



## Another Successful Campaign Allocates Funds

For the fourth consecutive year, the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign raised more than one million dollars to provide aid and services to the local and global Jewish community, and for the fourth consecutive year, the Savannah Jewish Federation increased its support to Israel and Overseas needs.

Thanks to the successful efforts of Campaign Chair Stacey Schlafstein, the campaign management team of Linda Sacks, Harvey Lebos and Matthew Allan, and the many volunteers who assisted on the campaign, the Board of Governors was able to approve the distribution of generous funds for 2017-2018.

In a series of three meetings held in May, thirty-three members of the community representing every possible demographic and affiliation heard presentations from beneficiaries that included reviews of the past year, current initiatives and financials, and projections for the future year. After hearing the presentations and vigorous question and answer sessions, the group made a recommendation to the Federation Board of Governors, which was adopted in full, for the distribution of funds to the following beneficiaries:

Savannah Jewish Federation 2017-18 Allocations	
As approved at the June 14th Board of Governors meeting.	
Total Campaign	1,087,932
-reserve for pledges uncollectable	21,759
-SJF programs and services	533,229
+General donations ( <i>non-campaign</i> )	3,376
+Unexpended funds from previous budget	49,480
-Donor-designated gifts ( <i>unallocable</i> )	70,700
<b>Total Funds Available for Allocation</b>	<b>515,100</b>
<b>Allocations</b>	
Shalom School	20,000
Teen Jewish Identity/Experience Fund	6,000
BBYO	3,000
SCAD Hillel	4,000
Taglit/Birthright Israel	9,000
Overseas (JFNA--JAFI, JDC)	172,100
Overseas Investment Grants	9,500
Jewish Educational Alliance	260,000
special security allocation	15,000
Savannah Jewish Archives	10,000
Jewish Educational Loan Fund	3,000
Jewish Council for Public Affairs	1,000
Israel Action Network	1,000
Jewish War Veterans	500
Jewish Telegraphic Agency	500
Anti Defamation League	500

The Savannah Jewish Federation (SJF), in addition to distributing the money it collects to other organizations, is concerned and responsible in many other ways for the welfare of our Savannah Jewish community. Through Jewish Family Services, SJF provides food for the hungry, medication and access to medical services

for those in need, case management for individuals and families, housing assistance for those in jeopardy and countless other services.

Using professionally-driven programs and services, the Federation also provides outreach to all ages and generations of the Jewish communi-

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### Candle Lighting Times

Friday, July 14	8:14pm
Friday, July 21	8:11pm
Friday, July 28	8:06pm
Friday, August 4	8:01pm
Friday, August 11	7:54pm
Friday, August 18	7:47pm
Friday, August 25	7:39pm

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## JEA Gala, September 10 — Sparkling Night to Remember

Martinis, music and diamonds! Get ready to experience another exciting JEA Gala. Come in your best James Bond inspired look as we celebrate Diamonds are Forever on Sunday, September 10, while supporting our beloved Jewish Educational Alliance. The Gala is the annual centerpiece of the Jewish Educational Alliance's fundraising efforts and over the years has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars so that the JEA can serve the community and offer year-round programming and activities for Savannah youth, adults and seniors.

This year's gala is sure to impress with festivities planned by first time co-chairs Michelle Allan, Robyn Carroll and Lauren Fins along with Program Coordinator, Jacqui Drazen. They and their committee are planning an entertaining, elegant evening

that even 007 would not want to miss. The evening will begin with an assortment of hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Chef Jeffrey Quasha and his team are back to prepare the food. There will be Bond inspired specialty drinks sponsored by Ghost Coast Distillery. Brand new to our area, Ghost Coast Distillery is the first legal distillery in Savannah in 100 years. Cocktail hour will be followed by dinner and a dessert bar. (There will be beef, chicken, fish and many vegetarian selections. All food is Kosher, not under supervision; certified Kosher meals are available upon request.)

In keeping with the theme, a Champagne Wall full of diamonds will replace the Wall of Wine this year. This popular Gala feature in the past has raised thousands of dollars to support the mission of the JEA and



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## Funds.....from page 1

ty, from birth to the 'well-seasoned.' Community programs designed to focus on building Jewish community and identity, beginning with PJ Library and including BBYO, BBYO Connect, SCAD Hillel, Food for Thought, Young Jewish Savannah and more, are all staffed and guided by SJF professionals. Participation in all of these programs, measured both by quantity and quality, is increasing as a result of the new professional oversight.

SJF provides grants for area Jewish youth to attend programs that create and enhance Jewish identity, including Jewish overnight camp, teen travel to Israel and leadership development programs. SJF is the source of Holocaust remembrance and education through its Yom HaShoah and Kristallnacht observances and programming, both for the Jewish and secular communities. SJF keeps you informed about Jewish life in Savannah and around the world through the Weekly eNews, Savannah Jewish News, Facebook and periodic mailings. And it provides dozens of other advocacy, social service, cultural and other programs and services to the community throughout the year.

Shalom School received 100% of its requested support to continue to provide supplementary Jewish education to local children. Reflecting the organization's continued improving

financial performance, the core allocation for the Jewish Educational Alliance is down for the third straight year. JEA President Scott Samuels proudly stated, "We are thrilled that we are able to provide our wonderful programs and services with less reliance on the Annual Community Campaign."

The SJF Board approved a special additional allocation of \$15,000 for the JEA to subsidize the enormous security needs of our community center recognizing the significant investment made in cameras and lighting throughout the facility.

Bucking a national trend, the Savannah Jewish Federation increased its financial support for the concerns of our fellow Jews in Israel and elsewhere around the world for the fifth straight year. SJF increased its contribution to Birthright Israel, the initiative that sends each and every young Jewish adult in the Diaspora to visit Israel, as a "birthright." And again, SJF will be funding programs that provide services to Jews overseas that were handpicked by members of the community to receive Overseas Investment Grants (see the accompanying list).

The SJF's historic overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), through the Jewish Federations of North America will receive 37% of the campaign's allocable dol-

lars (up from last year's 31.7%), the fourth consecutive year of increased Overseas funding, in recognition of the peril Jews face throughout the world. This is a proud achievement for our community. As anti-Semitism spreads and Israel offers safe refuge for the world's Jews, their work is as important as ever.

The grant to the Jewish Educational Loan Fund (JELF) was increased this year in recognition of the benefit provided to Savannah area students. JELF, based in Atlanta, provides interest-free loans to Jewish college and graduate students throughout the Southeast. Many Savannah students have benefited in recent years from the availability of these loans. Grants to Jewish Council for Public Affairs and the Israel Action Network were increased this year, reflecting the importance of the work they do responding to various types of hate directed at the Jewish community and Israel.

A member of the Budget and Allocations Committee noted at the end of the process: "This has been one of the most productive and effective series of meetings that I have ever been a part of. I'm proud to have served and to have provided essential funds to so many worthy programs and initiatives."

Kol Hakavod to the many members of the Budget and Allocations Committee, Governors of the Savannah Jewish Federation, and the many beneficiaries who were part of the process.

## 2017 SJF Overseas Investment Grant Recipients

Each year, the Savannah Jewish Federation invites donors to the Annual Campaign to recommend overseas agencies that are personally meaningful to them to receive overseas investment grants. These are the 2017-2018 recipients:

### Atlit Ma'apalim Camp

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

### Bayit Lepletot

Bayit Lepletot, which means a home for refugees, was founded in 1949, soon after the Second World War, when the refugees from the European Holocaust came pouring in, legally and illegally, to the shores of our Homeland. There was a desperate need for a warm and understanding home for the broken, stranded and or-

phaned children, whose parents were killed by Hitler, some of whom were the sole survivors of their families or of their towns. Today, Bayit Lepletot, Girls Town Jerusalem, with its dormitory and academic center, has rehabilitated and educated hundreds of girls from dysfunctional and disadvantaged homes.

### Chaim V'Chessed

Life as an English speaker in Israel is a challenge. When life veers toward times of crisis, the challenge can become insurmountable. Chaim V'Chessed is the one-stop organization for information, guidance and crisis management for Israel's English speaking population.

### Ethiopian National Project

The Ethiopian National Project unites global Jewry, the Government of Israel, and the Ethiopian Israeli community in its mission to advance the integration of Ethiopian Israelis into Israeli society. Presently its two key initiatives are: School Per-

formance and Community Empowerment Scholastic Assistance (5,800+ students), a holistic program providing supplementary hours of educational support to improve student achievements in core subjects, increase motivation to learn, and improve self-confidence; and 14 Youth Outreach Centers which are like second homes to Ethiopian-Israeli teens offering a range of extra-curricular activities, one-on-one emotional support, and leadership opportunities.

### Ezra Lemarpeh

The Ezra Lemarpeh Organization was founded in 1979, with the goal of alleviating the suffering of the sick and their families who care for them, by offering a wide range of activities for their benefit. Their motto was: "We Answer Every Call with Full Attention and Care." The organization offers its services to anyone who needs them, from all sectors of the Israeli population.

