



Candle Lighting Times

Tuesday, June 3	8:08pm
Wednesday, June 4	9:10pm
Friday, June 6	8:10pm
Friday, June 13	8:13pm
Friday, June 20	8:15pm
Friday, June 27	8:17pm
Friday, July 4	8:17pm
Friday, July 11	8:15pm

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Kulbersh – Dedicated Volunteer – to Receive Levy Leadership Award



Paul Kulbersh

The Jack Malitz Levy Leadership Award is the highest honor given by the Savannah Jewish Federation; it recognizes the finest leadership qualities in an individual such that it has been awarded only five times since being established in 1988 — until this year. Dr. Paul Kulbersh will receive the award at a gala dinner on Sunday, August 24, 2014, to be held at the JEA.

There are few positions of leadership in the Jewish community that Paul Kulbersh has not held since moving to Savannah in 1976. He served as President of the Savannah Jewish Federation (SJF) from 1997-1999, as President of the JEA from 2003-2005 and again from 2011-2012, was President of the old Harmony Club and has been a Board member and Treasurer of Congregation Agudath Achim. Kulbersh has chaired the Federation's Annual Campaign, the JEA's former Kids Day and Savannah's AIPAC and Israel Bonds efforts.

Kulbersh also chaired the SJF's Community Relations Council (CRC) for a number of years. In addition, he was trained by United Jewish Appeal to represent the Southeast region as a spokesperson "presenting the case for Israel" at local allocation meetings around the country. He also served as a 'Small Cities' Federation representative to the former Overseas Needs As-

essment and Distribution (ONAD) committee.

Kulbersh recalled that while working with Israel Bonds, he was part of a new program that involved local banks making loans that began in increments of \$100,000 and would be guaranteed by local investors. "Israel had *never* defaulted on a note, but the hardest part was getting the banks to participate," he said.

Talking about chairing the CRC, Kulbersh said: "We went to lots of churches and civic groups to make presentations, particularly about geography, educating them about Israel's borders and what the situation there was really like. But one of our biggest success stories of that time was taking a group of local media, including Bill Edwards and the late Mike Manhattan, on a mission to Israel. Edwards would broadcast live everyday from there. It was great."

Paul grew up in the very small town of Tifton, Georgia, where, Kulbersh explained, they had a synagogue, but no regular Shabbat services because Friday nights were devoted to football (the Friday Night Lights culture) and Saturdays were when the farmers came to town to shop with the Jewish merchants. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs were the exceptions. There was Sunday school and, of course, the High Holidays, when businesses closed, even taking ads in the local newspapers to announce they would be closed. "I definitely had a Jewish identity," Kulbersh said, "but my world was non-Jewish."

So how does a young dentist, fresh from school and a childhood 'in the

country' become so committed to his Jewish community and Zionism?

"I came to Savannah and for me, this was a large Jewish community. A local Jewish dentist took me to lunch and we were having a nice time and then he says to me: 'I'm going to tell you what's going to happen. A couple of guys in town who don't know much about you, about your background, are going to invite you to lunch and want to find out.'"

"I was so naïve, but sure enough, a couple of weeks later, I get a call from these two other dentists asking me to lunch. I met them and I still remember every detail. After a few minutes of small talk, one of them says to me: 'Kulbersh, that's an unusual name. Is that a Jewish name?' You can't make this up.

"What I learned from that is if it was important for them to know if I was Jewish, then it was going to be important for *me* to know that I was Jewish and I would not be intimidated by anyone because I was Jewish. I came to the JEA. I'd never experienced anything like this — a building with Jewish activities and a health club with Charlie Grossman, and doctors, lawyers, merchants. It was important to me. And Israel is the place where all Jews can be safe, have a homeland. It's a source of pride for me."

Kulbersh's civic activities extend beyond the Jewish community. He has chaired the United Way's Dental Division, has been a mentor in the Chatham-Savannah Citizen Advocacy program and currently is a domestic mediator and member of the Execu-

continued on page 4



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Many People Choosing Jewish Way of Life

by Lynn Levine

Having served as a rabbi for large congregations in big cities, Rabbi Robert Haas of Congregation Mickve Israel was accustomed to doing a lot of conversions, “but this was a surprising number for me in the first year here” he said of the 15 or 16 people who have been going through the process with him just since November of last year. Of this group, he said most have been “living Jewishly for a while,” attending services and observing holidays.

Rabbi Haas says this group is young, mostly in their 20s and 30s. He says it is often the case that when it comes to religious life, people think about many things for many years before turning to Judaism. Then “they study a little here and there, go to services here and there, and finally get up the courage to go to someone and discuss it. They never really had a connection to a rabbi before.” Only two in this current group are part of interfaith families.

Though it may include some group study, the process of conversion is individualized and can take anywhere from about nine months to two years, depending on whether the person had done any previous studying, had been living Jewishly and other factors. Rabbi Haas uses a class and private sessions with those going through conversion.

Rabbi Avigdor Slatius of Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob says that in the Orthodox groups the number of people looking for a “quick version” to convert to marry someone Jewish has diminished greatly, “however, there is an increase of people who are seeking conversion because they are sincerely interested in Jewish practice and a Jewish way of life.” He mostly uses a one-on-one approach when working with people who are converting, though he does encourage them to at-

tend the regular classes he teaches at the synagogue.

At Congregation Agudath Achim, Rabbi Ruven Barkan says the first week he came here there were “quite a number of people who’d been in the process of conversion [who] came to me and we established a weekly conversion class that still meets to this day.” Some have completed their conversions, some still are in the class and others have since joined. The class focuses on introduction to Judaism, basic practices and learning to read Hebrew. As students become more knowledgeable, they meet individually with Rabbi Barkan to focus on personal practice and their requirement to take on the mitzvot. He says, “I don’t require them to be in a place of complete perfection with the mitzvot but at the same time it can’t be where they choose this, this and this. It’s creating a plan of taking on the mitzvot that will be appropriate for their journey.”

Why can’t someone just walk into a synagogue, learn the prayers and call themselves a Jew as they might do with other faiths at many churches? Why is it necessary to convert?

As Jews we consider our faith not so much a religion but a covenant

with G-d; a covenant that once made can never be broken. Rabbi Slatius agrees and says: “Being Jewish is by definition a select group. According to our ancestry you are Jewish if your mother was Jewish. How does one become Jewish if your mother wasn’t Jewish? The Torah provides a vehicle by which a person can convert and that is by accepting upon themselves the mitzvahs of the Torah, but you can’t accept them if you don’t know about them so you have to study. If it’s something they feel is going to be very meaningful and important in their life and they want to commit themselves, then a person can indeed accomplish a conversion.”

Rabbi Slatius goes on to say, “A person must spend the proper amount of time studying and learning about our mitzvahs, how we observe them, what are our customs, our traditions, our values, our theology, the philosophy and ideology of Judaism – this isn’t something that can happen over a short period of time. It can take a couple of years, depending on how much time is invested. That is the most important element – gaining the knowledge and the commitment.”

Rabbi Haas explains that with conversion, “we are bringing them into

the fold of the covenant. We want to make sure it works for them as well, that this is where they want to be, where they want to raise their families. But we don’t want to make it too difficult. Throughout the process we’re very supportive and want to make sure they know how welcome they are.”

Both Rabbi Barkan and Rabbi Slatius have had occasion to counsel people not to complete a conversion. Rabbi Barkan was concerned that a person converting should be fully ready to be part of the community they were joining and ready to accept and take on the mitzvot. Rabbi Slatius counseled someone whose heart didn’t seem to be in it. “It might seem like the right thing to do now, but they might regret it. So I said there’s no pressure, why don’t you wait and let’s see. It has to be something you really want and for the right reasons.”

A number of rituals and traditions are adhered to before a conversion is complete, including an appearance before a *beit din* (a Rabbinic Court), a ritual bath in the *mikvah* for both men and women, and circumcision for men (or the ceremonial *hatafat dam brit* for those already circumcised). Rabbi Slatius says it is advisable to learn to read Hebrew to feel more comfortable at services, but it is something that can be done after conversion.

Letters to the Editor

Savannah Jewish Federation/
Jewish Educational Alliance

Dear Friends:

There are inadequate words to thank you appropriately for the support the Savannah Jewish Federation and the JEA gave to Reed House yesterday. We appreciate the wonderful coverage of the Esther Reed Celebration in the *Savannah Jewish News* and Vicky Lunick’s help with the arrangements. The JEA was extremely generous to let us use the beautiful auditorium. Everything was just perfect. I think the entire Reed family showed up and everyone was gratified to see Esther’s Lifetime of Service celebrated.

People started arriving early and the room was packed by 3:15. Two of our members gave very moving talks about how much their lives had im-

proved because of their participation in Reed House. The program took about a half hour, but people stayed to enjoy the company, food and music and were still coming in close to 5:00 as things were winding down. Our best estimate is that there were about 200 people in attendance.

