

2021 [Virtual] Savannah Jewish Film Festival starts February 28th

The Joan & Murray Gefen Memorial Savannah Jewish Film Festival has been a part of the fabric of our community since 2003. For 17 years, we have screened many international and independent films that otherwise would never have been shown in Savannah. From comedies to poignant dramas and documentaries, each film promotes and celebrates our diverse Jewish history, culture and experience.



The Festival will take place Sunday, February 28 through Thursday, March 11.

In collaboration with the Charleston Jewish Film Festival and the Greenville Jewish Film Festival, we are bringing you, our Savannah Jewish Community, six quality Jewish films AND six exceptional programs to complement and enhance the film experience.

Highlights of the festival include the opening night film, "Kiss Me Kosher" - which is also the featured opening night film of the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival. It is a subversive love story between clashing cultures and families - a romantic misadven-

ture crossing all borders. When two generations of Israeli women fall for a German woman and a Palestinian man, chaos follows. What happens with lovers who don't fit but do belong together?

Another highlight is our afternoon opportunity to view a collection of four shorts produced by the incredibly talented students of the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem. Student produced films represent Israel at more than 100 international film festivals each year and have garnered 386 international prizes. Sam Spiegel Film School is Israel's leading film school, with 70% of its graduates finding employment in the growing



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Although we cannot gather in person this year to share meals and films, the Savannah Jewish Federation is committed to continuing to honor the legacy of cinema and the arts within the Savannah Jewish Community. So this year, we present to you the [Virtual] Savannah Jewish

"The Davids & Me"

By Jeff Kole

Dr. David Byck, who passed away recently at the much too young age of 60, was many things: an acclaimed OB/GYN, a teacher and trusted mentor to scores of budding Memorial Health residents, a husband, father, son, grandfather, and friend beyond compare.

But to David and my other best friends growing up, he was simply "Byck." Why the shorthand? Because there were two other Davids: David Kahn and David Levy, in our gang; even our mothers sometimes called us by our last names. (It would be impertinent of me to note that they were somewhat responsible for this confusion.)

We grew up during the halcyon days of Savannah and the Jewish community. All of us were regulars



Fielding a team from our own ranks

at the JEA, attending Camp Chaverim, hanging out in the old game room (bumper pool!) and playing intramural sports. In fact, it seemed like all of our peers did. As old photos attest, we were able

to field entire basketball and baseball leagues from 'our own' ranks. Bar and Bas Mitzvah parties were mass affairs and often featured a local group (remember Voyage?) playing the latest hits from the Doobie Brothers and other popular bands. (Given the predominant activity at these events, they might more accurately have been called "stands" than "dances," with the boys typically

on one side of the room and the girls on the other.)

Returning to sports, we also played baseball, street football and driveway basketball in Habersham Woods and other neighborhoods. Befitting his leadership skills, David Byck was typically one of the football quarterbacks and Lawrence Arkin his opposite number. Samuel Friedman and I were designated receivers, while

David Kahn boomed long punts and Stephen Rubin...also played.

During one memorable baseball game in the Byck's backyard, David Kahn tried to shag a fly ball but somehow managed to hang

himself upside down on their chain-link fence. We've reminded him of

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Candle Lighting Times

Friday, January 15	5:25pm
Friday, January 22	5:31pm
Friday, January 29	5:38pm
Friday, February 5	5:44pm
Friday, February 12	5:50pm
Friday, February 19	5:56pm
Friday, February 26	6:02pm

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Earning A Degree Interest Free

In 2020, JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund) provided 394 interest-free loans to Jewish college, graduate, and vocational students. This jump in loans came from an increase of 66% more applications over the previous year.

JELF serves students in the five-state region of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia (excluding metro DC) as they pursue their higher education. In Savannah, JELF helped two local students with \$7,196 in financial aid. The total student need for all the students in the JELF region was \$2,352,906. Through student repayments, increased fundraising, and the generosity of the Marcus Foundation, JELF was able to allocate \$1,553,739 in interest-free, last dollar loans to these students.

JELF's mission is to help reduce a student's financial burden so that they can pursue their higher education full time. JELF's interest-free loans of last resort help students pay for crucial living and medical expenses, books, supplies, transportation, and many other costs. By borrowing through JELF, this year's 394 student loan recipients are estimated to save nearly \$1 million in interest payments over the life of their loans.

Since JELF first started providing interest-free loans in 1961, the organization has loaned \$16 million to 2,400+ Jewish students. JELF is proud to consistently maintain a 99% student repayment



rate, even during this difficult year. "What I love about JELF is that your contribution continuously pays it forward," says JELF's Board President, Jane Aronoff. "Dollars used for one student when paid back, are used for the next. Every dollar lives on and on..."

JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund) provides interest-free loans for Jewish students in need to meet their post-high school educational goals. Undergraduate, graduate, and vocational school students are eligible to apply. The application is open from March 1 - April 30 for the full academic year and September 1-30 for spring and/or summer semester(s) only. Sign up at jelf.org.

"The Davids and Me" continued from page 1

this incident at least once or twice over the years but, being friends as long as we have, he's able to counter with similar embarrassing exploits of our own.

Much fabled in a large part of the Jewish community was the annual Turkey Bowl Thanksgiving Day touch-football game, which was played at the JEA. Players ranged from little kids to guys in their 70s. Perhaps the greatest suspense was finding out which over-the-hill athlete was most out of commission the next day.

Having known each other 'from the womb' was great for the friendships of "the David's" and me; it was a mixed blessing to our parents. We were sometimes rambunctious as kids, most often at the behest of David Byck who, with a smirk and glint of mirthful joy, egged us on to rebellious yet innocent acts (some of which literally involved egging).

When we moved to Habersham Woods in 1972, the Bycks promptly had us over for dinner (which included Ellen's scrumptious Baked Alaska). When we were excused from the table, David asked if I wanted to play outside. Little did I know that I was being invited to participate in the first of what turned out to be many nightly rounds of "ding dong ditch," which involved ringing a neighbor's doorbell and hiding before they had the

time to answer. Very juvenile -- but remarkably fun.

Our high jinks continued at Temple Mickve Israel, which all four of us attended. At Friday night services, we would excitedly communicate with each other from rows apart (much to the consternation of our mothers) because we couldn't wait for the Oneg afterwards and its sugar-high promise of Gottlieb's cookies and brownies. Our Confirmation class consisted of seven boys who'd known each other forever, and two lovely, but out-numbered girls. In addition to the "three Davids" and myself, our class included Jay Kuhr, Gary Kazlow, Michael Lesser, Suzanne Oppenheim & Diane Jacobsen.

I won't delve much further into our Temple exploits, which once included a clandestine visit to the bell tower and an impromptu cocktail party in Monterey Square. I was recently shown a letter to our parents in which the then-leader of the congregation threatened non-graduation unless we mended our ways. Needless to say, while we were the bane of the existence of Rabbi Saul Rubin; he conceded in recent years that we had, by and large, turned into respectable citizens.

It bears noting that while we were impressed with the ingenuity of our childhood pranks, they rarely failed to get the attention of

the omniscient "Jewish Mothers' Network." I lived two houses from David and it was hardly unique to be questioned by my Mother about our latest transgressions just minutes after leaving his house.

Eventually, we grew up and attended separate colleges, and for awhile, lived in separate cities. We began careers, got married, and were blessed with children. But the friendship has endured and included regular lunches where we mused on the future...but mostly reflected on the great times in the past.

About two years ago, we were all fortunate to attend the wedding of David Kahn's daughter, Emily, to Michael Cohen. David Byck was in a fizzy celebratory mood. As a graduate of University of North Carolina, he was imbued with an expert basketball style and he proceeded to shoot ice cubes into the drinks of unsuspecting friends and acquaintances. Photos from that night depict David with a full-on, mirthful smile.

I will forever miss that smile, but also take some measure of consolation from the blessing of having known such a special guy so well and for so long. "Byck" will always be fondly remembered by "Kahn," "Levy," and me.



