



### Candle Lighting Times

Friday, July 5	8:16pm
Saturday, June 6	9:16pm
Friday, July 12	8:15pm
Saturday, July 13	9:14pm
Friday, July 19	8:12pm
Saturday, July 20	9:10pm
Friday, July 26	8:08pm
Saturday, July 27	9:06pm
Friday, August 2	8:03pm
Saturday, August 3	9:00pm
Friday, August 9	7:57pm
Saturday, August 10	8:53pm
Friday, August 16	7:50pm
Saturday, August 17	8:45pm
Friday, August 23	7:42pm
Saturday, August 24	8:36pm
Friday, August 30	7:33pm
Saturday, August 31	8:27pm

## Another Successful Campaign Allocates Funds

Every year a very committed group of people wrestle with an extraordinarily difficult job: that of allocating a pool of money raised through the Federation Annual Jewish Community Campaign to beneficiary both locally in Savannah, nationally and overseas. Their mandate is to ensure that all the needs of the community are met and balanced between local and overseas needs.

Choosing the committee is a very thoughtful process. Every effort is made to include people who represent the diversity of our community including age, gender, synagogue affiliation, areas of residence and levels of giving. The Allocations Committee was chaired by Annual Campaign Chair, Linda Sacks. The committee included the Federation President, Edwin Byck, Men's Campaign Chair, Steve Greenberg and Women's Campaign Co-Chairs, Michelle Allan and Lynn Reeves. Like the previous year, we were very fortunate to have many members of the committee whom have served before and many whom this was their first time going through the allocations process – including members of the Savannah Yesod Leadership Initiative.

The way the committee decides how

Community Campaign funds are allocated is fair, democratic, and participatory. The diverse, essential group of 36 Planning and Allocation volunteers spent three meetings in a thoughtful, intensive, collaborative process hearing presentations from beneficiaries that included reviews of the past year, current initiatives and financials, and projections for the future year. At the final meeting, the committee put together the allocations recommendation to that was presented to the Savannah Jewish Federation Board of Governors for approval. The recommendation of the Allocations Committee was adopted in full for the distribution of funds to the following beneficiaries:

--In addition to distributing the mon-

Savannah Jewish Federation 2019-2020 Allocations	
As approved at the June 12th Board of Governors Meeting	
Total Campaign	1,141,479
-reserve for pledges uncollectable	21,000
-SJF programs and services	571,839
+General donations (non-campaign)	1,094
+Unexpended funds from previous budget year	43,928
-Donor designated gifts (unallocable)	88,590
<b>Total Funds Available for Allocation</b>	<b>505,072</b>
<b>Allocations</b>	
Shalom School	20,000
BBYO	2,000
SCAD Hillel	3,000
Birthright Israel	9,000
JAFI/JDC/JFNA	164,072
JDC-Venezuela	7,500
Overseas Grants	8,000
Savannah Jewish Archives-Bremen Museum	7,500
Jewish War Veterans	500
Jewish Educational Alliance	275,000
Jewish Council for Public Affairs	1,000
Jewish Telegraphic Agency	500
Israel Action Network	1,000
Jewish Educational Loan Fund	2,000
Anti Defamation League	2,500
JTS-Leadership Commons	2,000

ey it collects to other organizations, The Savannah Jewish Federation (SJF) 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,

*continued on page 6*

## Reflections from the March of the Living

by Jamie Richman

This past May, fourteen “young adults” from Savannah participated in the International March of the Living.

The March of the Living is an international, educational program that brings people from all over the world to Poland during Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, to march from Auschwitz to Birkenau and then to Israel to observe Yom HaZikaron, Israel Memorial Day, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. Over the last 30 years, over 300,000 people from around the world have participated in the March of the Living program.

In early December, we got an email from March of the Living with details about an inaugural NextGen initiative for smaller US communities for a highly subsidized price of \$2,500 (which is un-

heard of).

It then occurred to us, March of the Living was one of the programs that Sonny and Dena Bodziner cited as one of their prime interests in creating a legacy gift to the community. We immediately consulted with their children, Richard, Michael, and Brenda who act as advisors for the fund and they generously recommended providing a further subsidy of \$1,000. We never imagined we would have fourteen interested and make the commitment to go!

In late April, fourteen of us left our busy lives in Savannah for ten days to embark on this meaningful and life-changing experience. This was no easy feat as most of us have small children, jobs and all had responsibilities we had to leave behind. But, we all knew that this was something we had to do. After

making all of the preparations, we set off on this journey of a lifetime.

Their website says, “The March of the Living journey to Poland and Israel allows participants to encounter the richness and anguish of our past, the vitality of the present and the hope for our future. Visiting the sites in Poland and Israel, while filled with emotion, are also both positive and uplifting, because you will share moments of both sadness and joy with thousands of people from all over the world.”

I know that I speak for all fourteen of us when I say how thankful we are to have had this experience – and had this experience together. Fourteen of us “young adults” from Savannah traveled across the world to bear witness –

*continued on page 12*

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PJ Library is for Children ages 6 months to 8 years old being raised in a Jewish home, residing in the Savannah area. Parents can register their children for PJ Library at [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org)

Families with children ages 9 to 11 years old can register for PJ Our Way at [PJOurWay.org](http://PJOurWay.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**FRI, AUG 23: BOOK IT TO SHABBAT**

**SAT, OCT 19: PJ OUR WAY SUKKOT**

**WED, NOV 13: PJ OUR WAY DINNER**

**SAT, DEC 7: PJ PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

**PLUS, SHABBAT ACROSS SAVANNAH IS BACK!**



**Savannah Jewish Federation**  
Your campaign dollars at work!

**Need more information?**

**Email [PJLibrary@savj.org](mailto:PJLibrary@savj.org)**

**Coming Up...**

**PJ Library**

# BOOK IT TO SHABBAT

CELEBRATE SHABBAT AS A  
**PJ LIBRARY COMMUNITY**  
SONGLEADER • CRAFTS • DINNER

AUGUST 23 • 5:30 - 7:00 PM  
JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE



**PJLibrary Savannah**



JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

# TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Sunday, October 13 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Jewish Educational Alliance | 5111 Abercorn Street

**Firetruck • Police Car • Tow Truck •  
Military Vehicle Construction Equipment  
Food Trucks • And More!**

Advance Tickets: \$5 per person or \$20 per family  
Tickets at the Door: \$8 per person or \$30 per family  
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**Adam Solender**  
Executive Director  
JEA/SJF

## Executive Director's Message We Get To Dream

In the JEA/Federation world, June brings many endings: the end of the school year, Preschool's graduation

ceremony, "Oh, The Places You'll Go," BBYO's end of year Award Assembly, and Budget and Allocations makes their presentation to the Federation Board of Governors.

It feels like the end of the year, but in many ways it is just another beginning. While the Preschool "academic year" ends, our Summer school program begins. When the afterschool program ends, Days at the J and Camp kicks off. The outdoor pool opens for the season and Sundays at the Grille begins.

And with this "end of the year" we have our opportunity to take a step back and review the year past (It seems like we do this now, at Rosh Hashanah,

and again on January 1). We look at each of the events and try and evaluate their relative success. How was the attendance? Was it fiscally appropriate? Was it meaningful? Was there a learning component? Did we create community?

And then we start making plans for the future.

One of my most favorite parts of the late Spring/early Summer is "calendar-making." It is when we take a blank calendar for the year to come and start to dream. First we put in the Jewish and secular holidays, then the "standing monthly meetings" like synagogue board meetings (they all meet on the first Tuesday of the month), JEA Board meetings (third Wednesday), Federation Board meetings (second Wednesday), and so on.

Then we put in the events that happen annually such as Mickve Israel's Annual Meeting (last Sunday in January), the Savannah Jewish Film Festival (the 10 days before the Super Bowl),

Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival (last Sunday in October) and so on.

Our next set of entries are the community events like Music Festival, Savannah Film Festival, and other large scale events that might affect scheduling Jewish community events. We even look at and note large sporting events like the Super Bowl, SEC and National Football Championship, and the NCAA Final Four.

Of course, we look at the Chatham County School calendar as well as a number of the private school calendars (since their vacation days only sync up for part of the year). Once we have that all on the paper, the real fun begins.