We need to make Reed House a “household name” so that people who will benefit from our services know we are here, ready to serve them. You have been a tremendous help to us in that respect.

With sincere appreciation,

Jane Nangle
President of the Board
Reed House

Celebrating a simcha?

(Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, engagements,
weddings, births.)



We want to know!

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Savannah Jewish News

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SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

The objectives of the Savannah Jewish News are to foster a sense of community among the Jewish people of Savannah by sharing ideas, information, experiences and opinions, and to promote the agencies, projects and mission of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

The Savannah Jewish News is published monthly ten times per year, with a deadline for submissions of the 3rd of the month before publication. There are no February or August issues. All articles for the Winter and Summer issues should be submitted by December 8th or June 8th, respectively.

All submissions must be in MS Word format (articles) or pdf format with fonts embedded (advertisements). All color must be in the CMYK color format; all type in true black; photos in .jpg format.

Please send all SJN materials to:
sjnews@savj.org

Please send eNews submissions to:
adam@savj.org

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Allan Ratner
Vice President
Savannah Jewish
Federation

No Man is an Island

Savannah Jewish Federation Vice President Allan Ratner is the guest columnist this month. SJF President Steve Greenberg will from time-to-time ask other board mem-

bers for their perspectives on communal life. I was having a conversation with Adam Solender and he said I was the epitome of the 'American Dream.'

Since I have never known anything but the USA, I had to think about what he was saying. I realized I am a first generation American. My father and his mother came from Russia in 1907 to escape the pogroms. My mother came from Austria/Hungary/Poland (depending on who won the last war). My father's first job he earned \$1.00 per week.

What is so amazing is how he came to America. He was the youngest of seven children. The oldest children would come over, work, save, and send back enough money for the next ones to come. My father being the youngest, one sister and his mother were the last to come in 1907.

All of my ancestors worked very hard so the next ones could come to this land of opportunity. I have always taken for granted this life I have. My conversation with Adam made me think about those that worked and risked everything to give me this wonderful life.

So it is with admiration and appreciation for all that my parents and their brothers and sisters did to build a life for our family here in America, that I strive to give something back. Arlene was born in Savannah, and I have lived here for more than 50 years. We are blessed to have been able to raise our children in Savannah where we are part of a warm and friendly community that knows the

importance of Jewish life and caring for each other.

I have been involved with the JEA, the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Annual Campaign for many years because I know how important these organizations are to helping secure the future of people, who like my parents and grandparents, may need some friendly assistance in a new place. And to the future of people who weren't as lucky as my relatives, like the Jews of Ukraine today, who depend on us in their time of need. And to the future of our children, who are counting on us to maintain their religious schools and Jewish camps and to advocate for Israel and against anti-Semitism.

The story of the hard work of my parents' families taught me that we cannot rely on others to do things for us. They worked until every one of them had come to America. They kept working for a better life. I try to do the same for my family and my community.

We are all products of those that came before us. None of us is 'an island unto ourselves.' How different would my life have been if my family had not risked everything for an uncertain future? I don't know, but I need to remember to thank them every day.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

We Can Talk it Out

Throughout history, all things worthwhile and enduring have begun with a conversation, was a line from a memo I recently received from national Federation leadership.

We read in the Mishnah that the world came into being with the utterance of G-d's words.

Abraham's journey to monotheism began with a dialogue with the people that it is only fitting to serve one G-d... from city to city, kingdom to kingdom, each according to their understanding.

Throughout history, all things worthwhile and enduring have begun with a conversation.

It is so easy for each of us to have a vision of the world and surround ourselves with only like-thinking people. There is no argument, no challenge to the status quo, no consideration of opinions and practice that is different from our own. There are those people who will only watch Fox TV, while others watch only MSNBC; those who read *The New York Times* and others the *Wall Street Journal*; those who will vote only Republican while others vote Democratic only; those who staunchly believe in a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian problem

with others believing the exact opposite.

Far be it from me to think that any of these differences in opinion are resolvable... that's not the point. We have the opportunity, make that, responsibility to share and learn. After all, we are the people of the Book.

Sometimes change comes from understanding each other's different respective positions and how they can effect positive change. But that change only comes from working and talking together.

We see how discussion and change has begun to work in Israel. For some, changes are seen as a horrible move away from tradition, and for others, changes don't go far enough, fast enough.

Recently, Israel Chief Rabbi Lau appointed women as Kashrut inspectors, something that had never happened before. We see how accommodations have been made for mixed groups at the Wall. There are discussions about the power of the Israeli Rabbinate vis a vis its relationship with Diaspora rabbinate.

Change comes from having a conversation.

As I was reminded a couple of months ago at the Jewish Council for Public Affairs National Plenum, discourse and disagreement always have been part of the way we as Jews do things; the tension helps us make the best decision. But to resolve the tension we must have the conversation.

We have so many questions and not a lot of answers. And the answers that we have often don't agree with each other. Nevertheless we all must continue in our goal of bridging gaps.

There are too many issues confronting our Jewish community, too many issues confronting our people and as Richard Nixon once observed, "We can't listen to each other until we stop shouting at each other."

Mazel Tov from The Officers & Board of Governors of the Savannah Jewish Federation to Rambam Day School's 2014 Graduates:

Ben Cohen
Gabriel Damelin
Shlomo Yosef Garfunkel

Shani Locker
Uri Locker
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Levy Award.....from pg 1

ative Board for the Mediation Center of Savannah.

Kulbersh attended the University of Georgia from 1968-1971 and left before graduating to attend dental school at the Medical College of Georgia, where he completed the four-year program in three years. He did a periodontal residency at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry in Baltimore from 1974-1976. He practiced as a periodontist in Savannah and Hilton Head from 1976-1997. He is an Honorable Fellow of the Georgia Dental Association and a Fellow of the International College of Dentists. Kulbersh was a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Dental Hygiene program at Armstrong Atlantic State University from

1977-2005 and has been Assistant Clinical Professor in the Medical University of South Carolina's Periodontal Residency program from 1996 to the present.

Paul is married to the former Harriet Shayne. They have two children and three grandchildren.

The August 24th dinner in Paul Kulbersh's honor will be chaired by Merry and Richard Bodziner. The festivities begin with cocktails at 6:30pm, followed by dinner at 7pm. After the meal, to be catered by Murray Gottlieb, the Bodziners and their host committee of 23 other couples have planned an evening of fun to honor Paul. The cost is \$100 per person.

Looking for something to do?



Check the Community Calendar

www.savj.org

Please Note

The next issue of the *Savannah Jewish News* will be our combined July/August issue, scheduled for home delivery in mid-July.

The deadline for submissions is June 15, 2014.

All submissions should be sent to sjnews@savj.org.

Drum & Guitar Lessons

Experienced musician Ira Miller in Savannah is accepting new students starting June 10th!



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Ira's approach is more than just playing the instrument. It's about connecting with music through various exercises and methods such as listening to samples of various styles or learning rhythms by

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JOH 003, ORAL HISTORIES

ALBERT ULLMAN

Interview: July 1997

"To me, being a country boy, it was a joy to be able to come to the big city of Savannah and get on the streetcar for a nickel and ride even as far out as Victory Drive, you know. That was a wonderful feeling. . . . There was a Bona Bella route, which left Broughton Street and it must have taken hours and it meandered its way down Habersham Street, around where Leopold Brothers, let's see, it was Gwinnett, it turned at Gwinnett. And in those days Leopold Brothers had this sort of, down where all the kids used to gather. That was another place on Sunday where it was a wonderful place for Jewish kids to go have an ice cream.

But the streetcar meandered down Gwinnett Street at some point and then took off towards Waters Avenue, and it wound up all the way out to Isle of Hope. When you got out there, you had had a journey. . . . The Barbee family had a pavilion out there and they raised terrapins, small species of turtle. They shipped those terrapins all over the world. And that also was a wonderful place on Sunday afternoon or, in fact, even, there were dances there sometimes on Saturday night. Of course, the Jewish kids would go as a group, but it wasn't just the Jewish kids having the dance."

The archives holds an excellent collection of oral histories. Each month we will showcase an excerpt from one. Other excerpts appear in our publication, *Voices of Savannah*.

Questions, comments?
Please contact archivist, Katharine Rapkin at 912-651-2125 or at rapkin@georgiahistory.com

Four Questions for the rest of the year

With the arrival of summer, we thought we'd check in with **Roger Freedman**, owner and operator of ZipLine Hilton Head, Aerial Adventure Hilton Head, Broad Creek Marina and more. Roger, originally from Hartford, Connecticut, together with his brother invested in a bankrupt marina on Hilton Head Island in 1993. Since then, Roger, formerly the CFO for a large, private real estate conglomerate that also operated Fox TV affiliates in the U.S. and cable TV systems in Poland, moved to Hilton Head about three years ago with his wife, Pamela, to manage the business. (His brother previously had to leave the business for health reasons, but is doing well now.)