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## Savannah Jewish News

Published by the  
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SJF President: **Allan Ratner**  
SJF Vice President: **Harvey Lebos**  
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Matthew Allan**  
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](mailto:sjnews@savj.org)

Please send eNews submissions to:  
[adam@savj.org](mailto:adam@savj.org)

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### Letters to the Editor

Letters should be no more than 250 words.

The *Savannah Jewish News* is a community paper. We request that letters be civil and considerate in tone. Letters may not contain personal attacks, random attacks on businesses or defamation. All statements of facts must be verifiable.

The *Savannah Jewish News* retains full and sole discretion as to which letters to publish. All letters 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 (though only the name will be published).

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

Submit letters to [sjnews@savj.org](mailto:sjnews@savj.org).

### 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.



**What does PJ stand for?**  
Pajamas! We know those special times of reading, dancing and singing together happen when your children are wearing their pajamas.

**Who is eligible to register?**  
Families with children 6 months to 8 years old and at least one Jewish parent in the household, currently residing in the Savannah area.

**What's the cost?**  
Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library® is free when your child is enrolled in the program. One subscription per child.

Savannah was part of a special cohort of communities doing a year of Shabbat programming specific to PJ Library families; ours was called Shabbat Across Savannah. We kicked off the year with our PJ Shabbaton, which included a musical Shabbat service, dinner and decorating challah covers, grape juice goblets and candle sticks. Throughout the year, families participated in groups that spent four Shabbat dinners together. Each Shabbat a host family invited other families to their home to celebrate Shabbat with a meal, activities, and of course, PJ Library books! In between Shabbat dinners, families participated in community holiday events such as 3-Ring Sukkahs, Chanukah Challenge and Candyland Purim. At these community events, they had the chance to reconnect with their Shabbat groups and meet new families from the other Shabbat groups.



Families celebrating Shabbat as part of Shabbat Across Savannah

We finished the year with our Havdalah in Pajamas program that included a musical Havdalah service, desserts, and crafts such as building a teddy bear, creating a Havdalah candle, and spice box decorating. After a successful year with 24 families involved, we are looking forward to year two of Shabbat Across Savannah. We can't wait for all the young Savannah Jewish families to share more amazing Shabbat experiences!

**We currently are looking for families who are interested in participating and/or hosting a Shabbat dinner. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Devra Silverman at [pjlibrary@savj.org](mailto:pjlibrary@savj.org) or 912-355-8111.**



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*The Savannah PJ Library is made possible through generous support from the Savannah Jewish Federation, Jane Slotin, Nancy & Leon Slotin, and the Ceceile Richman JEA Fund.*

*For more information about PJ Library, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at [pjlibrary@savj.org](mailto:pjlibrary@savj.org) or 912-355-8111.*



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

Savannah Jewish Federation Beneficiary Agency  
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Wexler Clark BGG making pictures at their New Member program.

BBYO is the leading pluralistic youth organization offering fun, meaningful, and affordable experiences to Jewish teenagers in North America and throughout the world. BBYO fosters Jewish pride, community involvement, and a steadfast commitment to service and Israel through creative and experiential Jewish programming. A teen-led organization, AZA and BBG members set the agenda and take leadership roles which develop skills that will help them in all aspects of life.

BBYO Connect is for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Offering a variety of experiences to help bridge the gap between immediate pre- and post- Bar/Bat Mitzvah and high school programs, BBYO Connect's purpose is to provide middle school students with a positive experience in which they can get together with camp, school, and synagogue friends, and meet new friends. BBYO Connect allows middle school students to begin experiencing the privileges and obligations of being a member of the Jewish and general communities. Focused on service, social, and Judaic programming, BBYO Connect builds a network of teens across North America at a critical age when middle school students begin to strengthen their identities, form social circles and prepare for high school and beyond.



David Finn AZA members at the BBYO Year End Awards Celebration.

**In August, Savannah BBYO and BBYO Connect will be hosting Kickoff Parties to start the programming year planned by YOU! These will be nights of fun activities, meeting new teens from around Savannah, noshing on some delicious food, and making memories that will last a lifetime. We can't wait to see you there!**



A BBYO Connect member practicing magic he learned at a recent event!

**SAVE THE DATE**

**BBYO Connect Kickoff Party**  
For grades 6-8  
**August 6**

**BBYO Kickoff Party**  
For teens in grades 9-12  
**August 12**

**GET MORE INFO**

For more information about BBYO or BBYO Connect, contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at [engagement@savj.org](mailto:engagement@savj.org) or 912-355-8111.

# Grants...from page 2

## IsraAID

For 15 years, IsraAID has been helping people all over the world overcome extreme crises and has provided millions with the vital support needed to move from destruction to reconstruction, and eventually, to sustainable living.

## Jewish Institute for the Blind

The Jewish Institute for the Blind has served the blind and partially sighted children of Israel for over 100 years. Established in the Old City of Jerusalem in 1902, the Institute has grown into a widely respected Jerusalem landmark.

## Keshet School

The main objective of the Keshet model of education is to influence Israeli society by educating children over a significant length of time (kindergarten to 12th grade) to be open minded, respectful and tolerant members of society in the belief that this will inspire Israeli citizens and future governance, and will hopefully be reflected both inside Israeli society and outside. The Keshet Association is a Nonprofit Organization dedicated to the development and enhancement of a collective Jewish culture based on respect and dialogue, and to creating school curricula and educational settings in which families and staff from different observance backgrounds share the same values.

## Layla Tov

Layla Tov (Hebrew for "Good Night") is a joint initiative of activists who love going out, together with bar and club owners, aimed at fighting sexual violence in the nightlife scene – from harassment to rape drugs. They are dedicated to creating an enjoyable, safe and harassment-free space for women and men in the nightlife scene all over the country, with a clear message of zero tolerance towards sexual harassment, while offering full support to victims.

## Leket Israel

The organization's primary mission is to alleviate the problem of nutritional insecurity through the rescue and redistribution of excess food to benefit Israel's needy. As an umbrella organization, Leket Israel also works to assist at-risk population groups and the nonprofit organizations (NPOs) who serve them through nutrition education, cooperative purchasing, food safety, and capacity building projects designed to improve professional standards among NPOs and other food provision agencies.

## Meshi Children's Rehabilitation Center

The Meshi center is located in Israel and helps young children from around the world who suffer from Spina Bifida. The center gives these children significant rehabilitation in the hopes and dreams that they will be

able to walk.

## Ofakim Young Adult Center

The Ofakim Young Adult Center functions as an accelerator for young entrepreneurs 18-45. The goal is to solve a specific problem or need identified by young people with ideas or initiatives in business, technology, and social services. The Center provides a solution/opportunity for discharged soldiers, counseling and guidance for academic scholarships, employment, human capital development, social involvement and community entrepreneurship.

## Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Hospital

Opened in 2014, the hospital provides a secure environment for medical care and is establishing a new paradigm for assuring the safety of patients and medical personnel via the world's largest underground fortified hospital.

## Or Ein Sof Healing

The goal of this organization is to connect people to their Jewish heritage and identity through various workshops of spiritual healing and by providing tools for self improvement focusing on the needs of new immigrants and first generation children.

## Seeach Sod

Seeach Sod gives lifelong support to individuals with disabilities and their families. With over 400 children in nursery/school programs and 500

members in appropriate vocational placement, Seeach Sod is there for every age and stage in life. A team of over 700 staff oversee the operation of five educational centers, providing world class intervention, while maintaining 40 group homes for the adult members of the Seeach Sod family.

## SpaceIL

SpaceIL is a non-profit organization established in 2011 with the goal of landing the first Israeli spacecraft on the Moon. The organization was founded by three young engineers who answered the international challenge presented by the Google Lunar XPRIZE: to build, launch and land an unmanned spacecraft on the Moon. They also have taken on the mission of inspiring Israeli school children to pursue education and careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

## United Childrens Food Bank of Israel

UCFBI works tirelessly to eradicate poverty in Israel. Through its network of food pantries and social service organizations, they dispense vital food to those who need it most.

## Yad Sarah

Yad Sarah is Israel's largest volunteer-staffed organization, providing a wide array of compassionate health and home care services for people of all ages, with special programs directed at support for older adults and for children and adults with disabilities.

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Holiday Greetings deadline is August 7, 2017

# Rabbi Henkin Joins AA

by Ryan Hatner

Congregation Agudath Achim media staff

Congregation Agudath Achim, Savannah's Conservative Jewish synagogue, is pleased to announce that its Board of Directors and congregation have unanimously selected Rabbi Steven B. Henkin to become its new rabbi.

Rabbi Henkin first visited Savannah ten years ago, celebrating his one-year wedding anniversary. As he and his wife, Orly, left Savannah, they remember thinking how nice it would be to live here. He still had a long journey before that vision would be realized.

Henkin grew up outside the Chicago suburbs, and, although his father loved synagogue, he was never fully engaged with his faith. It wasn't until he attended college at the University of Minnesota and discovered the Hillel Jewish Center that he started paying attention.

