyola community stating that the university would not take up the matter of divestment and that the BDS campaign had created an atmosphere that "pits student against student."

"BDS is not an effort designed to engender a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Greenblatt said. "It does not seek to achieve a two-state solution that benefits all parties. Instead, it seeks to undermine the Jewish State of Israel. It's an agenda of anti-normalization that demonizes Israel and its citizens simply because of their identity. This is the antithesis of constructive dialogue that the university should embody. In practice, the BDS movement's indiscriminate targeting of individuals based solely on their national origin and irrespective of views or actions is inherently anti-Semitic."

The ADL report notes that not all advocates of the BDS campaign are themselves anti-Semitic and may be driven by their perception that they are engaging in legitimate criticism of Israel. Greenblatt added: "We respect a robust debate about Middle East policy. There are complex political, social and humanitarian crises in the region that demand attention and merit serious, thoughtful debate. Many Jewish students actively take part in these debates and freely participate in campus life without fear. However, BDS poisons the atmo-

Konter-Weiland.....from pg 1



Jeff Caldwell

ESPN's *The Lighter Side of Sports* as well as hosting their *Sports Figures*. He blogs at *Huffington Post*, commenting humorously on scientific topics affecting the

world today.

Watch your mail and the eNews for complete details on how to make reservations/obtain tickets.

What:

Konter-Weiland Comedy Night

When:

Saturday, January 9, 2016; 7:30pm

Where:

JEA, 5111 Abercorn St.

Cost:

Free to JEA members or donors to 2016 SJF Campaign (\$50 min.)

The next issue of the *Savannah Jewish News* will be our combined January / February issue. The deadline for all submissions is December 11th. Please send all materials to sjnews@savj.org.

sphere for serious intellectual debate and contributes to an environment of intimidation. Countering today's anti-Israel bias and anti-Semitic incidents in an institutional setting remains a substantial challenge."

In an effort to directly engage with Jewish and pro-Israel groups and students on college and university campuses, ADL launched @CampusADL, a Twitter handle that provides students with detailed backgrounders, as well as alerts to upcoming events and campaigns. In September 2014, it began its *Words to Action* program, an interactive education program for college and pre-college students designed to equip them with constructive and effective responses to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias on campus. ADL also encourages university chancellors and administrators to speak out against divestment resolutions and assert that the campus in question will not entertain divestment.

Savannah Jewish News

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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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Feeling the ImpACT

by Jamie Cahn, SJF Campaign Director

The Savannah Jewish Federation's 100 Days of ImpACT has been sweeping the community! The first 50 days have been filled with educating the community about the impact the Savannah Jewish Federation makes in the Savannah Jewish community and around the world. The first 50 days have been filled with an exciting energy – highlighting programs such as Young Jewish Savannah engaging Jewish young adults in the community; connecting to the larger community of Jewish Federations of North America at the General Assembly in Washington, DC; networking at the FEDerationX: Networking Happy Hour and connecting to the Savannah Jewish community at Super Sunday.

The 100 Days of ImpACT campaign highlights many of the ways the Savannah Jewish Federation changes the world - for people and communities in need locally and as far away as Israel, Ukraine and France. The campaign invites you to get in on the ACT by supporting the Jewish Federation and participating in community programs.

Week 9 – Discovering (November 29-December 5)

When it comes to Judaism, we are constantly Discovering. Whether it be new programs to hold, new philanthropic events to initiate, or people to invite into our community, we are constantly uncovering and breaking new ground. This week's theme is Discovering with a focus on Israel. Taglit-Birthright Israel provides 18-26 year olds with a free 10-day trip to Israel. Taglit translates to Discovery. Birthright is a key way that young adults can explore and discover not only the Holy Land, but also their personal faith. While venturing through the Israeli desert, floating in the Dead Sea, or exploring its cities, young adults have the opportunity to uncover the beauty of Israel and the enormity of our Jewish heritage and tradition. It is our goal to discover ways to make our Jewish community one that is ever changing, fresh and new, while remaining a constant. We celebrate Israel this week in our community by inviting the Israeli Minister of Tourism to our community on Thursday, December 3rd.

Week 10 (December 6-12) – Sparking

This week we celebrate Chanukah and highlight the idea of creating the



spark of Judaism through programs in our community. One program that begins to light that spark in children is the PJ Library – a program that sends Jewish children ages 6 months to 8 years a FREE Jewish book each month. This wonderful program is co-sponsored with local funders through the Savannah Jewish Federation and by your campaign dollars. While we light our Chanukah candles let us be aware of where we can ignite the spark and excitement of Judaism within our community. Our enthusiasm and excitement about our holidays and events can spread to other members of our community. It is so easy to spark someone's interest in taking part in our community and enjoying our traditions. Think about inviting another community member to Shabbat dinner, a Chanukah party, or other fun event. You can be that person that starts their spark in participating in our shared Jewish experience. This week, let us focus on not only sparking the light of the Chanukah candles, but also on sparking the spirit of community.

Week 11 (December 13-19) – Reaching Out

Outreach is going out and bringing people to programs; Engagement is the act of reaching others, getting to know them and connecting with them. Engagement is about the people and getting the people to connect with other like people in order to build relationships and, therefore, community. This year, the Savannah Jewish Federation has funded initiatives to reach out to teens, through BBYO, and college students, through SCAD Hillel. Our hope and goal is to engage the whole community through personal connections. It is the personal connection and the act of reaching out that gets people involved and excited about the Jewish community. Reaching out is such an important way to help connect Jewish in Savannah to Jewish life. When we reach out to others we not only help them to enrich their lives, but also to form connections with and benefit other members of our community.

Week 12 (December 20-26) – Volunteering

We celebrate all of our volunteers in the community: Those of you who



November was an exciting month for Savannah BBYO! Members of both chapters attended Southern Region Convention (SRC) in early November, and Jr/Sr Weekend in mid November. It was a busy month of travelling around the southeast, but many memories were made!

At SRC our teens enjoyed competing against Atlanta Council's chapters in spirited and creative competitions in categories such as chapter videos, banners, songs, and dances. It was a fast-paced and adrenaline rushing weekend that the teens are still talking about today!

In mid November, Dixie Council teamed up with Eastern Region to hold Jr/Sr Weekend, a convention for upperclassmen, where teens spent time discussing thought-provoking questions about love and respect in this day and age. Renowned youth educator Scott Fried lead the discussions.

Watch this space for more updates regarding Savannah chapter events and Council conventions! For more information about joining BBYO, please contact Jill Strauss, adult board chair (912-844-5588) or Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator (912-355-8111). We can't wait to see you at our next event!



Savannah BBYO teens heading to Southern Region Convention



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Sunday January 31

spend hours on decorating the JEA for the Gala or Shabbaton, those who answer phone calls at all hours of the day and night for JFS cases, those who sit on committees and boards and those that are making the hard calls to raise money for the 2016 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Community Campaign. We honor our volunteers as we volunteer together on December 24 and 25 for Trading Places.

Week 13 (December 27-January 2) – Compassion

Judaism has long been based on compassion. We are taught to be compassionate toward the poor, animals, and each other. Compassion means so much more than just feeling for another person. Compassion means reaching out to those in our community who need us, without any judgment. Compassion is key in a Jewish community because it allows us to truly feel cared for and supported. Compassion is what

makes a community, a family. This week features the work that Jewish Family Services does in our community and the many community members it helps.