What began as just a marina now is a growing recreational complex with multiple attractions and the Up the Creek pub and grille. Pamela oversees the advertising and public relations for the business. They still offer traditional marina services with a repair facility and wet and dry storage. Roger says they love the Hilton Head/Savannah community; he already has served on the Board at Congregation Mickve Israel. As for their business, Roger says: "People come to our place and they have a good time and we take great pleasure out of that. We work very hard to make sure that they

do." It must be paying off; their user reviews on Trip Advisor and Yelp are outstanding.

Roger and Pamela have been married for 15 years; he has two grown children from a previous marriage.

Zip lines are all the craze now. Tell us about yours – can anyone enjoy it? How did you come to be in the zip line business?

Anyone can enjoy it, but they have to be 10 years or older and more than 80 pounds. You don't need to be an athlete but there are some restrictions – you can't be pregnant or have a harmful medical condition. We've had someone as old as 93 do it. It's a two-hour guided tour with usually eight people in each tour with two guides. The guides are trained in the ecology of the area so it combines a really fun, beautiful ride in the trees with a thrilling time and spectacular views, some overlooking the water. Occasionally you see dolphins. Three of the towers are 75 feet tall. Most zip lines are built on mountains and use the terrain to get the height; we were one of the initial ones built on flat country.

I joke and say desperation got me into this business. I had land next to the next marina and in 2008 I didn't think I would see any profit from the sale of it in my lifetime – I needed to

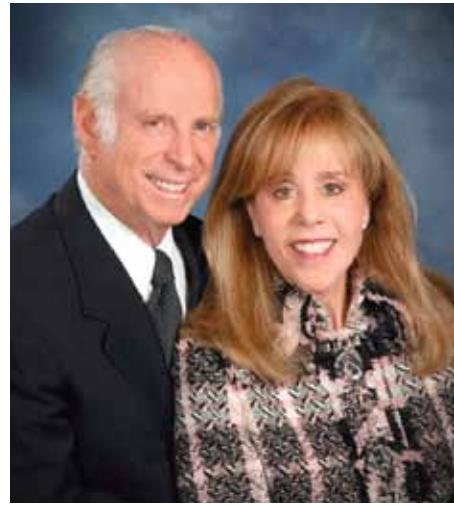
do something to make the property productive. Somebody I knew from the time share industry asked me if I knew what a zip line was and I said no but when I started looking into it I thought it would be a great activity for Hilton Head. I was looking for something other than real estate when that market was so bad. The rezoning turned out to be quite a challenge. We opened the zip line in April 2012. It's turned into a great, great business.

And what about the aerial adventure? When you say it's for ages 5 plus, do you mean that?

It's a challenge adventure. You're harnessed and helmeted like on the zip line. Then you get put on a course, but we have different levels starting with a green course which is the easiest course. Each course has 8 – 10 challenges with Low Country themes like sand dollar and fish walls. A five year old can do the course (accompanied by an adult). Athletes and soldiers have a ball doing the black course. This attraction is very exciting for us because it brings in the whole family – the five- to nine-year olds can join in on this one. It's also a great activity for birthday parties and company outings. It's great for team morale building and we expect to have a lot of interest in that.

Do your Jewish values influence the way you've built and managed this business?

I think my family values that are



Roger & Pamela Freedman

incorporated in my Jewish values do. They are values that my parents taught me. Being Jewish was always part of it. I grew up in a Conservative home and was Bar Mitzvah'd and confirmed and my whole life I've been committed and involved in Jewish life. I was Israel Bonds chairman in Hartford, on the Board of the Federation all the years I lived in Hartford – I think it's just played an integral part of my life.

Do you have any plans for something new?

We just added a rock climbing wall and a bungee air jumper – those are small attractions. I do have something else in mind, but I'm not talking about it yet.

For complete details about all of the attractions located at Broad Creek Marina, as well as information on age and physical requirements, visit their website at www.ziplinehiltonhead.com.

Book Review

Rebel Kvell

by Rabbi Saul Jacob Rubin

The Savannah Jewish community is unique on many levels. Our history attracts not only visitors by the thousands, but notable novelists and authors as well. In the 1970s, Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Kluger published *Members of the Tribe*, which received a sterling review in *The New York Times*. Kluger acknowledged the novel resulted from a visit to Temple Mickve Israel. Now comes a second significant work, *The Rebel of Savannah*. The primary author, Hawal Tawil, declares his inspiration was the result of a visit to the Temple Museum.

To cut to the chase, *The Rebel of Savannah* is worth your time and investment. Being a work of fiction it takes some liberties with the facts (example: Captain Hanson — whose vessel, The William and Sarah, was hired to transport the first Jews to Savannah — assumes a new identity after landing, stays in the area, and stirs up trouble). Tawil and company (the book is co-authored with Chananva Weissman

and Mazal Mizrahi) rely heavily on the existing historical books about Savannah Jews for the most salient facts.

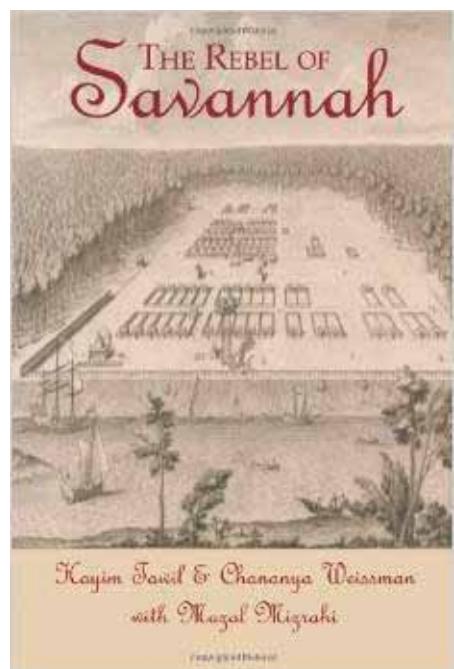
However the authors' gift is the ability to flesh out the characters and make them fully human. One identifies with the central figures' struggles, their triumphs, their pain and their joy. The writers' ability to transform dry historical figures into three-dimensional people who one can easily picture on the big screen of the mind is a real art. After reading *The Rebel*, Benjamin Sheftall, Mordecai Sheftall, Abigail Minis, Sheftall Sheftall, Levi Sheftall, Frances Hart, et al. are alive and real. Like relatives you wish you had. Heroes and heroines all!

Reading about the Jewish participation in the American Revolution and the roles of Mordecai and Sheftall Sheftall stirred my soul. Mordecai was not only the chosen leader of the Liberty Boys, the Committee of Safety and the Parochial Council, but the sworn patriot willing to surrender life and fortune for American Independence. Severe suffering ensued for him and his family. But his conviction, born of Jewish teaching and commitment, allowed for no other response.

On the battlefield and in the dungeon he experienced what should never unfold in human interaction. In the end, he could hold his head high, knowing that he behaved as a brave and honorable Jew. He advanced freedom and independence for Georgia and America. How proud all of us should feel to be the compatriots of this supreme Revolutionary hero!

There are flaws in this book. The spelling errors are numerous and gross. The editing was inadequate. Nicknames for children are simply made up ('SHEFTY' for Sheftall Sheftall and "MORDY" for Mordecai). Hannah Minis's crush on Mordecai and rejection of Levi, his half-brother, are not confirmed in any known source. I believe the emphasis on traditional Jewish practices by the early Ashkenazi settlers is somewhat of an exaggeration. Glitzy chapter titles diminish the seriousness of the endeavor (i.e., Chapter 1 Gails and Sails; Chapter 2 Roaches and Encroachments; Chapter 11 Belles and Bells).

Yet in my opinion *The Rebel of Savannah* remains a superior effort by a remarkably talented trio and rightfully deserves a place on the bookshelf of



every Savannah Jew.

Rabbi Saul Jacob Rubin is the former spiritual leader at Congregation Mickve Israel and the author of Third to None: The Saga of Savannah Jewry, 1733-1983.

The Rebel of Savannah
Kodesh Press | 496pp | \$25.95

Mazel Tov to the 2014 High School and College Graduates

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Isaac Julian Freedman
Benedictine Military School

The son of Elissa and Louis Freedman, Isaac spent four years in Junior ROTC, achieving the rank of Captain. At various times during high school he was a member of the Spanish Club, the tennis team, the football team, the track & field team and also served as football manager from spring of his junior year through his senior year. Isaac was a BBYO AIT Dad, President of Junior NCSY, President of the Jewish Student Union at BC and earned a Math ACT Top Quintile Award. He plans to attend Kennesaw State University to study business. Isaac attended Rambam Day School from preschool through eighth grade.



Alexa Ronni Levine
Savannah Country Day School

The daughter of Ragan Andres and Jack Levine, Alexa is an Honor Roll student who has been very involved in volunteer activities including the Relay for Life, America's Second Harvest, the Humane Society, and doing backstage/tech work for high school theater productions. She also is a teen mentor at Park Place Outreach Youth Emergency Shelter. Alexa will be attending Mercer University where she plans to be a business major. She attended Shalom School from kindergarten through eighth grade.