We sit down with each of the department heads of the JEA and Federation and look for programs that we can do together. Often they are festival programs which may have different components like a Purim Carnival that has a PJ Library story hour, a Children's department activity or a PJ at the Pool event. We also look for opportunities to work with the synagogues to bring a Young Jewish Savannah or SCAD Hillel to a Shabbat service and program.

And then it starts to take shape...

we've built the skeleton of the year. Add the Levy Concert, Konter Weiland Comedy Night, Future of Jazz Concert, a Shabbaton, and many of the other individual programs that take place during the year and the calendar looks like a plan.

That calendar, along with the proposed calendars for the synagogues and other organizations is put on a Master Community Calendar for distribution to all the organizations. This month was the annual Community Calendar Meeting where representative of all the Savannah Jewish community organization review the year to come. We look for opportunities to work together, we look for conflicts where there are similar initiatives scheduled for the same time, we review each week of the year until we reach next summer...and then we start the process all over again.

We love starting with a 'blank slate.'

We have fun doing the calendar;

We have the opportunity to create something new;

We work together to create so many experiences for the community;

We get to dream or what will be and then make it happen.



**Edwin Byck**  
President  
Savannah Jewish  
Federation

## President's Message

# Congrats on Making the 2019 Annual Campaign a Success

On June 12, 2019, The Board of the Savannah Jewish Federation approved the Allocations for the 2019 Annual Campaign. In

several prior articles and in other ways, I asked each of you to answer the question, "I give because?" I now know that the Community gives to the Annual Community Campaign because each of you care deeply about supporting causes that support not only the local but the worldwide Jewish community.

Before I discuss, the great success of the campaign, I must thank several people that came through for the community. First and foremost I have to thank Linda Sacks for chairing the campaign this year. Linda worked tirelessly in organizing events, telethons, speeches and smaller meetings to increase the participation in this year's campaign. Linda relied on Lynn Reeves to lead the Women's Division and Steven Greenberg to lead the Men's Division. Linda and I thank both division chairs as well as the numerous other people who took leadership roles in the campaign including the following: Hilary Kronowitz organized

the Lion of Judah events; Lauren Fins and Jean Weitz chaired the women's speaker event; Aaron Levy, Allan Ratner, Joel Greenberg and others made the personal visits to donors. Other members of the community showed up for telethons and Federation Board members worked their cards. Without the community members' involvement, the campaign would not succeed.

Also, the Federation is blessed with excellent staff that keeps the campaign on track. I found Jamie Richman and Adam Solender to be invaluable in guiding me through my first experience in being the Federation's President during the Campaign. For their advice and superior effort, I thank them both. If you do not believe me, just know that I have already met with Jamie about plans for the Kickoff Event for next year (details will follow in later articles) as well as improvements that we can make to the Campaign for next year.

The allocation process brought over 40 community members together over three nights to hear requests from various organizations to obtain funds with campaign dollars. I thank and appreciate all the members of the Allocations Committee for their commitment to the community. After discussions, the committee unanimously passed a recommen-

dation to allocate the campaign funds and as mentioned above, the Board of the Federation unanimously adopted the Allocation Committee's recommendation.

In regards to the dollars raised, I am proud to announce that the total increased from last year's campaign. We had 639 donors that raised over \$1,140,000.00. Of the donors, 83 were first time donors and 43% of givers increased their pledges from the year before. Linda Sacks followed through on her promise to get more people involved. We need to continue this trend in future years. As I have written in previous articles, it is each of our duty to give to the campaign, as the effect it has on local and international Jewish causes is immense.

How immense you may ask? The following local organizations that support Jewish activities for all ages will receive money from this year's campaign: The Federation, JEA, Shalom School, Rambam Day School, BBYO, Hillel, Jewish War Veterans, and the Savannah Jewish Archives. In addition, two programs that encourage and support local community members, as well as other communities received funds. JELF is an organization that assists college students from all over Georgia with interest-free loans based upon need. Birthright Israel

encourages young people to travel to Israel and has sent almost 200 young adults from Savannah to Israel over the past 18 years. If you want information about these programs, just let us know.

Campaign funds will also support Jews Overseas. Worldwide organizations remain good stewards of campaign funds making sure that Jews and Jewish causes are supported throughout the world. More targeted grants of \$500.00 were given to various Jewish nonprofit organizations nominated by our community members. The Savannah Jewish News highlights at least one of these grant recipients in each issue. Paul Kulbersh made a successful plea for support for Jews within Venezuela during the problems that that country is going through. This is the second year of targeted overseas giving in recognition of the strife affecting Venezuelan Jewry.

Each of the allocated dollars will assist Jews. I have learned from my experience with this year's campaign, that is the greatest gift to be able to provide people with funds that will be used to benefit their lives.

Thank you all for being a part of the campaign and I look forward to your support in the future.

# 2019 SJF Overseas Investment Grant Recipients

## Ayanot Youth Village-Pukocz Holocaust Memorial Israel

To create a Holocaust education center for youth, soldiers, alumni and general public including multimedia, testimonies, books, and documents in four different languages. The Ayanot Youth Village is part of Naale. Founded in a joint effort with the Jewish Agency, Naale was established in 1992 with a goal of providing Jewish high school students worldwide the opportunity to live and study in Israel for high school. And the best part is that the entire program is free!

## Yemen Orde Youth Village Israel

Yemin Orde Youth Village is home, school and safe haven to 430 at-risk and immigrant youth from around the world. The Village remains open 24/7, 365 days a year, for youth who have no other place to call home in Israel. Graduates remain connected to the Village long after graduation and often return for financial assistance, life cycle events and celebrations. This sense of safety and lifelong support for graduates is one of the unique elements that makes Yemin Orde Youth Village a model of excellence in Israel.

## Lone Soldier Fund Israel

The Lone Soldier Center's mission is to assist lone soldiers before, during and after their army service. They provide the lone soldiers with food, laundry, basic necessities, equipment, advice, seminars, social events, monthly Shabbat meals and more. Their vision is to enable every lone soldier to succeed in his or her army service, successfully integrate into Israeli society and become part of the lone soldier family.

## Beit Rambam Spain

Beit Rambam is a reform congregation in Seville, Spain whose founders realized their vision of creating a congregation in the Andalusian region (cities of Cordoba, Cadiz and Seville), to welcome Jews across the region and denominations to worship. They have about 20 families and many "temporary" congregants. They are currently raising money to move into a synagogue of their own.

## The Okopowa Street Jewish Cemetery

## Poland

The cemetery in Warsaw, Poland has been in use since the 18th century and contains over 250,000 graves (including the graves of inhabitants of the Warsaw Ghetto). Funds provided will go to making more of the graves accessible.

## Tvunot Israel

Tvunot utilizes its broad network to provide families with the most effective and impactful intervention. During a crisis, Tvunot helps facilitate immediate emergency intervention and support, then remains in contact until things have stabilized. In all crises, Tvunot tailors its support to meet a family's unique needs by mobilizing specialists, schools, and facilities to assist with access to expert assessments and treatment, guidance, various types of support and subsidized funding.

## The Children's Bridge of Zichron Menachem Israel

Zichron Menachem provides support for any young person in Israel under the age of 25 living with cancer, as well as their parents and siblings. Families of all religions and backgrounds turn to Zichron Menachem for the help they need most, be it information, a second opinion or a break from the punishing routine of medical appointments. Zichron Menachem works closely with Israel's leading medical professionals, who strongly believe that no child can be treated comprehensively without the support we provide.

## Zeh LaZeh Israel

Every civilized society has always recognized obligation is to care for the needs of its widows and orphans. The economic and social shock of losing a loving husband and father, along with the loss of the family's sole or primary source of income, has always been seen everywhere as long lasting and profoundly tragic. This organization assists those who are 'left behind' to support themselves financially, to experience contentment of any kind, and to lead productive, self supporting and happy lives.

## Israel Goldstein Youth Village Israel

The Village, was opened in 1949 with 40 orphaned Holocaust survivors. Since

then, the village continued to develop and change, hand in hand with the changes undergone by the young state of Israel. The village is a residential middle and upper school which strives to provide an outstanding academic education for both Israeli-born children from deprived backgrounds and new immigrant youth (who made Aliyah alone, without their families) from the former Soviet Union, France, Morocco and Ethiopia. The overall aims of the Village are to integrate Jewish youth from Israel and from the Diaspora, to absorb and support Youth Aliyah and to instill Jewish and human values in all its students.

