

June 2015 | Sivan-Tamuz 5775, Vol. LXX, No. 5

Next event June 18th

## SJF Sponsors FEDx Networking Series



David Herskovits

Are you a local Jewish professional who would like to build a stronger business community and at the same time strengthen the impact of our Jewish community in the world around us? Whether you are a recent college graduate or a seasoned business owner, an associate or a senior partner; FEDx, the new initiative of the Savannah Jewish Federation for all professionals, is for you.

FEDx events offer a unique space and opportunity to facilitate collegial relationships in the business community in Savannah and the surrounding area. Professionals are given the occasion to meet and connect with other influential businesspeople and leaders, while growing a connection to the Savannah Jewish community.

Steve Greenberg, SJF President, talked about the establishment of the new series: "The goal of the series is to bring speakers and information that are not normally available, and use the opportunity to educate our Jewish community about the broader Savannah and regional non-profit and business communities. FederationX will be a venue to connect people of all ages, backgrounds and interests, and help establish relationships going forward. We have timed the programs to address busy schedules. It is the hope of SJF that by bringing people together we plant the seeds for future Jewish community growth – one of our most important missions."

FEDx launched on February 26<sup>th</sup> this year with a program featuring Jake Shapiro, CEO of Moon River Studios. More than 50 members of the community came to mingle and to hear about how Jake and his partners decided to locate and build a Hollywood-like movie studio in

Effingham County. The participants were a great mix of young adults and more mature community members; some were people who were new to the community and others were lifelong residents of Savannah. Participants networked over food (hors d'oeuvres) and drinks (beer & wine) from 5:30—6:15pm and then sat down to hear Jake Shapiro speak.

All were all captivated by Jake's energy, his great enthusiasm for making films and doing business in our coastal region, and the influence of his Jewish upbringing on his sensibilities. Everyone who attended left eager for the next event.

FEDx2 will be held on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The speaker will be David Herskovits, CEO of Energiya USA, the U.S. affiliate of Israel's Energiya Global Capital, an international solar development firm. Energiya USA recently signed a power purchase

*continued on page 6*



### Candle Lighting Times

Friday, June 5	8:10pm
Friday, June 12	8:13pm
Friday, June 19	8:15pm
Friday, June 26	8:17pm
Friday, July 3	8:17pm
Friday, July 10	8:15pm

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### Also Featured

#### Exhibits Celebrating Chinese Jews

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#### Mazel Tov Graduates

Our annual tribute to high school and college graduates; p9

## Next Team JEA Signed at 2015 Annual Meeting

The stadium was full when Team JEA came to the plate at the JEA's 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 200 members of the community turned out to congratulate outgoing President Arlene Ratner on her successful term and to welcome in the new President, Joel Greenberg, and Board of Directors.

The baseball-themed event was carried through to perfection, thanks to the always careful planning of Carol Towbin Greenberg (Joel's busier half), who was recognized at the meeting with a special proclamation from the JEA in honor of her extraordinary accomplishments on behalf of the Jewish and general Savannah communities.

In addition to the business of the investiture of new officers and board

members, the first ever scholarships from the Kay Becker Israel Fund (see *Lasting Legacies* in this issue) were presented to Tomer Locker and Nathan Luskey,

who both will travel to Israel this summer, Tomer with NCSY and Nathan with Ramah. The Harvey Rubin Award was presented to Melanie Ourhaan, an outstanding young student at

St. Andrews recognized for her athletic ability in tennis and volleyball, her leadership skills, community service and overall positive presence.

Ratner presented President's Awards to Savannah Jewish Federation President Steve Greenberg for his assistance and friendship during their presidencies; to Dayle and Aaron Levy for their continued, unwav-



Elise Shernoff presents the Harvey Rubin Award, in memory of her brother, to Melanie Ourhaan



JEA Past President Paul Kulbersh pulls from his bag of tricks while installing new President Joel Greenberg

ering commitment to the JEA; and to JEA Children's and Camp Director DJ Horton, who she called the "pied piper of the JEA," for his remarkable stewardship of the program.