Marissa Sarah Levine
Savannah Arts Academy

The daughter of Lynne and Mark Levine, Marissa, a SAA communications major, played junior and varsity volleyball, was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America Honor Society, Vice President of the SAA Jewish Student Union, and Treasurer of BBG. She will attend Kennesaw State University and major in business with a specialization in music management. Marissa attended Rambam Day School from preschool through eighth grade.



Sophie Gabriella Lichtman
Savannah Arts Academy

The daughter of Stephanie and Michael Lichtman, Sophie, a SAA theater major, was a member of the National Honor Society, Secretary of the Thespian Society, President of the Jewish Student Union at SAA and received the SAA Junk 2 Funk Model Scholarship. She also participated in Odyssey of the Mind, worked on the school yearbook, volunteered at Memorial's Children's Hospital, was a docent at Davenport House and was a contributing writer to the Savannah Jewish News. Sophie plans to attend the University of Georgia where she is interested in pursuing journalism, English or advertising/public relations. She attended Rambam Day School from kindergarten through eighth grade.



Nina Israel Luskey
Savannah Country Day School

The daughter of Debby and Barry Luskey, Nina played varsity tennis from 9th - 12th grades and was active in the Teens H.O.P.E. and Color My World projects. She also was President of the Student Council, head of the Lower School Tutoring program and Yearbook editor. Nina was a member of the National Honor Society, Cum Laude Society and received a University of Georgia Certificate of Merit. She also was a member of BBYO and has gone to Camp Judaea every year from second grade to the present. Nina will be attending Vanderbilt University where she hopes to be on a pre-med track. She attended Akiba Academy in Dallas, TX, Rambam Day School and then Shalom School from third through eighth grades.



Natalie Beth Ourhaan
Savannah Country Day School

The daughter of Michelle and Tracy Ourhaan, Natalie played varsity volleyball from 9th - 12th grades and was captain her senior year. She received the headmaster's award along with MVP (area and school) junior year, and made the first team all area and state twice. She also played varsity tennis in 11th and 12th grades. She co-founded Club River Street Sweets,

a non-profit volleyball club with four teams. In 9th grade Natalie was USY treasurer while living in Los Angeles. After moving to Savannah, she became active in BBYO where she was Vice President of her BBG chapter for two years and Treasurer and Vice President of Dixie Council. Natalie will be attending Brandeis University. She began attending religious school at the age of 3 at Beth El Congregation of Phoenix, AZ; then went to Temple Beth El in Aliso Viejo, CA; and completed her education at Temple Etz Chaim in Thousand Oaks, CA, from 4th grade through confirmation.



Mandy Kerry Salmon
Savannah Arts Academy

The daughter of Nadine and Richard Salmon, Mandy was a music (piano) major at SAA and the 2014 Valedictorian. She was the cross country team captain and 2012 MVP, placed on the first team for the region and won the 2012 Best of Preps award; she swam for SAA and GCAT and was a lifeguard and swim instructor for Mayfair Community pool. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Society, Tri M Music Honor Society, BBYO, the SAA Jewish Student Union and a Savannah Science Seminar Participant. Mandy was founder and President of the SAA Tutor Club, President of the Beta Club, Historian for the National English Honors Society; was published twice in the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans; and was named a 2014 Georgia Scholar. She will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology where she plans to study biomedical engineering and pursue a career in engineering or medicine. Mandy attended Rambam Day School from pre-school through eighth grade.

COLLEGE GRADUATES



Haley Michelle Cohen
Georgia College and State University

The daughter of Donna and Ron Cohen, Haley graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Nursing. She was President of the Professional Practice Council and was a member of Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society, the National Honor Collegiate Society, the Georgia College Association of Nursing Students and Phi Mu

sorority. She was voted "most philanthropic." Haley plans to work as a R.N. in an emergency room or in pediatrics. She attended Shalom School and Hebrew school through eighth grade.



Megan Whitney Gale
Northeastern University

The daughter of Cookie and Barry Gale, Megan graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Nursing. She plans to remain in Boston and work as a nurse in a hospital setting.



Brett Daniel Levine
Armstrong Atlantic State University

The son of Lynne and Mark Levine, Brett graduated with a B.A. in Theater. He was a member of the AASU Masquers. He plans to obtain a theater apprenticeship and then pursue a career in acting. Brett attended Rambam Day School from preschool through eighth grade.



Ryan Alex Salmon
Georgia Institute of Technology

The son of Nadine and Richard Salmon, Ryan graduated with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He was a four-year member of the Varsity Swimming & Diving Team, winning the J. Herb McCauley Award for most improved athlete and the S. Kendrick Scholarship Award. He represented Georgia Tech at NCAA swimming competitions, qualified for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials in the 100-meter breast stroke and was a member of the 2013 USA Maccabi Swim Team. Ryan was a member of Pi Tau Sigma Mechanical Engineering Honors Society and the National Collegiate Society of Scholars. Ryan will be pursuing a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at Georgia Tech beginning this fall. He attended Rambam Day School from kindergarten through eighth grade.



Ryan Wade Sandler
Harvard University

The son of Helese and Dan Sandler, Ryan graduated with an A.B. in Computer Science with a Secondary in Math-

emational Sciences. While at Harvard, Ryan was active in The Owl Club, Harvard College Consulting Group, Harvard Investment Association, Plympton Street Capital, Harvard Fishing Club and Adams House Committee, of which he also was the social chair. Ryan also served on the Harvard Tutor Selection Committee and co-founded DareDvl, a crowd-funding startup. He is joining LinkedIn in Mountain View, CA, as an associate product manager. Ryan attended Rambam Day School through the eighth grade.

The graduates listed here are those whose parents submitted information in time for publication. The Savannah Jewish News and the Savannah Jewish Federation extend a hearty Mazel Tov to everyone in and from the community graduating this year, and to your families. We wish all of you the very best in your future endeavors!



Bonnie Strongin

"Ah, music," he said, wiping his eyes. "A magic beyond all we do here."

—J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

Whether it is a tsunami of sound or the echo of a solitary note, music wields a power over us all. It transcends; it uplifts; it consoles; it makes us remember; it helps us forget; it transforms. It creates monuments of emotion, yet has the power to infuse calm.

It can nationalize a country, yet resonate sympathy within the enemy.

It knows no boundaries, has no skin color, does not age.

It is humankind.

Foremost...

Released in 2002, Roman Polanski directed the award-winning Holocaust film, *The Pianist*, based upon the memoirs of Vladyslaw Szpilman (Adrien Brody), a classical pianist well established on Warsaw radio. Szpilman and his family were well-to-do Jews who trusted that what they encountered as indignities would never avalanche into atrocities. A privileged man, he received public acclaim until the bombing of his radio station literally blew him off his piano bench. Eyewitness to death, he watched helplessly as his family was herded onto trains en route to the death camps.

Szpilman endures by chance, through the unreliable kindness of others, and his tenacious will to survive. From an elegant, young artist, he becomes a feral animal whose only purpose in life is to find food, hide from predators and live.

The film's universal premise makes

a statement about us all. Our strongest instinct is to survive.

The tale speaks directly to the power and magic of music.

Perhaps the most poignant moment of the film is when Szpilman finds himself trapped; hiding in an apartment—tenants long gone—wherein rests a piano.

He poises his fingers above the keys; dares not make a sound, and silently plays an invisible composition.

For that fragile moment—music suspended in the air—he is restored. He remembers. He is whole. He is music.

Toward the climax, he resembles little that is human. He is gaunt and bent over; he shuffles, he can barely speak, his fingers are stiff and cracked. Nearing the war's end, he hides in the shell of a once elegant home almost destroyed by the Allied bombing of Warsaw, a house that contains a concert grand piano.

A music-loving Nazi, Captain Wilm Hosenfeld (Thomas Kretschmann), discovers him and forces the Jewish pianist to prove his talent. He plays. It is Chopin's Ballade in G Minor. Beauty resplendent among the ruins. The notes unite the pair in their common love of music. Tenuous at first, the strains swell as Szpilman regains confidence and control of the keys. It is the turning point, the climax, and the German decides to save the musician from discovery.

It is music that saves Szpilman, physically and spiritually. It is music that redeems Hosenfeld. It is music that unites our pianist with the enemy in a symbiotic plea for survival.

And another...

In the 1994 release of *The Shawshank Redemption*, there are themes of hope, freedom, and redemption. Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) finds himself unjustly serving double sen-

tences for the murders of his wife and her lover.

One day in the warden's office he discovers an album of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Locking himself in the office, he plays a soaring operatic duet and turns on the speakers in the prison yard which daily teems with violence.

The men are spell-bound, held captive by its beauty, the marriage of music and voice. They freeze and gaze toward the overhead speakers, symbolically heavenward. And for that moment, that one moment, they remember. Their humanity is restored. It is music.