## JCC Krakow Poland

On a recent March of the Living trip, members of the Savannah community had the privilege of getting to meet the leadership of the JCC Krakow where they learned about the many services being provided to the growing Jewish population of Krakow. Quoting from their website, "The programs of JCC Krakow are shaped as a continuous response to the needs of the developing, multi-generational, and varied Jewish community of Krakow. Various clubs of the JCC engage members of similar ages and interests, while Shabbat dinners and holiday celebrations are a great occasion on which to spend time together with the whole community.

## Hillel - The Right to Choose Israel

"Hillel is an Israeli-nonprofit that helps young adults who have left the ultra-orthodox world." They "believe all people have the right to choose the lifestyle they want, and therefore never try to convince anybody to change their lifestyle." Hillel provides participants with psychological counseling, housing, educational scholarships, and vocational assistance.

## Israel Guide Dogs for the Blind Israel

The Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind is dedicated to improve the quality of life of visually impaired Israelis. We provide them with mobility, independence, self-confidence and companionship through the faithful assistance of guide dogs specially trained in Hebrew to meet Israel's rigorous and challenging environment. Founded in 1991, the Israel Guide Dog Center serves Israel's 24,000 blind and visually im-

paired citizens and is the only internationally accredited guide dog program in the country.

## Camp Szarvas Hungary

Szarvas Camp is an educational program, where campers from around the world learn about their Judaism and about Jewish traditions at a high level, while also having fun and developing in an environment of friends. Szarvas Camp provides the majority of the emerging Jewish leadership throughout Europe.

## Cape Jewish Seniors Association South Africa

CJSA strives to meet the educational, spiritual, social and entertainment needs and interests of the elderly Jewish community in Cape Town. Regular planned activities encourage members to form new friendships and support systems. These new friendships (and the support of the CJSA staff) help to alleviate the loneliness and isolation from which a number of members suffer, in many cases as a result of the migration of their children and grandchildren abroad.

## Ethiopian National Project Israel

The Ethiopian National Project strives to provide social and educational opportunities to help Ethiopian-Israeli teenagers realize their full potential. ENP programs take a "big picture" view of the cultural, social and emotional challenges faced by Ethiopian-Israeli teens that constrain their advancement. Today, the Ethiopian National Project operates in 23 communities across Israel, serving approximately 3,413 youth in its scholastic assistance programs and almost 1,900 youth in 14 outreach centers.

## Susan's House Israel

Susan's House was established in 2002, in memory of Susan Kaplansky who dreamed of helping youth through art. Today Susan's House is a warm, welcoming place for at-risk teens. These teens, many from the street, are taught to create beautiful glass work, ceramics & jewelry. They are guided by a dedicated staff. Through this process they are able to develop a sense of self-worth and learn the life skills needed to find their place in society.



**Hadassah believes that when we empower women, they can heal the world.**

*Our vision:* To strengthen a connection to Israel with Hadassah leading the way, bringing healing and justice to the world.

*Our promise:* Connecting and empowering Jewish women to effect change.

*Our mission:* Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer organization that inspires a passion for and commitment to the land, the people, and the future of Israel. Through education, advocacy, and youth development, and its support of medical care and research at Hadassah Medical Organization, Hadassah enhances the health and lives of people in Israel, the United States and worldwide.

Since 1912, Hadassah has been part of the hopes and dreams of Israel — past, present and future.

**That's the power of women who do!**

*Please join us in our quest.*

Contact Susan Slotin (sslotin05@comcast.net) for information on annual and lifetime memberships, for yourself or as a gift.



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.



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

**SHABBAT SERVICES:**  
Friday 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat  
Saturday 9:45 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon  
Mincha following Kiddush  
Saturday Evenings Maariv & Havdalah



**CONGREGATION**  
**AGUDATH ACHIM**  
SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

**DAILY SERVICES:**  
Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm  
Monday 7:15 am & 6:00 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm  
Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm  
Friday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm



*Our Gala was a huge success, see you next year.*

## Campaign Funds continued from page 1

those in jeopardy and countless other services. Through their engagement initiatives, the Federation also provides outreach to all ages and generations of the Jewish community, from birth through PJ Library all the way to seniors through Food for Thought. Through the Teen Experience Grants, SJF provides funds 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 observance. SJF keeps you informed about Jewish life in Savannah and around the world through the Weekly eNews, Savannah Jewish News, and Facebook. 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 their requested funding to continue to provide supplementary Jewish education to local children.

--SCAD Hillel will be able to continue to identify and engage Jewish college students through the Student Engagement Ambassador program that will again be funded.

--Savannah BBYO will continue to grow in Savannah and continue to be the largest chapter in Dixie Council with the assistance of their allocation.

-- Reflecting the organization's physical plant challenges, the core allocation for the Jewish Educational Alliance was increased 5% over the previous year. JEA President Robyn Levy Carroll stated, "We are thrilled

that the Federation continues to support the JEA at such a high level. It is a statement of our unique partnership in being able to provide the many wonderful programs and services to the community"

-- The Savannah Jewish Federation continued its strong financial support of our historic overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), through the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). Overseas initiatives will receive 37.3% of the campaign's allocable dollars, 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.

--In recognition of the incredible peril facing Jews in Venezuela, the Allocations Committee granted a special designated gift to JDC for the specific needs of that community.

--The committee continues our community's strong funding to Birthright Israel, the initiative that sends young Jewish adults in the Diaspora on a 'free' 10 day trip to Israel. Over the past 18 years of Birthright, there have been over 275 participants from Savannah or who make Savannah their home.

--Once again, 16 organizations will be funded that provide services to Jews overseas that were handpicked by members of the community to receive Overseas Investment Grants (see the accompanying list).

-- A grant to the Jewish Educa-

tional Loan Fund (JELF) was made 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. 76 Savannah students have benefited from the availability of these loans for college.

--Grants to Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) and the Israel Action Network were also renewed this year. The allocation to the Anti-Defamation League was increased for the third year in a row reflecting the importance of the work they do responding to various types of hate, including programming in our local community.

--A new beneficiary this year was made to JTS Leadership Commons in recognition of the investment they have made in members of our community's professional staff(s). Five members of the community have received advanced Jewish and leadership training through JTS.

The Budget & Allocations Committee and SJF Board of Governors made sure that the money raised has greater impact, because it goes to the programs that most effectively address the most critical needs in our community, and best support and nurture Jewish life here and abroad. They made sure the money raised is used wisely. Our process works for the greater good. Our Planning and Allocation volunteers are the epitome of a collaborative, engaged, participatory committee. We are grateful for their energy, skills, and time.

## Southerland Promoted to H&W Director

The Jewish Educational Alliance is proud to announce that Kirby Southerland has been named JEA Health & Wellness Director. Kirby will be replacing Kat Ackerman who has chosen to concentrate all her time on her first love, training individuals in the community.

Kirby holds her undergraduate degree in Recreation Management from Appalachian State and is currently pursuing her Masters in Non Profit Management at University of Central Florida. She was awarded the JEA President's Award in 2018 for outstanding service and dedication to the Jewish Educational Alli-

ance.

For the past four years, Kirby has followed an upwards trajectory of accomplishment most recently rising from Aquatics and Youth Sports Director. With her "pitch in attitude" you can often see her throughout the building helping out in almost every program offered by the Alliance and Federation.

If the new position and studying for a Master degree was not enough, Kirby is currently a JELI (Jewish Experiential Leadership Institute) Fellow, a program that "prepares emerging community leaders by training them to weave Jewish eth-



ics, values, and thought into the day-to-day management of organizations and programs."

We know that Kirby will do a wonderful job in her new position.



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www.savj.org

SJF President: Edwin Byck  
SJF Treasurer: Matthew Allan

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](mailto: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.

## Going for the Green

By Garrett Kaminsky

If you've been around the JEA in the last month or two you might have noticed the new bins on campus. Bright blue recycling bins, conveniently adjacent to existing waste receptacles throughout the center,

will represent a small portion of a big change taking place. And this time change is good!

As the global effort to make businesses more "green" continues, the JEA is eager to follow suit.

While the new recycling service comes at a small fee to the JEA, this initiative comes at no cost to the JEA community. Bins will be used to recycle in a single stream manner, meaning recyclable materials (paper, plastic, aluminum and glass) will not need to be individually sorted, and will be collected into one single bin.