JEA Executive Director Adam Soller delivered an update on the state of the organization, including a tribute to the Finance Department and their contributions in helping the JEA achieve solid financial footing.

Joel Greenberg presented Arlene Ratner with a Woman of Valor tribute as thanks from the Board and the Rabbis of all three local Congregations offered words and prayers.

## Opinion

## Anti-Semitism on Campus: Old Wine in New Bottles

by Abraham H. Foxman



Abraham H. Foxman has been National Director of the Anti-Defamation League since 1987; he is retiring next month. This piece first appeared in *The Huffington Post's* campus blog.

Abraham Foxman

As someone who has been critical about the sometimes overheated reaction to what is taking place regarding Jews on campus, I also believe it is vital to monitor the situation closely and to be able to reevaluate as things may change.

I still believe that the vast majority of Jewish students have normal lives on campus where they can be comfortable in their own skins and with their Jewish identities. That is why a recent survey suggesting that more than 50 percent of Jewish students experienced anti-Semitism in one form or another was disturbing. This survey – which in my opinion was flawed – was not a helpful reading of what is going on.

And yet, something is changing. We need to identify what it is and deal with it – without declaring the sky is falling.

Historically, many campuses, particularly when it comes to faculty, have a reputation of being left-wing or at least very liberal. Since the vast majority of the Jewish community has identified itself in a similar fashion for decades, there seemed to be no problem.

Together with this, however, polls of the American people in the last few years appear to indicate an increasing gap in attitudes toward Israel between those who identify themselves as conservatives and those who identify themselves as liberals. The latter are increasingly questioning Israeli policies and expressing interest in a more balanced American approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It is this evolving phenomenon

which, I believe, is lending force to the anti-Israel forces on campus. Let's be clear: There has always been a measure of left-wing opposition to Israel on campuses, whether from faculty or some student groups.

For sure they are more organized today. Students for Justice in Palestine, the main organizing force behind the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaigns, has refined and intensified its tactics and is popping up on new campuses every month or so. Regardless of the fact that the BDS campaign has not gained much traction on campus in terms of having any impact against Israel – many, if not most, of the boycott votes have been soundly defeated – it is creating a great deal of noise on campus and beyond, raising a lot of attention, and contributing to the sense of discomfort of Jewish students.

But the biggest change is the fertile ground in which the anti-Israel community is sowing its seeds.

The trends that are appearing relate to the perception of Jewish students and their relations with other minority communities. There are suggestions that Jews do not qualify for participation in minority community activity on campus, for two reasons: 1) They are deemed people of privilege, not minorities worthy of special attention; and 2) their assumed support for "colonialist, apartheid" Israel puts them in the camp of would-be oppressors rather than targets and opponents of prejudice.

Recent incidents at UCLA and Stanford bring this disturbing phenomenon into focus. At UCLA, a student leader had her qualifications for a Judicial Board position come under question due to her Jewish identity and affiliation with the Jewish community on campus. At Stanford, a Jewish student running for a position in student government was asked how her Judaism might influence her position on divestment from Israel.

What was so stunning to the student applicants was not that they were asked about their views on Is-

rael – they were aware that, unfortunately, these bodies supported boycott actions against the Jewish State. Rather, that there was no shame in introducing the candidates' Jewishness as the critical factor in assessing the candidacy.

It is this linking of attitudes toward Israel and attitudes toward Jews that raises concern about the future of Jewish life on campus. Larry Summers, when president at Harvard, foresaw this back in 2002 when there was an effort to bring a divestment campaign to the university.

He, most importantly, rejected it, decrying the abhorrent comparison of democratic Israel to apartheid South Africa. He then went on to explain that while not all who advocated divestment from Israel were motivated by anti-Semitism, even those who weren't created a climate making anti-Semitism more palatable by the assault on the good name of the Jewish State.

In effect, the attacks on Israel on campus are unleashing inhibitions against expressions of anti-Jewish prejudice and beginning to legitimize attacks on Jews on campus.

