

January-February 2015 | Tevet-Adar 5775, Vol. LXX, No. 1



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 16	5:25pm
Friday, January 23	5:32pm
Friday, January 30	5:38pm
Friday, February 6	5:45pm
Friday, February 13	5:51pm
Friday, February 20	5:57pm
Friday, February 27	6:03pm

In this Issue

- Letters to the Editor, p2
- Federation President's message, p3
- Executive Director's message, p3
- Four Questions, p5
- Movie Spiel, p6
- Lasting Legacies, p6
- Ion Israel, p8
- JEA Centerpiece
- It's a Funny Thing, p13
- Condolences, p15

Upcoming Events

Joan & Murray Gefen Memorial Savannah Jewish Film Festival, January 21st – 31st — See the complete schedule of films and events on page 9.

Hospice Specialist Dr. Thomas Smith speaks Friday, January 30th at the JEA — See details on page 11.

JEA Family Super Bowl Party, February 1st — See details on page 5.

JNF Hosts a Special Briefing on Israel on February 22nd — See details on page 7.

YJS Creating Jewish Connections

Jamie Cahn, the Savannah Jewish Federation's new Campaign Director, had barely set foot in Savannah late last July when she was tasked with reviving the languishing Young Jewish Savannah (YJS) program. Begun about seven years ago, of late YJS had been suffering from a shortage of volunteer leadership and staffing changes that had left the group without its own dedicated professional overseer.

But with Jamie's arrival, "we had an opportunity to rev up again a program that had gotten off to a very successful start only a few years ago," said Adam Solender, Executive Director of the Federation.

YJS is aimed at young adults in their 20s and 30s, from all walks of Jewish life – all religious streams; single, coupled or married – with or without children; all sexual orientations; and interfaith families. All are welcome. Its stated goal is "to provide meaningful opportunities for engagement in the Jewish community through social and professional networking, community service, Judaic and leadership programs."

Cahn, who is 30 and falls right into the target demographic herself, immediately set about getting to know some of the people who might like to participate. She found a list from 2011 in her files. "Some people had moved

away and some people no longer fit the age demographic. I started calling and emailing the ones that were left and whoever responded I took out for coffee," Cahn said. The people she met with told her what kind of connection to community they were looking for and also connected her to others.

Her original list of about 40 Jewish young adults has grown to more than 130 today. She says, "We found there are a lot of

young Jews here that we didn't know about – and who didn't know about us! And the work has just begun."

The Board of Governors of the Savannah Jewish Federation, the sponsoring organization for YJS, was thrilled by the quick progress Cahn was making.

"Engaging every generation is so important to the future of our community. Young Jewish Savannah is succeeding by reaching out and bringing a younger generation together. Establishing those relationships is critical," said Federation President Steve Green-

berg.

"I felt a longing for a connection to the Jewish community here," said Jennifer Ozer, a young attorney originally from South Florida. "After being contacted by Jamie and invited to attend a wonderful Young Jewish Savannah event I felt an unfamiliar surge of excitement as I attended my first YJS mixer and immediately was surrounded by young professionals who all shared the same desire to connect with other young Jews. I wound up meeting a group of wonderful, intelligent, warm and inspiring people I now consider close friends."

Cahn says that now she gets 'leads' on new people to contact from all kinds of sources: a community member who met a cashier in the grocery store who turned out to be Jewish; a Federation board member whose husband's fraternity brother's daughter just moved to town (got that?); the list goes on. She says that if you

know of someone you want her to call, just let her know. She won't wait to hear from them first.

Not wanting there to be any financial barriers for young adults to attend YJS events, the SJF

Board made a decision to fully fund all YJS events. "The Board felt very

"I think it's fantastic that Young Jewish Savannah has been rejuvenated. It provides a great opportunity for young Jewish adults to meet, mingle and learn together. It has allowed me to fill some of the Jewish connection that has been missing since my years in youth group and summers at sleep-away camp." — Steven Richman, Gulfstream Flight Test Assistant Project Engineer



2015 SJF Community Campaign Update



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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 207
Savannah, GA



Veteran Super Sunday Chair
Herb Sanders works the phones on a day that raised vital campaign funds.

The Jewish Community exists for you and because of you!

As of January 5th, 2015 from 591 donors

\$933,253

5111 Abercorn Street | Savannah, GA
912-355-8111 | www.savj.org

continued on page 4

To the Editor:

The case for Israel is being lost because tired and worn past strategies, which worked when Israel was the 'victim,' are failing. When Israel was the underdog the world embraced it and felt empathy for the little besieged nation. Once Israel began consistently defeating its enemies, world opinion shifted and began to support Israel's 'victims.' The world loves the victim!

As the collective West is hard pressed, no longer as strong as it once was and their Muslim populations are growing and it is being effectively challenged by committed Jihadists, it is tired and seeks to place external blame. Israel has become the whipping boy. That is not to say everything Israel does is right. However, when you do not have a legitimate and trustworthy negotiating partner and that partner has learned intransigence wins, the problem for Israel mounts. Furthermore, when Israel has been willing to give in to demands it has had its hand bitten and had to deal with escalating terrorist attacks.

Finally, Obama has proven a reluctant and often unreliable friend

of Israel. Obama was naive and premature in his quest to bring about a two-state solution. When circumstances proved this to be the case Obama became petulant and sought to blame Israel, citing Netanyahu and settlements as the culprit(s).

Finally, the Arab world has become more adept at twisting world opinion. They have manipulated youth on American campuses, been expert at deceiving the press and media by refusing them access unless they were sympathetic in their reporting and the list and positive effect of Arab propaganda is endless.

When supporters of Israel do not cower in the face of the above and meet the attacks head on and learn to present Israel's legitimate case of having to deal with world hypocrisy, it proves the right course of action. This is why I continue to present the other side and will continue to do so because I fervently believe the unwarranted attacks on Israel are symptomatic of a greater threat - the survival of the West and America and the freedoms we enjoy.

Dick Berkowitz

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation:

Thank you for your generous contribution to The Lone Soldier Center in memory of Michael Levin.

There are over 5,900 lone soldiers serving in the IDF today, from 51 countries all over the world. Aside from the everyday rigors of serving in the army, these young men and women struggle with many hardships due to the fact that they have no immediate family support in the country.

This past year alone, thanks to generous donors like you, we have succeeded in providing guidance and counseling, Shabbat and holiday meals, educational programming and household furniture and appliances to thousands of lone soldiers in need.

In appreciation and gratitude!

The soldiers, staff and volunteers of the Michael Levin Lone Soldier Cen-



The Lone Soldier Center
in memory of Michael Levin

Scout Troop Forming



The joyous sights and sounds of Girl Scouts once again will be present in the JEA.

Troop 30618 is forming and will be open to Daisies (K-first grade) and Brownies (grades 2-3). Troop leaders Ms. Michelle (Allan) and Ms. April (Komendat) said that with enough interest, there is the possibility to go ahead and open the troop to Juniors (grades 4-5).

The JEA troop will be dedicated to teaching the foundations of Girl Scouts and is open to everyone. It will have a Jewish edge and will actively pursue patches from the National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting.

Meetings will be held on Sundays or Wednesdays at the JEA. If you are interested in finding out more about this exciting new troop, please email mommyallan@gmail.com.

The first meeting is planned for Sunday, January 18th, at 2pm at the JEA. Please RSVP to Ms. Michelle, mommyallan@gmail.com.

Don't forget...

The Savannah Jewish News is online at www.savj.org.

Tell your out-of-town family & friends!
Back issues through December 2007.

Correction

Jake Paderewski, who wrote in December about his experiences this past summer at Camp Coleman, is the son of Amy and Michael Paderewski. We regret the error.

River's Edge is the newest sponsor of the Jewish Educational Alliance!

Retirement living the way it was meant to be.

- Daily chef-prepared meals
- Full calendar of activities
- 24/7 live-in managers
- Housekeeping provided
- Transportation
- Exclusive travel program
- Pets warmly welcomed
- And more!

Call 912-373-8356 to schedule your personal visit and complimentary meal today!



River's Edge

Independent Retirement Living
6206 Waters Avenue, Savannah, GA 31406
912-373-8356 | riversederetirement.com



Savannah Jewish News

Published by the
Savannah Jewish Federation
5111 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31405
(912) 355-8111
www.savj.org

SJF President: Steve Greenberg
SJF President-elect: Sherry Dolgoff
SJF Vice President: Allan Ratner
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: Margie Levy
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

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

All materials published in the *Savannah Jewish News* are Copyright © 2015 Savannah Jewish Federation, all rights reserved, unless noted otherwise.

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.



Steve Greenberg,
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Being Jewish

One of the advantages of holding an office in the Savannah Jewish Federation is seeing, hearing and learning from many different perspectives of

Judaism. It is educational, it is enlightening and, at the end of the day, a unique experience. Each person in this community has his or her own story, own background, own feelings, and each is to be respected. But occasionally situations arise that bring the aspect of "being Jewish" into greater relief and I offer two examples for your consideration, from two completely different life experiences.

This past November I attended the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America. As an attorney, I was particularly interested in the part of the program where Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan were to appear. To see two Supreme Court justices at

"...the Jewish mind does make a difference – from the Ten Commandments to the simple desire to be ethical, moral and simply do the right thing by our fellow man and woman."

one time (and not have to worry about oral arguments before them), who are both Jewish, was very special. These are two of the nine individuals who decide cases which can have a profound effect on our lives... for generations. I hoped the discussion would at least give me a sense of both and their thought processes. I was not disappointed.

Justice Breyer had, from a Jewish standpoint, the most insightful perspective. He was asked a question about whether the Jewish precepts and experiences of his life influenced his work on the Supreme Court. I very much expected an answer that professed impartiality and stressed the role of the court as the third branch of government – a mini civics lesson. To my surprise, the judge reflected on his teen age years when he began to learn the meaning of tzedakah. He talked about the ideas of justice and righteousness and trying to create a better world. He touched on the role of the rule of law in our society and the importance that it has to the existence of our civilization. He concluded by linking those feelings to his Jewish teachings. So, I took away that the answer was, yes, Justice Breyer's religious teachings

do have an influence... not necessarily on the content of his decisions but on the values that underlay his feelings as a judge. I have thought about his point since then and the Jewish mind does make a difference – from the Ten Commandments to the simple desire to be ethical, moral and, simply, do the right thing by our fellow man and woman.