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SJF President: **Kenneth Sadler**
SJF Vice President: **David Eichholz**
SJF Treasurer: **Frank Slotin**
SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**

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 10 times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 6th of the month before publication. For example, for a March issue, the deadline would be February 6. January-February and July-August are combined issues. Submission deadlines for these winter and summer issues are December 15 and June 15, respectively.

Editorial/articles submissions should be in Microsoft Word format (.docx or .rtf). For best results, photos should be high resolution (300 dpi) with width and height dimensions as large as possible, as .jpg, .tif, or .psd (Adobe Photoshop) files. Artwork, drawings, line art, and other graphics are best sent as "vector" files, e.g. .eps or .ai (Adobe Illustrator). We will accept .jpg, .tif, or .psd files, if necessary.

Advertising submissions must be in a high-resolution, "press" quality PDF format with fonts embedded. For best results, photos and other artwork within advertisements should also be high resolution (300 dpi), .jpg, .tif, or .psd files. All color must be in the CMYK color format; "true" black preferred.

Please send all Savannah Jewish News materials to:
sjnews@savj.org

Please send eNews newsletter submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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Letters to the Editor

The Savannah Jewish News is a community paper. Letters should be civil and considerate in tone and not contain personal attacks, random attacks on businesses, or defamation. All statements of facts must be verifiable (state the original source of the information).

Letters should be no more than 250 words and may be edited for length, clarity, or factual content. The opinions expressed are always the writer's.

All letters must include the author's full name, address, and phone number (only your name, and if appropriate, job title and organization or business name, will be published).

No more than two letters from the same author will be published within 12 consecutive months.

Submit letters to sjnews@savj.org. The Savannah Jewish News retains full and sole discretion about which letters to publish.

Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

Charged with raising, collecting and distributing funds, the Savannah Jewish Federation 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.



Adam Solender
Executive Director
JEA/SJF

Reflections

It is too soon to be reflecting on the Pandemic that was, because we are still in the midst of the fight, but with

the calendar changing from 2020 to 2021, I reflect on some of the lessons learned:

Suffering is relative.

While some of us have lost friends and family members to the virus, others have remained healthy and relatively unscathed. There are those that who lost their livelihoods and businesses while there are others who came through it intact and were able to successfully pivot to working at home. While we heard many complaints about not being able to travel, it was a relatively small “price to pay” to maintain health and avoid contributing to the spread of the virus.

There are those that stayed at home while other’s work was deemed essential. Healthcare workers, public service employees, grocery store clerks, restaurant delivery personnel and others all continued to work, many of them having to wear protective equipment for 12 hours at a time.

As independent as we are, we are all dependant on each other

No matter what our socioeconomic situation, how we identify religiously, our ethnicity or political leanings, now we all have a different understanding of our interconnectiveness, our reliance on each other. We all have a different feeling of respect and appreciation for the pizza delivery person, the restaurant workers, the refuse department, health care workers, and a myriad of others who made it possible for others to distance over the past ten months.

And how about our basic need for connection. Whether it has been by a phone call, Zoom meeting, food drop-off, the outreach to each other has been so very essential in getting through. I cannot tell you how many stories about food drop-offs that I have heard from people: whole meals, loaves of banana bread, homemade bagels are just a few. And on that subject...

Baking is clearly therapeutic AND delicious.

Who’d have thought that there would be a nationwide yeast shortage, people sharing sourdough starter, and a local Facebook exhibit on making Chanukah sufganyiot? There is something mythical, practical, and therapeutic about baking. Who knew the importance of baking in a pandemic?

If you didn’t already know it, children adapt to new situations incredibly well.

While the lack of consistent schooling has been a challenge to every working parent, it has been an absolute delight to see how quickly children adapt (if only the adults could be as flexible). During the past months at the JEA we have watched how the children were engaged virtually by the staff, attended camp with all new protocols and programs, and then pivoted during the All Day at the J Distance Learning program. The children at the JEA Preschool have similarly pivoted (even if they didn’t know that there was a Pandemic). While parents are no longer coming into the classrooms, each class having designated playground time, and all staff in masks, the children have thrived.

Making dinner for family becomes quite a challenge

I can’t speak for every family, but ten months in, figuring out something “new” for dinner is becoming quite a challenge; and for some families, it is three meals a day (with everyone working from home). In the ‘old days,’ conflicting schedules, afterschool activities, lessons, homework, and meetings made dinner time a rushed affair of quick eats, take out, and prepared meals. The Pandemic has brought a new break in time when the entire family gathers around the table each night.

Doing things now.

Who among us has not thought back over the past year thinking about what we could have been doing. We are mourning for the life we had and the one we want (again). Perhaps that is one of the ‘takeaway lessons’ of this past year: Don’t wait!

When the time comes, when we can travel freely, gather together confidently, eat out, socialize with friends, just do it, don’t wait.

We don’t know what tomorrow will bring.

YOUTH GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



SUMMER EXPERIENCE GRANTS

Grants available for:

- Overnight summer camp
- Jewish youth group summer programs
- Leadership development programs

Grants are provided from the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign and awarded on a non-needs basis



HARVEY RUBIN ATHLETIC AWARD

Criteria:

- Full-time High School Student
- Display leadership in the community
- Exceptional sportsmanship
- C or above average grade in school
- History of good conduct
- Display exceptional athletic ability on a varsity level team (school or recreational league)



KAY BECKER ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP

Provides scholarship to teens for travel to Israel on a peer group trip (including “gap year” programs, yeshiva attendance, or a college program).



JACOB & IDA ULMAN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

This award is given based on need, availability and the participation you have had in the Savannah Jewish community.



HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

This award is for JEA MEMBERS and given based on need, availability and the participation you have had in the Savannah Jewish community.



DEADLINE: MARCH 1
WWW.SAVJ.ORG

CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

JUDAISM 101

A 12 week course
led by Tim Slivinski

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM

TOPICS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY:

JANUARY 19:
JEWISH BELIEFS

JANUARY 26:
SHABBAT AND THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

FEBRUARY 9:
FESTIVALS AND OTHER HOLIDAYS

FEBRUARY 16:
CREATION TO ENLIGHTENMENT

FEBRUARY 23:
ENLIGHTENMENT TO MODERNITY, ZIONISM, AND ISRAEL

Jan/Feb Shabbat

DINNERS TO GO

JAN 22 (Order by Wednesday, Jan 20)
GRILLED SALMON WITH DILL YOGURT SAUCE
with potato-cauliflower au gratin, green peas, green salad, and cookies

JAN 29 (Order by Wednesday, Jan 27)
SPAGHETTI AND MEAT BALLS
with green salad and tiramisu cake

FEB 5 (Order by Wednesday, Feb 3)
MIDDLE EASTERN CHICKEN STEW
with garbanzo beans, tomatoes, zucchini and lentils

FEB 12 (Order by Wednesday, Feb 10)
MEATLOAF WITH TOMATO BALSAMIC GLAZE
with egg noodles, zucchini, green salad and cookies

FEB 19 (Order by Wednesday, Feb 17)
GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST WITH PEPPERS AND ONIONS
with orzo, asparagus, green salad and cookies

FEB 26 (Order by Wednesday, Feb 24)
BEEF SKEWERS
with Caribbean rice, roasted broccoli, green salad, and cookies

mickveisrael.org shopmickveisrael.com youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah

SAVANNAH KOLLEL PRESENTS:



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THANK YOU TO NLAWS FOODS FOR SPONSORING!

Friday, February 26th



Stay Tuned for Details for our
Sisterhood Purim Event!

Sign up for our
Weekly Newsletter
For all the latest updates
and Zoom links

UPCOMING CLASSES

- Monday Night 7:30 Rabbi Slatius-Talmud Class
- Tuesday Afternoon 12:45 Rabbi Nitekman-Women's Pirkei Avos class
- Tuesday Night 6:00 Rabbi Nitekman-Bireishis class
- Wednesday Night 8:00 Rabbi List - Women's Navi/Prophets class
- Thursday Night 8:00 Rabbi List - Parsha class
- Rabbi Lob-Daily Daf Yomi
- Sunday 9:00am Monday-Friday 8:10am



Jewish Film Fest continued from page 1

Israeli Film and Television industry. A panel discussion will feature the Israeli students that created the films.