While much of this is in a nascent stage, it is important to deal with it now on several levels.

First, greater efforts must be made to generate a more balanced view of Israel and the region among minority students. Some are undoubtedly locked in to their anti-Israel perspective for ideological reasons. But many others are certainly open to hearing a different take on the Middle East. Not one in which Israel is always in the right, but a complicated narrative about competing interest and needs.

Second, it must be made clear that whatever one's views on the conflict, treating Jews differently is unacceptable and it is what it is, anti-Semitism. University officials must speak out clearly and unequivocally against even the slightest hint of singling Jews out that way.

Third, we must continually assess the status of Jews on campus in a

calm and rational way, distinguishing between the real challenges Jewish students face without sending alarm signals which could undermine the normal life on campus that exists for most of them.

Jews in America have made too much progress over the last half-century to cause us to overreact. Still, we cannot afford to be complacent. We have to address these campus issues now before they expand further and spin out of control, truly creating a widespread worrisome atmosphere.

## Savannah Jewish News

Published by the  
**Savannah Jewish Federation**  
5111 Abercorn Street  
Savannah, GA 31405  
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www.savj.org

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SJF Vice President: **Allan Ratner**  
SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Margie Levy**  
SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**  
SJN Editor: **Lynn Levine**

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

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

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

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

Please send eNews submissions to:  
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Savannah Jewish Federation  
Mission Statement

Charged with raising, collecting and distributing funds, the SJF seeks to "advance the welfare of the total Jewish community." The Federation strongly supports Israel and world Jewry. Additionally, the organization strives to "preserve the civil, political, economic and religious rights of all Jews" to develop an articulate, intelligent and constructive Jewish community and to promote mutual understanding with the community at-large.

## On the Personal Side



Barry Gale

Barry Gale announced his candidacy for alderman on Savannah's City Council to represent the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, which

encompasses the downtown area. The election will be held later this year. Barry is a former Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles and is married to Cookie Tenenbaum Gale. He has established a website for more information, [www.barrygale.com](http://www.barrygale.com).

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Allan Ratner, Savannah Jewish Federation Vice President

# Our Shared Success

Savannah Jewish Federation Vice President Allan Ratner, Chair of the 2015 Annual Campaign, is the guest columnist this month.

As I am writing this, the 2015 Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign is just about finished. It seems that every year the campaign gets longer and longer, even though it lasts about the same amount of time. Maybe I am just getting older.

What a successful campaign we have had. Most everyone we contacted has pledged willingly and generously. Thanks to you, we hope to increase our commitments where they are needed most. Of course, the final determinations of how this is done will be up to the Allocations Committee.

The Committee will work on funding not only local needs, but also requests from national and regional organizations, grants for international relief, and the needs of Israel.

The allocation process will be changing, as the committee this year will be determining the recipients' allocations for the next two years instead of just one. This will allow the organizations the opportunity to plan better for the future. Of course there may be minor adjustments that will be required in the second year, but instead of requiring the formation of another Allocation Committee, these can be handled by the Federation's Board of Governors. I think this will work well for everyone.

I would like to thank all the people who helped with the campaign this year. This is not a one-person job, but one that requires the hard work and commitment of many people.

I do not want to single out people for recognition, because I am sure I will leave out someone who worked just as hard on the campaign as those

I remembered to name. Therefore, I would just like to thank EVERYONE who chaired a division, worked cards, made phone calls, or in any way assisted the campaign. We couldn't have done it without you.

That said, I would especially like to thank Jamie Cahn, Campaign Director, for keeping everything on track and following up on pledge cards, letters, events, and anything else that needed doing to keep the campaign moving forward. Hard to believe she was a newcomer to the community.