With the leadership of JEA Board President, Robyn Carroll, the "Green Committee" has taken significant steps to reduce waste, recycle supplies and repurpose used items. Committee members Heather Horenstein, Garrett Kaminsky and Lisa Mackowiak, along with Carroll and the JEA staff look forward to continuing the growth of this initiative, as the benefits are already evident.

"I feel strongly about being a good steward of the environment and how closely this links to the future. Being mindful of waste is not only environmentally conscious, but also a finan-

cial decision," Carroll stated recently at a committee meeting.

The JEA's preschool program has proudly 'gone green' as well. This effort made possible thanks to the Mackowiak family who generously



donated reusable cups, bowls, and plates to each of the preschool classrooms to eliminate the waste from snack time. In addition, many of the teachers have incorporated "green initiatives" into their daily curriculum.

"...Providing a school environment that cares for our natural environment changes the culture from an early age. The children will begin to see this as nothing new or different, rather just the normal way to take care of the impact we cause. I am really glad that we are moving in the direction of making better choices for our children's future world," stated Mackowiak.

Teachers generously adopting the new protocol of helping to clean and administer these reusable items has helped the school significantly reduce waste. An added bonus: by reducing single-use items, the program reduces supply costs. A true win-win for everyone!

The JEA hopes to see active participation as it continues to grow the community in a more environmentally sound practice.

Veterans corner

## Honoring Those Who Gave All

Col. Ed Wexler, USAF Ret  
Commander, JWV Post 320

Twice yearly around Memorial Day and Veterans Day, the Jewish War Veterans Martin E. Kirshbaum Jr. Post assembles at Bonaventure Cemetery to place and replace American flags at the graves of Jewish veterans

interred there. This ceremony was conducted in late May 2019. Our Post was named after Martin E. Kirshbaum Jr. a Savannah native who

lost his life while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific during WWII. The Post has begun a new initiative to identify graves of Jewish veterans buried at Laurel Grove cemetery. Family members have identified

a few burial plots at Laurel Grove and flags are now in place. The Jewish community is encouraged to assist in this effort by providing names of veterans buried at either cemetery.

In January at a community meeting honoring Savannah architect and veteran Eric Meyerhoff, Post 320 installed officers for 2019. Accepting

positions are Frank Katz; Vice Commander, Richard Halperin, Quartermaster (Treasurer); and A.J. Haysman; Adjutant (Secretary). Staff volunteers are Carol Greenberg and Mason Weiss. To receive informa-

tion about the Savannah Jewish War Veterans please contact me at ewexler06@comcast.net or any of our 2019 officers.



Jewish War Veterans Martin E. Kirshbaum Jr.  
Post at Bonaventure Cemetery

### *Like to read Jewish-related books?*

The Savannah Jewish News is compiling a list of people to read and write reviews of Jewish-themed books that we receive.

Your substantive review would be about 250 words and include your name and affiliation to any organization, if useful to the reader.

You'll return the book to us with your review so that we may repurpose it.

If interested, please email  
sjn@savj.org



### Another Five Star Review



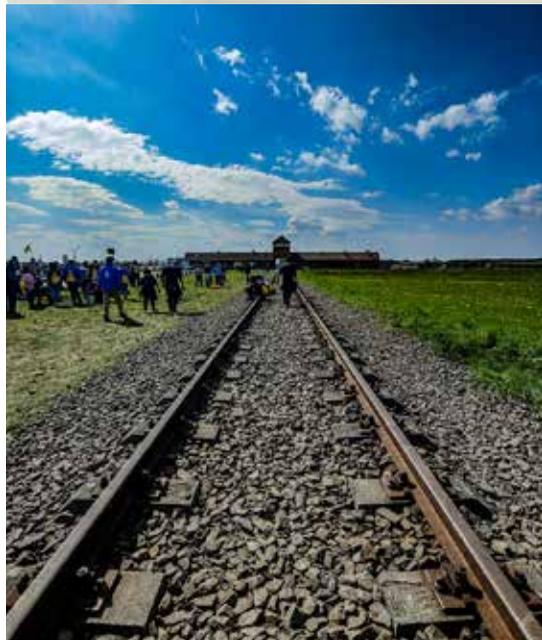
**Excellent is an understatement. When you want your pest control done right, go to the best... Yates-Astro!**

**- T. Cuyler**



**For SIX STAR Pest Control Call 651-9100**

# Reflections FROM March of the Living



All of the horrible images that riddled my mind as I grew up and learned about the Holocaust, came through in black and white. As I walked through Auschwitz and Birkenau, of my own free will, on a beautiful and sunny spring day with yellow flowers blooming and covering the ground, it hit me. The Holocaust was no longer this far away event of the past, colorless, and lifeless. It was here, on the very ground I walk. It was here, next to the yellow flowers and green blades of grass. It was here, under the blue sky and the white fluffy clouds. It was here. Here, humans became monsters. Here, millions of lives were savagely destroyed. Now, I'm here. I'm here despite the hatred, despite the killing, despite it all. I'm here, and now I will walk out of here

- Paige Lorberbaum



It's hard to put into words this experience, it was heartbreaking, and eye opening, and so impactful. It's hard to pick just one picture, or one thing I learned because it was just so much and so real. But something I think will forever be chilling for me, and etched in my mind is Majadanek. Majadanek was not like the other camps, it wasn't hidden deep in some rural area, it was out in the open for all to see, backing up to homes and city life. This photo shows barrack #52, but if you look further you can see a blue slide and a house. These homes lined the whole backside of this camp, and most of them were there during The Holocaust.

- Mindy Lasky

When I was going through the more than 1,800 images I took while on the March of the Living, I realized less than a quarter of those were in Israel. I think I needed the photographs of Poland more, so I could bring them back to Savannah, so I could show them to people, so I could explain them to my students and my children. In Israel, I was too busy celebrating, even for those who sacrificed, to take more photos. I worry that as the world changes and we forget, even though we promise not to, that those places in Poland and their stories will be lost for future generations. In Israel, I knew I'd go back again someday and I never doubted it would always be there for me to take more photographs.

- Marlene Seidman-Robinowich



Choosing one instance that stood out from such an incredible experience as MOTL has proven to be much more difficult than I thought it would be. Do I choose from the concentration camps or mass gravesites that have forever changed me in ways that I am not yet even fully aware? Or how about the bonding experience with 1000s of other Jews who felt and were impacted by the experience as much as I was? Or the feeling of family and acceptance I felt everywhere we went in Israel? I chose a memory from the last day of the trip, actually just before the March in Israel. It was after lunch, in the lobby of a fancy hotel. I was emotionally drained but my soul felt fuller than it had ever been. Maybe a little grumpy as the realization that we were leaving later that evening was finally setting in. I sat across from an old man who was resting, same as I was. I was lost to my thoughts so starting up a conversation was up to him, and as it turned out he was more than up to the task. He asked where I was from and had I gotten enough to eat, etc, etc. Chewing the fat as 2 people will do when trying to pass the time. I interjected that I couldn't believe how some of the teens on this journey could take selfies and laugh and joke aloud while we were in places like Auschwitz or Birkenau. Or keep their heads pointed down at their phones while in Yerushalayim, seemingly oblivious to the sights and sounds of the old city. He responded by saying that he was a Holocaust survivor, and was just happy that they could do whatever they wanted in Poland or Israel or anywhere else they wanted to go, as free Jews without any dictators or anti Semites in charge of them. Without punishment for just being Jews, or in this case, Jewish teenagers. They were well fed and happy and healthy, so what did I

want?? Let them be happy!! This hit me hard. Not only was I totally wrong in how I felt about it, but thank G-d I was wrong! This was just one of many memories from MOTL that will bring tears to my eyes for many years to come when my mind decides to play back over the events of the life changing experience

- Phillip Robinowich

**The Savannah delegation of March of the Living was made possible through a generous stipend from The Dena Yaschik Bodziner Memorial Fund of the Savannah Jewish Community Foundation.**



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide

# CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

July-August 2019



## Children's Programming



### Jewish Educational Alliance AFTER SCHOOL Enrichment Program



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

At the JEA's After School program your Pre-K through 8th graders will participate in activities such as swimming, sports, homework help, daily snacks, cooking, fitness fun, art, and much more!

After School hours are Monday-Friday 3:00-6:00 pm. We pick up from Charles Ellis, Jacob G. Smith, Susie King Taylor, Garrison, and Heard Elementary.