And, join us for Food for Thought on Thursday, March 4 to watch "Commandment 613," a film about Rabbi Kevin Hale who joyfully practices the sacred craft of Torah restoration, bringing new life to scrolls saved during the Holocaust. After the film we'll hear from Rabbi Hale, who was the Associate Sofer for Congregation Agudath Achim, here in Savannah, when they had their Czech Torah scroll restored!

Each film will be available to screen for 72 hours before the start of the program – from the comfort of your own home. Watch the film and then join together with us for the program. Each program will include the directors or actors from the films or distinguished scholars to speak on the topic of the film. All details are

available at www.savj.org.

Due to the unique nature of a hosting a virtual film festival, all films will be available to stream FREE of charge. However, you MUST register at www.savj.org to receive the link to watch the film.

Please consider becoming a "Friend of the Festival" to help support the Savannah Jewish Film Festival and our upcoming cultural programs. Your participation makes it possible for us to provide the Savannah Jewish community this unique Jewish cultural experience. It's easy to show your support by simply going to www.savj.org and clicking on "Become a Friend of the Festival." See page 8 and 12 for the full schedule and for "Friend of the Festival" information.

We thank you in advance for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you – virtually -- at the movies!



Commandment 613 Film

On the Personal Side

We are incredibly excited to announce the winners of the 2020 Chanukah Essay Contest sponsored by Chabad of Savannah and the Savannah Jewish Federation. It was beautiful to see all the young children sharing what the holiday of Chanukah means to them and we applaud each contestant. Congratulations to 1st place winner: **Shannon Celiz** and 2nd place winner: **Noah Feinberg**. Shannon and Noah were featured on WTOC's Thursday morning show and they read their essays at the annual Menorah lighting at Ellis Square.



Shannon Celiz



Noah Feinberg

Mazel Tov to **Hunter Goldstein**, son of Courtney and Jay Goldstein, and grandson of Doris and Arnie Goldstein who became a Bar



Hunter Goldstein

Mitzvah on December 19, 2020 at Congregation Mickve Israel. He had a very special ceremony with his immediate family and they are very proud of his accomplishment, especially during this very challenging time.

Roger Lacey Lodge No. 722 Free and Accepted Masons has by resolution established in memory of **Helene Streicher**^{OBM}, the *Helene C. Streicher's Charity and Relief Fund for poor distressed Master Masons, their wives, widows, and orphans*. This fund has been fully funded by the generous contributions from members and friends of the Streicher's and will assist in continuing the great help they have provided to many Masons in Roger Lacey Lodge and in the State of Georgia for many years. Helene was very active in Roger Lacey Lodge, Scottish Rite and Shriners.



CONGREGATION
AGUDATH ACHIM
SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah GA 31405 912-352-4737
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Join our Synagogue, Join our mishpacha!!!

Tefila/Service

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Classes Online and many more!!

Will see you physically really soon....

We are maintaining Daily Services, via Facebook

To participate, please make sure you follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AgudathAchimSavannah/>

Join us for Friday night and Shabbat morning services via Zoom using the following information...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87032079194?pwd=Zk8yeWg3YWtGaUFkbkdFbDRsdmVHUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 3207 9194



In Memory of Millicent "Millie" Melaver,

President of the Savannah Jewish Federation, 1985-87, died on November 30, at her home in Savannah.

Millie was born in Brooklyn, New York and moved with her family to Savannah in 1940. She attended Armstrong State College for one year, transferring and graduating from the University of Pennsylvania. After college she taught English at Savannah High School as well as in the Miami area, but spent most of her life working in the family

grocery store business, M&M Supermarkets, where she directed front-end management of the store and later ran the advertising department. She helped grow the business into a regional chain of 14 stores employing over 750 people (eventually selling the business to Kroger Corp).

She was a committed and active member of the Savannah philanthropic community serving in leadership positions in many Jewish, civic, and arts organizations. In addition to Millie's longtime involvement with the Federation, she was Chair of the Foundation and a board member of St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries, and VP of Development and VP of Marketing for the Savannah Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, she was an active leader of the Savannah Cultural Affairs Committee, Jewish Educational Loan Fund, United Way of the Coastal Empire, and Congregation Agudath Achim.

She was an avid traveler who experienced the entire country and world with zest.

She is survived by nephew Martin Melaver and his children Dana and Alon, nieces Tovah (Edison Wolf) and their daughter, Aliyah and Ellen Melaver and her son Ian; and Nirit Avnimelch.

Remembrances: Donations in her memory would be welcome at any of the organization with which she was involved.

ODE TO MILLIE MELAVER

By Miriam K. Center

Your life was love and labor
Your love for your family true
You did your best for all of us
We will always remember you.

I am reminded of Thornton Wilder's words: "The highest tribute to the dead is not grief, but gratitude." And I am forever grateful for the love and time you gave to my son Henry. At age fifteen he was living at home, unable to go to school because of his brain cancer. He wanted to keep up with his work, hoping that he would be able to return some day. We knew his time was limited and you called and offered to come to our house twice a week to tutor him. Those days were so special and I shall forever hold you in my heart with gratitude.

In fact, I would like to also pay tribute to your sister-in-law Betty, who tutored Henry in other subjects. She came on the alternate days so his schedule was full. Often she brought her two small children and let them sit in the bed with Henry. He adored having them near him, and my heart melted at the love and caring that the Melaver women gave to us.

Your many contributions to the City and other charitable organizations will never be forgotten and neither will you. Your business acumen with the memorable M & M Supermarket is a great memory of the superior business woman that you were.

I hope that you will all meet in heaven and hold each other close.

In Memory of Walter Jack Lowe,
President of the Jewish Educational Alliance, 1979-81, died on December 14, 2020, at 99 years of age.

A lifelong Savannahian, Walter was a child of the Depression, served in World War II in the Alaska theatre, and was a proud member of 'The Greatest Generation.'

During his long life, Mr. Lowe performed untold acts of chesed (kindness) towards people from all walks of life—especially those who were less fortunate—without regard to race, religion, or socioeconomic background, often anonymously, and without seeking or even desiring recognition.

In addition to his leadership at the JEA, Walter was an active member of Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob and the Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society). He was a lifelong learner and almost never missed Rabbi Slatos's Monday night Torah class in 40 years, sitting front row, center eager to discover more. He was a passionate supporter of Israel and never missed an opportunity to learn more and to advocate.

A past JEA President, it seemed like Walter always was leading. There wasn't a day he walked in the door that he didn't pick up a discarded coffee cup from the parking lot or fix a wall hanging that wasn't straight...he always wanted 'his Alliance' to shine. His Letters to the Editor of the Savannah Morning News were legendary. If Walter saw a "wrong," he would make it right. He was quick, precise, and persuasive.

JEA Exec Director, Adam Solender commented, "Walter could be very demanding because he always expected the best. At first, Walter scared me, but then I came to understand his compassionate demeanor. He was always the first one to call when I had a letter to the editor in the paper. I think about him every time I write a letter of advocacy. There was never a doubt where Walter stood."

He is survived by his three sons, Alan (Candy) Lowe, David (Paula) Lowe, and Richard (Marci) Lowe, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his soul mate, Lillian Lowe, to whom he was married to for almost 75 years.

Remembrances: Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob, Rambam Day School, Jewish Educational Alliance, or to the charity of the donor's choice.



Walter Lowe surrounded by other JEA Presidents proudly cutting the cake at the JEA's 100th anniversary

Savannah

JEWISH LIFE

A new magazine
published by the
Savannah Jewish Federation.