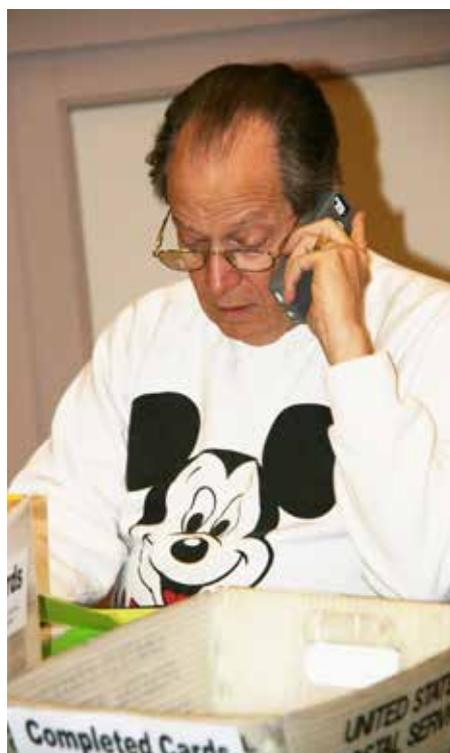
In every generation, people have to step up to raise these funds that sustain our Jewish community and society. We all have an obligation to give back. Someone did it before me and for the past two years I felt like it was my turn.

Thank you to the Savannah community for your generosity. You have made it possible for

the Savannah Jewish Federation to continue to fund many worthwhile agencies and programs.

We can all be proud of our commitment to the greater good for Judaism worldwide.

*"Thanks to you, we hope to increase our commitments where they are needed most... Thank you to the Savannah community for your generosity."*



2014-2015 SJF Campaign Chair Allan Ratner hard at work this past Super Sunday



Adam Solender Executive Director of JEA/SJF

# Am Echad

*"Netanyahu thinks he could do a better job running the U.S. and Obama thinks he could do a better job leading Israel,"* was the comment of one of the guests in

a recent conference call entitled "The New Israeli Government: Views from Jerusalem and Washington" featuring JFNA VP in Washington, William Daroff, JTA's Ron Kampeas and David Horowitz, the founding editor of the *Times of Israel*. It was a simple distillation of how very differently these world leaders look at the political landscape.

In an increasingly dangerous world, the openly hostile relationship between the two countries' leaders continues to be distressing to Israelis and Americans alike. At first it looked like the two were just "jockeying for position," each trying to curry favor with different constituencies, but that no longer seems to be the case. What we might have thought was a typical rocky political relationship on the surface actually seems to run deep, very deep.

The fact is that the "typical Israeli" and the "average American" don't see the political landscape in the same way. Israelis have (for the most part) become incredulous that President Obama doesn't understand that, for them, only three hours away, beheadings are commonplace; that slaughters are happening every minute in Syria, on their northern border, under the regime of Bashar al-Assad (the same Assad who Israel negotiated with on withdrawal from the Golan Heights only six years ago); and that Iran is being emboldened by the lessening of economic sanctions. It is that same very dangerous Iran who continues to exert influence and works to foster instability throughout the region: in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen to name a few as ISIL continues to recruit radical jihadists.

As hard as it is for our leaders to understand each other, sometimes American and Israeli Jews need to educate ourselves about each other, too. For example, American Jews have great difficulty understanding the pressures of the process and compromises required to build a coalition government, as is necessary in Israel. We don't really understand the Israeli psyche.

Many people in the "organized" Jewish community are worried that the differing political viewpoints are

a microcosm of the growing disconnect between Israeli and Diaspora Judaism. This disconnect was first written about by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan in *Judaism as a Civilization*, which had as its thesis the idea that Jews are "products of time and place." It was natural that the Jewish experience of Spain was different than that of Polish Jews, that 20<sup>th</sup> century Iranian Jews had a very different experience than their counterparts in Savannah. While Jewish law, deriving from the Torah and Talmud, is binding on all Jews, there will always be different customs and prohibitions that are accepted depending on time and place.

It is natural that we, as American Jews, have different understandings than our Israeli counterparts. Zionism was created and the State of Israel was built on the premise that there be a Jewish national identity (versus a religious one). We explicitly have separation of church and state. Israel is a hybrid state.