Initially intrigued by their two-dollar breakfast, Rabbi Henkin became a regular at the Hillel. His education deepened as he learned lessons from the faith that he had never heard before. He realized that there were many compelling elements, something that was missing from his childhood services.

"I realized that there were many people like me who grew up never knowing how meaningful Judaism could be to their lives, and I wanted to help them see how beautiful and powerful our tradition can be," Henkin said.

After graduating from the University of Minnesota, he pursued his Master's degree in Jewish studies at Emory University, and shortly thereafter took that trip to Savannah. Upon completion of his Master's, Rabbi Henkin worked in the Jewish community in Atlanta for three years.

He then moved to Los Angeles to pursue his rabbinic degree at the

Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University. He and his wife made the trip with their three-month-old daughter.

After graduating from the AJU,

Rabbi Henkin accepted his current position as the Director of Congregational Learning at Congregation B'nai Tzedek in Potomac, Maryland.

Although this will be his first position as head rabbi, he says he feels comfortable and prepared for the responsibilities and challenges that await him.

When Rabbi Henkin heard about the opening at Congregation

Agudath Achim, he was impressed by how engaged the community was. He's excited to be among a group of people who are willing to spend their time, talent, and treasure to fashion the congregation that they know Agudath Achim can be.

"When I first saw how invested the members of the congregation were, I knew Agudath Achim was a special place. My wife and I knew we already loved the city and that it was a place our two children could thrive, but the community's commitment to its synagogue is what really sold us," Henkin said.

Within his first year, Rabbi Henkin's goal is to sit down and meet every member of the congregation. As the synagogue moves forward, he will strive to make everyone feel welcome. "My job is to build a community where we can celebrate the good times, support each other through the bad times, and share our lives together," Henkin said on his new role as the rabbi.

Rabbi Henkin and his family will relocate to Savannah in early July. His first services as Agudath Achim's rabbi will be Friday evening, July 14, and the following morning for Shabbat.



Adam Solender  
Executive Director of  
JEA/SJF

# The Curb-Cut Effect

In an article I read recently about the national initiative on investing in infrastructure the author spoke about the "Curb-cut effect." It got my attention... *the curb-cut effect?* So I did what we all do, I Googled it and came upon article after article telling the story about how what began as an act of civil disobedience (pouring cement to create a crude but useful ramp) in Berkeley, CA, turned into a national priority. The article spoke about how what followed from that early 1970s civil disobedience became landmark legislation that was enacted under President George H.W. Bush in 1990:

*"...the benefits of investment accrue to more than the target audience, they benefit everyone."*

the Americans with Disabilities Act which prohibits disability-based discrimination and mandates that changes be built into the environment.

As the "wall of exclusion" came down, the benefit of installing curb cuts inured to far more than those with physical challenges: workers pushing heavy carts found it easier to do their jobs; parents pushing strollers no longer had to bounce their infants from the sidewalk to the street; business travelers schlepping luggage found their paths made easier; even skateboarders found it beneficial. "A study of pedestrian behavior in a Sarasota mall revealed that 9 out of 10 'unencumbered pedestrians' went out of their way to use a curb cut."

The curb-cut effect illustrates how the benefits of investment accrue to more than the target audience, they benefit everyone.

Another great example of the curb-cut effect (and we've read about this one locally) is the installation of bicycle lanes. Backed by environmental advocates, many cities have installed "protective" bike lanes. For example, just three years ago, New York added approximately 30 miles of these lanes.

So, what happened? The risk of serious injury dropped 75% and pedestrians (not the intended target of bike lanes) are 40% less likely to be injured. And, in addition to the safety gains, one stretch of Ninth Avenue

in NYC saw retail sales rise nearly 50% after the paths were installed as people flocked to the pedestrian and bike-friendly neighborhood. Of course, there are the benefits to public health and the environment with decreasing green house gas emissions and users improving their cardiovascular health.

If you were talking to someone in the military, they might refer to this concept as a "force multiplier;" an economist might call it a "positive externality."

So... other than learning something new, "What does this have to do with the Jewish community?"

I couldn't help thinking of the JEA Preschool when I was reading this article. With a mission "to provide for the social, emotional, and cognitive growth

of the young child in a Judaic setting in order to develop productive citizens," the Early Childhood Program is just finishing its fourth year.

Among our goals was to provide an excellent program for our members and to introduce and teach Jewish culture and activities at a most formative age. I can confidently state that we meet these goals.

It is a curb-cut effect that manifests on the makeup of our JEA and Federation Boards where no less than eleven parents of Preschoolers serve the community.

It is a curb cut effect that brings so many of our Preschool families to take part in developmental basketball, T-ball, soccer, and Swim Team. We often dreamed of how to reestablish our Youth Sports programming and it was right under our noses—our Preschool families.

Our Fitness Center has much more engagement, our classes have higher enrollment, and our volunteerism has increased with the participation of these young, committed families. We always thought that the ECE program would be a success, but we never really understood how the benefits of the investment would accrue to our entire community.

As one longtime donor said to me, "It's what we sacrificed for, it's what we scrimped and saved for, and it's what we dreamed of."

And you thought it was just a curb cut.

CELEBRATING A

## Simcha?

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs  
Engagements  
Weddings  
Births



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Share your good news  
with the  
Savannah Jewish News!  
Send the vital statistics to  
[sjnews@savj.org](mailto:sjnews@savj.org)

## Gala.....from page 1

this year the committee has planned a special twist of the cork. For \$50, you will receive not only a bottle of champagne to take home, but a glass of champagne to enjoy at the Gala and a chance to win a real diamond.

The Gala Committee has been all over securing fun and popular items for the silent and live auctions. A sampling of some of the things that will be available to choose from that night includes: Hotel stays, four (4) tickets to Disney Theme Parks in Orlando, FL, passes to local cultural festivals, gift certificates to restaurants around town, vacation rentals, per-

sonal training packages, the ever-so-coveted parking spaces located in the front of the JEA and so much more!

Music will be provided by First City Events and for the first time ever, there will be an "after party" featuring casino games for those wishing to stay after dinner to enjoy the music and drinks with friends. Included in this year's ticket price is one raffle ticket for the chance to win donated diamond jewelry. Additional raffle tickets can be purchased for \$50.

This year's Gala will surely be one to remember! Tickets are \$136 per person and may be purchased online at [www.savannahjea.org](http://www.savannahjea.org) or by calling the JEA, (912) 355-8111.

## Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos Available Online Free

WASHINGTON, DC - The first two volumes of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's path breaking *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933-1945*, are now freely accessible in their entirety on the Museum's website as part of the Museum's commitment to increasing the visibility, impact, and productivity of the field of Holocaust studies in the United States and abroad. Printed editions of the Encyclopedia will still be offered through the publisher, Indiana University Press.

"The Museum is committed to deepening our understanding of the Holocaust and disseminating the latest research to as broad an audience as possible. Holocaust scholars, legal experts, teachers, students, and—most importantly—survivors and their families will now have this indispensable resource and memorial at their fingertips," says Wendy Lower, Acting Director of the Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. The volumes are available exactly as they appear in book form but—as PDF files—are searchable.

The remaining volumes, of a projected seven, will also be available online after the printed editions appear. When complete, the project will provide the most comprehensive survey available of all known Nazi sites of incarceration across occupied Europe. Museum researchers have identified more than 44,000 such sites, several

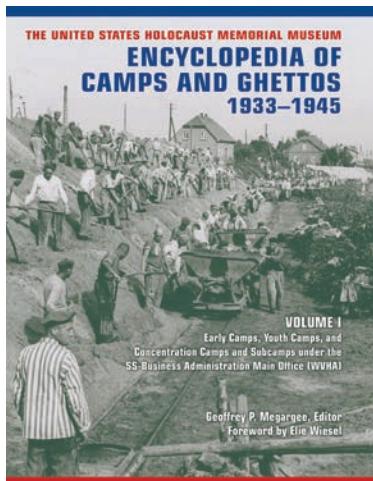
times more than anticipated at the project's outset. The Encyclopedia has greatly expanded knowledge of the size and scope of the Holocaust and has changed our awareness of the camp universe and of Nazi Germany as a whole.

Volume I covers the early camps that the SA, the SS and the German

police set up in the months after the Nazi seizure of power, as well as the system of concentration camps, sub-camps and construction brigade bases that existed under the SS Business Administration Main Office. The second volume describes the ghettos in German-

occupied Eastern Europe. Together, the two volumes cover more than 2,200 sites, many of which are described nowhere else in English. Volume III, which required research in 13 languages, identifies hundreds of camps and other sites established by Germany's allies and collaborator states. It will be published in early 2018.

A living memorial to the Holocaust, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum inspires citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred, prevent genocide, and promote human dignity. Its far-reaching educational programs and global impact are made possible by generous donors. For more information, visit [ushmm.org](http://ushmm.org).



## Lasky to Receive Levy Award

It was announced at the JEA's Annual Meeting in May that Jeffrey Lasky, a past president of both the JEA and the Savannah Jewish Federation, will be the seventh recipient of the *Jack Malitz Levy Leadership Award*.