Week 14 (January 3-9) – Educating

It is crucial that we educate others about our culture, our history, and our beliefs. As a community, it is our job to educate our children. It is the job of the community to offer supportive education, to create fun, informative events and programs, and to make sure the Jewish youth understand the importance of their Judaism. For perpetuating our heritage, there is nothing as critical as educating the next generation. We are responsible for making sure our children go out into the world understanding who they are and from where they come. We, as a people, continue to prosper because we tell our stories and never forget our past.

Four Questions

for the rest of the year

Lasting Connections

Matthew Allan, a local realtor and the recently installed secretary-treasurer of the Savannah Jewish Federation, called recently to talk about one of his sales. It's not something we usually take note of, but this one has a nice story.

Originally from New Jersey, Matthew moved to Savannah in September 2006 by way of Los Angeles, where he also was a realtor. He is affiliated with Keller Williams Realty here in Savannah where he heads up the *Moves With a Purpose* group, a subset of KW realtors who donate 10% of their sales commissions to local non-profit causes.

Matthew met his wife Michelle through his involvement with Young Jewish Savannah. They have two children, Lila, 5, and Rafi, 3.

Whose house did you sell and why was this sale so personal for you?

I sold the house that belonged to Amanda and Josh Reeves. They moved to Charleston a few years ago but just bought a house there and decided to sell their house down here. We were very close when they lived here, and we're still friendly, although we don't see them as often as we would like.

Not long after I moved to Savannah, a friend who worked with Amanda said I ought to meet her, since she was another young Jewish person. She was a realtor, too, and came to one of my open houses. Josh was with her. I knew she was the person my friend had told me about, so when she introduced herself I asked them, "What shul do you guys go to?" which I think surprised them because they didn't know I was Jewish. We got to talking and Amanda and Josh used to host these huge dinners at the high holidays and Passover, or would invite me to Josh's parents' house. They brought me into the fold and after that, we were involved in Young Jewish Savannah, which is what eventually got me involved in Federation. Amanda was on the Federation board and asked me if I would be interested in serving on the board. I'd never had any involvement with a Federation before.

I'm not so sure that without Josh and Amanda reaching out the way they did that I would be part of this community the way that I am now.

So the process of selling their house, working with them, knowing the donation would go to the Federation, got me thinking about this nine-year journey, at the start of which I never would have imagined being here.

Why did you want to share this story?

While their house was on the market, I was approached to be treasurer of the Federation and as I said, it was Josh and Amanda who had gotten me involved, so when I was able to contribute \$750 from that sale to the Federation, I could see things coming full circle, and the success of version one of Young Jewish Savannah. The original Young Jewish Savannah owed so much to the work that Amanda did and looking back at some of the original participants, like us, Allison and Mark Konter, Ross Kaminsky, Josh's sister Morgan McGhie—and all those people now have kids and are further entrenched in the community.

Jamie Cahn has done a great job on the relaunch of YJS, identifying who is out there and getting them in the conversation. That produces active participants and active participants may turn into leadership. The Jewish community is an important part of the larger Savannah community. It all ties together. It's the same as what we're trying to do with *Moves With a Purpose* and our donations to various causes. When you strengthen the Boys and Girls Club, the goal is to strengthen Savannah's future. Hopefully those kids grow up with better opportunities. It's community-building at the grass roots level.

How was "Moves With a Purpose" conceived?

Interestingly, Amanda and I actually tried to do something like this before; we'd taken an ad in the Jewish Directory, maybe six years ago, saying that we'd donate part of our commission to the JEA, but nothing really came of it. Then at the beginning of 2014, a colleague conceived the idea about giving a 10% contribution from every commission and asked me if I'd like to join her. I thought it was a great idea and then she moved out-of-town and turned over the brand to me.

We ask our clients if there is some-

thing special that they'd like to support. Sometimes they have a general idea, like doing something with children, or with animals. Sometimes they're specific: "I'd like it to go to Coastal Pet Rescue" or "I'd like it to go to the American Cancer Society." Sometimes we make suggestions and sometimes we post on our Facebook page that when a certain house sells, we'll have \$500 to give to a local charity, and we ask people to vote and suggest a recipient – the charity most suggested will get the donation.

We began in the first quarter of 2014. By the end of this year we will have given about \$75,000 to various non-profit causes. Right now, we have three agents participating. It's 10% off the top of the commission, even before Keller Williams takes their share as our broker; they've been terrific about supporting us in this. When we started, there was a team in North Carolina giving 7%, but they seem to have stopped the donations, and from what I've seen, there may be one other small group in Austin doing something like this, but I think that's it. To be honest, it's not always that easy, plus you're talking about donating with pre-tax dollars, but we obviously think it's worth it.

What are the next steps for "Moves With a Purpose?"

We need to be better about tell-



Matthew Allan

ing our story. Right now, it's just word-of-mouth and sometimes we will even forget to mention it to our clients until they're about to close on their house, to tell the truth. So it's a nice surprise for them, but we want that donation to be a bigger part of our story and one more reason why clients choose to work with us. We want to add one more person to our group in the next six months, but it has to be someone who believes in the mission and is there for the long haul, because the goal is for our group to increase our impact locally. And if other people want to do what we're doing and donate a share of their commissions or profits to local causes, that would be great, too. What's good for the community is good for all of us.



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Can You Smell the Popcorn?

The 12th Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial Savannah Jewish Film Festival will open on Wednesday, January 27th, with **Remember**, the new film from acclaimed director Atom Egoyan. Starring Christopher Plummer and Martin Landau, *Remember* is a thriller that tells the story of an Auschwitz survivor with rapidly-deteriorating dementia, who with the aid of a fellow survivor, goes in search of the man responsible for the death of his family. The screening, timed to coincide with International Holocaust Remembrance Day, will be preceded by an Opening Night Reception.

Join us the next day for the Savannah Jewish Film Festival's first-ever "Foodie Day," when we will be showing **Deli Man**, the documentary that has had mouths watering and tummies growling at film festivals all year. It will be followed by the brand new **In Search of Israeli Cuisine**, in which Philadelphia restaurateur Michael Solomonov, chef and owner of Zahav, takes us on a multi-cultural tour of Israel's gastronomical delights. Of course, *you* don't have to worry about being hungry when watching these films because the Festival's ever-popular luncheons and dinners are back – themed to go with these films!

Ever wonder what would happen if a little cannabis was added to the challah **Dough**? Jonathan Pryce stars in this heartwarming story that is selling out at Jewish film festivals all over the U.S. An aging London Jewish baker and his young Muslim assistant struggle to save the bakery in our first Saturday evening feature, January 30th. Don't miss this *huge* hit.

Also to be featured in the 2016 Savannah Jewish Film Festival (January 27th – February 6th):

100 Voices: A Journey Home, a musical documentary that tells the history of Jewish culture in Poland through the personal reflections and musical selections of a group of cantors and acclaimed composer Charles Fox (*Killing Me Softly, I Got A Name*) who made an important, historical mission to the birthplace of cantorial music.

The Green Prince, a Palestinian in Ramallah, Mosab Hassan Yousef grows up angry and ready to fight Israel. Arrested for smuggling guns, he's interrogated by the Shin Bet, Israel's security service, and sent to prison. But shocked by Hamas's ruthless tactics in the prison and the organization's escalating campaign of suicide bombings outside, Mosab agrees to spy for Israel. For him, there is no greater shame. For his



Shin Bet handler, Gonen, there is no greater prize: "operating" the oldest son of a founding member of Hamas.