When Andy later is thrown into solitary, he reappears after two weeks, and the men ask him if it was tough.

It was the easiest time he'd ever had, he says. Silence from the men. How can this be?

He points to his heart and says but it (the music) was in here, and (he points to his head) in here. No one can take that away. Ever.

He "Who hears music, feels his solitude

Peopled at once." — Robert Browning

And yet again...

2004 saw the release of the award-winning French film *The Chorus* (*Les Choristes*) with English subtitles. Set in 1949 post World War II France at a school for troubled boys, we see the power of music to transform.

A flashback into the troubled childhood of renowned conductor Pierre Morhange (Jacques Perin) is spurred by the death of a kindly mentor—I am reminded of *Cinema Paradiso*, which also used music to inspire a protégé. All the boys are ruthlessly punished by the cruel headmaster until the new music teacher Mathieu (Gerard Jugnot) arrives.

Save the Date for the
2014
Levy Memorial Concert
Sunday, September 7th



Watch in the *Savannah Jewish News*, the SJF eNews and your mail for more exciting details to come!

Sponsored by the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Fund



SAVANNAH'S
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Adrien Brody in *The Pianist*

He disciplines through kindness; he unites through the power of music and forms, from what is at first a babble of raw sound, a heavenly blend of a boy's choir, dubbed for the film by the renowned Les Petits Chanteurs de Saint-Marc. The children become passionate about their music which affords "an escape for them." They form a brotherhood of voice.

Pierre is discovered to have a wonderful singing voice and is given the reward of solos. His outbursts are fewer, his troubles subdued. He is fused into the desire to sing and create.

"He took his pain and turned it into something beautiful. Into something that people connect to. And that's what good music does. It speaks to you. It changes you." — Hannah Harrington

The list is long of films that celebrate the power of music. The settings are numerous, the situations diverse, the characters endless in root and range. Yet the answer is the same...

"When words fail, music speaks."
— Hans Christian Andersen

Bonnie Strongin, a film analyst, is the founder of the film series movieSPEAK.



Sandy and Nancy Rosenthal read the names of victims of the Holocaust



Children help light the Shabbat candles at the Community Shabbaton



Students from Rambam Day School performing



Alex Kaminsky sang the Star Spangled Banner and Hatikvah to begin the Yom HaShoah program

Yom HaShoah 2014

April brought to the JEA a plethora of activities and events relating to the Holocaust. A special exhibit, *When Humanity Fails*, was on display for the entire month. More than 670 students from public and private schools came to view the exhibit, listen to a presentation on The Shoah, and experience a challenging video and group discussion.

On Friday evening, April 25th, 120 guests attended a community Shabbaton. The *Kiddush* and *Hamotzi* prayers were led by children, after which a festive dinner was enjoyed. The evening's theme was, *The Heritage and Traditions of our European Ashkenazic Ancestors*. Dr. Michael Zoller led the *Birkat Hamazon* post-dinner prayers.

Sunday, the 27th, featured a Brunch honoring the courage of women during the Holocaust, with traditional Jewish dairy foods and a presentation by survivor Vera Hoffman. It was followed by the film *50 Children: The Rescue Mission of Mr. and Mrs. Krauss*. Roger Smith, Director of the Learning Center of Savannah, introduced the viewing and led a discussion afterwards.

The 2014 Yom Hashoah Commemoration on the 28th included candle lighting, Rabbinic prayers, a message from the President of the Savannah Jewish Federation, and a talk given by Jonah Pine in memory of his father, an officer with the American Armed Forces liberators. A very special highlight of the evening was the dramatic production, *I Remember*, presented by the 7th and 8th grade students of Rambam Day School.



Jonah Pine telling the story of his father, who helped liberate a concentration camp



With assistance from Jennifer Rich, Rita (Ruchie) Slatus lights a memorial candle in memory of Holocaust survivors Moshe & Margaret Stern, her parents



SJF-JEA Holocaust Center co-chair Sherry Dolgoff with the 2014 Holocaust Writing and Art Contest winners



Local area students tour the *When Humanity Fails* exhibit with Melinda Stein, co-chair of the SJF-JEA Holocaust Center



The Rambam Day School students performed *I Remember*, a play written by high school students that encompassed the experiences of European Jews during the years of the Nazi reign.





The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

June 2014



Children's Programming

See What Kids are Saying about JEA Camp Savannah!



"You can chase counselors and do new activities. I like to bring home all the cool projects that we do." ~ Ben



"They have bouncy houses and water balloons. I also like Shabbat Friday - it's really fun!" ~ Walker



"I like going swimming every day and finding the glow sticks during night swim at the sleepover." ~ Laney



"I like the sleepovers with all of my friends at camp and playing outside." -Lucy



"I like the awesome theme weeks, especially Color War. The night swim during the sleepovers is fun and breakfast in the morning, too. I like to see my friends every day and all the field trips. All of the counselors are a lot of fun to hang out with everyday" ~ Jessica



"I'm excited to build things with Lego's, color and be with the BIG KIDS!" ~ Will



"I like Color War week because the competitions are fun and Glee Week because of the dance performances at the end of the week." ~ Sky

Mark Your Calendar

June 1

Camp Meet 'n Greet. 3-5 pm

June 3

Erev Shavuot. JEA Closes @ 5 pm

June 4-5

Shavuot. JEA closed

June 6

JEA Art Gallery Reception. Johanna Hopkinson. 2 pm

June 26

Israeli Scouts. 2 pm

July 4th

4th of July. JEA Fitness open 9am-5pm
Offices closed

Save The Date!

FOR THE

2014 JEA Gala

Welcome TO Nashville

AUCTIONS • FOOD • FRIENDS • MUSIC

SUNDAY
SEPT. 21ST
6 PM



JEA Donations

(April 5, 2014-May 9, 2014)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Aaron Buchsbaum
Nancie & Fred Clark

In memory of Herbert Ray
Sally & Steve Greenberg
Suzanne & Michael Konter

In honor of Skippy Goodman

In memory of Mrs. Lee Sinsheimer

In memory of Ada Kramer

In memory of Ernie Friedman
Sharon & Bill Sand

In honor of Harriet Ullman
Marilyn Seeman

JEA BUILDING FUND

In memory of Aaron Buchsbaum
Amy Linden

ALLAN ULLMAN PLAYGROUND FUND

In memory of Edith Karpf
Ellen Berman

In memory of Ada Kramer
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt

JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

A Donation by Karin & Alden Mead

In honor of Julie Metzger

In memory of Edith Karpf
Muriel Bono

In honor of Lisa Bodziner

In honor of Candy & Alan Lowe's grandchild

In honor of Amy Garfunkel

In memory of Ricky Segall

In memory of Aaron Buchsbaum

In memory of Anne Shuman

In memory of Buddy Hollander

In memory of Edith Schafman

In memory of Herbert Ray

In memory of Edith Karpf
Arlene & Allan Ratner

In memory of Edith Karpf
Chatham County Superior Court
Kathleen Horne & Carl Pedigo
Brenda & Eugene Wolchok
Carole Hagstrom
Danyse & Julius Edel
Debbie & Tom Waldrop

In memory of Aaron Buchsbaum
Arlene & Mike Steinfeldt
Barbara & Michael Ruddy
Judith Tager
Emma Adler
Eva Odrezin
Sarabel & Ross Stemer
Catherine & Ron Fagin
Marjorie & Allan Weingold
Lydia Sawyer & Julian Friedman
Peaks Island Children's Workshop
Jerry Rogers
Roni & Harvey Libow
Jane & Paul Pressly
Betty Jacobson
Gloria Buchsbaum Smiley
Elizabeth Jacobs Locke
Laura Jacobs Welsh

Donations continued on pg. 4



Adult Programming



Bridge - Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Scrabble - Wednesdays 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Mah Jongg - Mondays 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Thursdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.



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.

June Lunch Bunch Programming

June 5th – No Lunch Bunch – JEA closed for Shavuot

June 12th – "Anti-aging secrets for your Brain" hosted by Neurologist Jessica Carter, M.D.

June 19th – Staying safe outdoors this summer

June 26th – Lunch with the Israeli scouts

Lunch Bunch meets each Thursday at 12:30 pm for a delicious lunch, followed by a program at 1:30 pm. Please call 355-8111 to make your reservations. Lunch and program are just \$5!

LIT Program: Building a Stronger Community One Camper at a Time

This year our LIT (Leaders in Training) Program has been completely revamped to be better than ever. We'll be going on trips, learning new concepts, and most importantly, meeting new people. While we still follow the camp's weekly themes and special rotations, we also have our own special age-appropriate rotations to keep the group excited and engaged. The group will participate in the two camp sleepovers and also two added sleepovers just for the LITs. It's the perfect summer camp! But what separates the LITs from the rest of the camp groups?