The other example is of a gentleman who called me one day to make an appointment for a will. He was Jewish (since deceased several years ago). We had some small talk and as part of that discussion he expressed his negative feelings about Jewish communities in cities where he had lived during his career. I am not a psychologist so I did not explore the reasons he felt the way he did or what slights might have occurred in his life. But I explained how Savannah was different, what we had here and why being part of a community is always a two way street. I finally raised the question of just how he came to call me. A referral? He just happened to be walking by the office? His reply was

that he saw my name in the yellow pages. I took the bait and asked, why me? His reply was, "I wanted a Jewish lawyer." I took the bait a second time. "Since you have such neg-

ative feelings, why would you want a Jewish lawyer?" The answer said it all: "Because I know a Jewish lawyer will watch out for another Jewish person and I can trust in that."

These are two people from two entirely separate walks of life. But both Jewish and both expressing why "being Jewish" makes a difference. It is a common theme that runs throughout our entire community... from Federation to the JEA to our congregations and schools. We make a difference in our lives and the lives of others because of what our Jewish values stand for – what our history stands for and what our survival stands for. Sometimes it is on the surface and sometimes, like the examples above, it is below the surface but just as influential. We all lead busy lives but it is worth a few moments of our time to stop, think and remind ourselves what makes us, and the community in which we live, what we are. Justice Breyer and my client did that. May we always do the same and convey that to succeeding generations.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Standing with Cuba

It was just over a year ago that 38 members of the Savannah and Charleston Jewish communities set off to visit Cuba. While everyone was anxious to visit the "forbidden island" of Cuba itself, we were focused on seeing the Jewish community of Cuba.

Our group spent Kabbalat Shabbat in Santiago de Cuba. The service was led by a layman, some of it in Spanish and some in Hebrew. Needless to say, our group had a much easier time with the Hebrew prayers and songs. After services, the small group of locals immediately started moving chairs, tables appeared "like magic," and soon we were gathered around the tables singing the Kiddush over the wine and saying Motzi over the challah. Somehow, from somewhere (the back? the basement?) dinner for the almost 50 people in attendance showed up. We ate, we drank, we shared, and when dinner was over, we got to hear from Emma Farin Levy, one of the community leaders who shared her (significant) challenges in keeping the flame of Judaism alive.

Shabbat morning we made the 40 mile journey from Santiago de Cuba to Guantanamo. As our bus drove down a dirt road we passed horse drawn wagons and 1950s cars held together with ingenuity and old Russian car parts. We pulled up to the synagogue which was on the second floor. While it didn't look like any synagogue we had ever seen before, we saw a Magen David on the window and knew we "were home." We were greeted by Rodolfo Mizrahi, the leader of the community (most of whom were related to him). We all squeezed into the modest sized room and along with a few family members; Rodolfo led the service. When it was over, we were treated to a lovely Oneg where, to our delight, 12 of the younger members of the congregation did classic Israeli and interpretive dancing.

Later in the week we visited the three synagogues in Havana. We met Adela Dworkin, the president of the Cuban Jewish community (who proudly has photos of herself with Fidel), Mayra Levy at the Centro Sefaradi synagogue who is working tirelessly to support the community elders, and Jacob Bereznik at Adath Israel, the only traditional Orthodox congregation in Cuba.

It was at the Centro Sefaradi Synagogue where we met a number of the seniors who did different crafts

projects. Some of them were creating small water-colors with them



Jewish themes. None of them were particularly well done, but I felt the need to buy one. Others were knitting squares (again, with a Jewish theme). I'm not sure if they were supposed to be hung or to be used as pot holders. I was going to purchase one of the knitted pieces when I saw a table across the room which seemed to have some "sculptures." When I walked across the room I found six Chanukiot/Menorahs that some seniors had cleverly crafted out of spoons. When I asked the price of one, my jaw almost hit the ground... not that it was so expensive, but by their standards, it cost more than six months of income for a typical Cuban. The price was inconsequential... I wanted to help and I wanted the menorah. After all, we were there to help and to stand with the Cuban Jewish community.

I can't help but think about what has happened in the past year. When my family lit the Cuban "Spoon Menorah" (pictured within) on the second evening of Chanukah, we reflected on how much had changed in less than a year: After five long years, Alan Gross was freed from jail and President Obama announced the beginning of a process to restore international relations between Cuba and the United States.

The Jewish community of Cuba has received incredible support over the past decades from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (the Savannah Jewish Federation's overseas partner in many countries throughout the world) and many Federation, JCC, and synagogue groups that have travelled to Cuba on "missions of mercy." The Cubans who struggle to maintain a Jewish presence and guard the Jewish legacy of those that came before them from Poland and Turkey, will continue to need our help to rebuild their synagogues, cemeteries, monuments and other infrastructure. They will continue to need our assistance to learn, to celebrate, and remember.

I, for one, will always have our Cuban brethren close to my heart every Chanukah when I light the "Spoon Menorah" and know that the many members of our community that have travelled to Cuba over the past decade feel the same way.

Jewish Connections.....from pg 1

strongly that there needed to be a sound investment in the younger generation in our community," Greenberg said. "It is a long term investment and has to be so to ultimately reap the dividends. I believe the policy will stay in place for the foreseeable future."

Though attendees do not have to pay for events, they are asked to participate in a "mitzvah of the month" which may be a food drive, a \$5 donation to be allocated by the group or a toy drive at the holidays.

The first event for what Cahn calls a "reJEWvenated" YJS was their *Taste of the New Year* event on September 17th. Twenty-eight people and Rabbis Haas and Barkan met at Savannah Wine Cellar for wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres and socializing. Cahn says the immediate feedback was "great." One person got a High Holidays invitation and another called her the next day to say that one program a month would not be enough.



Sabrina Simon and Abigail Losch roll their own sushi at Sushi & Sake in the Sukkah

That message was heard. YJS programming includes two events each month — a standing program, PB&J, every third Monday and another social event. PB&J – Pizza, Beer & Judaism – is held at the JEA and young adults are invited for casual but meaningful discussion on different topics related to Judaism such as Jewish values in the workplace, tattoos, intermarriage, conversion and more. More than 30 unique individuals have attended the four sessions held thus far.



Adam Johnson, Jonathan Coker, Carolyn Oppenheimer and Marlene Seidman at A Taste of the New Year

Adam Johnson, the Coordinator of Writing Services at SCAD, said, "YJS has been a great way to network with others in our community. I've especially enjoyed our PB&J series, which allows us to discuss how we approach some of the hot-button topics that affect us as young Jews."

Other events have included *Sushi & Sake in the Sukkah*, *Schmooze & Strikes* bowling and *Vodka Latke* at Bar.Food. Participants rolled their own sushi in the JEA sukkah and enjoyed bowling and Happy Hour at Frames & Games in Pooler. In what Cahn called "the very definition of public space Judaism," 35 people celebrated Chanukah at Bar.Food, complete with the lighting of the menorah and delicious latkes.

"In the last year and a half, there's been an influx of young Jews into Savannah that had been unrecognized, unrepresented and underserved," said Adam Fins of Friedman's Fine Art, himself a relative newcomer to the city. "Jamie has done a great job of seeking them out and crafting events that are inclusive, interesting, educational and socially responsible, which in turn generates good attendance. I've very much enjoyed the PB&J discussions I've attended, finding good discussion about relevant Jewish issues in my life."

So what impact has Young Jewish Savannah had on Jamie Cahn's life? "I barely knew anyone when I first moved here," she said. "Through the coffees and events, I've made a great group of friends."

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Jewish Cuba

As part of the 2014 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation reapproved the Seed Funding Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 mini-grants, with up to 20 being approved. Eighteen submissions were made this year and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

With the release last month of Alan Gross, who had been held prisoner in Cuba for five years after being arrested while helping bring Internet services to the Jewish community of Cuba, it seemed a good time to spotlight the Cuban recipients of 2014 Seed Funding Grants.

Jewish Cuba Connection

The mission of Jewish Cuba Connection (JCC) is to assist, support, and empower the Jewish communities of Cuba through fellowship and action. It

was founded by Stanley Falkenstein, who went to Cuba in December 2000 on a Jewish humanitarian mission to deliver material aid, prayer books and other necessities of life to the small, vibrant but struggling Jewish communities of Cuba. During this mission, Stan met Aaron, a senior in Havana who said, "Please do two things for me. Please help us and please tell our story to the Diaspora." Stan founded JCC upon his return to the U.S.

Although Aaron died two years later, JCC fulfills his plea by helping the community provide its members with monthly food baskets, prescription medications and eyeglasses, supplemental income support, funding for synagogue, cemetery, and home

repairs, Sabbath meals, technical education for the young, classes on Jewish religion and culture, and special services for the elderly and infirm.

JCC also makes presentations in the U.S. so that others can learn about the spiritual and economic needs of the Cuban Jewish community and sponsors missions to provide religious, fraternal, and humanitarian support.

Comunidad Hebrea Hatikva

A small, poor but vibrant Jewish congregation in Santiago de Cuba, it celebrated the reopening of its synagogue in July, 1995. As they wrote on their website — the first for a Cuban Jewish congregation — "After many years of silence we were able to listen to the sound of the shofar announcing loudly to all the descendants of Abraham that the people of Israel were alive in Santiago de Cuba!"

Today, the community has a Hebrew School, shares a kiddush lunch and Torah lesson each week after Shabbat services and has formed two Israeli folk dance troupes for its youth.

Guantanamo Jewish Center

The Jewish community in Guantanamo is small but determined to remain active and committed to their faith, despite a dire need for funds to perpetuate their communal life. Guantanamo has the largest Jewish population in Cuba outside of Havana, but struggles to maintain the services necessary to preserve a Jewish community.



Girls celebrate their Bnai Mitzvah together at the Guantanamo Jewish Center

The perfect way to share time with your children while sharing our heritage and learning the values of Judaism. Sign up today and receive a top-rated Jewish book or CD free every month!

Available to children 6 months to 8 years old



The PJ Library in Greater Savannah is a gift of 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!

Four Questions for the rest of the year



David Herskovits

Georgia Power (GP) recently executed a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement with Energiya USA, the U.S. affiliate of Israel's Energiya Global Capital. The agreement calls for Energiya to construct and maintain a 17.68 MW solar field in Glynn County, GA. Known as Project Glynn, the field is the first solar farm of "utility-scale" size in southeast Georgia and will serve Glynn County and the surrounding areas.

We spoke with David Herskovits, CEO of Energiya USA.

Herskovits, 31, was Vice-President of International Business Development for Energiya Global in Israel prior to establishing Energiya USA to develop projects in North America. Energiya also expects to have three projects of significant size completed in North Carolina by the end of 2016 and a pipeline of projects throughout the Southeastern USA by 2017. David holds a B.S. in Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprises from The Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University.

You've been with Energiya for 3-1/2 years. Tell us how you got started there and what it's been like.