The Last Mentsch, Marcus Schwarz, born as Menachem Teitelbaum, escaped Auschwitz with his life, only to exterminate his Jewishness. With no synagogue, Jewish friends or family, he has done such an effective job of creating a new identity that, when faced with his own mortality, the rabbis refuse his appeal to be buried in a Jewish cemetery. Determined to return to his birthplace and establish his ancestry, Marcus enlists the help of a brash, chain-smoking Turkish woman with a troubled history of her own. The unlikely duo sets out on a road trip to a small village on the Hungarian-Romanian border, a journey that will irrevocably change them both.

Touchdown Israel, with 11 teams and over 600 amateur players from a cross-section of Israeli society, including Arabs, Christians, secular and Orthodox Jews – even Palestinians – American-style football in Israel is thriving. Filmmaker Paul Hirschberger captures the surprising camaraderie among these weekend warriors who hail from widely different backgrounds, but sideline their differences for the sake of teamwork and love of sport. In a quest for an Israel Bowl championship, ordinary Israeli citizens are transformed into fierce competitors, revealing new aspects of themselves along the way.

Marvin Hamlisch: What He Did for Love, Composer, conductor, genius, mentsch, Marvin Hamlisch was as close to a modern day Da Vinci as it gets. Hit after hit... *The Way We Were*, *Nobody Does It Better*, *The Sting*, *Chorus Line*, Marvin was irrepressible and prolific. So what made a genius like that tick? What was his creative process? What struggles, inner turmoil, breakthroughs did Marvin endure to realize his triumphs? This film vividly captures 'the way he was'.

Watch your mail for complete details on the Festival schedule. Full Festival Passes and meal reservations may be purchased on our secure website, www.savj.org. Tickets for individual films will be available at the door, 30 minutes prior to each screening.

See you at the movies!

News from Shalom School

by Catherine Mafcher, Shalom School Teacher

Students at Shalom School have been very busy! Our younger students welcomed Grandparents and Special Friends on November 8, 2015. The students sang songs and shared what they have learned so far this year. The joy on the faces of the students and their loved ones reminded us of the importance of slowing down and focusing on relationships and not curriculum for the morning. It was a wonderful coming together of our Shalom School community.

We now find ourselves in the season of Chanukah. There is so much to learn and experience during this special time of year. While we all love receiving presents, our students are learning that giving to others can give you a happy feeling. We collect weekly Tzedakah which we donate to charities. Our curriculum has many lessons about helping and giving to others. We learn about this all year, but right now our focus is thinking about how we can help those that are less fortunate. Our classes participate in packing backpacks for Backpack Buddies.

We are spending our time studying and experiencing Chanukah. Learning the story of the Maccabees helps us to remember we are celebrating a miracle. The discussion of the word miracle with students is always interesting. Our younger students always talk about a miracle in their own life usually. Miracle is a big intangible concept for our younger students and even adults! Our older students grasp the concept and fasci-

nate us with their ideas.

Experiencing Chanukah for our students includes singing songs, playing dreidel, some classes are making menorahs or other art projects and we all enjoy snacking on donuts! Our students love to share their Chanukah traditions with their classmates. As teachers, we enjoy hearing about the traditions of our families. If you think back, I would bet some of your current traditions are rooted in the memories from your childhood.

We would like to invite you to visit Shalom School on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 11am at Congregation Mickve Israel, for our annual Chanukah Program. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to show off their knowledge and talents!

Excited about what is happening at Shalom School? Please consider volunteering! We are looking for storytellers and people who love to craft to share their talents with our students. Please email Eva Locker, Principal, at theshalomschool@gmail.com.

We look forward to reconnecting after a restorative break for our students and staff. Happy Chanukah to all from Shalom School!



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.

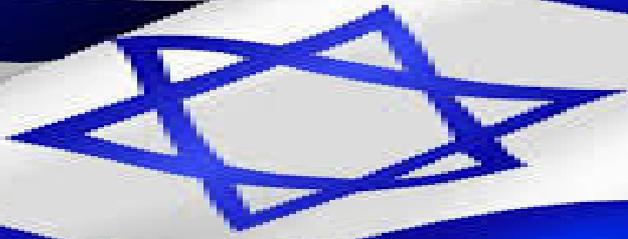


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120 W. Liberty Street
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912-232-6423



I on Israel

Beer Run

Israel's first licensed microbrewery, **Dancing Camel**, opened in Tel Aviv in 2009. Founded by American ex-pat David Cohen, the state-of-the-art facility is known for its respected kosher brews and for having lit the fuse for Israel's now booming craft beer movement. It operates the Dancing Camel Pub inside the brewery, where visitors can sample favorites such as its high-alcohol Golem beer and holiday specialties like Six-Thirteen Pomegranate Ale for Rosh Hashanah and Trog Wit, brewed with etrogs for Sukkot. More recently they opened a second pub in the Florentin neighborhood featuring their beers along with those of other Israeli microbreweries.

Israelis are not known for being big drinkers. They consume about 14 liters of beer a year on average — compare that to the Czechs, the world's largest per capita beer consumers at 148 liters/yr average and we Americans, who rank 14th, at 77 liters/yr average. Add to that the facts that many beer ingredients must be imported and the Israeli government puts a tax on beer of about \$1.20/liter — making it some of the most expensive beer anywhere — and the recent growth in Israel's craft beer brewers is remarkable.

Since Dancing Camel opened, it is reported that 53 microbreweries have been established in Israel. This mirrors the growth of the movement here in the U.S., where the first microbrewery, New Albion Brewery in Sonoma, CA, opened in 1977. Its success was short-lived, but the trend took hold and now there are more than 3,400 craft breweries operating in the U.S.

And similar to here, all sorts of ancillary opportunities are developing in Israel around the nascent industry. There currently are at least three (English) blogs devoted to craft brewing there: *Israel Brews and Views*; *The Beer Gatherer*; and *Craft Beer Israel*. Beer festivals and events are being established all over the country; the Jerusalem Beer Festival celebrated its 11th anniversary this past August



Dancing Camel founder David Cohen checks a batch at the microbrewery

with a move to a larger venue.

Bryan Meadan, another American émigré to Israel, is the principal of **Meadan Brewing Ltd.** in Karmi'el, between Haifa and the Sea of Galilee. Meadan is crafting gluten-free, buckwheat-based ale that not only appeals to those wanting or needing such an option, but has the added benefit, he says, of being kosher for Passover and eligible for sale in Israeli markets during Passover. Reviewers are finding the taste impressive.

Israel's **Alexander Brewery** has medaled several times at the prestigious European Beer Star Competition in Nuremberg, Germany. Two years in a row its Alexander Black won first place in the Baltic-style Porter category and its Alexander Blonde won first place in the English-style Golden Ale category once.

Like so much about Israel, this industry is absorbing the character and stories of its founders. **Pepo** brewery, on a moshav near Jerusalem, was founded by Moti Bohadana, who named it for his father, a carpenter who helped transform a chicken coop into the brewery and its tasting hall. But, as Bohadana told *Tablet* magazine, the beers he makes are all named for women in his life, such as an IPA (India Pale Ale) called Elisheva for his grandmother, "who was born and died in Jerusalem. You know how some people had a tough life in Jerusalem, in the Ottoman times? How they would count everything and store things under the bed? She was the same. And her IPA is a hard beer, bitter, but there is a lot of flavor."