Commonly known as the *Levy Award*, it was established by the Federation in 1988 upon the death of Jack Malitz Levy, the second-generation owner of Levy Jewelers. The award is not given annually, but only when it is determined that there is a deserving recipient. It recognizes individuals not only for their commitment to the Savannah Jewish community, but also for their

service to organizations and causes throughout their lives.



Lasky, a local attorney, is known throughout the community for his leadership of and dedication to professional organizations, his children's schools, and of course, Jewish communal groups, including the JEA, Federation and Congregation Agudath Achim.

The Savannah Jewish Federation will present the *Jack Malitz Levy Leadership Award* to Jeffrey Lasky at a dinner in his honor early in 2018. Please check back here for more details about the dinner and his accomplishments.

## Condolences

*We express our sympathy to the families of:*

**Lydia Barbara Benni Katzman**  
Who died June 10, 2017

She is survived by her husband, Harry Lewis Katzman; two daughters, Karma Katzman Cain and Risha Marie Katzman; two step-sons, Jack Lewis Katzman and George Michael Katzman; one grandson; one sister, Helga Mayne; and one brother, Gunther Wiedemann.



**Frank Allen Kelly, Sr.**  
Who died May 15, 2017

He is survived by his daughter, Frances Kelly (Frank) McKenna of Simpsonville, SC; sons Frank A. Kelly, Jr. and Michael T. Kelly of Savannah; sister, Adeline Roth of Largo, FL; three grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Edna Lanier Kelly; his siblings, Lawrence J. Kelly, Doris K. Kroskin, Bertie K. Kroskin, Sara K. Landrum, William H. Kelly and Cecile K. Arenson; and two grandsons.



**Downtown 912.233.1163 • Oglethorpe Mall 912.238.2120**  
**St. Johns Town Center, Jacksonville 904.527.2643**  
[levyjewelers.com](http://levyjewelers.com)

## I'm Just Sayin'

by Lewis C. Schneider

I'm writing to my friends in the Savannah metro area to tell you some of my impressions of my recent trip to Israel with the Metro West New Jersey JCC/Savannah JEA, and more importantly, the process.

My wife and best friend, Sandy, and I were born, raised, educated and employed mostly in the Washington, DC, metro area. I don't know the exact population there but I think it is between four and five million folks...from all walks of life. We come from a 'big city' perspective.

Because Sandy is a CPA and financial planner, my entire adult life has been planned around the IRS tax code. The '15th of April' and 'tax season' have ruled our ability to travel, etc., since she began practicing in 1976.

When I got a whiff of the fact that there MIGHT be a JEA trip to Israel in April, 2017, I was really interested and afraid it would fill up so fast that I would be left out because I am not fulltime in Savannah and may not see all the information about it. To digress for a moment, Sandy and I had only been to Israel one time, some 19 years ago, and

due to a personal tragedy in 2013, I had turned to my religion for explanations and solace. I started doing more community service, started going to services more often, reading more, and meeting many more of 'my people.' I wanted to go back to eretz Israel badly!

The trip was announced in the fall of 2016 and Sandy and I immediately signed up. I mentioned to several of our friends in the Savannah area about our going on the trip, thinking they might also like to come. When I found out that a total of eight folks had signed up from Savannah, including Adam Solender and Sarah Denmark, and a delightful father/son team from neighboring South Carolina, I was shocked. Coming from DC, I wrongly assumed the trip would be oversubscribed the first day! In my opinion, the trip itinerary looked very interesting and I didn't feel the cost was 'too high' for what we were getting. And I feel I was exactly spot on.

Not only did I get my money's worth, I would recommend this trip to anyone, anytime. The trip

was AMAZING. All of the staff, from the JEA, MetroWest JCC and the Israel JCC, made sure we were taken care of from 'soup to nuts'. The guide, Mr. Joe Freedman, a former St. Louisian who made aliyah in 1980, earned every cent of his fee. I could tell he was 'into it' by the passion and verve he displayed effortlessly for the entire 10/11 days, including becoming emotional several times during the more poignant parts of the trip.

For the first 58 years of my life, I lived in a relatively large city with many, many Jewish people. I then started spending up to 50% of my time in Savannah and on Tybee Island. I am not used to trips like this being available for long once they are announced; I also realize that many of you have been to Israel many, many times. I just want to exhort you, in the future, if something like this comes up, sponsored by the JEA, don't think twice - jump on this opportunity like heat on Georgia asphalt.

The program, in addition to the touring, included several lectures/discussions with leading Israeli media folks and educators.



Lewis and Sandy Schneider in Israel's Independence Hall

We went to an amazing startup company that developed a gadget you put on your eyeglasses to assist the blind to see! There was an unforgettable afternoon with local high school students who made me so proud of Israeli youth that it was hard for me to keep the water works in my eyes dry for long. The trip was planned for us to be in Israel for Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut. A truly perfect time to be in Israel, both from a historical perspective AND the fact the weather could NOT have been better.

The hotels were more than comfortable. The bus was comfortable and clean, and our excellent driver, Muti, got us all over Israel including making a couple of hairy U-turns on two lane roads. Good for Muti. The restaurants we enjoyed and experienced did their best to stuff us in typical Jewish tradition, including a dinner and lecture in a personal home in Ofakim. And those Israeli breakfast buffets were inclusive and terrific.

Others will write about the specific itinerary. I can only tell you, in my humble opinion, trips like this, sponsored by the JEA, are more than worth the cost and this trip was certainly something I will NEVER EVER forget. Shalom!

## Leadership Initiative Announced

The Savannah Jewish Federation is sponsoring *Yesod*, a new leadership development initiative for the Savannah Jewish community.

*Yesod*, the Hebrew word for *foundation*, is intended to support and help shape the future of Savannah's Jewish community by aiding in the development of its volunteer leadership through a professionally designed program. The program uses

a curriculum written by Dr. Erica Brown, director of the Mayberg Center for Jewish Education and Leadership at George Washington University, and sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America, in partnership with the Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence and the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

The program will begin with an examination of the individuals'

personal journeys to leadership and continue with exploration of topics such as the "Difference between Power and Influence," "Growing from Failure," "Mentoring and Growing Others," "Inspired Communication," and more, all taught and discussed through a Jewish lens.

*Yesod* is open to any adult in

the Savannah Jewish community interested in gaining leadership skills; the program will be limited to 20 participants. Participants must be committed to attending the full series, which will consist of eight 2-hour sessions on Monday evenings (approximately monthly, beginning January 29th) and one day-long retreat. The program will culminate in graduation at the Federation's Annual Meeting on

September 12, 2018. There is a \$100 program fee and a required minimum gift of \$180 to the SJF Campaign.

Local Jewish organizations currently are being asked to nominate individuals to be considered for the *Yesod* leadership program. If you know someone you think should be considered to partici-

pate, *nominations are due by September 1, 2017*. Or if you would like to apply to participate in *Yesod*, the application may be downloaded at [savj.org](http://savj.org). *The deadline for completed applications is Friday, November 3, 2017*.

For more information or to nominate a participant, please contact Jamie Richman at [campaign@savj.org](mailto:campaign@savj.org) or (912) 355-8111.



329 Commercial Drive, Suite 100  
Savannah, GA 31406

Cell: 912-661-0484  
Office: 912-356-5001  
912-355-7444  
[kennethsadler1@gmail.com](mailto:kennethsadler1@gmail.com)  
[www.kwsavannah.com](http://www.kwsavannah.com)

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# I on Israel

## Land of Miracles

by Jean Weitz

Going to visit our children in Tel Aviv is made even more wonderful with the arrival of our new Israeli grandson, Leo. Enjoying Leo has taken precedence over traveling around the country; however, we did break away from the precious little boy for a day to visit Jerusalem and Hadassah Hospital.

Jerusalem was a delight! In addition to just feeling the vibe of the city and

visiting the Western Wall, we had lunch with our dear friends, Barbara and Phillip Schwartz. Barbara and Phillip made aliyah this year and I am happy to report that they are doing very well. They love so many things about living in Israel and near the top of the list is the incredibly affordable health care system. It seems that Israel has figured out health coverage and is on the cutting edge in so many areas of medicine.

On my return to Savannah I read an article announcing that Hadassah had just performed the world's first dual robotic surgery. This revolutionary surgery assisted in the repair of severe leg and spinal fractures suffered by a factory



Julian and Jean Weitz with Leo

worker in Jerusalem. Two robots were involved in the surgery. One provided real-time 3-dimensional imaging during the procedure, eliminating the need for pre-surgery CT scans and post-surgery X-rays. The second robot was a screw placement system that allowed spinal implant placement with maximum safety and accuracy. The two robots communicated with each other during the minimally-invasive surgery guiding the

Hadassah orthopedic team in the insertion of eleven screws into the patient's spine with clinical precision. The patient has made a full recovery!

It seems that miracles still happen in Israel and particularly at Hadassah Hospital. Going to Israel is exciting and inspiring on many levels. Julian and I are planning our next trip for October to see our little miracle.