I was in real estate prior to the market crash and was fascinated with solar energy and the possibility of developing unutilized agricultural land for renewable energy production. I noticed a surplus of flat, cleared land in the southeast. Especially as the

real estate market crumbled and values began to come down, solar farms made even more sense to me, but I needed to learn more about it and I was hard-pressed to find an educational opportunity in the direction I wanted to go in the U.S. I got hooked up with MASA and their Career Israel program [a 5-month professional internship] and went with the goal of developing a relationship with an Israeli company to deploy solar in the USA.

I expected to work for an inverter manufacturer but cancelled that position to pursue working with Yosef Abramowitz, Weldon Turner and the Energiya Global team. It's hard to put into words the feelings of integrity and determination that hit you when you enter their offices. Their entrepreneurial spirit grabbed hold of me and I said no thank you to a number of other opportunities that MASA had set up for me so I could pursue the unknown terrain in Africa and abroad with Energiya. It ended up being an incredible learning experience on a number of levels and ultimately I worked my way up to Vice-President of International Business Development where I was overseeing a number of country managers.

But my goal was always to go to Israel to learn and bring that knowledge back to America with newfound Israeli partners. I believe very strongly in the State of Israel but I also believe very strongly in helping America get back on track and become more self-reliant for energy through the development of renewable sources.

The U.S. market was previously not a priority for Energiya, but my ultimate goal had always been to develop solar power in the USA so I came

back here and have been pursuing developing solar farms in the southeast for the last two years. The U.S. offers a more stabilized portfolio compared to the African countries we work in. Energiya USA was incorporated in June of 2013.

How did Energiya Global and Energiya USA first begin the strategizing and negotiating with Georgia Power that led to this deal?

This project came to fruition as the result of us responding to their Advanced Solar Initiative (ASI) Request for Proposals, ultimately winning a bid and moving through that process. We competed against every big player in the USA as well as a number of major international outfits for the contract. You could certainly say it was a David and Goliath atmosphere where we played David as an extremely entrepreneurial and cost-effective smaller outfit.

Your company announced that as part of the plans for this project it also would be creating a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) program, in conjunction with your partners, for the Glynn County school system. Why was this important to you?

It was extremely important to me because I believe in order for America and the southeast to keep up with competing nations we need to give our youth an opportunity to learn impactful and useful information to develop trade sets into flourishing careers. Furthermore, it is a passion of mine to have an impact on disenfranchised and impoverished communities at the youngest age possible in order to give those children the ability to journey on paths that may differentiate from the examples they witness in their communities. By bringing scientists and engineers to the classrooms – and we're hoping to

start with children as young as first grade – and have them witness these powerful, impactful individuals, some of whom came from less fortunate backgrounds, we hope that this will help guide and motivate these children's futures. We hope it sparks an interest at that young age in what we're doing and that they'll be interested throughout their education and pursue their newfound passion in trade school or university.

My personal thought and hope is that if you change one child's life, you have the ability to change an entire community. There is a large gap in educational resources between the coastal and inland communities in Glynn County and we hope to make a difference there.

We will be doing a STEM program of one sort or another in every community that we work in; this was not required by the RFP – it is part of our company's DNA.

Yosef Abramowitz president and co-founder of Energiya Global, is a well-known Jewish thinker and activist and many of the other top executives at Energiya Global and USA are Jewish. Do Jewish teachings and values influence your corporate culture, values and/or decision making?

Without a doubt. Our COO is an ordained rabbi and an impactful mentor. My personal moral compass for both life and business decisions is guided by my Jewish upbringing. The idea of *tikkun olam* is something Energiya cherishes and tries to bring to every place we work. Our projects in Africa provide health care for an orphanage in Rwanda and support for a hospital in Nigeria. Like the STEM project, these are just examples of our dedication to our Jewish values.



Family-Friendly Super Bowl Viewing Party on the big screen in the JEA Large Auditorium

Catered In-House
Beer and Tailgating Food
including a
Nacho Bar, Chili Non-Carne
and more



**Sunday, February 1st
5:30pm**
\$18/person; \$36/family
RSVP by Jan. 26th to:
(912) 355-8111
or
anna@savj.org

Feb. 1, 2015

MOVIE SPIEL

by Bonnie Strongin



AKA Doc Pomus

*You can dance every dance with the guy
Who gives you the eye, let him hold you tight
You can smile every smile for the man
Who held your hand 'neath the pale moonlight*

Bonnie Strongin

You might have thought that Jerome Felder (1925-1991), aka Doc Pomus, had too many strikes against him to make much of his life. After all, polio had struck him when he was just six years old, and he was sentenced to a life of crippling disability, never far from his crutches or wheelchair.

Born to Jewish immigrants in Brooklyn, NY, his childhood photos always pictured him leaning up against a wall or holding on to a fence. He wanted to look like the other guys.

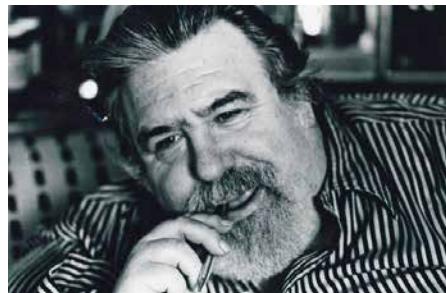
At the age of 15, he happened to hear Big Joe Turner's recording of *Piney Brown Blues*. "It changed my life," he said, and he found himself hooked on the blues. Changing his name from Jerry Felder to Doc Pomus so his mother wouldn't see his name on a club marquee, he cut about 40 sides on the old 78 RPM records before he switched to songwriting.

*But don't forget who's taking you home
And in whose arms you're gonna be,
So, darlin', save the last dance for me.*

The movie is homage to this early rock and roll pioneer of the 1950s and 60s. Through the wee hours of the night in his hotel lobby, he fed, he mentored, he supported, he guided; he listened to anyone and everyone he thought he could help — personally or professionally. It was said of him: "If the music industry had a heart, it would be Doc Pomus."

Perhaps because the film was conceived and co-produced by his daughter, Sharyn Felder, it becomes so personal. Using home photos and videos, archival footage, interviews and readings from his personal journals, we learn about the man and his life, his love and his pain as he physically deteriorated from post-polio syndrome.

*Baby, don't you know I love you so?
Can't you feel it when we touch?
I will never, never let you go
I love you, oh, so much*



Jerome Felder, aka Doc Pomus

With collaborator Mort Schuman, their songs hit the charts, second only to songwriters Leiber and Stoller. Doc wrote over a thousand songs. He had to. "To be a successful songwriter, you have to write songs... It's some kind of terrible force, sometimes it's out of control. You have to keep writing."

Among his most remembered songs are: *Can't Get Used to Losing You* (Andy Williams); *This Magic Moment* (The Drifters); *A Teenager in Love* (Dion and the Belmonts); *Suspicion* (Elvis Presley); *Up on the Roof* (The Drifters).

John Lennon came to meet him; Elvis called to thank him for a song.

*You can dance, go and carry on
Till the night is gone and it's time to go
If he asks, if you're all alone
Can he take you home, you must tell him
no.*

A key figure in the history and development of rock and roll, Pomus was admitted to the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He was the first non-African-American recipient of the Rhythm and Blues Foundation Pioneer Award.

Always one to put his life into his lyrics, he wrote *Save the Last Dance For Me* after he was unable to dance with his bride, actress Willi Burke, at their wedding.

Legendary music pioneer Doc Pomus died of lung cancer in 1991 at the age of 65.

*'Cause don't forget who's taking you home
And in whose arms you're gonna be
So, darlin', save the last dance for me.*

AKA Doc Pomus, 2012 documentary
Peter Miller & Will Hechter, directors
Available on DVD and Netflix

LASTING LEGACIES

Even in the fever-pitched pace of the world today, a traditional gift to the Savannah Jewish Federation continues to be a sure means of providing for the continuity of the Jewish community. Many people recognize this with their generosity to the Federation, year-after-year, knowing that the money will be used for community programs and support for other agencies that keep Jewish life thriving and Jewish lives surviving.

Herta and Warner Danziger knew first-hand the significance of a strong Jewish community. The young couple was born in Germany and was living there in 1938 when the call came for Warner to report to the local Gestapo headquarters. Herta was terrified she might never see her husband again.

Warner's father had papers that would allow the family to enter the United States, but they all worried that they may have waited too long to leave Germany. Luckily, the Gestapo agent processing Warner was an old friend of his who stamped his travel papers and they were able to escape. They sailed for New York and a year after their arrival in the U.S. they moved to Savannah.

As the Savannah Jewish Federation (formerly the Savannah Jewish Council) became an important part of the success of the Jewish community, the Danzigers were supporters. Warner died in 1978 at the age of 75; Herta was 93 when she died in 2004. A collection of Herta's papers is on file at the Savannah Jewish Archives.

Two years before her death, Herta

established the *Herta and Warner Danziger Family Fund* at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah "for the purpose of supporting the annual campaign [of the Savannah Jewish Federation] as a lasting legacy from Herta and Warner Danziger."

Every year, thanks to Herta's generosity and foresight, a gift is made to the Federation's Annual Campaign in the names of Herta and Warner Danziger. Every year, their names appear on the Honor Roll of donors. Herta recognized the ongoing value and importance of a unified source of



This is a picture of a German kindergarten class from Herta Danziger's materials at the Savannah Jewish Archives. Presumably she is the child in the front row marked with an "x."

funding for the community. But perhaps more significantly for the Danzigers, she knew the great beauty of being able to leave an everlasting heritage in their names.

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.



Israel Bonds Enjoys Second Billion Dollar Year in U.S.

Israel Bonds announced that in 2014, for the second straight year, U.S. sales surpassed \$1 billion.

Demonstrating the importance of the contributions of individual investors, the Development Corporation for Israel pointed out that 84% of the total sales were investments of \$25,000 and under, and 54% of total sales were \$1,000 or less.

Israel Bonds displayed its strategic value to Israel during Operation Protective Edge, rapidly mobilizing funds for Israel's economy.

Izzy Tapoohi, Israel Bonds President & CEO said: "Today's milestone shows that last year's record sales were not an outlier, but an attainable goal the organization will target each year."

Deluxe Jewish Tours Launched

New York, NY — The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust announced that it is launching a new travel program devoted to exploring Jewish cultural destinations around the world.

From the Baltic States to Northern Spain, Cuba, and Poland, *Jewish Heritage Travel* journeys will offer learning experiences on Jewish life throughout the ages led by experts and accompanied by renowned scholars. In addition to private tours and lectures by some of today's top scholars, many of the trips will include opportunities to meet with Jewish community leaders abroad.