In your mailbox -
March 2021

The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks our Contributors

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Jackie Spivak

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES FUND

A donation was made by:
Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Lukin
In memory of David Byck
Sherry & Norman Dolgoff
Sandy & Skippy Goodman
Peggy & Stanley Harris
Harriet & Paul Kulbersh
Linda & Steve Sacks
Adele Stein
Stephanie & Sol Zerden
In memory of Ken Goodman
Linda & Michael Zoller
In honor of Kaye Kole
Suzanne & Leonard Kantziper
In honor of Brenda & Stanley Rosenberg
Sandra & Skippy Goodman
In honor of Joel Greenberg
Toby Hollenberg & Michael Bonder
In memory of Shirley Roberts
Louise Roberts Herrick
In memory of Walter Lowe
Harriet Meyerhoff
Arlene & Allan Ratner
Stephanie & Sol Zerden
In memory of Millie Melaver
Linda & Steve Sacks
Stephanie & Sol Zerden

SJF ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FUND

In memory of Runia & Henry Vogelhut
In memory of Ann & Joe Adelman
Mark M. Vogelhut
In honor of Hilary Kronowitz
Wendy Morris
In memory of David Byck
Jamie & Steven Richman

TIMOTHY RUBNITZ MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Timothy Rubnitz
Debbie Cohen
Rachael & Malcolm Currie
David Rubnitz

MADELINE H. RICHMAN FUND

In honor of the Steven Richman Family
Nancy & Steve Lerner

JACOB BLUESTEIN FUND

A donation was made by:
Marlene & Duane Tomlin

TOBY W. HOLLENBERG CAMPAIGN FUND

A donation was made by:
Stanley Mark

Ratners Establish Arts Scholarship Fund

Arlene and Allan Ratner recently created the Muriel Ratner Maida Art Scholarship Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah (JCFS). JCFS is the endowment arm of the Savannah Jewish Federation which is charged with helping donors create a legacy to the Savannah Jewish community.

Muriel (Allan's sister) was often seen at the JEA at our Food for Thought programs. She was an artist, actress, and writer who lived in Savannah for the last fifteen years of her life. The arts had always been her passion.



Muriel with Arlene and Allan

In creating this legacy to her memory, the Ratners created this fund to provide an annual distribution "to be awarded to an individual in the Greater Savannah community to defray the costs of

education in the arts (suggested but not limited to dance, voice, painting, and writing).

To create your own legacy to the community please contact Adam Solender at the Federation, adam@savj.org.



"I WANTED TO PLAN AHEAD AND LOOK AT HOW I WOULD LEAVE A LEGACY ONCE I'M GONE."

"I had been feeling for awhile that for the things that I support in my lifetime, I'd like there to be continued support, if possible."

That was Toby Hollenberg talking about why she decided to establish the Toby W. Hollenberg PACE Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah.

"It's very important for me to support Jewish causes. I'm very much aware that only we Jews support Jewish causes. We're a small group and for Jewish life to continue we have to each take responsibility for making sure it happens. So being very much committed to how Federation supports Jewish life in this community and elsewhere, I felt that I wanted to plan ahead and look at how I would leave a legacy gift once I'm gone."

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

For information about creating a legacy with the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, contact adam@savj.org.



Check us out!

The Savannah Jewish News is online at www.savj.org
Tell your out-of-town family & friends!



The Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial

2021 [VIRTUAL] SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 11, 2021



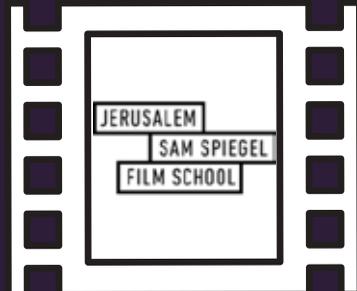
Kiss Me Kosher
Sunday, February 28
7:00 PM



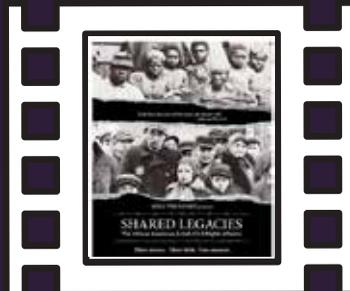
Here We Are
Wednesday, March 3
7:00 PM



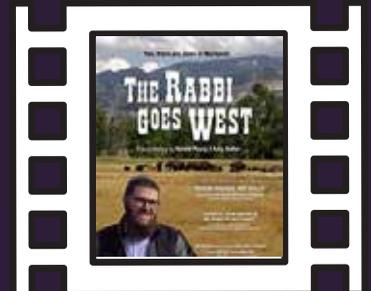
Commandment 613
Thursday, March 4
1:00 PM



Collection of Shorts
from students at the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem
Sunday, March 7
1:00 PM



Shared Legacies
Tuesday, March 9
7:00 PM



The Rabbi Goes West
Thursday, March 11
1:00 PM



This year's Virtual Savannah Jewish Film Festival is free. Please consider being a "Friend of the Festival" to ensure that programs like the SJFF continue for years to come.

Films will be available to view 72 hours in advance. Join together on the dates listed above for speakers on each of the films. Details on speakers and how to access films will be available at www.savj.org.

Presented VIRTUALLY in collaboration with the Charleston Jewish Film Fest through the College of Charleston.



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide

CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance ————— January-February 2021



Children's Programming



DAYS AT THE J

SPRING CAMP

March 30-April 2



Virtual learning not working?!
The JEA is here for you!

all day at
the 

Session VII begins February 1
3 & 5 day options available

WWW.SAVANNAHJEA.ORG





Adult Programming



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 November 10, 2020)

Jacob & Melissa Brillhart
Montez & Rhianna Brown
John (Max) Diekneite
Drew Ellis
Christopher Fuller & Dorothee Mertz
Trudy Hargrave
Karen Higgins
Joe & Denise Marie Mendler

Join the JEA

Join the JEA, and you will be glad you did when you take advantage of our special member pricing, FREE classes and events! The JEA provides different types of memberships to accommodate everyone.

Types of Membership include:
Family Plans, Couple Plans
Senior Plans, Young Family Plans
Individual Plans
Basic Plan
Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

Visit us at 5111 Abercorn Street or online at SavannahJEA.org for more information!

JEA Donations

(11/11/20-12/21/20)

JEA BUILDING FUND

A donation by:
Aaron Levy
In memory of Walter Lowe
Jane Kahn

JEA GENERAL DONATION

In memory of David Byck
Dana & James Yeckley
In memory of Walter Lowe
The Buchsbaum Family
Alva & Charles Compton
Kathleen & Bruce Feron
Victoria & Gregory Guenther
Michael Karpf
Dana & James Yeckley

JUDITH BLUMENTHAL LECTURE SERIES FUND

A donation was made by:
Elena Day

PHILLIP HOFFMAN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Millie Melaver
The Buchsbaum Family

JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

In memory of Rebekah Handshu
Harriet & Paul Kulbersh

BERTHA & HYMIE KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Walter Lowe
Linda & Andy Borson
Daniel Hyman

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of David Byck
Marcy & Jerry Konter

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Walter Lowe
Elise & Victor Shernoff

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Henry W. Center
John Patterson
In memory of Walter Lowe
Tony Center



Health & Wellness

New Year Resolutions? The JEA is Here to Help!



Jess Whitacre
Health & Wellness
Director

The New Year is here, and we have so many things to look forward to at the JEA. While 2020 offered many challenges for us to overcome, we have stayed resilient and are now in a brand new year. This provides us a chance to hit the reset button on our health and fitness

goals, however, you do not have to tackle these goals on your own. The JEA's Health & Wellness department has a lot to offer in 2021 to assist you with your resolutions. Whatever your new health goals may be, we are here to help!

Aquatics Programs

Looking for a low impact way to get your physical activity in? Then check out our pool and swim programs! Our indoor pool has three (3) lap lanes for lap swimmers to use. Additionally, we recently installed a fourth (4th) lane for patrons to use as a walking lane.

Water walking and lap swimming are great ways to increase muscle tone, burn calories, and improve cardiovascular endurance without putting extra stress on your joints. Reservations for the pool can be made through our website. Each reservation is a 30-minute slot but you can also reserve a spot for the whole hour if needed. Each member gets six (6) 30-minute slots a week.