Our shared understanding of what it means to be Jewish can be very different. Nothing could be a better reminder than interacting with many of the Israelis who visit Savannah... they have great difficulty understanding our Jewish communal life.

*"Each of us has the responsibility to learn about each other."*

In Israel, their Jewish identity typically is not formed by daily, weekly, or frequent visits to the "Beit Knesset" (synagogue). They don't need to come to the Jewish Film Festival to see Israeli films—they watch them from their homes on satellite. Holiday observance is part of the rhythm of daily life in Israel; the country changes during the *Chagim* (holidays). Here, you have to "work at it." Our differences are even as simple as the definition of what it means to be a "secular Jew."

So what's to be done? Each of us (both American and Israeli Jews) has the responsibility to learn about each other. Any vision of a strong Jewish people must include dialogue and understanding between the two world centers of Judaism: Israel and the U.S. We must continue to send our children to Israel (teen travel and Birthright are important initiatives supported by the Savannah Jewish Federation), we must go ourselves, and we should take the opportunity (whenever possible) to learn about the other.

If only our political leaders could put aside their personal animus. They and we cannot let it divide us as our destinies are intertwined with each other. After all, we are *am echad*—One People.

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# Exhibits Celebrating Chinese Jews at JEA in June

For 166 years, beginning in 960 CE, China was ruled by the emperors of the Song Dynasty from their capital at Kaifeng, a bustling metropolis straddling the legendary Silk Road that linked their sprawling domain to its trading partners in the West. And it was sometime during this period that a group of Israelites were invited for an audience with the sitting emperor.

Jews were not newcomers to China. Some had lived under Chinese rule from sometime after 92 CE, during the Han Dynasty (206 BCE- 220 CE), when they resided in what at the time was called the Western Region (roughly Xinjiang Province today) in special enclaves that were set aside by the Chinese for foreigners.

Israelite settlers and a synagogue are mentioned by name in a Tang (618-906) poem. But the first time that Israelites themselves referred to their presence in China was during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). A band of Jews, some of them merchants and likely of Persian birth or ancestry, accepted the above-mentioned invitation and were granted an audience in the Imperial palace. The emperor graciously accepted the tribute of cotton goods they brought to him, saying, "You returned to my China. Honor and observe the customs of your ancestors." Some scholars translate the Chinese as "You have come to our China..." and believe this indicates the formal start of the Jewish community of Kaifeng.

Centuries later, in 1489, the descendants engraved the emperor's words along with their rituals and core beliefs on a stone tablet. They placed the tablet in a place of honor in the courtyard of the resplendent

synagogue that their more immediate forebears had constructed in the year 1163 at the intersection of Kaifeng's Earth Market and Fire God Streets. This monument now is among the holdings of the Municipal Museum of Kaifeng

Fast forward to 2015 and a modern miracle is occurring: several hundred residents of the old Song capital regard themselves as bona fide members of the House of Israel. Kaifeng



Barnaby Yeh of the Sino-Judaic Institute leads morning prayers for Jewish descendants in Kaifeng  
Credit Becky Davis/The New York Times

Jews are meeting for fellowship, Torah study and Shabbat and holiday celebrations.

The exhibit *Kaifeng: Jews at the end of the Silk Road* is presented by the Sino-Judaic Institute (SJI), of which Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer is President. The SJI provides help and inspiration for this renaissance of the Kehilla (Jewish community) of Kaifeng and has been a pioneer in the field of Chinese-Jewish relations for more than 25 years. They are a virtual institute, based in the U.S. but with members the world over.

*Kaifeng: Jews at the end of the Silk Road* includes images from the past and present of Kehillat Kaifeng and shares the bittersweet saga of the tiny segment of Israel whose destiny it was to be hidden away for a mil-

lennium or so in one of the most improbable sanctuaries of the Diaspora. Their story has a good deal to teach us about the survival and disintegration of Jewish communities.