**Editor's Note:** *Jean and Julian Weitz traveled to Israel in April. We appreciate Jean sharing this report from their trip. Also, Jean is the national Marketing and Communications Chair for Hadassah.*

*If you are planning a trip to Israel, please share reports from your travels with us; send them to [sjnews@savj.org](mailto:sjnews@savj.org).*

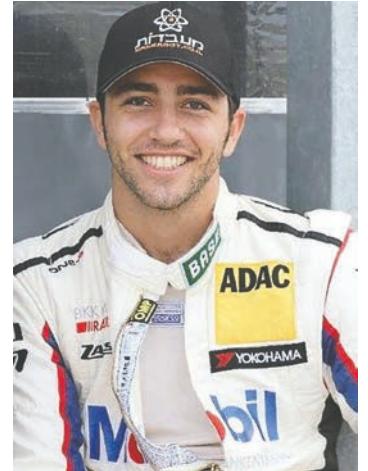
## First Israeli in NASCAR's Highest Level

Stock car driver Alon Day made history on Sunday, June 25, in Sonoma, California, when he became the first driver from Israel ever to compete in NASCAR's top series. Day raced in the Toyota/Save Mart 350, part of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, driving the BK Racing No. 23 EarthWater Limited Toyota Camry.

Day, a 25 year-old native of Tel Aviv, was Israel's 2016 "Athlete of the Year" and, as a result of his achievements in NASCAR's Euro Series, is the first stock car driver from outside of North America to be selected for the NASCAR NEXT program, an initiative to feature NASCAR's future stars.

Day came to Sonoma on the heels of being crowned "King of Brands Hatch," thanks to his June 11th victory in the NASCAR Whelen Euro race in England. Day also intends to compete in the 2017 NASCAR Euro Series Championship as well as in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series race at Watkins Glen, NY, and in select races in the NASCAR XFINITY Series the remainder of the 2017 season.

"I'm very excited to make my debut in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series in Sonoma," said Day, whose story is so compelling because until 2011, all forms of motorsports competition were banned in Israel, including outdoor go-cart racing. Day honed his driving skills playing video games.



"Being the first Israeli to race in NASCAR's highest series is a dream come true. I must thank BK Racing, EarthWater Limited, as well as [NFL] Hall of Famer Franco Harris, Super Donuts, and Silversport for giving me this awesome opportunity," the young driver said talking about some of his sponsors. Day completed the race 32nd (his starting position) out of 38 drivers.

In NASCAR, unlike traditional professional sports where teams pay athletes to compete, race car drivers are required to pay their teams for the costs associated with their race cars, crew, and support facilities. For example, a set of tires cost \$2,500 with a typical race requiring six sets. Racing For Israel, Inc., a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, has been established to work with Alon Day and other Israeli motorsports athletes in international competition. For more information, see [www.RacingForIsrael.org](http://www.RacingForIsrael.org).

## Better Way to fix Hernias

Some five million Americans have a hernia—a protrusion of an organ or tissue through a weak spot in the abdomen or groin—according to the National Center for Health Statistics and more than one million hernia repairs are performed each year in the United States alone, many of them with laparoscopic surgery.

A new device, FasTouch, developed in Israel, gives surgeons a way to attach mesh to tissue in laparoscopic hernia repairs that results in fewer complications, less

pain and faster recoveries.

Laparoscopic surgeries, while less invasive, pose challenges. Suturing mesh patches into place over weak tissue is difficult through the small laparoscopic incisions so surgeons often turn to a less ideal option — screw-like tacks that secure the mesh.

"So we invented a way to deliver suturing in a minimally invasive way.

It potentially reduces scar tissue and enables a strong connection of mesh to tissue," Lena Levin, cofounder and CFO of Via Surgical, the manufacturer of FasTouch in Amirim, Israel, told Israel21C.

The unique FasTouch cartridge system affixes mesh to soft tissue delivering sutures in a method similar to tacks.

Dr. Brian Jacob, associate clinical professor of surgery at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, founder of the International Hernia Collaboration

and a member of Via Surgical's advisory board, said FasTouch is "very low profile... and it allows us to place a suture through the mesh into the fascia [connective tissue] with the simple application of a tacking device. Frankly, it's amazing we haven't seen this before."

FasTouch received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2016.

The first batch of FasTouch devices was shipped from the Israeli manufacturing facility on May 8th of this year for distribution across the United States by their American distributor, Progressive Medical.





The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



# CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

July-August 2017



## Children's Programming



### SUMMER CAMP FUN!



## AFTER SCHOOL

The JEA After School program is available to children ages Pre-K through 6th grade. After School hours are Monday-Friday, 3:00-6:00 pm. Transportation is provided from Garrison, Charles Ellis, Jacob G. Smith, Savannah Classical Academy, and Heard Elementary Schools.

### Registration for 2017-2018

Registration is open! Space is extremely limited. Please register early.

Activities include arts, baking, sports, games, homework help, computer lab, & more!

Registration packets are available at the JEA front desk & at [savannahjea.org](http://savannahjea.org).



Children's Department

## Days at the J



July 31st - August 11th  
8:00am - 6:00pm

Don't forget to bring a bathing suit, towel, and lunch! Days full of fun games, friends, sports, art, crafts, baking, field trips, and MORE!

**Cost: Member Value Daily Price**  
\$35.00 - 1st child / \$33.00 - 2nd child  
**Non Members**  
\$45.00 - 1st child / \$43.00 - 2nd child

**Ages:** Pre-K - 8th Grade

To register, email [kids@savj.org](mailto:kids@savj.org). For a complete schedule of activities visit [savannahjea.org](http://savannahjea.org).



## 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 2:00 pm to 4:00 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](mailto:MStarArts@gmail.com).

**9.10.17**

SUNDAY  
EVENING  
6 O'CLOCK

TICKET PRICE  
\$136/PERSON

**007** JEA GALA  
DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

## New JEA Members

The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset!  
(New Members as of 5/13/17-6/16/17)

- Cheri Acree  
Matthew Baldwin & Emma Evans  
Lisa Banks  
Mitch & Christina Boyette  
Nathan & Tammie Bryan, Jr.  
Kevin & Natasha DePass  
Julie Franklin  
Peter & Barbara Hand  
Chris & Rachel Hatcher  
Cornelius & Ashley Lloyd  
Juan & Millie Lopez-Campillo  
Sagen Lucienne  
Bobby & Valerie Martinez  
LaRaine Montgomery  
Louis & Nancy Pashman  
Christina Peltier  
Lawrence Perin  
Eduardo Rivas  
Zachary & Erin Rochefort  
Patrik & Christine Rosenast  
David & Amy Rosenthal  
Jake Shapiro & Daniel Reardon  
Steve & Tova Tolman

## JEA Donations

(May 11, 2017-June 16, 2017)

### JEA BUILDING FUND

*In memory of Herman Cranman*  
*In memory of Arnold Karp*  
Kelly & Marc Gordon

### JEA GENERAL DONATIONS FUND

*In memory of Lydia Katzman*  
Sharon & Murray Galin  
Jan & Frank Katz

### JUDITH BLUMENTHAL LECTURE SERIES FUND

*In memory of Rosalia Chernos*  
Elena Day

### JEA GENERAL DONATION FOR YOUTH EDUCATION

*A donation by*  
Temple Oseh Shalom

### JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND

*In honor of Doris Levy*  
Esther Buchsbaum  
*In honor of Eliesheva Weinman*  
Merry & Richard Bodziner

### ETHEL COHEN MEDDIN MEMORIAL FUND

*A donation by*  
Craig Meddin  
*In memory of Julian Toporek*  
Chuck Palefsky  
Sherry Macchia  
Louis Meddin  
*In memory of Arnold Karp*  
Chuck Palefsky

### HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

*In honor of Scott Samuels*  
Joanne & Michael Kooden  
*In memory of Harvey Rubin*  
*In honor of Elise & Victor Shernoff*  
Marsha & Charles Bernstein  
*In memory of Harvey Rubin*  
Brenda & Patrick Salter  
*In memory of Lydia Katzman*  
Elise & Victor Shernoff  
Brenda & Patrick Salter

## Food For Thought

Join us each Thursday at 12:30pm

<b>July 6</b>	<b>Woodworking</b> Artist, Ed Jones	<b>August 3</b>	<b>Live Musical Performance</b> Savannah VOICE Festival
<b>July 13</b>	<b>Trivia</b> Mike Strear	<b>August 10</b>	<b>Essential Oils</b> Margaret Clay
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Political Memorabilia</b> Brian Krapf	<b>August 17</b>	<b>Ten Principles of Smart Growth</b> Alan Seidman & Nick Palumbo
<b>July 27</b>	<b>Peruvian Perspective</b> Carol Greenberg	<b>August 24</b>	<b>Georgia Historical Society</b> Dr. Stan Deaton
<p>Visit with old friends and meet new ones while enjoying a delicious lunch for only \$5 followed by an educational speaker or performer. Don't forget to make your reservation at the JEA</p>		<b>August 31</b>	<b>Senior Sword Fight (Fencing)</b> Patricia Wilkens

## Jewish Symbols in Jewelry

Sunday, August 13th, 2-4 PM  
JEA Senior Lounge

Both back by popular demand, Dr. Linda Sacks to talk about Jewish Symbols in Jewelry with Harriet

Schwartz to conduct a free workshop on jewelry making.