If you are looking for more ways to socialize while also getting active, water aerobics is making its popular appearance again at 11am Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Additional social distancing and sanitary protocols are in place to keep participants safe during this class. Space is limited and reservations are required to attend.

Looking for activities for the kids to get

involved? We just started our JEA Orcas Swim Club for children ages 6-18 and our swim lessons are available for all ages. Enrollment runs on a month-to-month basis so don't hesitate to reach out if your child is interested. Additionally, if you or your child need to improve stroke technique, learn to swim, or need someone to motivate and guide you through a structured workout in the pool, we have swim instructors available who can assist you. There is no better way to start the new year than staying active at the pool!

Fitness Programs

2020 has shown us how truly important it is to take care of both our mental and physical health. Our fitness department offers a variety of programs to help you accomplish this. We offer a variety of group fitness classes that are FREE to JEA members. These classes include yoga, strength training, cardio classes, water aerobics, pilates and family workouts.

If you are looking for more individual attention, we also offer personal and small group training as well! Our personal trainers can help you break down your resolutions to ensure you are working towards S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound) goals.

Lastly, as you return to the fitness center you will notice some upgrades to our fitness equipment. We have taken advantage of this time to ensure our equipment meets your needs and is safe for you to use.

Our fitness center is open Monday-Thursday 7am-7pm, Friday 7am-6pm, & Sunday 9am-6pm. Whether you want to utilize our fitness programs or just use the fitness center on

your own, we have something to offer! Our Health & Wellness Director, Jess Whitacre is also a resource for you to use anytime you have a question or need assistance in the fitness center.

We Can't Wait to Hear From You!

For additional information on any of our programs or operations, check out our website at: SavannahJEA.org.

To inquire about our fitness programs, please email our Health & Wellness Director, Jess Whitacre at fitness@savj.org.

To inquire about Swim Lesson questions or registration, please email Jess at aquatics@savj.org.

To inquire about Swim Club questions or registration, please email Chris Cotton at swimclub@savj.org.





JEA Preschool Savannah News

Open Enrollment
Currently enrolling 3-yr olds for half-day and full-day program.

New operating hours: 8am-5:30pm

Limited spaces available.

Contact Jodi Sadler, Director, at Jodi@savj.org or 912-355-8111 to set up a tour

JEA Preschool Savannah is excited to announce that 2020-2021 enrollment opens for currently enrolled children and siblings on January 4th.

Important Dates:

Monday, January 4, 2021: Re-enrollment priority period for current children and siblings begins for the 2021-22 school year.

Friday, January 29, 2021: Priority Period Re-enrollment deadline for current children and siblings.

Monday, February 1, 2021: Open registration for new children begins for the 2021-2022 school year. (This is on a first come, first served basis for any spaces remaining after the re-enrollment priority period.)

Monday, February 1, 2021: 2021 Summer Program registration begins for all children.

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.

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



Jan.

in the JEA Art Gallery

Camille Hulbert - January 2021

Camille Hulbert is an advocate for the arts and a self-taught textile artist who creates wearable art. Although she was born and raised in Northern California, her family roots are here in Georgia. She attended elementary school both in California and Georgia. Since relocating to Georgia to pursue a career in Education and Fiber arts, Camille has been inspired to explore the concept of Children's Objects of Art. Camille created an art program that engages youth in after school arts and encourages learning about textiles and textile art techniques. This program is called Seed to Fiber Textile Art Program. She has worked with youth in Atlanta and Savannah over the last ten years.

This is the second year that Camille has showcased the work of the youth that participate in the Seed to Fiber Textile Art Program at the Jewish Education Alliance. This year they are showcasing art in the form of assemblage, mixed media, collage and craft. Each form of art has a touch of textile art or involves a textile technique that creates a unique object of art. The Children's Objects of Art Show will also exhibit a community service project that represents a collaboration of art and advocacy. The exhibit will highlight a contemporary look at the world's need to create a "safe space" in light of the global pandemic.



*Artwork available for viewing January 1-31, 2021
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception January 13, 4-6pm*

Nae'Keisha Jones - February

Nae'Keisha Jones is an illustrator and writer from Colorado, now based in Savannah, GA. She graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design with a B.F.A. in Illustration and a minor in Creative Writing. Her work has been featured in Connect Savannah, ShopScad and VoyageAtl. She launched her online stores in mid 2020: 'Canvas Chats' on Etsy, and has also partnered with INPRNT to feature high-quality prints of selected pieces. Nae'Keisha is an advocate for creating visual stories while inspiring others to do the same.



Sacred Passion

*Artwork available for viewing February 1-28, 2021
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception February 8, 4-6pm*

JEA Art Shows

Are you an artist? Would you like to show your work in the JEA Art Gallery?

We feature artists from different fields: oil painters, water colorists, sculptors, photographers, potters, quilters, textiles, mixed media, wood sculpture, mosaics and more!

Each show is one month, and you may choose to have an opening reception. There's no charge to use our space, but we do ask for a small percentage of anything sold.

Having a show at the JEA is a great way to have your work seen, and to help your community. Please contact Marlene Seidman-Robinowich at marlenseidman@yahoo.com to inquire about available months for your show!



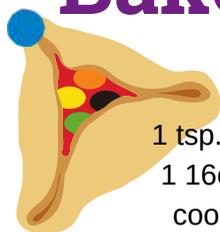
PJ Library is for Children birth to 8 years old being raised in a Jewish home, residing in the Savannah area. Parents can register their children for PJ Library at PJLibrary.org

Families with children ages 9 to 12 years old can register for PJ Our Way at PJOurWay.org.

Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library® is free for those who qualify for the program, which grants one subscription per child. The subscription is renewable annually for qualifying Savannah families.

Need more information? [Email PJLibrary@savj.org](mailto:EmailPJLibrary@savj.org)

Bake Hamantashen to Get Ready for Purim!



Ingredients:

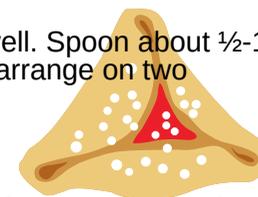
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. fresh orange zest (about ½ a large orange)
- 1 16oz package store-bought refrigerated sugar cookie dough (*Tube or pull-aparts both work)

Filling suggestions:

Raspberry preserves, Apricot preserves, Nutella, Lemon curd, Poppy seed filling mix, Prune paste

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Knead flour and orange zest into the prepared sugar cookie dough, and roll into two equal logs. Cut each log into 12 equally sized pieces, and shape into triangles.
3. Press the center of each triangle, making a small well. Spoon about ½-1 tsp. of filling into the center well of each triangle, and arrange on two parchment-lined baking sheets (12 on each sheet).
4. Bake for 15-17 minutes, or until edges brown.
5. Let cool on baking sheets for 10 minutes, and transfer to cooling rack.



Savannah Jewish Federation
Your campaign dollars at work!



Savannah PJ Library
& PJ Our Way

savannah  bbyo

MISSION: To create a pluralistic community of Jewish high school teens. More Jewish Teens, More Meaningful Jewish Experiences.