Generally, unflavored beers with no additives are considered to be kosher. Both Dancing Camel and

Whiz Kids

Four Israelis are among *MIT Technology Review's 35 Innovators Under 35* for 2015. The list recognizes people "whose work will affect our world for decades" and spotlights inventors, entrepreneurs, visionaries, humanitarians and pioneers. The three Israelis chosen this year are:

Gilad Evrony, 33, is now a Harvard Medical School researcher who discovered brain cells sitting right next to each other don't always have the same genetic codes. This could provide insight into age-related cognitive decline and brain disorders such as epilepsy and schizophrenia.

Cigall Kadoch, 30, who while completing her PhD at Stanford, discovered a link between genome regulators in cells called the BAF protein complex and a rare cancer called synovial sarcoma. She and colleagues later showed that mutations of BAF are involved in at least 20 percent of human cancers, opening the door for research on drugs that target mutated BAFs. She now has appointments at Harvard Medical School and the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT.

Rikky Muller, 34, cofounder of Cortera Neurotechnologies, is developing hardware that buzzes the



brain at the right moments to help treat debilitating mental disorders. In graduate school at Berkeley, she worked on neural implants that might decode human thought to control robotic prostheses. She also built a wireless device that could interpret brain signals in detail while resting on the surface of the cortex, rather than deeper in the brain. That work led to the founding of Cortera, in 2013, during the final year of her PhD studies.

Ben Rubin, 27, is the cofounder of **Meerkat**, an app that fueled a live-streaming video craze earlier this year. Type in a subject, press a button to start filming with your smartphone camera, and Meerkat sends out a tweet with a link that your friends can click to watch—and comment on if they want. Rubin envisions live-streaming eventually giving rise to a new form of entertainment: "an ongoing live show that is taking place in real time and involves the audience and everyone. Something where you're no longer the couch potato; you're part of the script."

The First, Actually

Thinking that the 1993 Oslo Accords offered a real chance for peace in the region, brothers Nadim and David Khoury returned to the Christian village of Taybeh (near Ramallah) in the West Bank in 1994 from their self-imposed exile in the U.S. They started Taybeh Brewing Company, the first microbrewery in the Middle East.

Despite the elusive peace the Khoury brothers had hoped for, they stayed, their business thrived and their family became ingrained in the Taybeh community. The brewery has been successful, turning out respected beers served throughout the West Bank and Israel. They also opened a winery and are constructing an 80-bedroom hotel. David Khoury served as mayor for seven years, bringing in millions of dollars of aid for village infrastructure repairs and services.

The brewery has hosted an annual Oktoberfest since 2005 but in 2013 a new village council made financial demands on the festival that forced its move to a hotel in Ramallah. Strife in the area cancelled the 2014 festival, but per the Khourys' promises, the 2015 festival was held back in the village.

Talking about life in the West Bank, Nadim Khoury told the *Boston Globe*: "We don't want to keep showing that there are [just] terrorists. We are normal people, we like to enjoy life."

continued on page 10



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

December 2015



Children's Programming

Winter Days @ the JEA

The JEA offers year-round vacation programming for children pre-k - 8th grade. Your child will enjoy Days @ the JEA as each day is packed with activities such as field trips, swimming, cooking, sports and arts and crafts!

Upcoming Days @ the JEA:

- Dec. 21 - Hailstone Bonanza (trip to Hull Park)
- Dec. 22 - Into the Winter
- Dec. 23 - Chilly Corral (trip to go Ice Skating)
- Dec. 24 - Arctic Blast
- Dec. 28 - Winter Wars (Inflatables)
- Dec. 29 - Hogwarts School
- Dec. 30 - Mr. Winter's Birthday (trip to the Movies)
- Dec. 31 - Getting Jiggy with Marshmallow Man
- Jan. 4, 2016 - May the 4th Be With You
- Jan. 18, 2016 - Freezing Fiesta

Member Prices: \$30.00 per day
Non-Member Prices: \$40.00 per day

Sign up today, space is limited - Ages 4 years-8th Grade
Call 355-8111 or email DJ Horton at kids@savj.org for more information.

Teen Volunteers Welcome! A great way to fulfill your public service requirement and have fun at the same time!

Saturday Night Out

- December 5th - Chanukah Party
- Hunt for the Mensch on a Bench
 - Enjoy Latkes
 - Dreidel Tournament



When: 6:30-10:00 pm
Who: 4y-6th grade
Where: JEA

- December 19th - Art Odyssey
- Create your own Art Masterpiece
 - Make your own Smoothie Bar
 - Watch a Movie on Our Big Screen

Cost: \$25/child or \$50/family
JEA Member Value Price: \$20/child or \$40/family

RSVP and advanced payment must be made by Thursday, December 3rd for Chanukah Party and Thursday, December 17th for Art Odyssey
Limited to the first 40 children
Check www.SavannahJEA.org for more details

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

JEA Donations

(October 10, 2015-November 12, 2015)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In honor of Marilyn Seeman
Arlene & Allan Ratner

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Larry Lasky
Suzanne & Leonard Kantziper

JEA GENERAL DONATION

In memory of Bernard & Dorothy Brown
Richard Brown
In memory of Larry Lasky
Beanie Barbee & Bubba Horovitz
In memory of Betty Melaver
Beth Childress

ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In honor of Stephanie Rotkow
In honor of Vivian Slotin
In honor of Barbara Kooden
In honor of Sally Sanders
In memory of Samuel Jospin
In memory of Stanley Weiss
In memory of Larry Lasky
In memory of Florence Alterbaum
In memory of Frances Wagger
Marcia & Sandy Berens

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH FUND

In memory of Larry Lasky
In memory of Betty Melaver
In memory of Linda Friedman
Margie & BH Levy
In memory of Betty Melaver
In memory of Larry Lasky
Lorlee & Arnold Tenenbaum
In memory of Larry Lasky
Sharon & Bill Sand
Sue & John Adler
A donation by
Margie & BH Levy

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Kristina & Jason Shernoff
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Bernice Elman
In memory of Sheryl Collison's mother
In honor of Dr. Bernard Yesner
In memory of Madeline Rubin
Elise & Victor Shernoff
In honor of Dr. Bernard Yesner
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein
Brenda & Patrick Salter
Bernice Elman



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
Tuesdays 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.

Dec. 3rd - Israel Update with Motti Locker
Dec. 10th - "Celebrate the Spark of Chanukah" with JEA Preschool
Dec. 17th - "Beyond Welcoming" with Jamie Cahn
Dec. 24th - Chinese and a Movie!
Dec. 31st - "The State of the JEA" with Adam Solender
Jan. 7th - Jewish Education with Eva Locker
Jan. 14th - tbd
Jan. 21st - Rambam's Prayer for the Physician with Linda Sacks

Contributions to the JEA may be made on our secure website at www.SavannahJEA.org, or by calling 912-355-8111.

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Larry Lasky
Peg & Larry Bortone
In honor of Jerry Switz
In honor of Janet Rubin Brand
In memory of Larry Lasky
Tony Center

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 10/10/15-11/10/15)

Freddie Bevins & Ashley Smalls
Michael & Gina Chisner
Lois Curry
Kathryn Davis
Dennis & Katherine Gryzenia
Ranfi Jiminez & Amanda Camacho
Sharon McNeil & Claire Sigman
Karen Reardon
Samuel Rotar & Sierra Haynes
Doug Scoggan & Shonna McGee

MLK Concert
Tuesday, January 12, 2016
7:00 PM

FREE and open to the public



SAVANNAH TEEN WEEKEND

for Jewish Teens in Grades 8-12

January 15-17, 2016

Make New Jewish Friends from Across the Southeast • Community Shabbaton • Organized Home Hospitality • Fun & Transformative Jewish Programming • Exciting Saturday Evening Dance & Program • All Meals Included!