Each week the LITs will explore Jewish values and different aspects of leadership. These include communication, Tikkun Olam, Ruach Hasport, etc. Led by leaders of the community, the group will discuss each value and it's relevance to leadership. This will be followed by a variety of interactive activities that help drive home the importance of these different values. We will also participate in service learning projects that will require the LITs to go out to the community. Putting others before oneself, helping others

who aren't as fortunate or even cleaning up to make sure we have a healthy environment will all be valuable lessons that the LITs will learn. We'll also help within the JEA community by assisting with serving lunch for the Lunch Bunch. During Color War, we'll be welcoming back the Israeli Scouts for some fun games, singing and dancing. In an effort to expand our relationships with other communities, we have invited the LITs from the Orlando JCC to participate in a 2-day extravaganza complete with a community service project, sleepover and a trip to Summer Waves.

With so much going on we will still be participating in everyday camp activities. We will join the whole camp in our favorite, Color War week, dance shows, dress-up days and rotations. By the end of the summer we hope the kids will be able to take what they have learned about being a leader and apply it to different situations whether it be school, sports teams, home, or even back at camp when they come back for more next year! We are extremely excited for Camp Savannah 2014 and can't wait to see you there!

Summer Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

- 5:00 am - Master Swim
- 8:30 am - Firm It Up
- 10:00 am - Aquasize
- 10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
- 10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
- 6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

- 8:30 am - Pilates
- 9:30 am - Barre Blend
- 10:00 am - Aquasize
- 10:30 am - SilverSneakers Circuit
- 6:00 pm - Savannah Kenpo
- 6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics
- 6:30 pm - Yoga Flow
- 7:00 pm - Savannah Fencing Club

Friday

- 5:00 am - Master Swim
- 8:30 am - Firm It Up
- 10:00 am - Yoga
- 10:00 am - Aquasize
- 12:00 pm - Noon Basketball

Join the JEA!

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

Types of Membership include:

- Family Plans
- Couple Plans
- Individual Plans
- Military/Law Enforcement (active duty only)

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

JEA CAMP SAVANNAH JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 MEET-N-GREET Sunday, June 1st 3:00 pm-5:00 pm	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 JOURNEY TO PRIDE ROCK	9 FIRST DAY OF CAMP!	10 FAVORITE ANIMAL	11 GEORGIA SEA TURTLE CENTER (LIT)	12 'PRIDE ROCK' CLIMBING WALL FOR LIT'S	13 JUNGLE SHABBAT LION KING DANCE	14
15 FAIRYTALE UNIVERSITY	16	17 SECOND HARVEST (LIT) TOY STORY	18 MAGIC MARC!	19 PAJAMA DAY! FOR ALL	20 DISNEY SHABBAT BRUNCH PUPPET SHOW	21
22 COLOR WAR (MACABBI GAMES)	23 OLYMPIC DAY!	24 CRAZY SOCKS!	25 GLOW IN THE DARK DANCE PARTY	26 ISRAELI SCOUTS SENIOR LUNCH (LIT) CRAZY HAIR!	27 TIE-DYE SHABBAT COLOR WAR SHOW	28
29 YOSHI ISLAND	30	JULY/AUG.				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 MARIO CHARACTER	2 FRAMES N' GAMES (ALL)	3 ZUCHINI 500! LIT'S HOST A RED, WHITE & BLUE SHABBAT	4 CAMP CLOSED, HAPPY 4TH!	5
6 COWABUNGA CORRAL	7	8 BEACH CLEAN-UP (LIT) CRAZY HAT!	9	10 COTTON EYED JOE SHOWDOWN JOURNEY TO ATLANTIS	11 LOW COUNTRY SHABBAT LUAU! COWBOYS & ALIENS	12
13 GETTING JIGGY WITH THE 90'S	14	15 OATLAND ISLAND (LIT) STEVE URKEL	16 SK8 CITY (1ST-5TH)	17 CAMP PEP RALLY! HIGHLIGHTER FUN ZONE (LIT)	18 HONKER BURGER SHABBAT POWDER PUFF GAMES!	19
20 GLEE WEEK: DYNASTY OF DANCE	21	22 MOVIES (1ST-5TH)	23 LIT SLEEPOVER WITH ORLANDO JCC'S LIT'S 80'S DAY!	24 SUMMER WAVES (LIT) FAVORITE CELEBRITY	25 FIESTA SHABBAT S.Y.T.Y.C.D. SHOW GLEE SHOW	26
27 HOLIDAY BONANZA	28	29 ROYAL COURT	30 TIE-DYE DAY! (BRING A WHITE SHIRT TO CAMP)	31 VARIETY SHOW FOR ALL	1 PURIM PALOOZA!	2

- DRESS UP DAY
 - COMMUNITY SERVICE
 - FIELD TRIP
 - SLEEPOVER
 - SPECIAL EVENT (PARENTS WELCOME, SEE NEWSLETTER FOR TIMES)



The Israeli Scouts are Coming to Entertain You! Thursday, June 26th, 3pm

What: A show to be enjoyed by people of all ages!
Admission: A Donation to the Friends of the Israeli Scouts, Inc. Tzofim
Where: JEA, 5111 Abercorn Street
Questions?: DJ Horton, 912-355-8111, kids@savj.org

JEA Donations

cont. from pg. 2

Irene & Ramon Silverman
 Toby Hollenberg
 Diane Kuhr
 Muriel & Marvin Beckerman
 Beth Childress
 Danyse & Julius Edel
 Irma Shulman-Weiner
 In memory of Anne Shuman
 Harriet & Paul Kulbersh
 In memory of Ernie Friedman
 In memory of Aaron Buchsbaum
 In memory of Edith Karpf
 Arthur Horovitz
 In honor of Sloan Forstadt
 Carole & Ted Hagstrom
 In memory of Beatrice Goodman
 Audrey McDonald
 Cynthia Stewart
 Frances Washington
 In memory of Ashley Samuels
 Jennifer Feldman
 In memory of Esther Helen Ginsberg
 In memory of Ernie Friedman
 In memory of Ashley Samuels
 In memory of Edith Karpf
 Ruth & Neal Markowitz

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH

In honor of Vera Hoffman
 Flora Camhi
 In honor of Jerald Cohen
 In memory of Aaron Buchsbaum
 Peggy & Stanley Harris
 In honor of Arlene Ratner
 Adina Weber & Rabbi Barkan

BERTHA & HYMIE KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In memory of Frances Hollander
 In memory of Edith Karpf
 In memory of Ernie Friedman
 In memory of Suzanne Sinsheimer Shapiro
 In memory of Aaron Buchsbaum
 Sally & Steve Greenberg
 In memory of Edith Karpf
 Suzanne & Michael Konter

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Linda Friedman
 Brenda & Patrick Salter
 Bernice Elman
 In honor of Bernice Elman
 Elise & Victor Shernoff
 Heather, Jason & Kristina Shernoff
 In honor of Rabbi Barkan & Adina Weber
 Brenda & Patrick Salter
 Marsha & Chuck Bernstein

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Doris Kanter
 In memory of Edith Karpf
 In memory of Ernie Friedman
 In memory of Bea Goodman
 Simone Center



JEA Art Gallery



June Artist: Johanna Hopkinson

Johanna Fuguet Hopkinson is a painter and mixed media artist who makes her home in Savannah, Georgia. Johanna's parents are marine scientists, which allowed her to grow up in the uniquely isolated marshes and waterways of Georgia's Sapelo Island, Aeska Island of Sweden, and Falmouth, Massachusetts. Having lived for so long in these remote places, there is naturally a strong element of plant and animal life in her artwork. Johanna draws inspiration from the beauty of the world around her. She loves to simplify images into shapes and lines and revel in the brilliant colors therein.

Lately, her paintings have begun to focus on native birds, especially waterfowl. "Unlike most animals in nature, birds generally mate for life and raise their young together. That seems very impressive to me," states Johanna.

Johanna received her bachelor of Arts degrees from Bard College in both Religion and Studio Arts. She then went on to receive her Master's of Fine Art from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Painting. Johanna has shown work in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY; Lacoste, France; Woods Hole, MA; Tivoli, NY; Chapel Hill, NC; Tampa, FL; and Savannah, GA. The majority of her pieces have been sold into private collections.

Artwork available for viewing June 1-30, 2014

Art Gallery reception June 6th, 2-4 pm

Themes for June Days @ the JEA

June 2nd, 2014 - Pajama-rama (Pajama Party) - Our annual pre-summer PJ party is BACK! Guess that cereal, Brownie 101 and of course a movie on the big screen are just a few of the activities that will be planned for the day.

June 3rd, 2014 - We All Scream for Ice Cream (Trip to Lovin' Spoons) - With Shavout around the corner, campers will venture out to Lovin' Spoons for a delicious dairy treat. We'll also be making 3-D art.

June 6th, 2014 - Superhero Scrambler (Superhero Day) - It's a bird, it's a plane...no it's just another Days @ the J! Campers will transform into superheroes today by making their own capes and protecting their very own skyscrapers.