Sponsored by Congregation Mickve Israel Sisterhood.

If you would like to join us, please RSVP to 912-233-1547 or [jill@mickveisrael.org](mailto:jill@mickveisrael.org)



# Health & Wellness

## Ready, Set, Fence!



Patty Wilkins  
Fencing Instructor

Did you know that the JEA is home to the Savannah Fencing Club? You do now and you can be a part of it! Fencing is called the Sport of Kings and we've been holding court here for over 20 years. We are a USFA Club that meets 6:30-8:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the "school year." We have members ranging from 12-years old to 70+, from beginners to US World Team! Fencing is alive and well in the Low Country and Savannah Fencing Club is a part of it.

My name is Patty Wilkins and I have been traveling from Hilton Head Island to practice

weekly since February 2005. Fencing is so much fun! It is a wonderful sport for EVERYONE. For kids, the sport of fencing can help develop leadership skills, the ability to persevere and communication skills (with a coach as well as an opponent).

Fencing can be a team or an individual sport. It's a great option for both baby boomers and seniors looking for an interesting way to exercise. The movement, agility training and non-traumatic contact are perfect for seniors, even those with light to moderate disabilities like arthritis or joint replacements. Another benefit is increased cognitive function (memory and concentration). The fencer uses legs, arms and body, plus the eyes and brain.

This is the perfect sport for a parent to



participate with their child. We teach Foil, Epee and Saber. Recreation or competition, female or male, young or old, shy or bold, fencing has something to offer YOU! And its free for JEA members!

To learn more, please contact me at [wilkenspw@aol.com](mailto:wilkenspw@aol.com) or join me at Food For Thought where I will be guest speaking August 31st. Lunch is at 12:30pm, followed by my discussion at 1:15pm.



Kathy Ackerman  
Fitness Director

## Brutal . . . but Beautiful!

My husband, David, had this great idea to hike the Maah Daah Hey Trail in the North Dakota Badlands. I was the agreeable wife that joined him. We trained for ten months and thought we were prepared

for the trip, but nothing can prepare you for one of this country's most unique, rugged and breathtaking terrains. Theodore Roosevelt called it "a place of grim beauty." There were majestic mountains, expansive plateaus, jagged peaks, rolling prairies and a few river crossings, two of which were across the Little Missouri River. We started on our journey on Memorial Day weekend, and our mortality did come into question a few times throughout the five days and 106 miles.

Day one, we got into our Airbnb around midnight and were up at 5:30am, hoping our host was going to drive us an hour and a half to the trail head. She did! Her name was Leigh, she was amazingly kind and we will be friends for life. She took us for coffee and Danish and she offered to pick us up at the end of our hike and find us a place to stay.

We started at a place called Sully Creek, and headed 19 miles to a rustic camp site called Wannagan. The first river crossing was the Little Missouri. I made Dave carry me across (I wasn't getting my feet wet this early!). There was so much horse manure on the trail it was hard to dodge and the smell was horrible for the first few miles. Suddenly, we came upon a herd of wild horses!

Well worth the smell.

We entered the Southern unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the start of the Badlands. The steep climbs, drop-offs and switchbacks were horrendous. It was so windy and cold; I thought at times I might be blown off the mountain. About half way up I nearly stepped on a rattlesnake, the first of six snakes that day! But, the panoramic view at the top was breathtaking. We headed down, then had another crazy climb to a beautiful high plateau. On the plateau we came upon our first and David's favorite experience with hundreds of Bison. They are huge and intimidating as they stand up and stare you down to protect their young. They truly are majestic creatures.

Following this we went back down to a prairie we nicknamed prairie dog alley. The prairie dogs were so cute as they yelled at us with their little noises. Next, we climbed through a forest where we saw antelope, which was very cool as I've never seen one before. At this point, we looked down and discovered ticks all over our legs! Yikes! Freaked me out! David proceeded to pull four out of my hair. I quit counting at 20! Thus began our regular half-hour tick checks for the next four-and-a-half days.

We were surprised by a water crossing that was not on the map. We started climbing again with only a few more miles to the camp when I had my first breakdown. The snakes, hard

climbs, freezing windy weather and the ticks were about all I could take. I hurt so bad, everywhere; I was nauseous and felt sick. Finally we saw the camp and tears came to my eyes. We headed down to camp where there was a camper with people! I informed my husband, the man that brought me to this hellish place, that I would be sleeping in that camper! I didn't.

Our camping neighbors were Brian and Pam from Montana. They did two things to lift my spirits: they shared a beer with us and Pam gave me her hiking poles, which I believe saved me. I don't think I could have finished the trek without them. I will be forever grateful.

And that was just the first day!

*If you are planning an active vacation, talk to Kat about a training routine - (912) 355-8111 or [fitness@savj.org](mailto:fitness@savj.org).*

*(The story concludes in the September issue.)*





## JEA Preschool Savannah News

### Enroll Now 2017-18 School Year

- Enrollment for our 2017-2018 Pre-school Year is open for children 12 months and walking through 4-yr olds!
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for toddlers and 2-year olds
- For full details, visit our website at [www.SavannahJEA.org](http://www.SavannahJEA.org)

Contact Jodi Sadler, Director, at [Jodi@savj.org](mailto:Jodi@savj.org) or 912-355-8111

### Scenes from Camp



“Chilling in our Summer Program” and getting ready for the new school year.



Clown Fish Fun during our Summer 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.

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



## in the JEA Art Gallery

### Marilyn Hartness

Marilyn Hartness is a ceramic sculptor from North Carolina. She has taught ceramics in the Art Department of Wingate University for 20 years and her style of work includes “fantasy,” “imagination,” and “environmental statements,” about the importance of nature in everyone’s life.

She has done many works which are placed in public places such as UNC School of Medicine, the Monroe Hospital (CMC Union), the Hinson Art Gallery on campus at Wingate University, to mention a few. She likes to have her works touched. “They are clay from the earth.”



“Magical Teapot” - Marilyn Hartness

### Edward Jones

Edward Richard Jones is a sculptor. He works with wood that he gets from friends and tree services. After a stint in the Navy, he attended Rhode Island College where he majored in metals and jewelry design. While there, he discovered his love for sculpture. Ed was asked if he could teach an after-hour’s class at RIC for sterling silver jewelry making. He was also asked to teach the same course at the University of Rhode Island. He spent three years studying art in college before economics forced him to leave and get a job as a jewelry designer.

Ed has been teaching himself about casting and is now sand-casting aluminum. He retired from the workforce in 2013 and is now striving every day to make his artwork better. He works with wood, sterling silver, copper, aluminum and brass.

“I try to express the beauty of each element I work with,” says Ed.



Edward Jones

Artwork available for viewing July 2-31, 2017



### Carol Fleischaker Cohen

My life’s passion has always included searching for ways my art can express my life’s journey. I continually search for knowledge and experiences which could resonate with those who also seek to understand their own journey.

Though my need for knowledge has never been quenched, I have found inspiration in Kabalistic topics such as: “The Creation,” the “Tree of Life,” the “Book of Life,” and “Everything is Connected.” The images I create have moved from abstract/mystical to being one with the wonderful life experiences, memories and love that surround me as I celebrate all that life has to offer.

Artwork available for viewing August 1-31, 2017  
Join us for the Opening Reception August 6th, 2-4 pm



### The JEA Art Gallery Has Openings Available! Would you like to hold a show in the JEA Art Gallery?

The JEA Art Gallery is available for art shows throughout the year. Each show is for one month and may be accompanied by an opening reception.

A JEA Art Show is a great way to have your work seen and sold, and a fantastic way to help raise money for the JEA.

If you are interested or know someone who would be, please contact Vicky Lunick for details, [vicky@savj.org](mailto:vicky@savj.org).



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# SAVANNAH CELEBRATES Israel@70

Six months of programs throughout the Savannah community —  
all leading up to one big community celebration on  
**Sunday, April 22, 2018.**

Stay tuned for details on upcoming programs and dates.

*Interested in getting involved?! Have some great program ideas? Want to be on the committee?  
Send an email to [Israelat70@savj.org](mailto:Israelat70@savj.org).*

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



# CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

9 Lee Boulevard • Savannah GA 31405 • 912-352-4737  
agudatha-achim.com

### SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
Saturday 9:45 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon  
Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

### DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm, Monday 7:15 am & 6:00 pm  
Friday 7:00 a.m. & 6:00 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

## AA 2017 Gala was a night to remember!!



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Morning, Afternoon and Evening Services Daily  
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912-354-7721 [bbjacoboffice@gmail.com](mailto:bbjacoboffice@gmail.com)

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### BBJ'S FABULOUS SOUP & SALAD BAR

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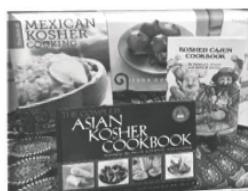
Contact the Shul office for menu and times

BBJ FOOD SERVICES IS NOW ONLINE !!!