Cost is \$50 per teen. Register by January 5 at www.savj.org.

For more information, contact Devra Silverman at engagement@savj.org or 912-355-8111



Health & Wellness

Jump Into Something New!



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

Do you find yourself doing the same workouts in the gym every time you come? Hopping on the treadmill for the same amount of time every day can be monotonous and boring. Yes, the treadmill can be fun and so can resistance bands or dumbbells, but be careful not to get stuck in a

“workout rut.” Try switching it up and jump in the water from time to time. Swimming burns a lot of calories and can tone your core, speed up your metabolism and it’s easy on your joints. Need more reasons to consider a swim workout a couple times a week? Here are eight:

1. It’s a total body workout - Swimming is the best bet for sculpting your back and toning your arms—all without ever picking up a weight.
2. It’s joint-friendly - Looking to rebuild strength? Swim! Swimming is easy on the joints to make for a pain-free workout that builds strength and endurance. If hopping on the treadmill is your go-to cardio, give yourself a recovery day and get in the pool instead. It’ll be just as good a workout!
3. You don’t even need equipment - All you need when you get in a pool is yourself and a swim suit. Goggles and a swim cap are helpful, of course, but not entirely necessary. You don’t need to be intimidated by gym equipment. Just grab a kickboard and jump right in!
4. It’s a great way to burn calories and lose weight - A 30-minute swim at a moderate pace can burn about 300 calories. It will speed up your

metabolism and calories will keep burning off hours after you step off the pool deck.

“People who consistently swim strenuously enough to be out of breath when they finish and elevate their heart rate do burn calories and lose weight,” says Jane Moore, M.D., a physician and active swimmer from Washington.

5. It’s perfect for cross-training - If you are a race-runner and need an awesome cross-training day to kick everything into gear, find a good swim workout. It gives your body a break from running all those miles and still provides an excellent workout.

6. It’s refreshing - You’re working just as hard in the water as you are on land—but you aren’t constantly having to wipe the sweat from your face or trying to find an outfit that will accommodate your workout perfectly.

7. Think about the cardio - You’re getting an awesome arm and leg workout from kicking and pulling, but think of the cardio benefits! There is more breath control needed compared to running or biking, thus an increased demand for oxygen, causing your muscles to work harder.

8. There are endless variations - whether you’re swimming solo, joining master swim or hopping in for a group fitness class, you’re bound to get an awesome workout. You can do a kick-intensive workout or more of an arm workout or you can do them all together.

Be on the lookout for some up-and-coming aquatic group fitness classes at the JEA. Our new class, AquaDance, features Latin inspired dance moves and a fun, full-body workout. It’s held on Mondays at 6 pm in our wonderful, heated indoor pool. Please join us!

Fitness Classes

Sunday

- 9:15 am - Power Pilates
- 10:30 am - Total Body Blast

Monday

- 8:45 am - Firm It Up
- 10:00 am - Aquasize
- 10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
- 10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
- 6:00 pm - AquaDance
- 6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 8:45 am - Firm It Up
- 10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
- 10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
- 6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

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

- 8:45 am - Firm It Up
- 10:00 am - Yoga
- 10:00 am - Aquasize

Take Us To Israel!



Kaylee Grue
Health & Wellness
Director

The JEA wellness program is back and we want your participation! Our fitness program offers a user-friendly, motivational approach where individuals can choose from a variety of exercise methods based on their personal preferences and goals.

The Fitness Department is kicking off 2016 with a

new activity-based program called “Take Us To Israel.” Anyone in the JEA community is allowed to participate though we do require registration

through the Fitness Department.

The JEA community will come together to swim, bike, skate, run, or walk the equivalent distance from Savannah to Israel – 6,388 MILES! Each participant will track the number of miles they complete and record them on a personal log sheet located at the Fitness Desk. Each week we will count the total number of miles completed and track our progress on a large map. JEA members will receive a FREE pedometer and a fabulous prize for participating.

Remember, little steps can make a big difference, so let’s get moving! For information or questions, contact Kaylee Grue at fitness@savj.org.

Zumba Glow

Tuesdays - 5:45 - 6:30 pm
JEA Aerobics Room

Zumba with a glow! We’ll provide the instructor and the black lights. Wear white and neon to Glow! A great way to enhance your Zumba experience.

Free Glow Stick Bracelets!

FREE to JEA Members

Not a member? Simply purchase an 8-Class Pass for just \$72.



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now

- Openings 16 months-4-years old
- 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

Preschool Mural

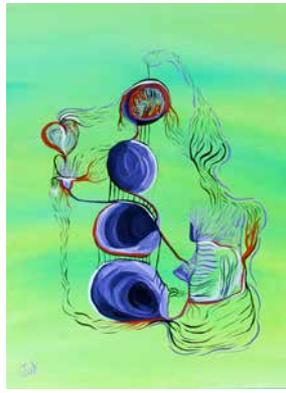
The latest enhancement to the Lyn Stacie Getz Musical Garden at the JEA Preschool is a musical mural painted by local SCAD student and artist, Dorian Weiss. See her work-in-progress below!



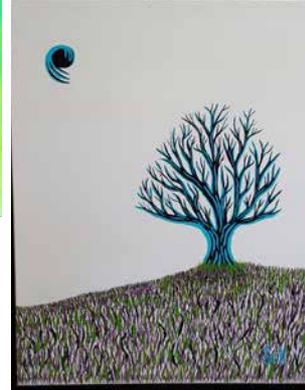
Providing for the social, emotional and cognitive growth of young children in a Judaic setting.



JEA Art Gallery



Regeneration



A Beautiful Day

December Artist: Jonathan Gregory Keller

Jonathan Keller is from Pennsylvania and has traveled throughout the world. From an early age he was interested in the arts and loved to create abstract artwork. He began painting during a time of struggle in his life and discovered that painting gives him peace and serenity. His artwork was first displayed in an art gallery in City Market. Since then Jonathan has climbed the Savannah art ladder and now owns his own art gallery in City Market. Jonathan has been featured in *Pooler Magazine*, *Do Savannah*, *Savannah Magazine*, and *South Magazine*, among others.

Says Jonathan, "I love the freedom in painting! There isn't a right or wrong way to paint and there aren't any rules. My artwork focuses on change, transformation and perseverance over the adversities of life. I paint from my mind and use life's journeys to create my artwork. I like to show progress and triumph in my paintings to help inspire positive change."

Artwork available for viewing December 1-30, 2015
Art Gallery Reception December 3rd, 5-7 pm

Originally from Columbia, MD, John has been a photographer in Savannah since 2005. John has become a well-known photographer specializing in commercial, portraiture and weddings/special events and has been featured in many publications including *South Magazine*, *Savannah Magazine*, *Connect*, and many small business publications.

John's portfolio demonstrates his ability to create polished images that come alive with unique personality. He is experienced in directing a scene towards a creative vision, whether working alone or collaborating with the client.

John has been involved with many different charities. A particular favorite was the Susan G. Komen Foundation. In 2014, John helped launch the first BigWig campaign where he did the photography and graphic design for digital billboards, posters and online media. The success of the campaign lead to foundations nationwide applying the same concept.

Artwork Available for viewing January 1-31, 2016
Art Gallery Reception January 7, 2016, 6-8 pm



January 2016 Artist: John Alexander



JEA Garden Club Come help us grow!