The second exhibit, *A Journey of Hope for more than 18,000 Jews to China: Jewish Refugees in Shanghai (1933-1941)* is a collaborative community effort to share information about the unique experiences of Jewish refugees in Shanghai during World War II. The cornerstone of this project is a historical traveling exhibit created by the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum. Located in the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue in the Tilanqiao Historical Area, the museum has taken a significant role in educating local and international visitors about the unique story of Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

From 1933-1941 Shanghai opened its doors to more than 18,000 Jewish refugees fleeing persecution and war in Europe, transforming the city into an "open city for Jews" at a time when much of the rest of the world was closed to these refugees. The traveling exhibit has given communities around the world an opportunity to learn this little-known but significant story about Jewish immigration and settlement in world history. It highlights historical con-



European Jewish Refugee family in Shanghai

tent and biographies of many "Shanghaiers" who escaped Europe and made Shanghai their temporary home.

*Jewish Refugees in Shanghai* is organized by the Confucius Institute at Savannah State University, which was established in 2014 to promote intercultural understanding, knowledge of China and its cultural traditions and to provide resources to facilitate the learning of Chinese language and culture. The exhibit is sponsored in conjunction with Confucius Institutes at nine other U.S. universities.



**Savannah Jewish Federation**

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of the Savannah Jewish Federation  
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# Vital Statistics

**ENGAGEMENT:** Mazel tov to... Mr. and Mrs. Leon Jeffrey Shelkoff of Statesboro, who announce the engagement of their daughter Cari Lei Shelkoff to Mr. Michael Steckel, son of Dr. and Mrs. Alan Steckel of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The future bride is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Shelkoff and the late Mr. and Mrs. Norman Shved. Cari graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.S. in Special Education and from Georgia Southern University with a Master of Education in Teaching and Learning. She is employed with Fulton County Schools in Atlanta.

The future groom is the grandson of Mrs. Marlene Josowitz and the late Mr. Jack Josowitz, and Mr. Isadore Steckel and the late Mrs. Miriam Steckel, all of Pittsburgh. Michael graduated magna cum laude from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in accounting. He is



employed as a CPA with KPMG in Atlanta.

A June wedding is planned at Congregation Agudath Achim in Savannah.

*Your Campaign Dollars at Work*

## Magen David Adom

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

Magen David Adom (MDA) functions in Israel much like the Red

emergency evacuation and transportation of patients and is responsible for providing Israel's national blood services, including collecting, processing, distributing and storage services of blood, plasma and their by-products.

A MDA team recently responded to the earthquake in Nepal, helping to treat both Nepalese citizens and Israeli tourists injured in the disaster. MDA also is part of an interna-



*Magen David Adom first responders at work*

Cross in the United States. It was established in 1930 as a national organization and works in cooperation with other emergency and security authorities such as the Israeli police, IDF, fire fighters and others.

MDA provides pre-hospital emergency services, instruction of first aid,

tional effort that rotates teams of doctors, therapists and prosthetic technicians to Haiti to continue to treat victims of the 2010 earthquake there.

The MDA is a full member in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

### Do you love to write?

If so we're looking for you! The Savannah Jewish News is seeking **VOLUNTEER WRITERS** to cover stories of interest to the Savannah Jewish community. If interested, send an e-mail to [sjnews@savj.org](mailto:sjnews@savj.org).



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# Fedx.....from pg 1

agreement with Georgia Power requiring Energiya to build a \$30 million, 17.68 megawatt solar field in southeastern Georgia, the first utility-scale solar project in the region.

Herskovits, 32, is a dynamic young Jewish businessman with strong ties

County, their plans for that project and others in the southeast, and their business philosophy. For more about Herskovits, see *Four Questions* in the January/February 2015 issue of the *Savannah Jewish News*.