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Teen Get-Togethers



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Be sure to visit for all your holiday and Judaica needs,

We are minutes away... Give us a call!

Beth: (H) 912-344-4834 (C) 301-466-0380 Bracha Jo: (H) 912-352-9578 (C) 912-658-5824





Ester Rabhan,  
Principal of  
Rambam Day School

## Another Year...

On May 23, 2017 another Rambam Day School 8th grade class graduated. It is always such a bittersweet time as we become attached to our students and we loved the idea of them being under our wings for so much of their day. We could teach them, inspire them and protect them. Once they graduate, we must let them go and watch them spread their wings and hope they make really good choices.

The graduates appreciate the opportunity for each of them to speak at graduation. While I guide them they often have their own ideas of what they wish to share with those present.

### What It Means To Leave Rambam

I remember being in kindergarten and our class was taking the standardized test. I remember one of the questions - it was to solve two plus two. Wow - the problems have changed a lot since then.

I am excited to leave Rambam to go on and explore the world, but I am also sad that I am leaving the school where

I've spent most of my life. I have so many memories from here and also so many great friends. I have also had my teachers help me along the way, to get me to the place where I am today.

I am a fortunate young man.

Ben Friede

### Graduation Week's Torah Portion, *Bechukosai*

"Then I will provide your rains in their time."

Why would the verse refer to the rains as ours? We know that rain certainly belongs to Hashem. This verse comes to teach us that the world runs based on our actions. If we do good deeds and acknowledge the Almighty, the rains will come on our behalf.

Rambam Day School encourages us to reach our potential and while doing so recognizing that all we accomplish may come from our efforts but in the end because G-d wills it. And when we accomplish what we set out to do, we are encouraged to humbly take pride in our successes.

Dovy Schochet

### What It Means to Be Jewish

I think being Jewish obligates us to be knowledgeable about our heritage.

I am fortunate to have parents who want me to have a Jewish education as well

as a strong secular education. Rambam not only afforded me a broad Jewish education, but also a great secular education. So not only will I be ready to go out into the world, but I will also be able to continue to grow and thrive as a young Jewish adult.

Eliezer Rosen

### Reflection

Graduation is a time for reflection, and I have found great pleasure in reflecting on my friends; my classmates, the ones who along with me make up this graduating class of 2017.

What's really fascinating is while I have so many memories, and could write pages and pages about our time together; I can write just a few words about each of my classmates, and those few words would make me smile on all the reflections that come to mind.

Lizzie Eichelbaum

### Who Am I Now?

Now I am well learned in Secular and Judaic Subjects. Now I am a role model for my brothers, cousins, and younger friends. I have experienced many places, and am ready to experience more, learn more, and one day settle down and create a family for myself. Throughout the journey, I will make sure to apply the lessons I learned in Rambam.

Moshe Schachter

Why should Rambam Day

School be a compelling choice for Jewish families? For starters - we've proven that every aspect of our program is vitally important to us.

The challenging curriculum of Rambam Day School gives graduates a high level of academic confidence and skills, a positive attitude towards learning and coping with new information, and a foundation for engagement in Jewish life in college and beyond.

A mensch is a person who demonstrates the highest respect, kindness and consideration for others. This is the model of behavior applauded and encouraged in Jewish day schools, in Rambam Day School. The success of this emphasis on character is reflected in the high rates of volunteerism, considerations, and social engagement of day school graduates.

Anti-Semitic and anti-Israel incidents are escalating on college campuses and elsewhere. Going to a Jewish day school empowers children by giving them knowledge and pride in their Judaism and equips them to lead a proud, meaningful, and informed Jewish life.

As Edgar Bronfman points out, the trait of asking questions fosters leadership, highlights our responsibility to act, and safeguards the

*continued on page 12*

## CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

We have docent-led tours of our museum available from 10:00am - 3:30pm Monday - Friday.

For a complete schedule of services & events, check our website at [www.mickveisrael.org](http://www.mickveisrael.org)

# Let's Celebrate!

Congregation Mickve Israel's  
284th Anniversary Service and  
Celebration of Marion Mendel's  
100th Birthday!

Saturday, July 15th at 11am

Join us for a very special Anniversary Service and a celebration of Marion Mendel - the longest living descendant of our original founders.

## Shalom Y'all Food Fest Sponsorship Opportunities

Save the Date for the Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival on October 29th, 2017!

Be part of the largest Jewish Food Festival in the South by advertising your business and helping to underwrite the cost of this important community event.

We have several levels of sponsorship opportunities available. To find out more information and to sponsor this event, contact the Congregation Mickve Israel office at 912-233-1547 or [jill@mickveisrael.org](mailto:jill@mickveisrael.org)

## HIGH HOLY DAYS 2017 / 5778

Come celebrate the High Holy Days at Congregation Mickve Israel.

Saturday, September 16th through Thursday, October 12th

Visit [mickveisrael.org](http://mickveisrael.org) or call the office at 912-233-1547 for more information and to receive a full schedule.

# Another year.....from page 11

freedoms we so value. Jewish day schools encourage asking questions and a quest for deeper understanding. If leadership and critical thinking are important to you, Rambam Day School was and is the right choice to make.

In Israel, a Jew entered a taxi and the taxi driver said, "Shalom." The Jew responded, "Shalom Achi", "Hello my brother." The taxi driver said, "Woe, we might both be Jews but we are not brothers. Look at you. And look at me. You wear a yarmulke and tzitzis and I'm dressed like any ordinary person - I could be of any religion."

The Jew with the yarmulke said, "My teacher taught me all Jews are brothers and sisters." "Well who was your teacher?" asked the taxi

driver. "Adolf Hitler," answered the passenger. The taxi driver looked at the Jew in bewilderment.

The passenger responded, "Adolf Hitler didn't discriminate did he? Every single individual who even came close to Judaism was a Jew in his eyes. How could we Jews think any differently?"

The taxi driver said, "That's amazing. You are one in a million."

The passenger said, "No, I'm two in a million - you and I are brothers."

Rambam Day School houses brothers and sisters and those of us sanctified and honored with the opportunity to teach the children who make up this spectacular family.

## The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

### **SJF GENERAL DONATION**

*In honor of Marilyn & Bob Slagel*  
Joanne & Dick Hochman  
*In honor of Louise & Freddie Harkavy*  
*In memory of Freddie Cohen*  
Sarabel Stemer

### **TIKVAH FUND**

*In memory of Arnold Karp*  
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### **MATTHEW J. CRANMAN HOLOCAUST TEACHER EDUCATION FUND**

*In memory of Herman Cranman*  
Jane & Edwin Feiler, Jr.

### **CAROL & JOEL GREENBERG HEALTH RESOURCE FUND**

*In honor of Carol & Joel Greenberg*  
Sarah Denmark & Adam Solender  
Jamie & Steven Richman



## It's a Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein

David's father meets the school principal and asks, "So, how is my David behaving in school?"

The principal replies, "Your David, wow! If only there were three boys in this school like your David, this school would be the best in the entire town, perhaps even the country!"

The father is beaming inside until the principal concludes, "The problem is we have 150 boys like him!"

Little Sarah went to stay at her Bubbie's house for a few weeks in the summer and the grandmother decided to teach Sarah how to sew.

After Bubbie had gone through a lengthy explanation of how to thread the machine and sew a garment, Sarah stepped back, put her hands on her hips, and said in disbelief, "Bubbie, I don't understand. You can do all that, but you can't figure out how to use Skype?"

At Yeshiva University, Professor Goldfarb wanted all of his students to sign a form stating that they had not received any outside assistance - whether electronic or otherwise.

Shmuel Lipman was unsure whether he should sign, since he had prayed to G-d for assistance.

Professor Goldfarb carefully studied the test Shmuel had submitted and then said, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. It's obvious that G-d did not assist you."

Young Leah was in kindergarten at the Tree of Life preschool. Her favorite time of the day was listening to Torah stories.

One day the teacher was telling about Lot. "There was a man named Lot," the teacher explained, "who was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city. His wife looked back and was turned to salt."

Leah raised her hand and asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Natalie was starting to get a little stir crazy with her three young kids all under the age of four. She complained to her best friend

Michelle, "I'm getting no rest! They're driving me crazy!"

Michelle said, "Why don't you have a playpen?"

So Natalie bought one. A few days later, Michelle called to check in.

"Amazing! I can't believe it," Natalie said. "I get in that pen with a good book and a chocolate bar, and the kids don't bother me for hours!"

The Kaplans were sitting down to eat at the dinner table. Cynthia commented, "You know, Saul, when we were first married, you always took the small piece of brisket and gave me the larger. Now you take the large one and leave me the smaller. You don't love me anymore?"

"Nonsense, honey," replied Saul, "you just cook better now."

To tag birds migrating, the U.S. Department of the Interior used metal bands that bear the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated: Wash. Biol. Surv.

One day the agency received the following letter from a camper:

"Dear Sirs,  
While camping last week I shot one of your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and I want to tell you it was horrible!"