Next *Dinner & Dirt* Workshop

Tuesday, January 5*5:15 to 7 PM*JEA Lounge

5:15 Dinner

5:45 "Dirt" Topic: Bucket Gardening for Kids & Growing Better Eating Habits

6:45 Pack-up your harvest, produce & herb donations

Special Guests: Pediatric Residents from Memorial's Children's Hospital

Event free; Membership not required

Another Green Group Initiative of your

JEA Building & Grounds Committee

RSVP "Garden Club" to JEA 912-355-8111

Or email MStarArts@gmail.com

Building & Grounds: *a better building & greener grounds for all to enjoy!*



Come Dance Under Our Stars!

New Adult Class — 7 PM to 8 PM

- Classes begin January at the JEA
- Explore "Dancing in the Diaspora"— Ballroom, Folk, Line
- No partner or previous dance training necessary
- Couples and experienced dancers welcomed!
- Meet people, and dance confidently at events
- \$30 members/ \$40 non-members for 6 weeks

RSVP "Dance Class": 912-355-8111 or MStarArts@gmail.com

Join us for an amazing hour!

New Class
Thursday, 7, 2016

January
10TH '16

Honorees

**Dr. Fred E.
AND
Morah Ester
Rabhan**

RECEPTION **6PM**
DINNER **7PM**

Bnai Brith
Jacob Synagogue
Social Hall
5444 Abercorn St
Savannah, GA 31405

DINNER AND JOURNAL DEADLINE DECEMBER 10TH

PLEASE CONTACT: RUCHOMA NITEKMAN AT (912) 352-7994



A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to this couple for teaching and guiding more than 1,000 students to be knowledgeable in their religion, and to develop a strong sense of Jewish identity. Their decades-long leadership has changed the landscape of Judaism in Savannah.

This landmark event offers us the opportunity to reflect on years of excellence made possible by the boundless dedication of Ester and Freddie.

In addition, your ad in the journal, expressing your personal greeting and message of appreciation would be so meaningful to them.

We hope you will plan to join us for the dinner and participate in the creation of the commemorative journal as we celebrate our "Evening of Gratitude."



Calling All Teens

Mark your calendars for one of the most exciting programs coming up next year: Savannah Teen Weekend on January 15-17! We are inviting teens from our "sister communities" of Charleston, Columbia and Augusta. But more than that... we are inviting every teen we can find from Valdosta to Macon... the sky's the limit. Thanks to the financial support from the community, we are offering this program for only \$50 for the entire weekend... we want every teen to participate!

The weekend will begin by celebrating the final, 100th Day of the Annual Community Campaign where the teens will work with local Rabbis to create an exciting and spiritual Shabbat service. Together, teens, seniors, children and adults

will celebrate Shabbat together at the JEA. Saturday will be filled with exciting, quality, transformative Jewish programming. And, of course, what would a Jewish Teen Weekend be without a Saturday night dance?

The Savannah Jewish Teen Weekend will give our young adults the opportunity to plan the weekend and learn valuable skills for a strong Jewish identity. Our teens will have the chance to meet other Jewish teens and develop friendships that will reinforce their link to Judaism and Jewish culture. This is more than just a Teen program; it is a unique opportunity for us to come together with each other. Come join us!

For more information, contact Devra Silverman, (912) 355-8111 or engagement@savj.org.

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A Weekly Sacred Moment

Every Friday at our Shabbat Celebration, I look around and cherish those moments. It is a wonderful sensory experience for me. I see all of the children and teachers sitting on the ground welcoming our Shabbat dinosaur. I hear the moms, dads, and grandparents, and guests singing our "Shabbat is Here" song. I smell and taste

the challah after we say the Hamotzi blessing. But most of all, I sense the warm and wonderful feelings in the room among all of the people present.

Our Shabbat celebration is something very special at JEA Preschool Savannah. It provides a hands-on learning experience for our children and families as they learn the blessings over the Shabbat ritual objects. This time together gives us a chance to create community and build relationships with each other. Our monthly Shmear and Shmooze is an opportunity for parents and guests to be together in a social setting and to enjoy breakfast before the children arrive to celebrate Shabbat. We typically meet in the JEA Art Gallery so that it's easy to come and be a part of this celebration every week.

So, if you are looking for a "special something" to do on Friday mornings at 9:00 am, come join our JEA Preschool Savannah community Shabbat celebration. You'll be glad you did!



Jodi Sadler, JEA Director of Early Childhood Education



Jodi helps the children usher in Shabbat at their weekly celebration



Families enjoy the Preschool's weekly Shabbat observance together

Here's What's Going On...



Ester Rabhan, Principal of Rambam Day School

School is about life lessons as well as academics. Recently, a resident from Buckingham South passed away. This special lady was sitting with her son just a short while before her final moments and she expressed to her son that she very much wanted included in her obituary that Rambam Day School should be listed among the places to receive donations in her memory. Her son inquired about this strange request as she was not Jewish and had no affiliation with the school. His mother replied, "I receive so much joy listening and watching the children on the playground. I want to give them something back. I would like the school to use any money they receive for playground equipment."

Sure enough we did receive some contributions in her memory. This is a story where children made a difference in someone's life unbeknown to them. There was no specific effort made; just kids being kids. Rambam Day School kids.

Our eighth graders were invited to visit St. Andrew's (as they are every year). I was out of town for my son's wedding on the day they attended the school. Upon my return I emailed the Head of Admissions to thank her for hosting our students and expressed that I hoped they were well behaved. Ms. Awad emailed me back, "Your students were wonderful. I really enjoy them and hope we might get one or two next year. You do an excellent job preparing them for high school." Rambam Day School nachas!

Mrs. Laurel Brady with Savannah Educational Consultants came to Rambam and gave our Middle School students a five session course on Study Skills. We split the group up into two groups; 5th & 6th and 7th & 8th. The sessions covered the following: Self-Assessment and Learning Style, Organization and Time Management, Reading a Textbook & Note Taking, Memorization Strategies, Test Taking Strategies.

I sat in for the classes and while these are concepts our teachers incorporate into their daily instructions we believe classes in specific methods pertaining to study skills will make the children even stronger students.

Rambam Day School's 2Y - Kindergarten classes are licensed from Bright from the Start and they have a program called Quality Rated. Quality Rated is Georgia's system to determine, improve, and communicate the level of quality in programs that care for children during school hours and after school. Quality Rated assigns a rating of your school or program determined by the program meeting certain standards. By participating in this program Rambam shows its determination to continuously work to improve the quality of care and education we give to our children.

Parenting is an ever evolving process to be the best parent one can be. Even when one reaches a milestone, our precious gems (our children) can't afford to have us celebrate our success and forget that each day brings new opportunities for growth and improvement. Rambam Day School takes its role in a child's life as seriously as parents should take theirs.

Beer Run.....from pg 8

Shapiro Brewery in Beit Shemesh, just outside of Jerusalem, specifically consider the concerns of their observant customers, being careful to close before Shabbat and holidays begin. Craft brewers can be found – and visited – throughout Israel, from the Golan to the Negev. Their offerings range from European-style ales and wheat beers to American-style lagers, using everything from imported hops to locally-sourced chickpeas. Yes, you can still get a Maccabee or Goldstar, the still-dominant Israeli



A selection of Alexander Brewery beers, including the award-winning Black and Blonde

beers you remember from your first trip to Israel (if you are of a certain age), but now there are lots more choices. Try one (or more) of these brews on your next trip!

May the lights of the Chanukah menorah bring you happiness and peace. Wishing everyone joyous holidays!