**JEA Member Prices:** \$75/week or \$18/day

**JEA Guest Prices:** \$110/week or \$25/day

Ask us about our sibling discount!

For more information visit our website:

[www.savannahjea.org](http://www.savannahjea.org)

## Registration opens July 5th!



## Adult Programming



<b>Scrabble</b>	Thursdays	6-8pm
<b>Mah Jongg</b>	Mondays	2-4pm
	Thursdays	2-4pm

## 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 May 10, 2019)

Monik Brinson  
Ayana Eady-Patterson  
Frank Echezabal & Laura Echezabal  
Nathan Fuller & Margaret Consor  
George Gilbert  
Edwin & Lisa Johnson  
Drevon & Shalena Jones  
Mark Kuhlman & Jennifer Jenkins  
Ryan Mashayekh & Kerry Brown  
Lucy Moore  
Salathia Singleton  
Elizabeth Spikes  
Noel Syzchowski  
LaCedrick & Carolyn Wimes  
Jeffrey Wittig & Erika Mason



## Food For Thought

Join us each Thursday at 12:30pm

<b>July 11</b>	<i>Savannah Economic Development Authority</i> Jesse Dillon	<b>Aug. 8</b>	<i>Reflections on the March of the Living Experience</i> Savannah Participants
<b>July 18</b>	<i>Advances in Hip &amp; Knee Surgeries</i> Dr. Jonathan Christy	<b>Aug. 15</b>	<i>Minerals, Meteorites &amp; More</i> Seth Grenald
<b>July 25</b>	<i>Shaliach Program</i> Dor Rotem	<b>Aug. 22</b>	<i>Adult Learning Theory</i> Dr. Steve Tolman
<b>Aug. 1</b>	<i>Savannah Voice Festival Season Launch</i>	<b>Aug. 29</b>	<i>Reducing Financial Risk</i> Jeff Merrill

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 desk or by calling 912-355-8111.  
Have a suggestion for a new speaker? Contact Orly Henkin at [orlyhenkin@savj.org](mailto:orlyhenkin@savj.org)

## JEA Donations

(5/11/19-6/16/19)

**ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND**  
*In honor of Maxine & Don Patterson*  
Nancie & Fred Clark

**JEA GENERAL DONATIONS**  
*In memory of Chester Solender*  
Barbara & Ricky Friedenberg  
*In honor of Biff & Jerry's Montana's new grandchild, Eli*  
Louise & Freddie Harkavy  
*In honor of Kaye & Don Kole*  
Arlene & Allan Ratner

**JEA CAMP SAVANNAH**  
*A donation by:*  
Craig Johnson

**JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH**  
*In honor of Sharon & Bill Sand*  
Sarah Denmark & Adam Solender

**HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**  
*In honor of Louis Freedman*  
Harry Center  
*In honor of Rabbi Robert Haas*  
Miriam Center

## NEED MORE CAMP?

Summer Days  
at the JEA

Help us send off summer in true JEA style as we recreate some of 2019 Camp Savannah's biggest moments!



July 29 to August 13  
8 am-6 pm

Open to all children in grades PreK-10th  
For more information and to register, visit our website:  
[www.savannahjea.org](http://www.savannahjea.org)





# Health & Wellness

## Exciting Changes to Your Fitness Center



Kirby Southerland  
Fitness & Aquatics  
Director

After four wonderful years as Aquatics and Youth Sports Director, I am transitioning into the Health and Wellness Director position here at the JEA.

My time as the Aquatics and Youth Sports Director has given me the experience and

drive to continue to bring new and exciting programs and activities to the JEA Health and Wellness Department. The amazing support from this community inspires me every day to breathe new life into the Health and Wellness Department.

In the next few months, you can expect to see new faces all around the fitness center including personal trainers, group fitness instructors and support staff. We're making the effort to launch year-round programming

that will keep our members moving all year 'round.

The "Summer Safety Series" that began this season will continue to offer safety certification courses such as Pediatric CPR and Babysitting Certification throughout the year.

We will be partnering with locally owned businesses to offer healthy nutrition classes to our membership.

Specialty fitness classes will be added to our already diverse class offerings.

The OyVey 5k will return for its second year on Sunday, December 22. (Mark your calendars now!)

As always, we love hearing your ideas for programs moving forward, so drop a note at the front desk, send me an email ([fitness@savj.org](mailto:fitness@savj.org)) or pop your head into my office to see what we can create together.

With the addition of new programs and the enhancement of current offerings, we hope to see you around the JEA alot more!

## Fitness Classes

### Sunday

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



### Monday

- 8:45 am - Firm It Up
- 9:45 am - Aquasize
- 10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
- 10:45 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
- 5:15 pm - Fast & Fit



### Tuesday

- 9:15 am - Power Pilates
- 10:00 am - SilverSneakers Splash
- 10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
- 10:30 am - Gentle Yoga
- 7:00 pm - Aikido



### Wednesday

- 8:45 am - Firm It Up
- 10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
- 10:30 am - SilverSneakers Silver Step
- 4:30 pm - Fast & Fit
- 6:00 pm - H.I.I.T

### Thursday

- 9:15 am - Barre Sculpt Express
- 10:00 am - Aquasize
- 10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
- 5:15 pm - Fast & Fit
- 7:00 pm - Aikido



### Friday

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

## Outdoor Pool Hours:

### May 28- August 5:

- Monday-Thursday 10am-7pm
- Friday 10am-4 pm
- Sunday 10am-5pm

### August 6- September 2:

- Monday-Thursday 3-7pm
- Friday CLOSED
- Sunday 10am-5pm

### September 3-September 30:

- Sundays 10am-4pm

# a Gala to Remember

## ... AGAIN! THROW BACK PROM SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Gold Level Sponsor - \$1000

- Signage in JEA Lobby for the month before Gala
- Signage the night of the JEA Gala
- (4) Quarter Page ads in the Savannah Jewish Newspaper (4 issues, \$600 value)
- (4) weeks Enews Sponsor (\$144 value)
- Logo on JEA Gala Website
- 2 Tickets (\$272 Value)

### Platinum Level Sponsor - \$2000

Be a sponsor of all three of the JEA's 2019 fundraising events: JEA Gala, Touch-A-Truck Event, and the Oy Vey 5k! For each event, your company will receive:

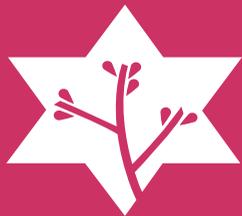
- Company logo on signage and promotional items
- Company logo on signage in JEA lobby for the month leading up to each event
- (4) Half Page ads in the Savannah Jewish Newspaper (4 issues, \$1,100 value)
- (4) Weeks Enews Sponsor (\$144 value)
- Logo on JEA Gala Website
- 2 Tickets (\$272 Value)

### Silver Level Sponsor - \$600

- (4) weeks Enews Sponsor (\$144 value)
- Logo on JEA Gala Website
- 2 Tickets (\$272 Value)

### OR BECOME A FRIEND OF THE JEA FOR \$360

Includes 2 Gala Tickets, 1 raffle ticket, boutonniere & corsage, & listed as Friend of the JEA sponsor



## JEA Preschool Savannah News

### Enroll Now 2019-20 School Year

Limited spaces available for toddlers and 2-yr olds for the upcoming school year.

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

JEA Preschool Summer Program.  
Open to all children ages 12 mos. and walking through 4 years old.

#### Jul 1-12 - Session 3: Mountain Madness

We'll camp out, learn about animals, waterfalls, creeks and more!

#### Jul 15-26 - Session 4: Diggin' in the Desert

Try an archeological dig, discover reptiles and build a teepee!



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

### Carol Duggar - July

Carol Duggar was born and raised in Pembroke, GA, where she resides in her ancestral home, Savage Creek Farms, a 72-acre registered Georgia Centennial Family Farm.

She received her AA Fine & Applied Arts from Santa Fe Junior College and her B.S. from the University of Houston.

Says Carol, "When I begin a painting, I am inspired by color. I enjoy painting a variety of subject matter, working on the play of light and color. Painting common sites and scenes, I use light and its absence to add drama and tension."

Through painting, Carol investigates the experience of time, place and feeling in the landscape, along with human interaction. She approaches each painting from an impressionistic standpoint, developing into a more realistic quality.

Carol works from her home-based studio. Her paintings are the result of a combination of her own photographic references, direct observation and her imagination.