BBYO International Convention 2021
Every Jewish Teen. Every Chapter. Everywhere.
February 11-15
azabbg.bbyo.org/ic/2021/register

THE BEST PLACE TO BE A SAVANNAH JEWISH TEEN

SAVJ.ORG/SAVANNAH-BBYO   SAVANNAH BBYO



Savannah Jewish Federation

Beneficiary Agency: Your Campaign dollars at work



...ONLINE

**THURSDAYS
AT 1:00 PM**

- | | |
|----------|--|
| JANUARY | The State of Anti-Semitism in America |
| 14 | Dov Wilker, Regional Director of American Jewish Committee |
| JANUARY | Women's Road to the Pulpit |
| 21 | Rabbi Tirza Covell |
| JANUARY | The Journey to Judaism |
| 28 | Diana Phillips, Author of Choosing Judaism |
| FEBRUARY | The Biggest Small Personalities in the Torah |
| 4 | Rabbi Robert Haas, Rabbi at Congregation Mickve Israel |
| FEBRUARY | Loop it UP! |
| 11 | Molly Lieberman, Executive Director of Loop It Up Savannah |
| FEBRUARY | Judaism, The Afterlife, and The Good Life |
| 18 | Rabbi Rachel Blatt |
| FEBRUARY | Purim Palooza |
| 25 | Tim Slivinski, Engagement & Learning Coordinator at Congregation Mickve Israel |



Eva Locker,
Principal of
Shalom School

The Holiness We Can Bring

Ancient Israel was an agricultural society that lived according to the rhythms of the seasons and celebrated each harvest cycle by bringing to the Temple a part of the harvest as offering. Our tradition is rich with holidays and rituals that are linked to nature's cycles and Tu B'Shvat is one of those. Referred to as the "New Year of the Trees", this day marks the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. But over the years, Tu B'Shvat has become so much more.

By the 6th Day of Creation, the Bible declares that the world God had created is "very good" (Gen. 1: 31); Not perfect or holy as we might expect but "very good". From there, the Bible has given us many instructions on how to care for the Earth, this most precious gift carefully curated by Hashem to provide for all our needs. Biblical law sets forth how Israel is to treat the Earth, vegetation and animals; how to proceed with the first fruits of a tree, not to waste or destroy (Baal Tashrit), be mindful of distress of the animals (Tsaar Baalei Chaim), and many other laws. However, one does not need to be observant to embrace the meaning of Tu B'Shvat. Secular Jews have often spearheaded ecological and conservation movements through Tikkun Olam actions. Why is it that, as Jews, we are so rooted in environmentalism? The laws of Torah have been clear about our obligation to the Earth, and those laws are still valid and relevant no matter how our societies have

evolved over time.

The beauty of this holiday is that we can each find our own meaning in it. Observance and ritual have morphed over time. Tradition had us celebrating Tu B'Shvat by planting trees, but today we can donate money to plant trees in Israel or as a more recent tradition, holding a Tu B'Shvat Seder or even extending its principals to a way a life by resisting our consumer societal habits and try to alleviate the stress on our planet's limited natural resources.

Tu B'Shvat also allows us the opportunity to take many lessons to heart and apply them to our lives. When a tree is planted, we must wait three years to reap its fruits. Like with the trees, we must remember to pace ourselves, not rush into things or expect immediate results. When the soil is cultivated in Israel, the law requires us to let it rest every 7th year and no crops grow in Israel on that 7th year (called Shmita). Like the soil, we must allow ourselves downtime too, so we do not become depleted, and so we give ourselves time to renew.

Judaism's ecological wisdom is found not just in the natural order itself, but in those commandments that instruct us how to treat the Earth. Nature itself is "very good", not perfect or holy. Our care for it makes it holy. Children are born with an innate sense of wonder when it comes to nature. They see beauty and wonder in the little things that adults often write off as insignificant. Tu B'Shvat is a great time to rediscover that childhood wonder and the holiness our actions can bring.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Millicent "Millie" Melaver

Who died Monday, November 30, 2020.

She is survived by nephew Martin Melaver and his children Dana and Alon, nieces Tovah (Edison Wolf) and their daughter, Aliyah and Ellen Melaver and her son Ian; and Nirit Avnimelch.

Remembrances: Donations in her memory would be welcome at any of the organization with which she was involved.

Walter Jack Lowe

Who died Monday, December 14, 2020.

He is survived by his three sons, Alan (Candy) Lowe, David (Paula) Lowe, and Richard (Marci) Lowe, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his soul mate, Lillian Lowe, to who he was married to for almost 75 years.

Remembrances: Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob, Rambam Day School, Jewish Educational Alliance, or to the charity of the donor's choice.

W. Leon Friedman

Who died Friday, December 25, 2020.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Helene Whiteman Friedman;

three children, Dr. Ellen Vargas (Alberto), Dr. Philip Friedman, and Jason Friedman (Jeffrey); five grandchildren, Joshua Friedman, Callie Friedman, Alberto Vargas, Jr., Aden Vargas, and Enrique Vargas; one brother, Julian R. Friedman, and cousins including Maxine Gourse.

Remembrances: Savannah Elks Lodge #183, McKenna-Friedman Scholarship Fund, 183 Wilshire Boulevard, Savannah, Georgia 31419-1329 or Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah, Georgia 31405-5707.

Sylvia Yellin

Who died Friday, January 1, 2021.

She is survived her children, Marsha (Richard) Ohayon of Durham, NC; Harold (Peggy) Yellin of Savannah; and Frank (Mark Showalter) Yellin of Redwood City, CA. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Melanie (Michael Sanders) Hirsch of Silver Spring, MD; Sara Hirsch of Durham, NC; Joshua (Ashley) Yellin of Savannah; and Stephanie Yellin of Atlanta, GA; by four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Remembrances: Congregation B'nai Brith Jacob, Rambam Day School, Hospice Savannah, or to the charity of the donor's choice.



Carolyn Fluke Levine

Who died Friday, November 13, 2020.

Carolyn, a former Savannah resident, was the only daughter and second child of the late Sol Fluke and Minnie Becker Fluke. She was married in 1951 to the late Dr. Zelvin Levine, a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology.

She is survived by her children Michael Gabriel, H. Lee Levine, David Levine and Maryam Levine Scott, as well five grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Carolyn Levine was buried on November 18th at Bonaventure Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



SAVE THE DATE

YOM HASHOAH

SAVANNAH'S ANNUAL MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST

APRIL 8, 2021

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM READING OF THE NAMES
6:00 PM [VIRTUAL] COMMUNITY
COMMEMORATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.SAVJ.ORG OR CALL 912-355-8111



Ester Rabhan,
Principal
Rambam Day
School

Eye on education

Holiday Contest Fun

I knew winter break was creeping up on us, and I also knew how much teachers and students were looking forward

to not just a break from routine school, but a break from all the regulations due to Covid which have most definitely impacted school. Having teachers Zoom from home either because they are not comfortable coming into school, or Zooming because they were exposed to Covid and are in quarantine, isn't easy on teachers or students. You certainly can't compare in-person to virtual. And you certainly can't compare having to wear a mask all day and only socializing with your own class to not wearing a mask and socializing with several other grades.

We've instituted several additions to our schedule due to Covid understanding that the restrictions are hard on elementary and middle school students. However, the week before any long vacation is always a challenging time as the "itch" of break is in the air.

So, with the assistance of Mrs. Wright (our Assistant Principal) and Mrs. Nitekman (our Office Manager), the week before winter break we had a "Holiday Contest". The contest presented several challenges to the staff, who were split up into teams.

Challenge 1: School Trivia

- Which 2 staff members have been at Rambam the longest?
- What is the name of our mail carrier?
- Which current Rambam parents graduated in 2000?
- How many students are in Rambam?
- When was Rambam founded?
- How long has Rambam in this location?

Challenge 2: 1980's Radio challenge called, Eight at Eight.

The 8th caller to correctly

identify our mystery song was the WINNER! (It was a song by Elton John)

Challenge 3: Our School Has Talent.

Someone or all the team members had to submit a video of their talent. The winning team was someone who sang a song. We had some interesting talent; ears wiggling, tongues curving...

Challenge 4: Jenga All the Way!

Teams submitted a picture of their stacking abilities. We had chairs stacked, people stacked.....

Challenge 5: What in the World??

Teams were given 5 EXTREME CLOSE-UP pictures of things around Rambam and the teams had to figure out what the pictures were. They begged for hints....

Excitement was in the air for the whole week. Students became involved and it was an amazing way to end school and get ready for the break! EVERYONE had a super great time! Teachers commented on the camaraderie and teamwork.

Our prizes were pretty nifty! Lunch for the team in First place, Gift cards to Starbucks for Second place, and Gift cards to Coldstone for Third place.