The Officers, Boards and Staff of the Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance

Savannah Jewish Federation

Your Campaign Dollars at Work I Will Return

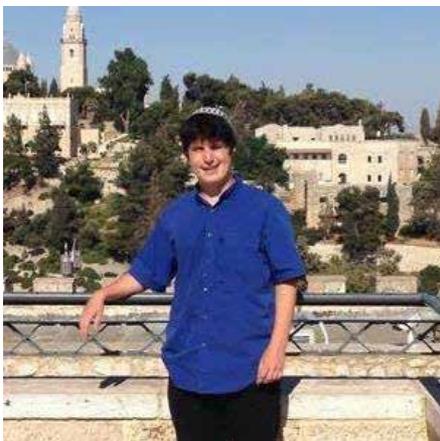
by Merritt Skidmore-Hess

I want to first thank all the people who helped me to plan or fund my study in Israel this summer: Rabbi Reuven Barkan, Motti Locker, Congregation Agudath Achim, Rabbi Robert Haas, Congregation Mickve Israel, Adam Solender, the JEA, the Savannah Jewish Federation, and of course my family.

My trip to Israel was a great one. I am now able to order food at a restaurant in Hebrew and I am now certified to assist in the Kashering of kitchens thanks to my studies at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. In the two months I worked with students from their late teens to their sixties.

The one thing that stuck with me more than anything was the stabbing at Jerusalem's Pride Parade and its aftermath. I was there when it happened. I was there to support some of my fellow Yeshiva students who are LGBT.

I went to the parade and I heard shouting in the distance and suddenly ambulances with red Stars of David on them were swarming to the front of the parade. It was then that I realized an attack had taken place.



Merritt Skidmore-Hess in Jerusalem

I was taken by fear wanting to flee. Then I heard singing. It was coming from a group called סידת סיאומרה the religious gays. They were singing in Hebrew. The words in English were "The whole entire world is a very narrow bridge, but main thing is not to fear at all." It was the immortal words of the 19th century mystic Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. It was a song I knew and grew up on. It was the Religious Gays singing this song that gave me the strength to stay and follow the parade to the end.

I followed up this event by attending a protest rally in Zion's Square. It was a much bigger event than I could have imagined with thousands there and even the President Reuven Rivlin was there. I didn't want to leave Jerusalem after that. I wanted to stay and study at the Yeshiva

more, I wanted to pray at the Kotel more, and I wanted to spend more time with the people I met there.

This will not be my last trip there. I will return.

Merritt Skidmore-Hess, 24, just received a B.A. in General Studies at Georgia Southern University. He is the son of Cathy and Dan Skidmore-Hess. Merritt studied at

the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem this past summer with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience Grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation. The Conservative Yeshiva offers Jews of all backgrounds the opportunity to study Jewish texts in an egalitarian community. For more information, see www.conservativeyeshiva.org.

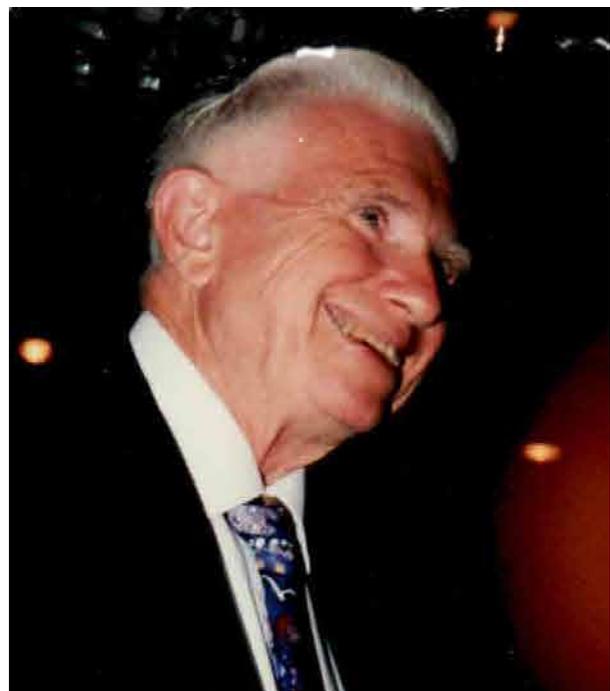
2016 Savannah Jewish Film Festival

REMEMBER
A new film from Atom Egoyan

In observance of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Wednesday, January 27
Opening Night Reception
6:30pm
Screening at 7:30pm

Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES



SOL NEWMAN

4 June 2001

Interviewed by Ross Stemer

Reflecting on the changes he has seen in the Savannah Jewish community, he believes that one of the most significant changes here is the breakdown of the social barriers that once separated the Reform and Orthodox communities. He indicated that these barriers also existed when he was growing up in Birmingham prior to World War II.

"This separation had ended not just in Savannah, but in Birmingham and all over the country," he commented. He credits the late Rabbi Abram I. Rosenberg of Congregation [B.B. Jacob] for helping to make this happen here. "He was friendly with the Christian community, and perhaps that showed the more established Reform Jews that the Orthodox, or eastern European Jews, had become an integral part of the Savannah community," he said.

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

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Sunday, December 13th
6:30 PM • BBJ Synagogue

MEMBER - \$180

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GOLD - \$1100

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Thank you

Mickve Israel would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the 10,000 attendees, the 200+ volunteers and all the incredible sponsors who helped make our 27th annual *Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival* such a tremendous success! Thank you so much!



CONGREGATION
MICKVE ISRAEL

For a complete schedule of services and events, visit our website at www.mickveisrael.org



Congregation Mickve Israel's Hanukkah Celebration

Friday, December 11th
Dinner at 6pm, Service at 7pm

Cost of dinner:

Members - \$6 per person / \$12 per family

Non members - \$8 per person / \$16 per family

RSVP to Kayla by 12/9 at kayla@mickveisrael.org or 912-233-1547



Please join us for a very special Shabbat weekend featuring
Cantor Bill Wood

Friday, December 25 at 6pm & Saturday, December 26 at 11am

Visit www.mickveisrael.org for more information.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our services and events! Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter by contacting kayla@mickveisrael.org, or by texting CMI to 42828.

For more information or to RSVP to an event: call 912.233.1547 or visit mickveisrael.org

It's a Funny Thing

Sylvia and Blanche were comparing the jewelry that their late husbands had bought them.

"From my Ralph, only the finest – look at this string of pearls, and my emerald bracelet," exclaimed Blanche.

Sylvia replied, "Seymour spared no expense on me either. I would show you my exquisite watch, but it's been running a bit slow and I had to bring it back to Tiffany's. Blanche, do you know the time?"

Blanche checked her watch and said, "It's exactly five rubies past the seven diamonds!"

A rabbi, a priest, and a penguin walk into a bar. The bartender looks at them and says, "I know, guys, I know – in case your flocks call, you're not here!"

"Grandpa," said Debby as they walked in the park, "why do trees have leaves?" Grandpa responded, "What am I, a botanist? How should I know?"

"Grandpa, why do birds eat worms?" Debby asked next. And Grandpa said, "Who am I, the Birdman of Alcatraz? I have no idea."

Once more the girl queried her grandfather. "Why do dogs chase their

tails?" "Do I look like a veterinarian?" Grandpa replied.

"Grandpa, can I ask you another question?" And the grandfather said, "Of course! How else are you going to learn anything?"

Two young married ladies were talking about their new lives. "You know," one said to the other, "some mornings I wake up grumpy. At other times, I let him sleep!"

With all the emphasis on materialism and presents everywhere at this time of year, Jewish families that focus on the candles, songs, dreidels, and latkes might be said to be in the menorah!