For children Pre-K - 8th grade.
 Questions? Call 355-8111 or email kids@savj.org.

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 4/5/14-5/9/14)

James & Nijah Bryant
 Darrell Dukes & Susan Falls
 Gai & Karin Elhanen
 Sheila Griffin
 Justin Hart
 Thomas & Kimberly Lascell
 Jean Lopez
 Chris Matthews & Katy Helms
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JEA Preschool Savannah News

June 2014

JEA Preschool Savannah Summer Program!

We welcome children and families from the entire community and are the place to send your young child for lots of safe, summer fun.

- Weekly Shabbat celebrations for all ages
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Read what JEA Preschool Savannah's parents are saying...



... You just don't know how blessed we feel to have [daughter] at JEA Preschool Savannah—it is so wonderful to not have to worry about her when we drop her off. When I dropped her off this morning she walked right in, looked at me and said, "Hug Mama." She gave me a hug and then ran across the room to play without a tear or even a whine. She has never done that anywhere else she has been for daycare or preschool! ... When [we] come to pick [her] up at the JEA in the afternoons, she doesn't want to leave! She will actually cry when we make her leave. This has never, ever happened with our child until now. Thank you all for loving and caring for our [daughter] and all the children at JEA Preschool Savannah.



We were practicing singing Happy Birthday (today is [Dad's] birthday), and [son] says "let's sing it in Hebrew!" He proceeded to sing the whole song by himself in Hebrew. Just awesome!



Thank you! We are so happy to stay [another year]! Thank you for sharing your vision with us. It has been so wonderful to see it really happen.

We are so pleased and wouldn't even consider going anywhere else. [Son] was just telling me today on the way home how much he likes school. It melts my heart that we have found such a safe, loving place for him to spend this important time in his life, and to hear how much he enjoys it means the world.

Thank you so much Jodi!



Check it Out!

Should You Push Your Child to Read before the Age of Five?

Lilian Katz, Professor of Education at the University of Illinois, shares her research about children reading at early ages and the effects it may have. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-495909/>



Vital Statistics

Engagement

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Allan Bodziner announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Sara Bodziner, to Kenneth Eric Goldberg of Baltimore, Maryland. Lisa is a graduate of Savannah Country Day School and received her Bachelor of Arts from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She moved to Jerusalem, Israel, and received her Master's in Jewish Education from Pardes Institute. Lisa taught for three years at the San Diego Jewish Academy and then moved to Baltimore to work at Pearlstone Retreat Center where she was a Jewish educator. Presently she works at the Louise D. and Morton J. Macks Center for Jewish Education in Park Heights, Maryland. Lisa is the granddaughter of the late Leroy and Maurine Monksy of Birmingham, Alabama, and the late Lawrence and Dena Bodziner of Savannah.

Kenneth (Kenny) is the son of Sandy and the late David Goldberg of Reisterstown, Maryland. Kenny was raised in Reisterstown and graduated from Towson University with a B.S. in Theatre Arts. He spent several years in New York before moving back to Baltimore to be close to his family.



Lisa Bodziner and Kenneth Goldberg

Kenny presently is a property manager for Bozzuto Management. Kenny is the grandson of the late Nathan and Libby Zaba and the late Bernard and Nancy Goldberg of Baltimore.

A December wedding is planned. The couple plans to reside in Baltimore.

Celebrating a simcha?

(Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, engagements, weddings, births.)

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Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

We Must Remember

At the Yom Hasoah program the 7th and 8th grade students of Rambam Day School presented the play, "I Remember." It was certainly a most moving and thought provoking performance. We had the distinct privilege of Kelie Miley, the head director of the Savannah Children's Theater, direct the play. It was a demanding experience for the children.

While the children have spent years learning about the Holocaust, writing about the Holocaust, hearing speakers on the Holocaust and reading books about the Holocaust; once they were the children trying to survive the Holocaust and quoting individuals who had survived the Holocaust and portraying Nazis; they found themselves having to admit they really didn't have a grasp on the atrocities of the Holocaust. Once it was *them*, being those individuals; children desperate to survive, children remembering life before the Nazis, and once it was them portraying Nazis and having to utter the words, "Many will grow tired on the way. Of course they will mostly be those who have no reason to do so. The best political weapon is the weapon of terror. Cruelty commands respect. Men may hate us. But, we don't ask for their love; only for their fear." They found themselves silenced.

To observe the children's transformation as the words they were reciting became no longer just words of recitation, but pictures that formed within their minds of the violence that befell our people. Impacting children to not only understand the Holocaust as historical information but to perceive the cruelty and unimaginable horrors is a most difficult challenge. Without this perception, the madness and the inconceivable magnitude of those horrifically murdered is incomprehensible to our younger generation.

And as the few remaining survivors of the Holocaust leave our physical presence, how will their story be told by those who truly do not understand and who truly cannot internalize the horrors they had burned not only as numbers on their arms but as memories in the deepest resources of their minds? Once it is our children's responsibility to pass on this history, I fear their inability to do so in a manner that will keep the horrors alive. I don't think they can connect with the atrocities of the Holocaust.

I can't decide if it's because it's too horrific, the volume of the atrocity or they have seen too much in their own lifetimes (like 9-11, the tsunami) or

they have become desensitized from all the games and movies they watch that portray death as a competition or a means to an adrenalin rush. This is certainly a concern to be taken most seriously. However, I don't see the problem getting better, I see it becoming worse. Technology has broadened our horizons but at the same time it has crippled our minds making it difficult to decipher reality versus animation which is void of real feeling and thought.

I believe in the very near future the Holocaust will take on a very different fiber than the one in which we all lament over now. HOWEVER, as we move further away from the moments when these atrocities were fierce with life, the hearts and minds of future generations will feel less and less connection. We must strongly encourage them to concentrate on the 6,000,000 lives lost not having been lost in vain. They were seized from this world because they were Jews, therefore we as Jews must keep the flame of Judaism alive in their names and in their merit. We must surge forth against any and all odds to ensure that our children know who they are as Jews; their ancestors, their history. And they must know the beautiful words found within the Torah that depicts their relationship to G-d and their responsibilities to that bond.

Mrs. Ruchie Slatos, a child from Holocaust survivors, told our students many stories of the survival and the deaths that took place during the Holocaust. I wish to share with you one story in particular. *Many Jewish families hid their children in non-Jewish homes to protect them from the hands of the Nazis. These families lovingly took the children into their homes and into their hearts. The war lasted awhile and families moved and took these children with them and the children soon forgot they had ever had another life. They were being well cared for by loving parents and siblings. How would the Jews fortunate enough to survive and be liberated find their children when the war was over? They traveled all over in search of their beloved kinderlach. One man approached a non Jewish camp where children were campers and having great fun. He begged the director to let him look and see if any of the children among the group were Jewish children. He was granted permission and walked among the children asking if any of them were Jewish, but who among them could remember? And so no one responded that they were. He begged for one more attempt and asked for a loudspeaker. Over the loudspeaker he bellowed the words, SHEMA YISRO-EL HASHEM ELOKAINU HASHEM ECHOD! Children came forth crying out for their mommies and their daddies – they remembered!*



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

So Much to Celebrate

May is the time of year that reminds us of spring, flowers, dance recitals, graduations, and the end of the school year. It's hard to believe that JEA Preschool Savannah has concluded its inaugural year. We have engaged young children and families from our Jewish and Savannah communities and we have made a difference!

Not only have the children grown in height and weight but they have expanded their knowledge in all areas through hands-on activities and play. They have learned how to get along with others and how to be a part of a group. Some children have learned to "potty on the toilet" while others have learned to write their names.

We have shared the joy of Shabbat each Friday and celebrated a cycle of Jewish holidays. With all of these successes, JEA Preschool Savannah has been an integral part of these young children's lives. The love and interaction the teachers give to them are a key ingredient in their development.

It is with much gratitude and thanks that we conclude the preschool year and look forward to our first summer program. We are grateful to our parents and community members

who believed that we would be the premiere preschool program in Savannah. We are very thankful to our teachers who keep our children safe and show their love and concern for the "yeladim" on a daily basis.

I am excited to have been accepted to participate as part of Cohort #3 in the Jewish Early Childhood Education Leadership Institute (JECLEI). It is a fifteen-month program for Early Childhood Jewish professionals sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College, Bank Street College, and the Jim Joseph Foundation. The group will study Jewish text as it relates to Early Childhood Education with the goal of participants bringing their understanding and knowledge to their programs and communities. The program's structure includes Jewish learning, leadership development, reflective practice in a social context, and community building. I am looking forward to building relationships with other Jewish professionals who share my passion for children and Judaism.

As always, I invite each of you to come take a firsthand look at our program in action. Come hear the children singing; come see the teachers reading stories; and come feel the love exuding from our rooms. It will certainly bring a smile to your face as it does to mine every day!