What would Chanukah be without Rambam Day School's Annual Chanukah Program? I was prepared that we may not have one this year due to Covid; however, Chavi Rabhan and Rena Maccabee pulled off an amazing Zoom production - all pre-recorded. We had a phenomenal turnout join the featured Zoom presentation. The production included parents, students, teachers, grandparents and alumni. It's difficult to describe. Hopefully after winter break, we'll have the program on our website. Thank G-d and thanks to all the cooperation of staff, parents and students; Covid hasn't stopped Rambam!!



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director
Early Childhood
Education

Eye on education

Bring in the Lights

It's the beginning of 2021 and I am looking forward to all that the new year will bring

to our families, our communities, and our country. It also means that the first part of the school year is over.

As I reflect over these past six months, I think about the challenges we faced and the accomplishments we achieved at preschool during this pandemic.

It was difficult to reboot in the summer after having shut down for six weeks. But we followed the Department of Early Care and Learning COVID-19 protocols and set up the structure and schedules of the classroom pods. It was a quiet and safe summer for everyone.

After the Summer Program, the 2020 school year began in August and we transitioned nicely with more children attending and additional staff working in the program.

The biggest change was that the families were no longer allowed to come into the preschool for drop off, pick up, and schmoozing in the office. It was difficult to identify parents behind masks in the car-pool line. What child belonged to what parent? How in the world were we going to connect with the moms and dads to build a preschool community? This was a matter of real concern and the main issue I heard from other program directors locally and nationally.

After brainstorming with other parents and directors, we came up with some face to face programming ideas that would be able to happen in a safe way.

The first program was Hot Tea and Hot Topics. This was an opportunity for parents to meet at the JEA, in a socially distanced environment, with masks, and only

with their child's classroom parents. The parents met with me to share their dreams for their children and to begin to talk about struggles and strategies they were experiencing with their children. One of the dads of a two year old felt like it was a support group and in many ways it was. It was comforting for the moms and dads to know that they were not alone in their stresses

and struggles. We shared behavioral strategies, timer phone apps, and informative FB groups.

Another program we are having is called Playground Playdates. Each Sunday, a different class is scheduled to meet on the JEA playground. The parents and teachers (yes, the teachers are coming out on Sunday) get together and socialize on the playground while the children play in their familiar surroundings.

The response has been so positive! The parents enjoy meeting the other adults (even with masks) and their child's classmates. The children actually arrived at the playground and were a bit confused as to why the moms and dads were there along with the teachers!

The teachers especially enjoyed meeting the moms and dads in person. They had "seen" them at previous Zoom meetings, but we all know that there is nothing like human contact. I was so glad that we could provide this experience for the preschool community.

We will continue to program in a safe way and find other ways for families, children, and teachers to connect. We know that building relationships and making connections is key to a successful preschool program, especially during a pandemic!

Wishing everyone a 2021 filled with good health and peace!



Playground Playdates



Playground Playdates



Hot Tea and Hot Topics



Sunday February 28th at 6pm

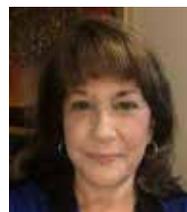
A live Zoom event

Who knows one?

A fast-paced, interactive game of Jewish geography!

Can you find the Chosen One?

Visit our Facebook page for more info



Robin Rackoff

If you can't find any antibacterial hand wipes in the stores, it's my fault. I have more than most hospitals. I can't seem to help myself. If Publix has them in stock, I put a few packets in my cart. In Sam's, where everything is sold in bulk, I buy them in bulk. I have never before been compulsive about buying anything, but the pandemic made me do it. Some people fill their carts with paper towels, but not me. I'm an antibacterial handwipe kind of woman.

Before there was COVID and people played mah jongg on real mah jongg sets, players often questioned me about the correct way to clean tiles. Since March, not surprisingly, no one has asked about that... until now! With a light at the end of the tunnel, people are getting their tables, cloths, and tiles ready. When it comes to cleaning tiles, though, I have to give a disclaimer. I ruined a perfectly wonderful set because of my own stupidity. I opened a case that had been in the attic for years and almost passed out from the fumes of mold and mildew. Thinking I had the perfect solution, literally, I brought out the spray bottle of mold and mildew cleaner from my shower and proceeded to douse my tiles. Right before my eyes, all the color and paint from those beautiful tiles went down the drain. When talking about cleaning maj tiles, my warning is to do as I say, not as I did.

If you go to mah jongg websites and search "cleaning tiles," you will be overwhelmed by the number of responses, many of them completely wrong. Mary, for example,

Mah Jongg and More

says she runs her tiles through the dishwasher, and they come out great. However, try to find Mary when your tiles get ruined after just one cycle, and she's nowhere to be found. Also, filling the sink with warm water and dishwashing liquid may be fine for our Amazon plastic-y ones, but never soak your bone and bamboo ones. The experts I've consulted have said that cleaning with an alcohol-soaked cotton ball works well except for your most fragile tiles. So back to those antibacterial wipes that I have thousands of. Can I use them to clean my tiles? Fearful of a repeat of my previous tile debacle, I pulled out extra tiles that came with each set. I went over them with my wipes, and voila! Clean as a whistle. When we finally start playing for real again, I will have the cleanest tiles in the south because I have the most wipes! Just remember that before you subject your whole set to any method, try it out on your extra tiles.

Before I head off to my 12-step program for people who can't stop buying antibacterial wipes, I wanted to tell you that there is a weekly Podcast that's all about mah jongg. It's called *Mah Jongg Mondays*, and it's hosted by Fern Bernstein, who wrote a delightful memoir also called *Mah Jongg Mondays!* I was her guest on the December 14th broadcast, talking about mah jongg from Brooklyn in the 1950s to Savannah now. Give a listen and tell me if you think it was fun. You can find it on most of the Podcast Apps on your smartphone.

Here's hoping that this nightmare will be over soon, and let's maj on!

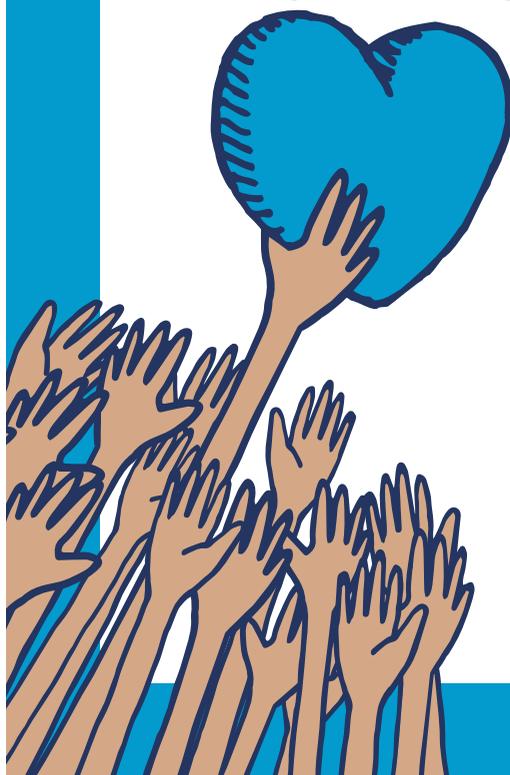
**NEED A HELPING HAND?!
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES
IS HERE FOR YOU!**

WHETHER YOU NEED A DELIVERY OF A MEAL, WOULD APPRECIATE A WEEKLY CHECK-IN CALL, OR MIGHT ENJOY A "VIRTUAL FRIENDLY VISIT" - COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS ARE READY TO HELP.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE, WE NEED YOU, TOO!

LET'S STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE TOGETHER!

JFS@SAVJ.ORG



Introducing our new Community Impact Coordinator

We are excited to introduce Sunny Nayberg, our new Community Impact Coordinator to Savannah. Sunny, originally from Israel, moved here from Michigan where she most recently worked with Jewish Family Services, a beneficiary of the Detroit Federation. Sunny is excited to join the Savannah community and looks forward to meeting everyone. Welcome to Savannah, Sunny.