Oils are her medium of choice because of the buttery texture and the richness of color.

Carol has memberships in the Savannah Art Association, Telfair Museums and Women Painters of the Southeast.



*Artwork available for viewing July 1-31, 2019  
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception July 7, 2-4 pm*

### Angela Beasley & Carol Cohen - August *Mythical & Mystical*

Angela Maggioni Beasley and Carol Fleischaker Cohen, two friends from childhood, have spent their lives following their own artistic paths. Angela's lifetime vocation of building and performing with puppets (Puppet People) began by sculpting in clay. Carol is an award-winning artist who introduced and encouraged artistic expression across three generations through her teaching. They have combined their creative energies and insights from their journeys to create a Mythical and Mystical Art Exhibit for you.

Angela is leaving poly foam behind and returning to her artistic roots in a joyful exploration of worlds unseen and the fairy folk who dwell within, spreading magic with tiny clay sculptures that stimulate the imagination while giving we mere mortals a view of the mystical.

Carol combines her talents with her lifelong study of spiritual teachings and symbols to create her own magical art. Using the Hebrew alphabet, she presents each letter in textural relief that often explodes in brilliant colors. You don't have to be Jewish or read Hebrew to appreciate these wonders. The meaning behind each letter is explained on an accompanying card linking its Kabbalistic interpretation to a suggested practical application to enhance your life.

Angela and Carol, two sisters in art, have harnessed their life experiences to create this Magical Mystical Art Exhibit. We hope you will join us in viewing the wonders of their spiritual experiences through two diverse lenses.



Angela Beasley



Carol Cohen

*Artwork available for viewing August 1-30, 2019  
Join us for the Art Gallery Reception August 4, 2-4 pm*

JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE  
PRESENTS THE

*Jack Malitz & Miriam Slotin*  
***Levy Memorial Concert***

Featuring the music of the Savannah Voice Festival Artists

Sunday, September 22  
Jewish Educational Alliance  
Doors Open 1:30 p.m.  
Concert 2:00 p.m.  
(dessert reception during intermission)



This concert is made possible by the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah



Do you have memories, letters, or photographs that should be preserved at the Savannah Jewish Archives?

To contribute your family's history or other precious items, contact Jeremy Katz at the Breman Museum [jrkatz@thebreman.org](mailto:jrkatz@thebreman.org) or call Adam Solender at the Savannah Jewish Federation





Ester Rabhan,  
Principal  
Rambam Day  
School

## Eye on education Moving On....

A year completed, a new year in the works. As we prepare for the coming school year, we will be implementing an idea we did several years ago which was very successful.

In today's times, every attempt to excite children about school becomes more and more difficult, because there are so many electronics that entertain children after school hours. It is difficult to compete.

Rambam Day School has decided to go back to basics. Remember the good old days when playing outside was fun? Running through sprinklers was exciting?

Several years ago, we implemented in addition to PE classes; teachers would rotate giving various classes to our middle school students. Each teacher would use one of their talents or take an area of interest to them, and give classes to the students; archery, weaving, cooking, pottery – just to name a few. Rambam will be having these creative classes again this coming school year. The first time we did this, the children loved it! The teachers were quite excited when we discussed it as an idea for the coming year.

This past year we implemented a "Jewish General Knowledge" program. While our students learn about their heritage in great depth, we wanted to make sure that general knowledge which they should have at the tips of their tongues was mastered. The program was very successful and when the students took monthly tests on the information; 95% did well. The program will continue as the continuity is what will increase this information being readily available in their bank of knowledge.

When we sat down with our eighth grade, who graduated this year, to discuss topics for their graduation speeches, the moment became a conversation to remember. The children

were throwing around various topics, and we discussed them and tweaked them. One student threw out the following idea; what the opportunity of being in Rambam gave to me. That a young man would think this, share it and wish to write about it, is quite moving. I didn't take his idea lightly. I quietly thanked the Almighty for the impact Rambam must have had. He began writing. "We're a small school which has provided us with not only close relationships with our classmates, but also with our teachers and other students. Being in a small school, teachers are able to give more individual attention to each student." And he continued writing. "While there's pros and cons to being in a small school, we've benefitted from the pros and didn't feel any side effects of the cons."

Another student wrote about several memories from over the years they have been in Rambam and ended with the following thought; "We're moving on, but keeping our memories."

Another student's thought. "When I think about it, I realize I am leaving the comfort of what I have known for my entire school career – like the comfort of people who already care about me, the comfort of teachers who know exactly how I learn best. The fun and laughter I had with my friends, and the overall happiness I have had at Rambam."

One eighth grader wrote, "To all those who play a role in Rambam, my classmates and I thank you for making our years here possible."

The first eighth grader to speak said, "We are descendants of those who stood at Sinai. And as descendants of such a great people, we have been fortunate to learn within the walls of Rambam."

Another eighth grade student said, "One of the big benefits of Rambam is the size. The size of the school is "perfectly small". Rambam is home. A place where we feel safe, cared about and accomplished."

Out of the mouths of our young students....



Robin Rackoff

## Mah Jongg and More

The summer of '69...half a century ago. Who can forget that first moon landing? On July 20th at 10:56 PM,

Neil Armstrong took "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Life came to a halt as we watched, astounded, in real time. In East Flatbush, Brooklyn, we crowded around our TV set (a gift from the local savings bank for opening an account) to view this spectacle.

But there were other things going on that summer. At the Jewish bungalow colonies in the Catskill mountains, a mere one hundred miles away from Brooklyn, every Monday morning saw the mass exodus of husbands, heading into the city to work, not to return until Friday night. As their cars were making their way onto the NY Thruway, their wives were making their way to the mah jongg tables. With no husbands around, they were free to play maj morning, noon, and night. The movie *A Walk on the Moon* is like a time capsule of that period and that place. Just five minutes after the opening credits,

actress Diane Lane's character, Pearl Kantrowitz, is seen with her friends, discussing the state of everyone's marriage while discarding three bams and four craks. If only Pearl had played more mah jongg! Then she might not have had time to fool around with Viggo Mortenson, the "blouse man" who showed up every week to sell his wares. The "high" point of the movie is when Pearl and the peddler walk down the road and join the 500,000 hippies attending the Woodstock music festival.

With the exception of fooling around with a blouse man, that might have been the story of my summer of '69...watching the moonwalk, playing mah jongg, and going to that "little concert" (as my mother called it). We were four unworldly, unsophisticated Jewish kids who thought a joint was where you ordered your pizza from, piled into a 1964 Rambler covered with giant flowers and heading off for what turned out to be the adventure of a lifetime.

Neil Armstrong, Jimi Hendrix, and mah jongg. Now that was a summer!

Until next time, let's maj on!



Jodi Sadler,  
JEA Director  
Early Childhood  
Education

## Eye on education

### Volunteers are Very Special People

As I reflect on the past year I think fondly about all of the volunteers who helped to make year six of JEA Preschool Savannah such a success. This theme was also emphasized at the JEA annual meeting. - Volunteers- the Key to our Success!

The definition of a volunteer is "a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task". We had many individuals who gave of their time and talents to the children and teachers and we appreciate all that they did!

Here is a list of the Preschool volunteers from this past school year.

- Parent-Teacher Organization President- Allison Konter
- Early Childhood Education Committee Chairpersons- Sharon Sand and Lisa Mack-owiak

- Art Bash Fundraiser chairpersons – Heather Horenstein and Yael Elfassy Connor
- Outdoor Kitchen designer and builder- Jessica Estes
- PTO room parents who helped organize the classroom activities for the children and teachers
- Grandparents who were special readers throughout the year – Sharon Sand, Lynn Reeves, and Pauline Munroe

Working with young children brings a certain joy to others. The young child's purity, honesty, and loving ways is a gift they give to us. Come experience this for yourself. Share your talents with the children in the classrooms. Read, tell stories, draw, paint, cook or play with the children. Volunteer just a few minutes of your time. It's easy and will truly make your day.

Call me and I'll help you to get involved. You'll be glad you did!

#### LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

Check the Community Calendar at [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org). Exciting programs are added regularly, check for new events each week!