In the play, "I Remember," one youngster questioning a child survivor was asking about the terrors of the Holocaust, "Erika, so under those terrible conditions in the ghetto with no food, your father, who had found the

Hebrew School in your hometown, and others, were still concerned about making sure you got a Jewish education?"

The child survivor answered, "That was the most important thing."

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June Services

Wednesday, June 4 - Shavuot Yizkor Service, 11am

Friday, June 6 - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm

Saturday, June 7 - Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Josh Braun, 11am

Friday, June 13 - Summer Shabbat Service hosted by the Markowitz Family, 6pm

Saturday, June 14 - Shabbat Morning Service, 11am

Friday, June 20 - Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm

Saturday, June 21 - Shabbat Morning Service & Bar Mitzvah of Jake Friedman, 11am.

Friday, June 27 - Summer Shabbat Service hosted by BH & Margie Levy, 6pm

Saturday, June 28 - Shabbat Morning Service, 11am.

Educational Opportunities

In-Depth Judaism at 9:15am & Torah Study following Kiddush Lunch on June 7, 14, 21, & 28.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our services and events! Sign up for our weekly schedule of events e-mail by contacting kayla@mickveisrael.org, or by texting CMI to 42828. For more information or to RSVP to an event: call 912.233.1547 or visit mickveisrael.org

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Monday, Conversion Class at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Tefillah & Spiritual Issues at 8:45 a.m.

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Shabbat, Parashat Hashavua at 1:00 p.m.

SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 5:45 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday 9:15 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon

Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

DAILY SERVICES:

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

Tuesday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

Friday Shacharit 7:00 am

It's a Funny Thing



Melinda Stein

This month the humor is dedicated to Israel, the Land of Milk and Honey (unlike Florida, the Land of Milk of Magnesia)!

Abe was visiting Israel for the first time. As soon as his plane landed, he got a taxi to take him to his hotel. Abe asks the driver, "Say is Israel a healthy place?"

"Oh, yes, it really is," the driver answers, "When I was here at first, I couldn't say even one simple word, I had hardly any hair on my head, I didn't have the energy to walk across a room and I even had to be helped out of bed every day."

"That's a remarkable story, truly amazing," Abe says. "So how long have you been in Israel?"

"I was born here."

Sol was having a good time in Tel Aviv and was invited to a party. Unfortunately, during the evening, he lost his wallet. He got up on a chair and shouted, "Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen! I've just lost my wallet with over \$500 in cash in it. To the person that finds my wallet, I will give \$50!"

A voice from the back of the hall shouted, "I will give \$75!"

An American, an Englishman and an Israeli are indulging in a bit of boasting.

The American says, "One of my ancestors signed the Declaration of Independence."

The Englishman says, "That's nothing. One of my ancestors was present at the signing of the Magna Carta."

The Israeli quietly says, "You think that's something? One of my ancestors drew up the Ten Commandments."

There is a story told of an Oxford University professor who decided to ask his students to write a paper on the elephant. This is what he got back from them:

- The British student wrote, 'The Elephant and The Royal Family'
- The French student wrote, 'The Elephant and Its Love Life'
- The Japanese student wrote, 'The Elephant and Its Place in Computing Technology'
- The American student wrote, 'The Elephant and The Cell Phone'
- The Israeli student wrote, 'The Elephant – Is It Good for the Jews?'

An Israeli soldier had just enlisted in the Tank Corps. He approached his Commanding Officer and requested a 3-day pass.

The Officer yells, "Are you *meshuggah*? You just joined up and already you want a 3-day pass? You must do something spectacular to earn that!"

The next day the soldier approaches the CO, driving an Arab tank!

Impressed, the Officer asked how the soldier had managed to capture the tank.

"Simple," he said. "I jumped in one of our tanks and approached the border. I saw an Arab in his tank, he saw me. I asked him if he would like to get a 3-day pass, he said yes, so we exchanged tanks!"

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LASTING LEGACIES



Israel Dombrow

The list of designated funds whose income will help to provide for the future of our community is growing, slowly but surely. And as one looks over the names on those funds, they are not always familiar. Some of the funds are named for people gone for a long time, whose friends and family are mostly no longer here, either. And then there are some like the *Israel Dombrow Fund for Jewish Children*, named for people who never lived in Savannah, and we wonder, what is the connection?

Israel Dombrow lived his entire life in Birmingham, Alabama. His sister, Sarah, married Elliot Gottlieb of Savannah (and Gottlieb's Bakery) and raised a family here; her children stayed in Savannah and some of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren live here today. Israel remained in Birmingham where he was one of the owners of Standard Furniture Company, operators of a chain of fur-

niture stores. He never married and had no children. He became the caretaker for his widowed mother and after her death, lived a modest life in a small apartment.

Dombrow's niece, Arlene (Gottlieb) Jaffie, described him as someone who "never wanted anything for himself." She said, "He was a wonderful, wonderful philanthropist. He had no family left in Birmingham. When he died, with this fund he wanted to leave something in Savannah that his great and grand nieces and nephews could see that he had done."

Shortly after Israel Dombrow's death in January 2010, Arlene and her brother, Isser Gottlieb z"l, established the *Israel Dombrow Fund for Jewish Children* at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah. The fund's income is used to provide assistance for Jewish children to partake in camping, after school or sports programs sponsored or provided by the Jewish Educational Alliance.

"My uncle wanted his nieces and nephews to know that he cared about them and their future in Savannah," said Arlene.

Create a Fund

A designated fund can benefit a specific purpose dear to your family or the community at large. Funds can be created and activated now or established with a bequest or other financial instrument. To discuss establishing a Lasting Legacy for your family with a fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah, contact Adam Solender at (912) 355-8111 or adam@savj.org.



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Holocaust Study Grant Awarded



Taylor Culjean

Taylor Culjean of Savannah has been selected to participate in the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors' teachers' trip and is the recipient of a grant from the Matthew J. Cranman Holocaust Teacher Education Fund, which will almost fully subsidize her participation in the program.

The Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers' Program (HJRTP) provides an intensive three-week summer learning and living experience in Washington, DC, Poland, Germany and Israel for U.S. secondary school teachers who are committed to teaching about the Holocaust and Jewish resistance in their classes upon completion of the program. The group of approximately 30 teachers visits historic sites and hears from survivors and prominent scholars.

The goals of the program include:

- To advance education in U.S. secondary schools about the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance;

- To deepen teachers' knowledge and strengthen their ability to implement Holocaust studies in their classrooms;
- To teach each new generation about the Holocaust and Jewish resistance, so that they will know, understand, and never forget;
- To further educational activities which use the lessons of the past as warnings for the present and the future.

Taylor Culjean teaches English and Holocaust Studies at St. Vincent's Academy and has been a supporter of Holocaust education and involvement for many years. She ensures the participation of her school in the community's annual Yom HaShoah Student Art and Essay Contests, and many of the winners have been her students.

The HJRTP is sponsored by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Their Descendants, the umbrella organization of survivor groups of North America. In addition to their many educational programs and events, they sponsor a special event for high school educators. Additional support is provided

by the Jewish Labor Committee and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The Matthew J. Cranman Holocaust Teacher Education Fund was created to provide scholarships for teachers with demonstrated passion for teaching about the Holocaust to participate in the Holocaust & Jewish Resistance Teachers Summer Program. Matthew's parents and grandparents established the fund to honor his memory after he lost his courageous fight with cancer, but through it all had remained a source of light and inspiration to his friends and family. It is their hope that the recipients of the scholarships will use their experiences to share with Savannah students the light of the Jewish spirit and illuminate a dark period in history.

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Ada M. Goldberg Kramer
Who died April 29, 2014

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Kramer (Michael) Zoller of Savannah; one son, Mark (Arlene) Kramer of Chesterfield, MO; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, David, and her sister, Doris Herman.

Remembrances: Harris Kramer Social Action Fund of Congregation Shaare Emeth, 11645 Ladue Rd., St. Louis, MO 63141; or Congregation Temple Israel, P.O. Box 790379, St. Louis, MO 63179-0379.

Marsha Leiken Gould
Who died April 22, 2014

She is survived by her husband Jay; one daughter, Margalit C. Gould and one son, Jerrik J. Gould, both of Chicago, IL; her mother, Mollie Kramer Leiken of Bloomington, IL; and one brother, N. Ned Leiken of Bloomington, IL.

Remembrances: Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, 1500 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

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Thanks to you, the Savannah Jewish Federation can continue to focus on Jewish education and Jewish identity, maintaining support for Rambam Day School, Shalom School, the JEA, BBYO, local area Hillels and programming to combat the growing threats of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

Thanks to you, we are able to provide grants for local teens to participate in Jewish leadership development programs, to travel to Israel for educational tourism and yeshiva study; and we are able to support Birthright Israel and other programs that inspire a deep love of Israel and Jewish life.

Thanks to you, we are able to respond, on a moment's notice, to the critical needs of our fellow Jews in Ukraine.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the 2014 Annual Campaign a success.

We will do a world of good.



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