Dr. David G. Marwell, Director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, said, "We're so pleased to be able to team up with Dr. Aryeh Maidenbaum, a world-class expert on educational travel. We invite travelers to experience the richness and complexity of Jewish history and heritage in exciting locales outside of the Museum's



The synagogue in Vilnius, Lithuania

walls."

The first trip, *Jewish Jewels of the Baltic: Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia*, is planned for August, 2015. It will be followed by *Mysticism, Music & Poetry: The Jews of Northern Spain, A Marriage of Different Cultures (Cuba)* and *Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: The Jews of Poland*.

All trips include rich Jewish content, deluxe accommodations, comfortable land transportation, some meals, and all lectures, presentations, guided tours and site entrance fees. For complete details, see jhtravel.org.

WORKMEN'S CIRCLE
CREDIT UNION

Refinance NOW while rates are at historic lows

Fixed Rates Up To 30 Years
Free Good Faith Estimate
1/2 point origination
No intangible tax

Contact Chris or Jessica
(912) 356-9225
Or Apply Online at
workmenscirclecu.com

527 Stephenson Avenue, Suite 2
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Discover the Credit Union difference...



**LASKY
COOPER
LAW**

TRIAL LAWYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

5767 Highway 21 South
Rincon, GA 31326
912-826-2882

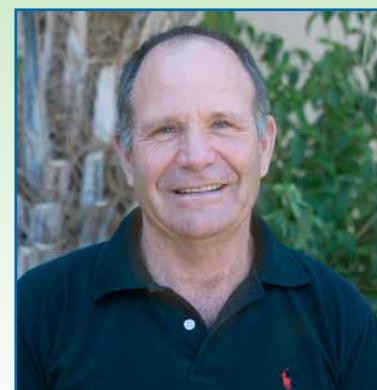
120 W. Liberty Street
Savannah, GA 31401
912-232-6423

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
INVITES YOU FOR A SPECIAL BRIEFING ON
**Israel: A Leader in Environment,
Technological Advancement and
Global Outreach**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**AT THE HOME OF
MARLA AND MORRIS GEFFEN**
5 Breckenridge Lane • Savannah, GA 31411



Hear about Israeli innovations in agriculture, water and sustainable development from guest speaker, **EZRA RAVINS, JNF** Shaliach to the Southeast. Ezra is a farmer, head of the agriculture R&D and former mayor of the Central Arava.

A light brunch will be served.

Dietary laws observed

Food prepared by BBJ Food Service

This is not a solicitation event.

RSVP by February 17 to rsvpse@jnf.org with subject line "Savannah Brunch."

For more information, contact Beth Gluck at bgluck@jnf.org or 404.236.8990 x851.

jnf.org
800.JNF.0099

 **JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND** Your Voice in Israel



I on Israel

MUVing Right Along

As anyone who has been there recently can tell you, despite its ancient history, Israel now is a modern country with large cities and modern concerns like traffic, expensive fuel and auto emissions. And like anywhere else, commuters in Israel want cheaper, easier and cleaner ways to get around.

Israeli technologists are hard at work on a number of new approaches to transportation — some are quite futuristic and still years off — but others, such as the MUV-e, are coming to market now.

The MUV-e (My Urban Vehicle) is a three-wheeled, battery-powered scooter from Roadix Urban Transportation that allows the user to ride with both feet on the scooter. It weighs a maximum of 35 pounds, folds up, can run for up to 30 hours on a single charge and operates similar to an electric bicycle, and is accepted by authorities as such. It is guaranteed to comply with local regulations.

The MUV-e is the brainchild of Amir Zaid and Benny Shimon. Zaid spent a number of years in Italy where he gained experience in auto design at various companies including Fiat and Ferrari. Shimon has a varied background in computer-assisted design and engineering projects. Together they founded Roadix and created a vision for MUV-e, which operates in conjunction with an app on the user's smart phone.

MUV-e has a docking station for the user's phone, where the app then

interacts with the scooter's transporter. One of the app's features is a security code that must be entered allowing only the owner or someone authorized by them to turn on the system. The app and the transporter also interact with GPS for navigation and traffic notifications and can notify the user of maintenance needs and energy usage (including tips for extending battery life).



A MUV-e scooter, open and folded

A MUV-eNGo rental version also is in the works. MUV-e scooters would be available in select cities for short-term/hourly rentals at 'stations', much like some car sharing services today.

The personal MUV-e is expected to retail at about \$2,000, a price Shimon considers consumer friendly.

More traditional scooter

MyWay, from industrial designer Nimrod Sapir, is a battery-powered, foldable, two-wheel scooter designed to be an optimal 'last mile' mode of transportation — for use from the train station to the office, the bus stop to the library, etc. The scooter weighs about 26 pounds and can be rolled or carried when folded.

Bicycle Built for 2 (or 3)

Designer Sapir also developed the Taga cargo bike, which has been on the market for several years. The ingenious three-wheel design converts in 20 seconds from a bicycle with forward child carrier(s) to a stroller. Matthew McConaughey has been spotted on one with his son.

Reinventing the wheel

SoftWheel, based in Tel Aviv, has developed a *new wheel* using a three-

Healthy Technology

Last summer, *Forbes* magazine wrote about ten health tech companies that are "changing the world." Five of them either are Israeli companies or have strong ties to Israel.

ReWalk Robotics was founded by Amit Goffer, an Israeli entrepreneur paralyzed in an ATV accident. Hoping not to be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life, Goffer spent more than a decade developing a robotic exoskeleton that uses powered hip and knee motion to allow people with spinal cord injuries to walk (also with the assistance of crutches). ReWalk's personal systems, which are custom built for each client, were approved by the FDA just after the *Forbes* article was published. The company also makes a rehabilitation system for therapeutic use in clinical environments.

Along with the pure advantages of increased mobility and independence, ReWalk systems have been shown to provide users with additional benefits of increased bone density, decreased body fat, improved cardio-respiratory function and improved bowel and bladder function. The company has offices in Israel, the U.S. and Germany.

UMoove is software-based face- and eye-tracking for mobile devices — in other words, software to be used in apps for phones or tablets that tracks the movements of the face and eyes. While most of the uses for the software are likely to be for gaming, advertising and other applications, Yitzi Kempinski, one of the company's founders, pointed out that many neurological disorders such as autism and ADHD can be diagnosed by monitoring eye movement.

The company was started in Israel about three years ago; their software development kit (SDK) for face-tracking is currently available and the eye-tracking SDK is accessible to select beta users. Both are for Apple's iOS platforms with the Android releases expected shortly.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Barack Obama with Gene Lauroano, who was paralyzed in 1998 after falling 20 feet from a ladder but is walking again with a ReWalk system.

Telesofia Medical, based in Tel Aviv, offers products that allow healthcare providers to automatically generate personalized educational videos for their patients. The platform is designed to support many applications, such as describing the proper use of medication, surgical procedures, discharge instructions and more. The fully branded videos are sent to patients via text or email or are embedded in patient portals/apps. Information that is not relevant to a particular patient is filtered out.

HelpAround is an app that brings what has become known as the "sharing economy" to the community of people with diabetes. The free app for iOS and Android users allows diabetics within a certain area to connect with each other and share knowledge, supplies and support. The company was founded by two men who met in an Israeli Army R&D unit in the 1990s.

Totali LLC, based in Texas but with most of its creative and development team in Tel Aviv, offers the new app, *Totally Pregnant*. It is a comprehensive guide through the experience of pregnancy. The app is free and available for both iOS and Android users.

Update

Two of the U.S. television shows we told you about in the October *I on Israel* are about to begin airing:

Allegiance, NBC's adaptation of the Israeli hit, *The Gordian Cell*, premieres Thursday, February 5th, at 10pm.

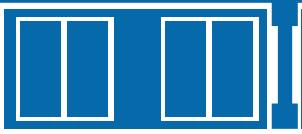
Dig, USA Network's original mystery set in Jerusalem, premieres Thursday, March 5th (check listings).

If you like, you can reread the story at savj.org.

continued on page 10



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

Jan./Feb. 2015



Children's Programming



Jewish Educational Alliance's DAYS @ THE JEA

Do you find it difficult to take days off of work when your child is out of school? The JEA offers year-round vacation programming for children pre K-8th grade. Your child will enjoy Days @ the JEA as each are packed with activities such as field trips, swimming, cooking, sports and crafts!

What to bring:

- Swimsuit
- Towel (marked with name)
- Sack lunch (dairy or parve)
- Change of clothes
- Plastic bag for wet clothing
- Positive attitude, ready to have fun

What not to bring:

- Toys
- Electronics (cell phones, ipods and game systems)
- Microwavable lunches

Upcoming Days @ the JEA:

January 19th - MLK Day
February 16th - President's Day
March 16th-20th - Spring Break

Member Prices: \$30.00 per day

Non-Member Prices: \$40.00 per day

Please call 355-8111 or email DJ Horton at kids@savj.org for more information.



discover your community



Jewish Educational Alliance's Spring Days @ the JEA

We will be offering Days @ the JEA for the following dates for the Spring Break:

- March 16th
- March 18th-20th
- April 3rd
- April 6th-9th

Check back for themes and more information!

Black Heritage Festival Future of Jazz Concert

Tuesday, February 10th

7:00 PM

featuring

Teddy Adams

Today's Youth; Tomorrow's Legacy is the central theme of the 2015 Savannah Black Heritage Festival. The Festival is sponsored by Savannah State University and the City of Savannah.

Free and Open to the Public!



You can find more information by visiting www.savannah.com/events/event/savannah-black-heritage-festival/

Saturday Night Out

"Plungapalooza"

February 7th - 6:45-10 pm

Can't wait for those summer days of lounging around by the pool or going for a swim? Look no further! Even though the weather may be cold, things are heating up inside the JEA. Join us for a pool party complete with pool games and supervised free swim. Dinner will be served.



When: 6:45-10:00 pm

Who: 4y-6th grade

Where: JEA

For more Saturday Night Out Fun, check out our final SNO:

March 7th - "Go Bananas" - 7:00-10:00 pm
The time has come to say farewell to another amazing season of Saturday Night Out. Before we can say goodbye, there's some monkey business happening around the JEA and it's up to you to find the golden banana. Through a mix of clues and a scavenger hunt, tonight will prove to be more fun than a barrel of monkeys. Complete the mission and reward yourself with a banana split. Dinner will be served.