Chanukah Songs That Never Quite Caught On:

- Oy to the World
- Bubbie Yetta Got Run Over by a Reindeer
- I Have a Little Dreidel (the Barking Dog Version)
- Silent Night? I Should Be So Lucky!



Melinda Stein

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2016

Savannah Jewish Film Festival

Dough

Sold out at film festivals all over

Saturday, January 30
with Dessert Reception
7:30pm



Time to Order Mah Jongg Cards!

Attention Mah Jongg Players! It's time to order your 2016 Mah Jongg cards. The standard card is \$8.00; the large card is \$9.00. The deadline for placing orders is January 10, 2015. Make checks payable to the Agudath Achim Sisterhood and send to:

Judy Todtfeld

23 Sundew Road | Savannah, GA 31411

No extra cards will be ordered after January 10th; be sure to place your order on time!

For additional information, contact Judy at (912) 598 -1161.

Join our Synagogue,

Join our mishpacha!!!

Tefila/Service

Parashat Hashavua Classes

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Hebrew Classes

Midrash Study Groups

Friday Night Young Family Shabbat

SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday 9:30 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon

Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm

Monday & Thursday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm

Tuesday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

Friday Shacharit 7:00 am & Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

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Join us for

Our Hanukkah Party

December 6th at 5:30 p.m.

We will light the Menorah, eat Latkas, sing and play.



Please R.S.V.P. to the office
\$10 per person/\$20 per family

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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Condolences

We express our sympathy to the family of:

Harvey Alan Zarem

Who died November 1st, 2015

He is survived by his wife Beth; six children, Hal, Melissa, Allison, Kathryn, Mikey and Robbie; six grandchildren; and his brother, Bobby. He

was preceded in death by his brother, Danny.

Remembrances: Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion, 225 Candler Dr., Suite 204, Savannah 31405; or the charity of one's choice.

Enjoyable First GA

by Steven Richman, SJF Board member

As a new Savannah Jewish Federation board member, I was both nervous and excited to attend the Jewish Federation of North America's General Assembly. This was the first large Jewish gathering I attended since my days in youth group. As soon as the first plenary session began, I knew this would be a very different experience. I heard rousing speeches from Rosalie Abella, justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Debra Messing, former *Will and Grace* star, and David Gregory, former NBC news anchor. They discussed their "Jewish Journeys," focusing on their Jewish backgrounds and how being Jewish has impacted their lives. As I listened I could not help but reflect on my Jewish journey and the many similarities.

I realized that over 3,000 adults, including three from Savannah, were all likely having the same reflections about their journeys. Despite us all being from different places, Federations, religious affiliations, we all had deep-rooted connections to each other. This is what I believe drives us and enables the JFNA and the Savannah Jewish Federation to thrive and make such a large impact.

Over the three days I spent at the GA I attended numerous breakout sessions focusing on different aspects of Jewish life and learned about the ways Federations impact their communities locally and globally. For me,

one of the most memorable moments was attending the JPRO awards reception. Our own Jamie Cahn was awarded the Norman Edell Scholarship for her service and commitment to the Jewish community. Listening to Jamie's speech and the audience's reaction filled me with intense pride, not just of Jamie's award but of our community as a whole. When Jamie mentioned Savannah's programs and fundraising efforts, the "ooohs and ahhs" from the crowd nearly overwhelmed her speech. They were truly impressed by our programs, events and campaigns.

The GA culminated a rousing speech by Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel. This was a fitting end to the GA as it really drove home the importance of Israel, our Jewish community, and the immeasurable impact of JFNA. As a result of my experience, I have a new found sense of admiration, commitment, and excitement for the Savannah Jewish Federation and the limitless impact we have on the world.

It was a pleasure and honor to spend the GA with Jamie Cahn, SJF Campaign Director, and Sherry Doldgoff, SJF President. Save the date for the 2016 GA - Nov. 13-15 in Washington DC! It is my hope that we can bring more Savannah charm there and then bring the passion and experience of the GA back to Savannah.

ImpACT.....from pg 5

We must continue to educate those who come after us in order to ensure our culture will continue to flourish. Not only must we respect and cherish our Judaism, but we must also educate others not just to stand with us, but to stand beside us.

Week 15 (January 10-15) - Inspiring

This week, we celebrate YOU - our community and our donors. Because of your generous contributions to the 2016 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Community Campaign, we are able to fund these invaluable programs that we have been highlighting for the 100 Days of ImpACT. Your commitment to the Savannah Jewish

community and the global Jewish community is inspiring. This week, we celebrate the solicitors that have spent countless hours working hard for the campaign. Our volunteers, donors and the entire Savannah Jewish community inspire us each and every day. Come celebrate the end of these incredible 100 Days of ImpACT and celebrate each of you at the 100 Days of ImpACT Community Shabbaton on Friday, January 15!

You can keep up with the 100 Days of ImpACT and read the moving stories each week at savj.org. Join the Savannah Jewish Federation in making a difference and make your gift today.

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(No previous experience necessary! Teams forming now!)



Annual
Chanukah Torch Relay
Sunday, December 13, 2015
2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

In the spirit of the holiday, individuals will participate in teams of eight or more. General runner, team & sponsor registration at www.savj.org

Register or sponsor by **December 4** to get your free T!

More info? **Jamie Cahn** at yjs@savj.org or call 912-355-8111



Savannah Jewish Federation



The JEA is proud to announce Dr Stuart Fife, PT; DPT is opening his physical therapy practice at the JEA. Stuart is one of the area's premier physical therapists and he will be offering an upscale practice with one-on-one care.

Dr. Fife has vast experience in his field and is pioneering a very high tech, avatar type movement analysis, offering capabilities not available elsewhere.

Physical therapy, at its core, is about restoring normal movement, to do that, first you must completely understand normal human biomechanics and then be able to accurately measure and record it- you must have technology to capture that.

FIFE THERAPY is bringing this to the Savannah area, **to the JEA!!**

Dr Stuart Fife trained in England before coming to the Savannah to practice. That was 22 years ago and since then he has worked in many settings; most recently directing physical therapy for one of the largest Orthopedics Groups in Savannah. He is a Board Certified Orthopedic Specialist, Certified Manual Therapist, Certified in Dry Needling and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Assoc. He is one of the founders of the Functional Neuro Orthopedic Rehabilitation approach and lectures both in the USA and overseas.

His passion after years in the industry is to get back to his roots of offering outstanding physical therapy practice one to one with patients. The best outcomes for patients are gained through careful thorough individual attention - sadly missing in a lot of today's healthcare models.

FIFE stands for Fully Integrated Functional Exercise and there will be two parts to the practice- Physical Therapy and Performance. The later will be dedicated to biomechanical analysis for prevention, injury risk and wellness.

FIFE THERAPY/ PERFORMANCE will be dedicated to excellent outcomes and for that Dr Fife fully expects patients to do their part- if you are not serious about recovery and wellness this is not the practice for you!

Stuart is very excited about being part of the JEA community and looking to have a long and successful relationship with you. Watch this space, FIFE THERAPY will be taking patients in late December/early Jan and contact info will follow in the next few weeks.

THIS

CHANUKAH,

be the light

IN SOMEONE'S
LIFE.

Chanukah brings light into our lives at what can be a dark time of year. And when you make a donation to Federation, you share that light with those who need it most right now. Help a neighbor with unanticipated medical expenses. Provide meals to a homebound elderly woman. Give a young child a Jewish book. Your gift to Federation does all of that and much more. Be the light at savj.org.