Silver-haired Estelle calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?" Estelle replies, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbor decides to go over and help, so Estelle shows her where she has the pieces spread all over the table.

The neighbor studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to Estelle and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster. Secondly, I want you to relax and we'll have a nice cup of tea, and then," she says with a deep sigh, "we'll put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."

## Vital Statistics



Mazel tov to... Stephanie and Justin Martin of Boston on the birth of their daughter, Henley Gray Martin, on June 6, 2017 (6 lbs., 6 oz.; 20 inches), and to her maternal grandparents, Carol and Joel Greenberg of Savannah.

*Don't forget...*

The Savannah Jewish News is online at [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org)

Tell your out-of-town family & friends!

Back issues through January 2008



## Pure Joy

by Robin Reiner  
JEA Preschool Savannah  
Administrator  
Guest columnist this  
month for Jodi Sadler

Recently, a JEA Preschool parent commented on a photo that was posted on the JEA Facebook page. The photo captured children running gleefully down the main hallway of the preschool during a game with their teacher. This parent noted the



“pure joy” that the photo portrayed, and I smiled to myself in agreement as I reflected upon the joy that is indeed found within these hallways, classrooms, playgrounds, and most importantly, on the small faces of the children that occupy them.

Having been a professional in the field of early childhood education for over twenty years, it still warms my heart to witness this joy on a daily basis. Seeing the wonder on the face of the new child entering a preschool classroom for the first time, the delight on a toddler’s face as he jumps up and down to the rhythm of a favorite song, the pride on a two-year-old’s face as she shows her parent the masterpiece she finger painted with her chubby little fingers, the thrill on the shy three-year-old’s face when a classmate takes hold of his hand and they go down the slide together, and the satisfaction on the four-year-old’s face when she discovers how to create the gas bubbles needed to launch the rocket she just built. Then, lastly, there is the wide, confident grin on the face of the child who just turned five as he proudly performs in the end of the year Pre-K program. His time inside these joyful walls ends as he heads off to a new adventure in kindergarten.

As early childhood educators, we understand the importance of children acquiring the pleasure of learning that is necessary for future academic achievement and success. Early childhood should be a time of curiosity, magical discovery, expanding imaginations, and experimenting with social roles and friendships. Learning should be done through play, investigation, observation and trial. As we introduce academic con-

cepts, we must do so in a fun, engaging and hands-on manner. Inspiring this pleasure of learning by creating and maintaining an environment that promotes in every child the belief that he or she is safe, loved, accepted, and valued is a principal component of our program.

As the facilitators and role models who guide these children through the first years of their development and education, it is essential that we laugh, play, sing, act silly and dance daily with our young charges, so they may embrace and experience the joy of school and the relationships they form here. The association of feeling happiness with

school and learning will remain embedded in their memories. Through the years I’ve often reminded teachers that children won’t always remember something specific you taught them, but they will always remember how you made them feel. The emotional climate a teacher sets has a lasting effect on a child’s perception of learning and his feelings of self-worth.

As I think back to when I read that parent’s comment on social media, I am surprised to realize what made me smile and what warmed my heart was not the joy represented by the gleeful children in the photo. It was actually the joy felt by the parent that grabbed my emotions. The joy of seeing her child, and all of the children, carefree and laughing. The sense of relief, comfort and sheer gladness a parent experiences when she knows her child is well cared for, adored, stimulated and happy in an environment that promotes pleasurable learning is of paramount significance to every parent. And, therefore, it is of paramount significance to us, the conductors of this sacred space of learning and growing. For we do not only serve children within these hallways, classrooms and playgrounds. We serve and care for the whole family, and the whole community of families we have here at JEA Preschool Savannah.

And now, as our summer program comes to a close and another school year begins, we will greet each child, embrace each family, and renew our dedication to providing all of them with the “pure joy” of a JEA Preschool Savannah experience.

## THE SILVER RESTORATION EVENT

Is your family silver old or broken?



Bring in your silver & meet Tim Rader, the Silver Restoration Expert, who will tell you whether your

pieces can be (or should be) restored so you can entertain again with pride or pass them along to the next generation with love.

- FREE Restoration Estimates
- FREE Straightening & Dent Removal with any Replating
- Sterling Silver Polished
- Broken Pieces Repaired
- Missing Parts Replaced
- 25-Year Warranty on Replating
- No appointment necessary

*Jewelry  
Consignment  
Network*

Wed, August 16th

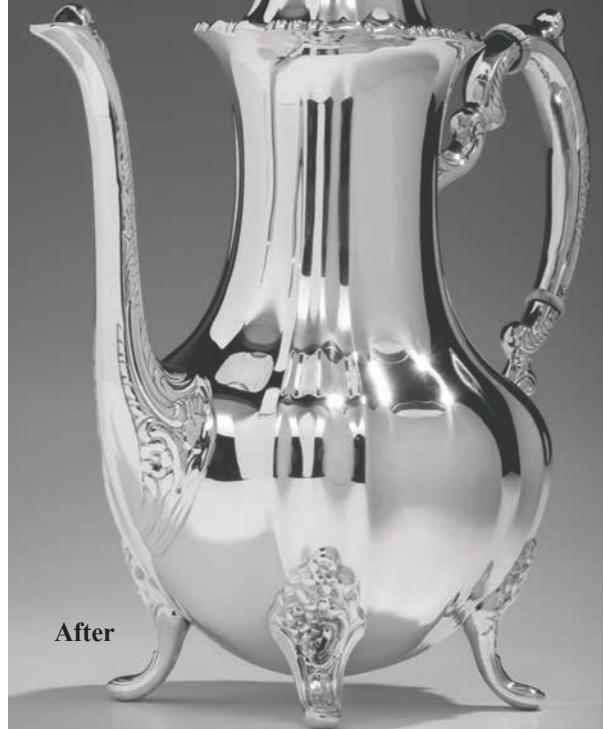
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Create a memorable and inspiring Jewish Film Festival for the community.

Help select the films to be shown, plan the Festival’s special events, and much more!

Be a part of the 2018 Savannah Jewish Film Festival by joining the film festival planning committee.

(Planning to begin in mid-August)

Contact Jacqui Drazen, SJF Program Coordinator,  
at 912-355-8111 or [programming@savj.org](mailto:programming@savj.org)  
to volunteer or for more information.



# 105th JEA Annual Meeting May 24, 2017



Past President Jeffrey Lasky installs his cousin, Scott Samuels, for his second term as JEA President



Tom Kohler accepts the JEA's first Community Service Award from 2015-2017 JEA President Joel Greenberg



Tomer Locker accepts the Kay Becker Israel Scholarship



Past President Arlene Ratner is presented with her portrait for the Hall of Presidents



The new Board of Directors is installed



Past President Jodi Sadler installs President-Elect Robyn Carroll



Miriam and Tony Center present the Henry Center College Scholarship, in memory of her son and his brother, to Emma Loncon



Harold Yellin accepts a President's Award for many years of legal advice and assistance



Jason Rich's photo accepts his President's Award (he chose to attend his daughter's middle school graduation) for Jason's enthusiastic efforts installing the JEA's WiFi and other systems



Split from the Savannah Bananas made an appearance at JEA T-Ball

# SEEN AROUND THE COMMUNITY



At the JEA Camp Savannah Shipwrecked Regatta, the moment of truth arrives; did we build a Queen Mary or a Titanic?



SJF President Allan Ratner presents the 2017 Janet Clark Outstanding Member Award to Jordan Jaffie



Elaine Radetsky presents the 2017 Sima Radetsky Goldfarb Outstanding MIT Award to Sarah Javetz



Karen Cranman presents the 2017 Matthew Cranman AZA Outstanding Member of the Year Award to Blake Strauss

## AT THE ANNUAL BBYO YEAR END AWARDS CELEBRATION



young jewish savannah

- 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!*



**We want to hear from you!**  
For more information about Young Jewish Savannah call Jacqui Drazen at 912-355-8111 or email [yjs@savj.org](mailto:yjs@savj.org).

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.*



Your Campaign Dollars at Work



# SHA-BBQ

**SUMMER SHABBAT BARBEQUE**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 21 • 7:00 P.M.**  
**RSVP FOR LOCATION DETAILS**

## Moon River Brewing Company



Thursday, August 17  
7:00-9:00 pm



# WITH JUST ONE GIFT

The Savannah Jewish Federation provides support wherever there is need.

*Thanks to you, our neighbors in need continue to live in dignity while they weather difficult times.*

*Thanks to you, we care for and feed the needy among us, here in Savannah and around the world.*

*Thanks to you, we continue our focus on Jewish education and identity with support for Shalom School, the JEA, JELF, SCAD Hillel, BBYO and many other programs.*

*Thanks to you, we continue to help local children attend overnight Jewish summer camps and to participate in Jewish leadership development; to travel to Israel with Birthright and other programs that inspire love for Israel and Jewish life; and to experience Jewish heritage from birth with programs like PJ Library.*

**THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the Annual Community Campaign a success!**



*Savannah Jewish Federation*

5111 Abercorn St.  
Savannah, GA 31405  
(912) 355-8111  
www.savj.org