Check www.SavannahJEA.org for more details

JEA Donations

(November 4, 2014-December 19, 2014)

JEA BUILDING FUND

In honor of Kaye & Don Kole

Sarah Denmark & Adam Solender

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In memory of Fran Levow

In memory of Nathan Siegel

In memory of Pearl Baker

In memory of Ronald Weiss

Arlene & Allan Ratner

In memory of Ronald Weiss

Sharon & Allen Weiss

A donation by Susan & Martin Cohen

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH

In honor of Elise & Victor Shernoff's new granddaughter

Peggy & Stanley Harris

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Sanders Corbit

Elaine & Bill Fox

In honor of Caroline Harris

Peggy & Stanley Harris, Jr.

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Lillian Lowe

Bernice Elman

Brenda & Patrick Salter

Marsha & Chuck Bernstein

In memory of Madeline Rubin

Elise & Victor Shernoff

In honor of Arnold Karp

Bernice Elman

Brenda & Patrick Salter

COMMEMORATIVE BRONZE PLAQUE

In memory of Sanders Corbit

Byck Family



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.

Jan. 22nd - Savannah Jewish Film Festival presents, "The Sturgeon Queens"

Jan. 29th - Savannah Jewish Film Festival presents An Afternoon of Short Films

Feb. 5th - Let's talk Tu B'Shevat!

Feb. 12th - Solutions for dry winter skin with Deloris Screen of Facials by Deloris

Feb. 19th - Visit with the JEA Preschool

Feb. 26th - A musical afternoon with CMI Choral Director, Julie Hirsh

You're invited To Our... SUPER BOWL **XLI X** PARTY!

WHEN: FEBRUARY 1st @ 6 PM

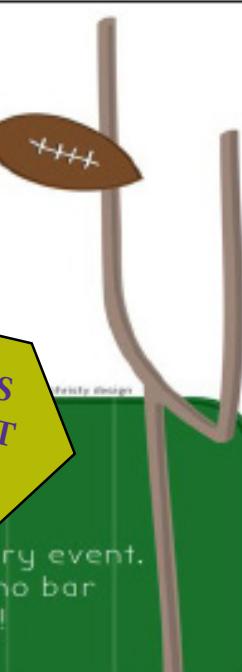
WHERE: JEA, LARGE AUDITORIUM

COST: \$18/PERSON - \$36/FAMILY

DETAILS: Join us for this family-friendly, kosher-dairy event. We will have beer and tailgating food, including a nacho bar and chili non-carne, catered in-house by Green Truck!

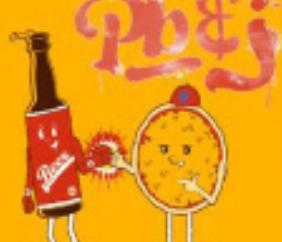
-- PLEASE RSVP BY 1/26 --

DOORS
OPEN AT
5:30 pm!



Save the Date Young Jewish Savannah celebrates **PURIM** SATURDAY MARCH 7, 2015

Join Young Jewish Savannah for Pizza, Beer & Judaism



Young Jewish Savannah invites Jewish young adults to the JEA on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. to hang out and talk about Jewish topics with a modern twist!

Of course, pizza and beer will be provided!

If you are Jewish, in your 20s and 30s and want to meet new people, connect to the community and make a difference - YJS is where you want to be!

Young Jewish Savannah's (YJS) goal is to provide meaningful opportunities for engagement in the Jewish community through social and professional networking, community service, Judaic and leadership programs for Jewish young adults in their 20s and 30s.

For more information, call Jamie Cahn at 912-355-8111 or email yjs@savj.org.



Young Jewish Savannah is made possible through the Savannah Jewish Federation.

YJS welcomes the participation of interfaith couples and families, and people of all abilities, backgrounds and sexual orientations.



Health & Wellness

Water Safety



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

Each day about ten people die from unintentional drowning. Of these, two are children aged 14 or younger. Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States. For every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency

care for nonfatal submersion injuries. More than 50% of drowning victims treated in emergency departments require hospitalization or transfer for further care. These nonfatal drowning injuries can cause severe brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities such as memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning.

Nearly 80% of people who die from drowning are male. Children ages 1 to 4 have the highest drowning rates. In 2009, among children 1 to 4 years old who died from an unintentional injury, more than 30% died from drowning and most of those drownings occurred in home swimming pools. Drowning is responsible for more deaths among children 1 to 4 than any other cause except congenital anomalies. Among those 1 to 14, fatal drowning remains the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death behind motor vehicle crashes.

The main factors that affect drowning risk are lack of swimming ability, lack of barriers to prevent unsupervised water access, lack of close supervision while swimming, location, failure to wear life jackets, alcohol use, and seizure disorders. Many adults and children report that they can't swim. Research has shown that participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning among children. Drowning can happen quickly and quietly anywhere there is water (such as bathtubs, swimming pools, buckets), and even in the presence of lifeguards.

Tips to stay safe around the water:

- Supervise When in or Around Water. At the JEA we designate our lifeguards to watch over all aquatic participants, young and old. During summer camp we not only have our lifeguards, but also our counselors to watch young children while in the swimming pool. Supervisors of preschool children should provide "touch supervision;" be close enough to reach the child at all times. Because drowning occurs quickly and quietly, adults should not be involved in any other distracting

activity while supervising children, even if lifeguards are present.

- Learn to Swim. We have a great formal swimming lesson program that can help protect young children from drowning. However, even when children have had formal swimming lessons, constant and careful supervision when they are in the water is still important.
- Use Proper Flotation Devices. Don't use air-filled or foam toys such as "water wings," "noodles," or inner-tubes, instead of life jackets. These toys are not life jackets and aren't designed to keep swimmers safe.

New Swim Policy

With incidents of near-drowning on the rise we have been advised by our insurance company, as a best practice, to begin requiring life jackets for non-swimmers. We currently have a policy in place that calls for swim testing our campers and only allowing those that can swim to enter the deep end of the pool. We are taking this standard to the next level and will extend this policy to ALL of our aquatic participants 12 years old and younger, year-round.

As of Feb. 1, 2015, all children under the age of 12 will be swim tested. If the child passes the swim test, s/he will be issued a green neck lanyard to wear. If the child does not pass, s/he will be required to wear a lifejacket, have a parent/guardian in the water within arm's reach or choose not to swim. The children will be allowed to take the swim test again when they feel more confident. These same rules apply to our campers, Days @ the JEA, Holiday Day Camp, Saturday Night Out participants and any visitors. Please feel free to contact me with questions or for information about swim lessons for your child.



Winter Swim Team practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 pm during the months January, February and March. Monthly registration required.

Members: \$75 monthly
Non-members: \$100 monthly



Baseball & T-ball registration opens January 5th. Ages 4-12.
4y-8y Members: \$50
Non-members: \$75
9y-12y Members: \$75
Non-members: \$100
Practice days to be determined

Contact Stephanie for more information - Stephanie@savj.org or 912-355-8111

Winter Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

5:00 am - Master Swim
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

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Yoga Pilates Fusion
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Billy's Boot Camp
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

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

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga
10:00 am - Aquasize



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enrollment Open

- 16-months through 4-years old
- Half-day and full-day options
- 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 Open House

February 8th, 3-4 pm

Don't miss this opportunity to tour our dynamic preschool program and meet our wonderful staff. Get a peek at Savannah's premiere early childhood education program!

JEA Preschool Savannah admits students of any race, color, national, racial or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

JEA Mazel Tots

An interactive parent and child music, movement and play class. It offers upbeat and fun experiences through a Jewish lens for babies and toddlers up to 24 months. Join JEA Preschool Savannah toddler teacher, Tara Swank, for singing, dancing, instrument playing, stories and a whole lot more!

When: Every Sunday at 10 am at the JEA

Fee: \$20 per month / Members
\$40 per month / Non-Members

For safety and planning purposes, paid reservations are required!

Space is limited to 12 families per session.

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



JEA Art Gallery



January Artist:
Oksana Gruszka Harmouche



Oksana's earliest memories are of being two and trapped inside a body cast in a Ukrainian hospital. She spent the next three years immobilized in a hospital bed. The nurses took pity and gave her paper and pencils to help pass the time. She learned to escape the hospital with her imagination and her art.

At five, Oksana's cast was replaced with a brace. At school, Oksana's teachers noted her exceptional talent in art. At eight she was admitted to the Children's School of Arts in Ternopil, Ukraine. When she graduated she had two degrees: her high school diploma and a degree in Art. She continued her studies and received her degree in Art and Architecture in 1990.

Oksana worked as an architect for 15 years; first in Ukraine, then in the U.S. When the economy slowed, she returned to her passion for painting.

While Oksana was growing up in Ukraine, it was isolated from the outside world. Fashion was in a vacuum. From the first time she saw an Italian Vogue, she was in love with the beautiful colors, patterns and styles. The fashion of Vogue strongly influences her subject matter.

Oksana uses a technique developed by the Flemish masters. It uses seven layers of paint to create transparent fabric-like veils, to capture the colors under the skin and to produce realistic faces. This technique is time consuming with each layer having to dry before progressing to the next. The paintings can take months to finish.

Artwork available for viewing January 1-30, 2015



February Artist:
Chelsea Warlick



Chelsea Warlick is a cultural, travel and documentary photographer who explores other cultures from the inside out. Creating images that provide a sense of cultural immersion, her work celebrates global diversity and aims to inspire others to seek out the world, to connect with its people, experience their cultures, and understand their perspectives.

The concept of unity in diversity is at the core of her work and she believes the differences among people enrich human interaction. By seeking to understand others, we discover connections between the living world and ourselves, fostering compassion, awareness and acceptance.

From 2011-2013, she traveled to Alaska, China, Mongolia, Nepal, Brazil, Argentina, Tanzania, Morocco and Ecuador with National Geographic Expeditions. She also traveled to Istanbul, Turkey where she photographed for *The Economist* and has also been published in the *Tulane Review*, *CLT Buzz* and *Unleashed International Wake Magazine*.

Chelsea received her BA in Art History/Arts Management from Queens University of Charlotte and is currently an MFA Photography Candidate at SCAD.

Artwork available for viewing February 1-27, 2015
Art Gallery Reception February 5th, 6-8 pm

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 11/4/14-12/23/14)

Patrick & Christie Bergen
Thomas & Emily Blackstock
Lafayette & Tracy Burks
Emily Crawford
Bethany Emenhiser
William & Sarah Fowler
Kayla Goggin

Matt & Lisa Hutton
Jason & Liz James
Ben & Rachel Mammina
Yair Melamud & Catherine Calmels
Justin Park & Anna Hoffius
Brett Rutland & Demeri Flowers
Tim Sark
Linda Sawyer
John Seckinger
Linda Soliman
Drew Wade
Michael Waters & Stormy Ranew

The JEA and Savannah Jewish Federation present
the Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial



SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

January 21st - January 31st, 2015

Wednesday, Jan 21st

6:00 pm Opening Night Party
Live Music, Great Food &
Cocktails
7:00 pm Film



Run Boy Run

The true story of a Polish boy who in his solitary struggle to outlast the Nazi occupation

(Drama, 108 min)

Thursday, Jan 22nd

12:30 pm Lunch/1:30 pm Film



The Sturgeon Queens

Hattie Russ Gold and her sister Anne Russ Federman share the fascinating story of their families' famed lox and herring emporium on New York's Lower East Side.