### Tisha B'Av



#### Saturday Night August 10<sup>th</sup>

Services and reading of Eicha following the end of Shabbos

#### Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>

Morning Services 9 AM  
Special Talmud Class with Rabbi Slatus 2 PM

Chofetz Chaim  
Heritage Foundation  
video presentations throughout the day



5444 Abercorn Street ■ Savannah, Georgia 31405 ■ 912.354.7721 ■ bbjsynagogue@gmail.com ■ www.bbjsynagogue.com

### Sisterhood Opening Brunch

**Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> - 11 AM**

Please contact the shul office  
912-354-7721 or [bbjsynagogue@gmail.com](mailto:bbjsynagogue@gmail.com)  
to make reservations

#### The Sisterhood Gift shop will be open

Visit us  
for all your  
pre-holiday  
Judaica  
shopping needs



Daily and Shabbos Services  
Dynamic Youth Programming  
Social Events & Programming  
Kosher Catering and Take-Out  
Full-Service Judaica Store  
Ongoing Educational Initiatives

## CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL

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

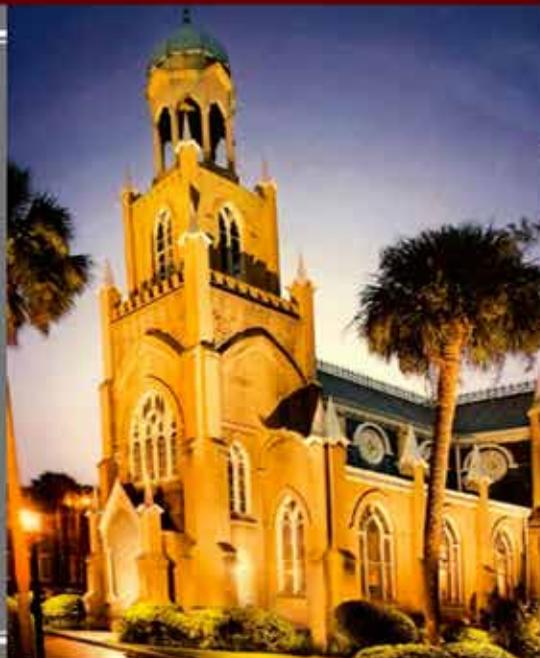
For a complete schedule of services & events, check our website at [www.mickveisrael.org](http://www.mickveisrael.org)

Congregation Mickve Israel's

*286<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Celebration!*

Night at the Museum  
Thursday, July 11, 6-9pm  
Cost: \$40 / person

Shabbat Morning Service  
Saturday, July 13th, 11am



MICKVE ISRAEL PRESENTS

## END OF SUMMER BLOCK PARTY



**AUGUST 25TH, 12PM**

Join us for food, games, puppets, face painting and so much more! RSVP to [info@mickveisrael.org](mailto:info@mickveisrael.org) or 912-233-1547

## Aronsons Create Fund

The Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah is proud to announce that Leon and Barbara Aronson have created the Leon & Barbara Aronson Jewish Family Services Fund, a fund whose corpus will be maintained in perpetuity and the annual interest shall be distributed "to the Savannah Jewish Federation for the express purpose of providing funds for fellow Jews in need who receive services and support from the Federation's Jewish Family



Leon and Barbara Aronson

Services."

Foundation Chair, Jeffrey Lasky stated, "In creating this fund, the Aronsons leave a legacy to the community which reflects how they lived their lives, supporting others in need. We are thrilled that the Aronsons created this fund which will provide for the most vulnerable and needy in our community." In addition to this newly created fund, the Aronsons previously created the Barbara Aronson Lion of Judah Fund to support the Annual Campaign as well as a third fund to support a number of Jewish and secular causes that are important to them.

## Reflections continued from page 1

mourned together in Poland, celebrated together in Israel and came back to Savannah to make a difference in our community.

Thank you to the March of the Living for presenting this NextGen opportunity.

Thank you to The Dena Yaschik Bodziner Memorial Fund of the Savannah Jewish Community Foundation and to the Bodziner family for the additional stipend that made it possible for so many of us.

Thank you to the Savannah Jewish Federation for the foresight and

coordination to put our delegation together. And, thank you for the continued support as we process our experience and figure out how we are going to bring it back to the Savannah community.

It will be a while before we can fully process the whole experience but we want to begin to share our experience with the community. We asked each of the participants to share a photo from the trip and a short reflection. Please turn to pages 8, 14, and 15 for their Reflections from March of the Living.

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## The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks our Contributors

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Contributions to the Savannah Jewish Federation may be made on our secure website at [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org) or by calling 912-355-8111.



SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION

**76th**  
**ANNUAL**  
**MEETING**

REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT EDWIN BYCK  
INSTALLATION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
PRESIDENT'S AWARDS  
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REMARKS FROM MARCH OF THE LIVING PARTICIPANTS  
DESSERT RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019  
7:00 PM  
JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

# Savannah's Congregation Mickve Israel: 286 Years of History, Tradition and Vitality

After five hard months at sea, the land looked beautiful. Having left London in February 1733 aboard the William and Sarah, forty-one weary but courageous Jews, mostly of Portuguese descent, arrived in Savannah on July 11, 1733, only six months after the founding of the Colony of Georgia by James Oglethorpe. They had come to America to pursue a new life of safety, opportunity, and religious freedom.

To escape the persecution and constant fear they experienced in Europe, these brave Jewish settlers had given up almost all their worldly possessions and left their families and friends behind. Besides their clothes and the very basic items they carried with them on the voyage, they also brought with them a beautiful 15th century Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible) written on deerskin. This priceless relic, documented

as having been in North America longer than any other Torah, and deemed to be the oldest complete Torah in North America, is now on display in Mickve Israel's award-winning Nancy and Lawrence Gutstein Museum in Savannah.

So how did the Jews become welcomed, respected members of the early Savannah community? By July 1733, an epidemic of what was possibly a water-borne disease like typhus or

dysentery had killed over 15% of the original Savannah settlers, including the colony's only physician. Fortunately, one of the new Jewish settlers was Dr. Samuel Nunes. Dr. Nunes is credited with bringing the epidemic under control, saving countless lives, and possibly saving the colony itself.

From the earliest days of Savannah, Jews were an integral part of the community. They could own land, get an education, own businesses, and, most importantly, worship as they wished. Initially, services were held in settlers' homes. However, in 1735, the congregation came together to form a synagogue, Kahal Kodesh Mickva Israel (Holy Congregation Hope of Israel), in an



existing Savannah building. The congregation occupied space in existing buildings until 1820 when a new synagogue was built. So, Congregation Mickve Israel not only has the distinction

of being the third oldest Jewish congregation in the United States, the 1820 building was the first synagogue ever built in Georgia.

To accommodate the growth of the congregation, over the years the congregation has occupied several different buildings. The current synagogue, erected in 1878 on scenic Monterey Square in the Savannah Historic District, is today the only completely Neo-Gothic building in

America that is still used as a synagogue.

Over the rich 286-year history of Congregation Mickve Israel, its members have played prominent roles in every aspect of daily life, including civil, charitable, social and interfaith projects; education; commerce, politics, and the military. Five interesting examples are:

- Mordecai Sheftall was the highest-ranking Jewish officer of the Revolutionary War forces;
- In response to a letter from Levi Sheftall congratulating him on his inauguration, President George Washington sent a personal letter of appreciation to the congregation. This letter, along with many other similar letters from U.S. Presidents, is on display in Mickve Israel's Museum;
- Dr. Nunes' descendant, Raphael Moses, who had peach orchards, developed the technology for shipping fruit to far-off markets and may be considered the "father of the peach industry" in Georgia, the "Peach State;"
- Leonora Amram, Mildred Guckenheimer, and Henrietta Falk were three of the four friends Juliette Gordon Low asked to be the first Girl Scout Troop Leaders. And Gottlieb's Bakery was chosen to make the Girl Scout Cookies when they began to be sold nationwide;
- Four-term mayor Herman Myers, Savannah's first Jewish mayor, is credited with overseeing the



building Savannah's beautiful City Hall, including the building's now-iconic gold dome. Hyman Witcover, also a member of Mickve Israel, was the building's architect.

There are many wonderful things about this historic, 286-year-old congregation. But one of the most wonderful is the way its history and traditions remain alive and blend seamlessly with the present-day congregation's vibrancy and vision for the future. There are now over 400 family and individual members, the most in the congregation's history. Each year, over 11,000 people tour the Synagogue and its award-winning Museum, which is currently rated the #4 attraction in Savannah on Trip Advisor. The "Shalom Y'All Jewish Food Festival," held annually on the last Sunday in October, is a citywide "happening" that attracts thousands of Savannah residents and visitors. And the congregation's rabbi, Rabbi Robert Haas, has been voted Savannah's favorite clergyman.