The Joan and Murray Gefen Memorial

2021 [VIRTUAL] SAVANNAH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 11, 2021

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE FESTIVAL

Producer
\$500

- Producer Listing in Festival Program Guide & Promotional Material
- Signage during the festival
- 4 weeks enews sponsor (\$144 value)
- SJFF Swag bag delivered to your home before the festival

Director
\$300

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- Signage during the festival
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Actor
\$180

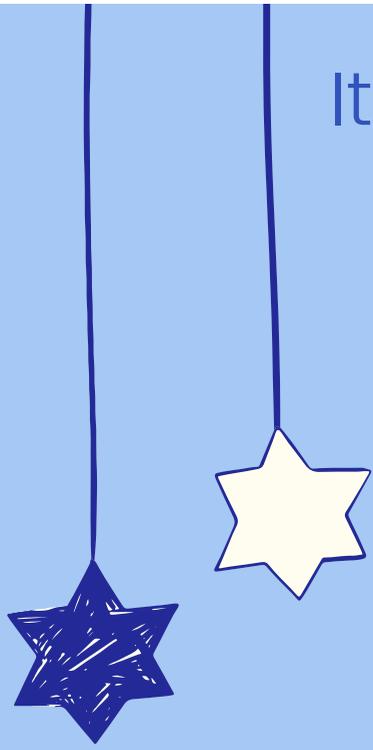
- Actor Listing in Festival Program Guide & Promotional Material
- Signage during the festival - at the JEA & online
- SJFF Swag bag delivered to your home before the festival



WWW.SAVJ.ORG

It was so fun to be together again at the

COMMUNITY Chanukkah CARNIVAL



Thank you to all of the community partners!





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 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.

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

COME & JOIN US

Spread the Warmth
BLANKET DRIVE

Young Jewish Savannah is coming together to Spread the Warmth this winter!

All blankets will be gifted to local homeless communities.

Donated items will be accepted through February 28!

Drop off location:
Savannah Jewish Educational Alliance
5111 Abercorn Street




We want to get to know you!
New to Savannah and want to get connected?
Want to help plan events?
Have ideas you want to share?
Just want to hang out?
Let us take you for coffee!

912.355.8111 | YJS@savj.org
Young Jewish Savannah



Save The Date

Purim Palooza

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

WEEK 1 	WEEK 2 
WEEK 3 	WEEK 4 
WEEK 5 	WEEK 6 

WINTER 2021

Jewish History Talks

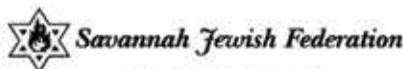
PRESENTED BY THE BREMAN MUSEUM
Sponsored by Marilyn Ginsberg Eckstein

Discover something new in something old with The Breman Museum's Atlanta Jewish History Talks. This series of six talks with Atlanta's foremost historians discussing people and events that affected the City of Atlanta.

Talks cover topics such as The Rise of Rich's Department Store, Jewish political activism, and Atlanta's most infamous instances of anti-Semitism - the Leo Frank Case and the Emory Dental School Scandal.

Tickets are available on a per class basis or as a series.

MORE INFO AT
TheBreman.org



The Savannah Jewish Archives is generously supported by the Savannah Jewish Federation

1440 Spring Street
Atlanta, GA 30309
678.222.3700
TheBreman.org



FOR A **GREENER** JEWISH WORLD

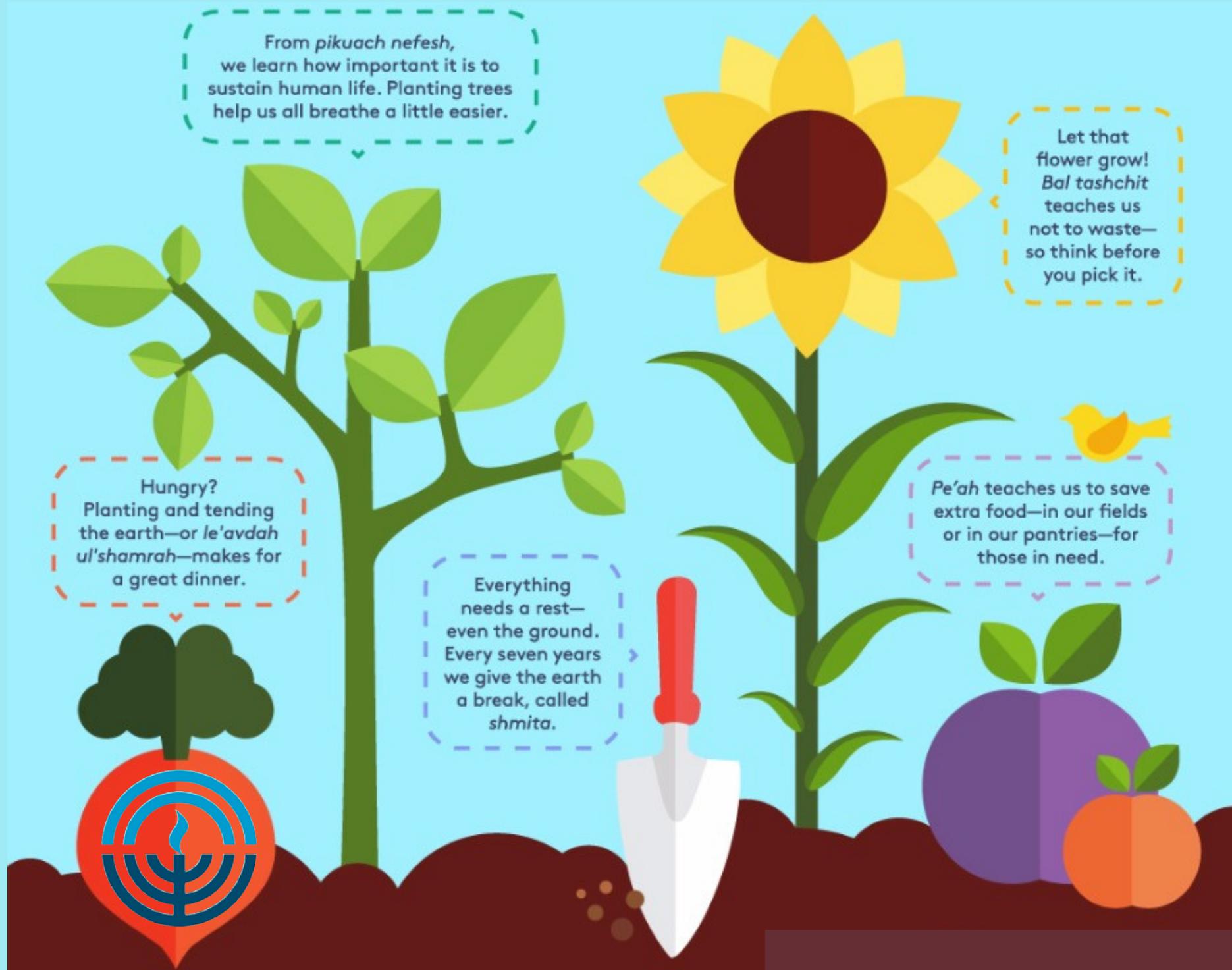
From *pikuach nefesh*, we learn how important it is to sustain human life. Planting trees help us all breathe a little easier.

Let that flower grow! *Bal tashchit* teaches us not to waste—so think before you pick it.

Hungry? Planting and tending the earth—or *le'avdah ul'shamrah*—makes for a great dinner.

Everything needs a rest—even the ground. Every seven years we give the earth a break, called *shmita*.

Pe'ah teaches us to save extra food—in our fields or in our pantries—for those in need.



Bal taschit, pe'ah, pikuach nefesh...

These are some of the Jewish values we're thinking about on Tu B'Shevat, the new year of the trees. How are you making the world a better place?

Your gift to the Savannah Jewish Federation helps to fulfill these values here in Savannah and around the world!

Give Today • www.savj.org

Consider endowing your gift to ensure a strong Jewish world for generations to come.