(Documentary, 52 min)

6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Film



24 Days

A white-knuckle dramatization of the nearly month long kidnapping and torture of Ilan Halimi whose ordeal prompted a national outcry against anti-semitism in France.

(Drama, 110 min)

Saturday, Jan 24th

7:30 pm Dessert/8:00 pm Film



Quality Balls: The David Steinberg Story

The son of a Winnipeg Rabbi becomes one of Canada's greatest comedic exports.

(Doc-Comedy, 88 min)

Sunday, Jan 25th

6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Film



The Jewish Cardinal

The amazing true story of Jean-Marie Lustiger, the son of Polish-Jewish immigrants to France, who became the leader of the French Church and confidant to the Pope.

(Drama, 90 min)

Tuesday, January 27th

1:30 pm Film



Igor and the Crane's Journey

Uprooted by divorce, a young Russian boy struggles to adjust to a new life in Israel while tracking a wayward crane.

(Drama, 90 min)

6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Film



Above and Beyond

In 1948, a group of WW II pilots volunteered to fight for Israel in the War of Independence, turning the tide of the war and laying the groundwork for the Israeli Airforce.

(Documentary, 89 min)

Thursday, Jan 29th

12:30 Lunch/1:30 pm Film



Afternoon of Shorts featuring The Lady in # 6

The world's oldest piano player and Holocaust survivor shares her remarkable secrets to longevity and happiness.

(Shorts program 75 min)

6:00 pm Dinner/7:00 pm Film



Omar

A tense gripping love story and thriller about betrayal- suspected and real- in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

(Drama, 98 min)

Saturday, Jan 31st

7:30 pm Dessert/8:00 pm Film



The Outrageous Sophie Tucker

Sophie Tucker was the first woman to infatuate audiences with her bawdy, brassy style. The film retraces her 60 year fantastic show biz career.

(Documentary, 96 min)

SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL TICKET INFO

Full Festival Pass (admits one person to all 10 films)

Community Members: \$95.00
JEA Members: \$80.00

Purchase your full festival pass online at www.SavannahJEA.org or at the JEA.

For full details and purchase info go to www.savannahjea.org or Stop by the JEA!

Please contact Jennifer Rich at 912-355-8111 or programming@savj.org for more information about becoming a festival sponsor.

Single Movie Tickets

Community Members: \$10.00
JEA Members: \$8.00

Purchase your tickets (movie only) at the JEA beginning 45 minutes prior to each screening.

Meal & Movie Tickets

Community Members: \$24.00
JEA Members: \$20.00

Purchase your tickets (meal & movie) online at www.SavannahJEA.org or at the JEA.

Paid meal reservations must be made at least two (2) days in advance of the movie screening. (No meal walk-ins can be accommodated)

Additional Information

- The Full Festival Pass is for MOVIES ONLY. Payment for dinner reservations are made separately.
- All movies are screened at: Jewish Educational Alliance 5111 Abercorn Street Savannah, GA 31405
- All meals are kosher, not undersupervision.
- Certified sealed kosher meals available upon request.

Sponsor the Festival!

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Platinum: | • \$750.00
(4) Full Festival Movie Passes
(4) Full Festival Meal Passes
(4) Opening Cocktail Party Passes |
| Gold: | • \$450.00
(2) Full Festival Movie Passes
(2) Full Festival Meal Passes
(2) Opening Cocktail Party Passes |
| Silver: | • \$425.00
(4) Full Festival Movie Passes
(4) Opening Cocktail Party Passes |
| Bronze: | • \$225.00
(2) Full Festival Movie Passes
(2) Opening Cocktail Party Passes |

Accepting New Patients!

Where A Trip to the Dentist is a Day at the Beach

At Sandfly Family Dental – the dental office of local resident Dr. Angela Canfield - we believe that going to the dentist shouldn't be a stressful trip. We go above and beyond to reduce your anxieties by creating a welcoming, comfortable and relaxed environment, while still delivering comprehensive and professional dental care.

- Preventative Dental Care for Children and Adults
- Enhance Your Smile with Cosmetic Dentistry
- Whiten Your Smile with One Hour Whitening
- Restore your Smile with Single Visit Crowns
- Straighten Your Smile with Invisalign Clear Braces
- Amenities for Children and Adults
- Avoid the hustle and bustle of midtown Savannah!

Special Offer for readers of the Savannah Jewish News! Visit us for a New Patient Appointment before March 1st and you will receive a \$25 gift card! Bring this ad with you to your appointment! (limit one per person)

Angela C. Canfield DDS

Family & Cosmetic Dentist

912-387-0249

smiles@sandflyfamilydental.com

www.sandflyfamilydental.com

7360 Skidaway Road, Suite H-2

Savannah, GA 31406



SANDFLY
FAMILY DENTAL

MUVing.....from pg 8

prong suspension system. Originally designed for use in wheelchairs and now being applied to bicycle wheels, the technology allows a wheel to shift position and absorb impact as it goes over a bump or obstacle so people with disabilities or cyclists can ride with greater comfort.

Ahead to the future

The City Transformer is an electric, two-seat car that will fold down and fit in parking spaces meant for motorcycles. The car, still in the prototype stage, would be capable of achieving speeds up to 55mph. Once considered science fiction, a foldable car may soon be a reality.

A space-age mass transit system is being considered for Tel Aviv using skyTran technology. skyTran is a patented, high-speed, elevated Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system. The skyTran network of computer-controlled, 2-person "jet-like" vehicles/pods employs state-of-the-art passive Magnetic Levitation (Maglev) technology. skyTran is a NASA Space Act company, headquartered at the NASA Ames Research Center near Mountain View, CA. (NASA



A Taga cargo bike, equipped for two children. It easily converts to a stroller.

uses Space Act Agreements as the primary means for partnering with the community).

This past June, skyTran announced a partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to construct a skyTran Technology Demonstration System (TDS) on IAI's corporate campus in Lod, Israel. The TDS will incorporate skyTran's salient features and provide a platform for skyTran vehicles to travel at high speeds, with full payloads while levitating. The TDS will allow testing, refinement, and validation of skyTran's technology in a controlled environment.

Preferred Hotel Partners of



Hilton
Garden Inn
Savannah Midtown

Hampton
Inn & Suites



- Located in the heart of midtown near the corner of DeRenne and Abercorn
- Book your block of rooms today for Bar and Bat Mitzvah's
- Banquet Space accommodating up to 300 people
- Contact Melaina Jaudon at 912-721-5173/Melaina.jaudon@hilton.com

MAPARTMENTSAVANNAH.COM APARTMENTS
ITSAVANNAH.COM APARTMENTS SAVANNAH

APARTMENT
SAVANNAH.COM



ALHAMBRA

2200 East Victory Dr.
Savannah, GA 31401
912.354.1968

EDGEWATER TRACE

10714 Abercorn Ext.
Savannah, GA 31419
912.925.5519

KESSLER POINT

901 Kessler Ct.
Garden City, GA 31408
912.964.4452

THE ARBORS

4035 Kessler Ave.
Garden City, GA 31408
912.964.8787

TIMBERLAND

10612 Abercorn Ext.
Savannah, GA 31419
912.925.5475

RIDGEWOOD

12008 Middleground Rd.
Savannah, GA 31419
912.925.9108

WINDSOR ARMS

12409 Largo Dr.
Savannah, GA 31419
912.925.4811

WYNDMERE

1326 Highway 80 West
Garden City, GA 31408
912.964.9211



Youth Scholarships Available from the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish Educational Alliance for 2015



Jacob & Ida Ulman College Scholarship Fund

Offered through the Federation, this scholarship is given based on need, availability and the applicant's participation in the Jewish community.

Henry W. Center College Scholarship Fund

Offered through the JEA to the families of members in good standing, this scholarship is based on need, availability and the applicant's scholastic achievement.

Harvey Rubin Memorial Award

Available to a high school teen who has shown exceptional athletic ability and leadership in the community.

Savannah Jewish Federation Camp and Teen Experience Scholarships

Planning on going/sending your children to a Jewish overnight camp? Expanding your Jewish IQ at a teen leadership program? Do you want to make a difference? The SJF Camp & Teen Experience Scholarships are for you! Available to SJF members and their families.

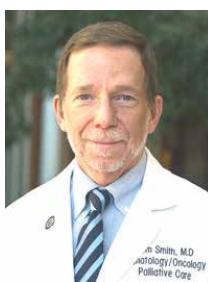
Kay Becker Israel Scholarship

Available to teens for travel to Israel for peer group travel, gap year programs, Yeshiva study or college abroad programs.

Applications available for download at savj.org.

Confidential applications & nominations must be submitted by April 3, 2015.

Hospice Specialist to Speak



Dr. Thomas J. Smith

Dr. Thomas J. Smith, Director of Palliative Medicine at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, MD, will speak at the JEA on Friday, January 30th, as part of Hospice Savannah, Inc. and The Steward Center for Palliative Care's 7th Annual Lecture Series.

Dr. Smith is a passionate pioneer in the relatively young board-certified specialty of palliative care who advocates for open and honest communication with patients, and believes in setting medically appropriate goals and offering the best symptom management. He believes, "Too many physicians avoid uncomfortable conversations regarding pain and difficult decisions about patients' future," and wishes his peers would learn to

use the three simple words, 'tell me more' when speaking with their patients.

Dr. Smith will provide evidence-based research to show how early access to hospice and palliative care actually extends life, and will share practical tools to deal with difficult physician-patient conversations.

The public is invited to attend the lecture and a complimentary luncheon sponsored by Bart, Meyer & Company. The program will be held at the JEA at 12pm (Friday, Jan. 30th). Dr. Smith has entitled his talk "Things no one wants to think about, but should: The advantages of advance care planning, or, how I taught my nephew how to make my special peach cobbler."

There is no charge for the program, but *reservations are required for the luncheon*. RSVP for the complimentary lunch by calling (912) 298-0313.

We couldn't do it without them!

Help us thank our advertisers.