We hope you will come visit Congregation Mickve Israel during this, our 286th Anniversary year, and experience how spiritual, educational, historical, and social elements can all come together in a very special way.

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# Reflections FROM March of the Living



While in Poland, we visited a Jewish cemetery attached to a synagogue. It was clear to tell by the piles of headstone fragments that it had been vandalized during the Holocaust, but what struck me as beautiful and as a show of strength by the Jewish people was what was done after. The community that came back to the synagogue took the broken headstones and used them to build an outer wall that protects the cemetery. It was beautifully done in a way that honored the memory of the deceased that the stones represent. Upon closer inspection, I could see that people had written prayers and slipped them in between the cracks of the stones, reminiscent of what we do at the Kotel in Jerusalem. When we arrived in Israel and went to the Kotel, it was hard not to feel an even stronger sense of the Jewish spirit than I had ever felt there before. For centuries the Jewish people have gone to a wall that guards the memory of our ancestors to pray and wish for a future of peace, much as the Polish Jews had done at their cemetery.

- Orly Henkin

On our last day, Rabbi Guttman (our tour educator for the trip) took us on a short walk in a dense forest as our last stop. We walked into a clearing with large green fences draped in Israeli flags and remembrance candles all around the fence. Rabbi began to share with us what happened in these woods and asked those of us who are mothers to imagine walking into this forest with our children. I immediately thought of my energetic, spunky two-year-old, his tiny hand in mine, how desperately difficult it would have been to keep my grasp on his hand; and my eight and twelve-year-olds, and efforts to reassure them that that would be in vain. I returned home to my family, still unsure of how to fulfill my promise to remember. As I looked into the eyes of my three children, I saw that very same beacon of light that I found at the JCC in Krakow, the light that was radiating from our candles in the woods, and the light I saw all over Israel, burning brightly in their eyes. I realized how I could begin to fulfill my promise, My Children. Teach them how to live a life guided by Tikkun Olam, allow their lights to burn brightly, wherever a light burns brightly, there is no room for darkness.

- Shellie Jensen



This entire trip was eye opening in many respects. However, what stuck with me the most is the many people who attempted to rise up and come together against the Nazis even in the face of almost certain death. The Warsaw Ghetto uprising is a great example of this in action. The world may be a different place if it was not for the extremely brave individuals who organized the Warsaw Ghetto revolt. There are many other less popular stories of organized attacks, even ones that successfully destroyed a crematorium, and I truly believe that these brave souls and their efforts are the reason the Nazis were ultimately defeated.

- Darryl Lasky



It's a hard task to complete - find one picture to summarize your experience on March of the Living. However, it forced me to go through my pictures over and over again and discover a theme that I didn't realize was there. Light. In every picture there is sunlight. In every place I went and learned about the atrocities against our people, there was light. I feel it is a representation of the strength of the Jewish people. This picture is of a table where Nazi soldiers would remove items of value from the bodies of Jews they had just gassed and killed. It is horrific, it is infuriating, it is unfathomable. Then I see the sunlight pouring in from the windows. I see the lives, the souls and the humanity of those who were unjustly murdered. I see their light. I see their light living and breathing. Their light lives on through learning their story. Their light cannot be extinguished. It will continue to shine just as the sun rises every day. Even when faced with hatred, we will continue to live on.

- Morgan McGhie



They say a picture is worth a thousand words. On a trip like March of the Living, where the purpose is to show the world that the Jews are still here? A picture that shows a Jewish couple, resting on the grass of Birkenau, openly listening to a Rabbi, with no fear of punishment, and no fear of their ability to leave must be worth at least Six Million words.

- Adam Fins

# Reflections FROM March of the Living



This was one of the most moving photos of the trip for me. March of the Living participants standing at Majdanek Concentration Camp in Poland. These zigzag ditches were dug as the execution site of 18,000 Jews from that camp. Himmler was shaken by the Jewish resistance that had taken place in the Warsaw Ghetto, Treblinka and Sobibor Camps so he ordered the 'Harvest Festival' on November 3rd and 4th of 1943. Over 40,000 Jews in Eastern Poland died on those two days, 18,000 from Majdanek. Educating Jews from around the world about crimes against the Jewish people, the strength and resilience of the Jewish people and the continuation of the Jewish people is what made March of the Living so special to me.

- Robyn Carroll



This light shining through barbed wire is a shot from a memorial installation at the death camp Majdanek and represents the pieces of the trip that were most influential for me. Yes, the camps were horrific. Sure, it is hard to put into word the overwhelming crushing feeling one experiences when standing inside a gas chamber. No doubt, the haunting quiet of the mass graves in the forests was devastating. But what moved me the most was seeing Jewish life persist, or "shine through" today. Bringing home t-shirts from the Krakow JCC for our Jewish children is living demonstration of the maintenance of the Jewish life they were so bent on erasing. What I really wish I had a picture of - or better, a video - was a moment at Shabbat morning services at a synagogue in Warsaw. A survivor was called to the Torah for an aliyah, and as this 93 year old man slowly made his way up to the bimah, he was flanked by 6 teenage boys holding a talit over his head, to a 500 some strong thunderous chorus of Am Yisroel Chai. That right there summed it up for me - barbed wire or not (let's go with not) Am Yisroel Chai.

- Tova Tolman

On the first full day of our journey, our educator shared the following thought, "When you look at the Holocaust as a whole, it is too hard to comprehend. While we need to think about six-million, while you are here, try to think about individuals. When you look at this large pile of shoes, pick one out and think about who that person was." I then looked up at those shoes and saw one pair of tiny white shoes. They looked just like my son's first pair of shoes I just bought a year earlier. Who was that child that had shoes just like my son? What would he have grown up to be? What would his legacy have been? Learning about the Holocaust is all about the retelling of individual stories. It is not just his-story or her-story but a collection of memories that we must pass on. Now that we have been there to bare-witness, it is our duty and our responsibility to continue telling each of their stories.

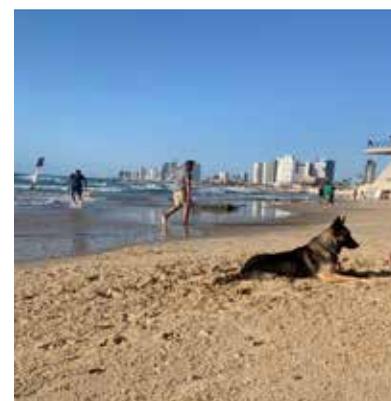
- Jamie Richman



March of the living was an indescribable emotional rollercoaster. People ask about my trip and I struggle to explain the weight and impact the trip had on me. Voluntarily walking into concentration camps, including gas chambers and crematoriums, I immediately felt the weight of the millions of other Jews who were forced to enter. I entered voluntarily, knowing that I would be free to leave, the vast majority of Jews entering during the Holocaust did not know if they would ever leave, most did not. This hit me hard knowing it could have been me, really there was no reason it could not have been me or any person who was discriminated against. The photo I chose is of me walking around the memorial cemetery at the Treblinka Extermination Camp. The memorial consists of thousands of stones of all shapes, sizes, and colors. Each represented cities, towns, Jewish communities that were obliterated during the Holocaust. In my head I started connecting the rocks to communities small and large, despite all being different, they had something in common. They were all persecuted, discriminated against, victims of anti-Semitism, and almost all Jewish. I began to see the map of the United States, and I could see Jewish Communities all over the country, including the Savannah Jewish Community. Surely one of those communities that these stones represent was similar size to the Savannah Jewish Community. It was sobering to imagine communities just disappearing from existence, and wiped off the map. This trip brought new meaning to the words "Never Forget." We must never forget what happened, and fight anti-

Semitism in all forms to ensure no human being ever forgets what happened so history does not repeat itself.

- Steven Richman



I want to thank all of those who made this trip the indescribable experience that it was. I have been lucky enough to travel a lot in my lifetime, and I lived in Israel for a year, but this trip brought me closer to my friends, family, community, and myself. I took thousands of pictures, and this one spoke to me, probably because of the adorable dog, the beach, the city, and the people of Israel.

- Lauren Fins

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