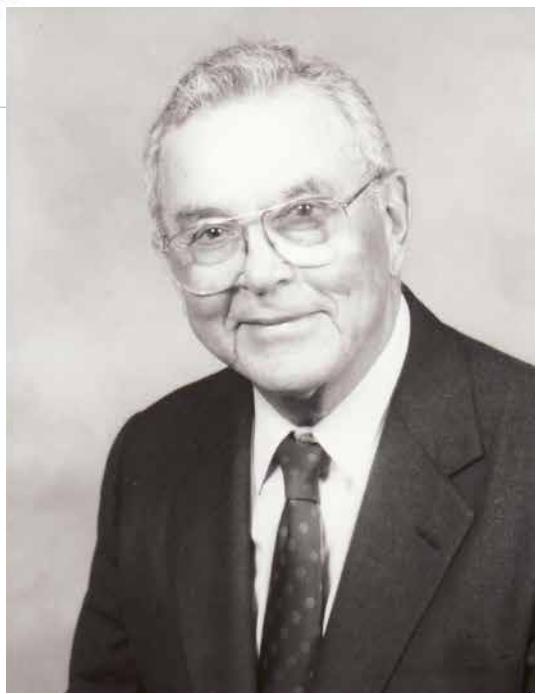
Please support their businesses.

LEO CENTER

November, 1997

Interviewed by Toby Hollenberg

"Before the Justice Department dictated that the city elect aldermen from districts, we ran as a team, or slate, and we all ran at large. So far as I can remember, this team concept always had a Jewish representative in the slate, and in 1969 Johnny [Rousakis] asked me to be part of his team. I was elected for five consecutive four-year terms with him. Through the years there have been numerous Jewish people in city government. Those I can remember include Sam Hornstein, Al Hornstein, Pete Grossman, Bill Wexler, Jay Shoob, Ben Garfunkel, Harris Lentini, and then Dana Braun. There certainly have been others, but these are the ones I can remember. When we were first elected to office, one of the men that John asked to run with us was Bowles Ford, the first African American to serve since Reconstruction days. He was an outstanding alderman who was responsible for many miles of city streets being paved. Bowles unfortunately passed away during his second term, but we have had many black aldermen since then, most of them very effective, including the present mayor, Floyd Adams. Others were Roy Jackson, Dr. Otis Johnson, Robbie Robertson, Dr. Hardwick, Leon Chaplin, Willie Brown. The present city council is the first one I can remember that does not have Jewish representation. During the Rousakis administration, many things were accomplished. River Street was completely remodeled with a \$7 million grant from the federal government. Before this was done, I used to rent a warehouse in this area for \$10 per month. So you can easily understand what the River Street remodeling did for the tax base in Savannah. More streets were paved than any other administration of previous years. The pollution control plant on President Street was built, which cleaned our Savannah River. Laws were enacted during the Rousakis administration that protected the integrity of our historic district. The Civic Center was completed. The recovery plant, which turns garbage into energy, was built and reduced our need for landfills."



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

DON'T FORGET!!
BBJ'S FABULOUS SOUP &
SALAD BAR
TUESDAY'S IN THE SOCIAL HALL
Contact the Shul office
for menu and times

Come Join The BBJ Family!

- 200 participants on average Shabbos
- Active Brotherhood & Sisterhood
- Weekly Kiddush following Services
- Plenty of Youth Action
- Monthly Rosh Chodesh Dinners

Morning, Afternoon and Evening Services Daily.

365 Days a year for over 150 years.



Visit our website to subscribe to our popular weekly newsletter

5444 Abercorn Street, Savannah GA 31405

912-354-7721 www.bbjsynagogue.com bbjacobo@comcast.net

January/February Services

- Jan 2: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- Jan. 3: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Jan. 9: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- Jan. 10: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Jan. 16: Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service, 6pm
- Jan. 17: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Jan. 23: Kabbalat Shabbat Choir Service, 6pm
- Jan. 24: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Jan. 30: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- Jan. 31: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Feb. 6: Kabbalat Shabbat Music Service, 6pm
- Feb. 7: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Feb. 13: Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service, 6pm
- Feb. 14: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Feb. 20: Kabbalat Shabbat Choir Service, 6pm
- Feb. 21: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- Feb. 27: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- Feb. 28: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am

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 visit mickveisrael.org
To RSVP for an event: call 912.233.1547

Ring in the New Year with a visit to our Historic Sanctuary & Museum!



We have docent-led tours available of our newly renovated museum from 10:00am - 12:30pm and 2:00pm - 3:30pm during the week.

Don't miss Super Museum Sunday on February 8!

* We will be closed on 1/1 for New Years Day
and 1/19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



CONGREGATION
MICKVE ISRAEL

Ranked Georgia's #1 Tourist
Attraction by
Parade Magazine!

Tours of our newly renovated museum will be offered starting in February. Check our website for the opening date!

Judaica Shop Open
Monday - Friday
10:00am - 1:00pm
& 2:00pm - 4:00pm

For a complete schedule of
Services & Events,
check our website at
www.mickveisrael.org

It's a Funny Thing



Melinda Stein

Mr. and Mrs. Epstein bought a cell phone for their son David. But absent-minded David kept losing it. The Epsteins were losing their patience with David and decided they weren't going to get him another replacement.

"Wait!" said David excitedly. "I have an amazing idea. What if we can get someone to invent a phone that is attached to the wall! Is that even possible?"

Miriam is making scrambled eggs when her husband Max bursts into the kitchen.

"Careful," Max cries. "Careful! You're cooking too many at once. Too many! Scramble them! Now! We need more butter. They're going to stick! Now scramble them again! Hurry up! Are you crazy? Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt! The salt!"

Miriam turns to Max and demands, "What is wrong with you?"

He calmly replies, "I wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving with you."

Sarah Stern and Jonathan Fine were about to get engaged, so the mothers decided to meet and get to know each other.

Mrs. Fine says, with some snobbery: So tell me about your ancestry.

Mrs. Stern: Ancestry?

Mrs. Fine: Yes, your lineage. I can trace my family back to the time of Alexander the Great!

Mrs. Stern: I can't tell you about my ancestry.

Mrs. Fine: Why not?

Mrs. Stern: Because our family records were all lost in the Flood!

LEVY Jewelers

SINCE 1900

Downtown 912.233.1163 • Oglethorpe Mall 912.238.2120
St. Johns Town Center, Jacksonville 904.527.2643 • levyjewelers.com

**THINK
GREEN
WHEN
YOU
CLEAN**

Downtown
640 E. President St. • 912.232.8181
Midtown
4519 Habersham St. • 912.352.1155
Southside
609 East Montgomery Xrd • 912.925.7301
Pooler
471 Pooler Parkway at Publix • 912.748.6808

WWW.DAVIDSDRYCLEANERS.COM

Savannah's **GREEN** Drycleaners



Time to Order Mah Jongg Cards!

Attention Mah Jongg Players! It's time to order your 2015 Mah Jongg cards. The standard card is \$8.00; the large card is \$9.00. The deadline for placing orders is January 26, 2015. Make checks payable to the Agudath Achim Sisterhood and send to:

Betty Lasky | 402 Wheeler Street | Savannah, GA 31405

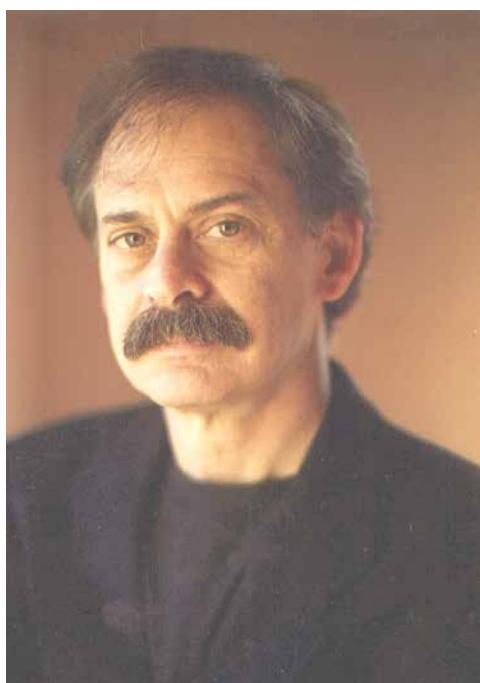
No extra cards will be ordered after January 26th; be sure to place your order on time! For additional information, contact Betty at (912) 355-2017.

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah GA 31405 912-352-4737

AgudathA@aol.com / Agudath-Achim.com

Rabbi Ruven Barkan



Join us for a Scholar in Residence Shabbat

In Memory of Ernie Friedman

Friday & Saturday
February 27-28, 2015

Professor Richard Elliott Friedman

**Friday Kabbalat Shabbat: Did the Exodus Happen?
Shabbat Morning Service: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself
(followed by a Kiddush Luncheon)**

**\$18 a person for Friday Night Dinner
Please RSVP to the office**

SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday 9:15 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon

Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm, Monday & Thursday 7:00 am & 5:30 pm

Tuesday 7:30 am & 5:30 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 5:30 pm

Friday Shacharit 7:00 am



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

The Light of the Menorah

Everyone relates to the lights of Chanukah and the concept of these lights pushing away the darkness. Yet, we all think of a myriad of different things when we contemplate this idea. I am pretty certain that many of us overlap each other's thoughts, none the less; we all imagine and contemplate this idea in our own way.

One of the many lessons and insights of Chanukah is appreciating what we have; specifically our heritage. We too easily allow ourselves to become caught up in the minute details of the Chanukah story; small band of Jews defeating the great Greek army, a small flask of oil lasting eight days when there was only enough for one day. The Greeks had

no intention of eradicating the Jews. They merely wanted to abolish Judaism. They wanted the Jews to assimilate into the Greek culture and appreciate what they considered the finer things in life.

Unbeknown to most, the Greeks didn't just establish decrees that were to stop the Jewish people from practicing their Judaism; they instituted a decree that was meant to break the sanctity of the Jewish

home. Why? Because the Greeks understood the home is where the foundation for our heritage should begin. It was decreed that before a Jewish man could marry, his fiancé must first have a private audience with the Greek governor. Attack the Jewish home and you begin to fortify the evils that can crumble the Jewish spirit. However, G-d did not allow this evil decree to destroy the Jewish home; the Jews did not falter and desire to follow the Greek culture. This was a hidden miracle and yet its impact was as great if not greater than the small band of Jews defeating the Greek army or the minuscule amount of oil lasting well beyond its means.

It is the spirit of the Jew that Hitler admitted was his failure. It is documented that Hitler said even with all the death for which he was responsible, he failed. Why? Because the spirit of the Jew was not annihilated.

Rambam's eighth graders celebrated the second night of Chanukah with the residents of Buckingham South and their families. Each resident received a walker bag to be placed on either their wheel chair or their walker. These were gifts from the school to the residents. The children made cookies with the residents, had potato latkes and one of the students played Chanukah songs on the piano and everyone sang along together.

This was made possible by a grant Rambam received to participate in a program called Better Together. The program and grant are specifically designed to have intergenerational activities so our students learn the role they can play in an elderly person's life and come to appreciate how much the elderly glean from their presence. It has been a monumental experience for our children.

Pre-school had a special Chanukah presentation where they sang Chanukah songs and then did various Chanukah themed based projects with their parents. Everyone had a blast! The parents maybe more so than the children.

K through eighth grade presented their Chanukah Program right before our winter break called, "There is Always Room for One More." It was a story told through a narrator, actors and songs about appreciating what we have. The theme from Frozen even made its way into the presentation. The program began with Kindergarten leading the audience in one paragraph of Psalms for those who need a speedy recovery. These little munchkins know the words and understand



(above) Rambam Preschool Chanukah Program,
(below) Rambam Day School Chanukah Program

why they are saying them. We felt it was appropriate that while we have a mitzvah to celebrate Chanukah and a mitzvah to appreciate all we have, we still want our students to be cognizant of those who need our prayers. It was a very moving experience for everyone present.

It is the steadfast goal of Rambam Day School to ensure that our students have the foundation necessary to be active participants in the world around them; and, to ensure that the light of the Chanukah menorah will forever burn bright in their hearts and souls.

A New Year... A New Look... Still Vital Work To DO



Join NOW

For Yourself... For Your Family... For Israel... For Us All...

Jean Weitz

Savannah Hadassah President and
Co-Chair National Hadassah Organizational Team
[\(912\) 354-2409](tel:(912)354-2409) or jweitz@hadassah.org

Save the Date: **Hadassah Presents** March 8

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

SJF GENERAL DONATION

In honor of Judy & Larry Odrezin
Jamie & Greg Odrezin

SJF ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of Linda & Michael Zoller
Charles Izlar

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FUND

In honor of Kaye & Don Kole
Peggy & Stanley Harris
Donations were made by
Sandy & Skippy Goodman
Lynne & Fred Spector

TIKVAH FUND

In honor of Samra Robbins
Arlene & Allan Ratner
Sherry Dolgoff
In honor of Stephanie Greenberg
Arlene & Allan Ratner
In honor of Lisa Bodziner
In memory of John Goldkrand
Toby Hollenberg
In honor of Joanne Hochman
In honor of Biff Montana
Harriet Meyerhoff

A donation was made by
Carol Offenbach

LAWRENCE KONTER & BERTRAM WEILAND CULTURAL ARTS FUND

In honor of Harriet Konter
Sharon & Bill Sand
In honor of Andy & Juliette Grossman
In honor of Elise & Victor Shernoff
In honor of Rachel Weiland
In honor of Linda & Michael Zoller
Marcy & Jerry Konter
In honor of Steve Greenberg
Muriel Bono

Contributions to
the Savannah Jewish
Federation may be made
on our secure website at
www.savj.org or by calling
912-355-8111.



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

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

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

Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust Authority, recommends that we do not dismiss questions from younger children but that our answers should emphasize bravery and heroes' stories rather than pain and suffering. Following curriculum guide lines, at Shalom School, we introduce the subject progressively until 8th or 9th grade, an age when students are ready for a more thorough presentation.

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

Learning our Past and Planning for Our Future

tected.

To complete their education on this topic, six of our teens are going to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, this month. David Givner, who holds a degree in Holocaust studies, has reinforced the learning through a three-phase seminar that covered topics from Jewish life in Europe before the rise of the Nazi party to life after the camps. Leslie Westmoreland will be leading the group in DC with the help of dad and chaperon, Dana Braun.

As the trip is also a "reward" of 9 years of Sunday school for some, we'll add lighter time to that weekend: dinner and services with Hillel students on GW campus, visit to the Capitol and who knows... maybe a snow ball fight on the Mall.

While those older students have dwelled on this heavy topic, the school has seen the introduction of so many new things during this last semester. Safety and security procedures were reviewed and improved at various levels. Individual student evaluations were completed by teachers for the first time. A Grandparent/Special Friend Breakfast was held for younger students in November and parents have now the opportunity to meet with Board members each Sunday to share their suggestions or concerns.

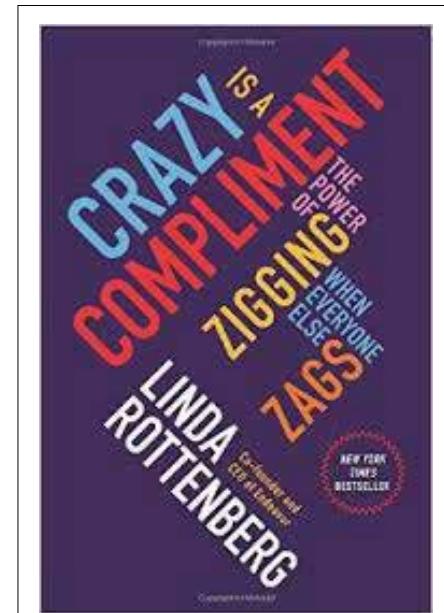
As we teach our people history in and outside our classrooms, we also work hard to make sure at Shalom School that we are all well prepared for the future.

Crazy Advice

We've written many times about new books from Savannah native, Bruce Feiler. Now comes one from his wife, Linda Rottenberg, the author of *Crazy is a Compliment: The Power of Zipping When Everyone Else Zags*.

Linda Rottenberg is co-founder of Endeavor, an entrepreneur incubator where budding business people receive mentorship, strategic advice and access to networks of seasoned business leaders who provide inspiration.

Her new book, released this past fall, draws on her experience to illustrate techniques for achieving dreams. She relates stories of well-known business people such as Walt Disney as well as introduces the reader to some of the entrepreneurs she has advised. *Crazy Is a Compliment* combines stories, original re-



search and practical advice to create a road map for starting a business or growing one bigger.



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

We All Experience It

Just like adults and teenagers, young children experience anxiety and stress in their lives, too. Anxiety is a normal part of a child's emotional development.

Your child may worry about starting preschool, being afraid of the dark or that her friend's dog may bite her. Some children are naturally more anxious than others. However, in time, most children let go of their anxieties.

Preschoolers experience specific kinds of anxiety. Separation anxiety peaks at about 18 months, but it can resurface for occasional stretches of time. Your child's struggle to establish a separate identity creates these moments of anxiety. But separation anxiety has a positive side – it shows that your child has an attachment to you.

Other types of anxiety are the common fears that children have: like monsters under the bed, the neighbor's pet, or the community swimming pool. A preschooler's fears are a product of your child's developing imagination and her ability to predict. These fears can happen from an actual incident that the child has experienced or fear something she's just heard about like an earthquake or gi-

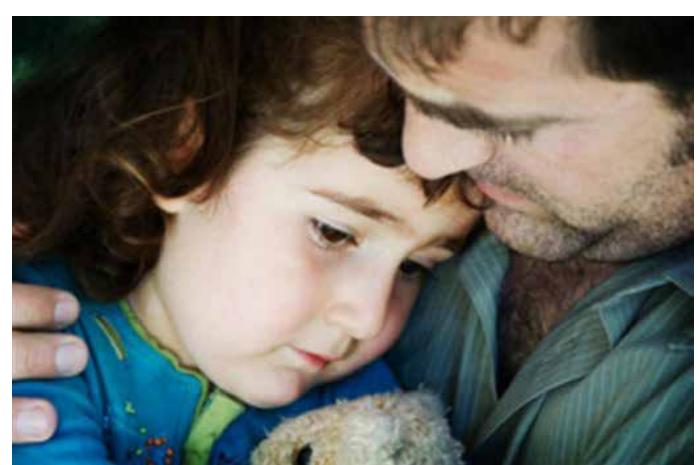
ant bugs. Her fears can be traced to two primary sources: an active imagination and a lack of life experience. She may adopt the fears of her peers, siblings, or even you.

Social anxiety is another kind of fear among preschoolers. Some interact easily with other children but are uncomfortable around adults. Others feel secure among adults but can't handle socializing with their peers. Some children are just anxious in any new situation. Fortunately, most preschoolers outgrow their shyness with time. Some children have a meltdown when it's time to go to school. Even if they like preschool one day, the next day they may beg to stay at home.

I have seen children exhibiting anxiety in a variety of ways. A new sibling's arrival — the most joyous time in a parent's life — can be very stressful for a two-year-old child. The child experienced separation anxiety during this transition period. For the four-year-old, aggressive behavior towards others is shown in the anxious preschooler who misses his dad who has been away from home for an extended time due to work responsibilities.

When your preschooler becomes anxious or fearful, give her a cuddle and some reassurance. Also, you can acknowledge her fears, talk about what is upsetting her, and prepare her for the new situations that she may face.

Our busy lives are full of anxious moments and our young children pick up on those emotions. With lots of love and support for your child, her anxieties will be just a passing phase.



Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Robert Emanuel "Bob" Kaplan
Who died December 26, 2014

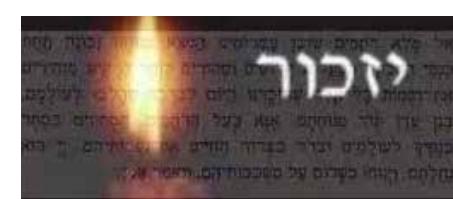
He is survived by his wife, Gail Schafman Kaplan.

Kaye Wendy Jacobson
Who died October 31, 2014

She is survived by her sister, Dr. Barbara Meddin, of Perth, Australia; and one niece. She was preceded in death by her

parents, Philip and Claire Berner Jacobson.

Remembrances: Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.





You might say we're always on call.

Whether it's a single mother who lost her job, a Jewish child who wants to attend Jewish overnight camp or a hot meal cooked for seniors. At home, in Israel and across the globe, the Savannah Jewish Federation is there.

We foster Jewish life in countless other ways as well. Helping young adults to reconnect to their Jewish identity through Young Jewish Savannah. Fostering a child's Jewish journey beginning with PJ Library then support for preschool and supplemental Jewish education, BBYO, and Hillel and Birthright Israel. Being a resource for those in need through Jewish Family Services.

Your gift to the Savannah Jewish Federation enables us to accomplish all this and more. You're an integral part of all we do. Give to the Annual Campaign today. Visit us at savj.org or call (912) 355-8111.



Savannah Jewish Federation

The **Strength** of a People
The **Power** of a Community