FEDx events, with brief presentations by business leaders in and around the Savannah community, will be held on Thursdays four times a year from 5:30—7pm at the JEA. Participants will have the opportunity to network with other professionals, make new business contacts, make personal connections and learn something new through discussions about relevant topics. *For more information or to RSVP for FEDx2, contact Jamie Cahn at (912) 355-8111 or [yjs@savj.org](mailto:yjs@savj.org).*



to Israel. He will talk about how Energiya, a 'David' amongst a field of 'Goliaths,' won their bid in Glynn

## Accept the Challenge:



## Are you Team Captain Material?

Sign Up as a Torch Relay Team Captain

**Team Captain's Meeting  
June 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the JEA**

Interested in being a team captain? Need more information? Contact Jamie Cahn at [yjs@savj.org](mailto:yjs@savj.org) or call 912-355-8111.

## Save the Date!

**5776 Chanukah Torch Relay  
Sunday, December 13, 2015  
2:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

General runner & participant registration will be open in September.

Everyone is welcome to participate — Serious Runners, Casual Runners and Families!



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# Four Questions

for the rest of the year



Ja Jahannes

We spoke with Dr. Ja Jahannes, whose original play, *Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly!*, will be staged at the JEA on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. A story about the Savannah civil rights movement, it was written and first performed six years ago. Jahannes retired in 2008 as the Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Savannah State University. He received a B. A. degree with honors from Lincoln University (PA), two Master's degrees from Hampton University and a Ph.D. degree in Behavioral Sciences from the University of Delaware. Since his retirement from academia he is best known as a novelist, poet, essayist, playwright, composer, photographer, doting father, minister, educator and community leader.

You are clearly very creative; one might say a Renaissance Man. How did you become a playwright?

I have been interested in theater since college in the 1960s. I had one of the best teachers, Louis Putnam. He had been a Wall Street executive and then decided to have a farm in the country and teach. He taught me everything I know about theater. His classes were always alive – he could read Beowulf and make you think you were right there, same for Shakespeare. I acted in all of his plays.

Perhaps my question should have been how did you become interested in behavioral sciences?

I had to feed five children. (Maybe you shouldn't print that – oh, it's OK.)

Can you give us a little more background for the play and why revive it now?

It's set in 1963 and is about the civil rights movement in Savannah, one of the only cities with riots without fires. Actually, they were peaceful demonstrations; the movement was led by W.W. Law and Hosea Williams. Some of the younger people were Edna Jackson (Edna Branch then); and Judge John Morris, he was a youngster participating in the

wade-ins on Tybee. Aaron Buchsbaum was important for that period of time – he and Law were very close. He said he understood the plight of the blacks because Jewish people had had the same things happen to them and he made some courageous, philosophical speeches about why they [the blacks] needed justice in America.

I thought it was timely (in light of current events) to do the play again. It's always time to remind people we are Americans and that citizens all have rights. I think the real issue is that people don't know their own history because if they did, they would realize that at some point all of us were a mixture of the same people. If you don't know your history, you are unlikely to know anyone else's history. I led a seminar on diversity a few years ago and one man said "Oh, I'm just a white man from the south." I asked him where his grandparents were from. One grandfather was from Italy; the other was from the United Kingdom. I told him, "You're multicultural;" he said he never thought about it that way.

I hope that this will be the first of many more plays that we will produce at the JEA. I'm looking at some short stories to adapt, including some by some contemporary Jewish writers. I'm really dedicated to having multicultural theater here in Savannah; there are so few venues for it.

Please tell us about some of the characters in the play.

Louis Causi will play Levi Saperstein, who will represent the Jewish community and has a soliloquy at the beginning that I think is going to be absolutely stunning. Sharon Aikens is playing Mother Jones, your feisty, down-home black mother. Kenneth Rouche is playing Reverend Mann, the pastor and Diane Williams is playing Sister Hitch. It's fictionalized because many of the people it's based on are still alive. Otherwise, it would have been difficult to represent and quote people correctly. The play is directed by Lucia Jahannes.

This play is a musical, isn't it?

Yes, there are about 13 original songs written with Gary Swindell, a 'true' Savannahian. I usually write my own words and music, but this time I wrote the lyrics and Gary wrote the music. He is the musical director for the production, which also includes a few traditional songs. There are dance numbers, too.

*Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly!* will be performed at the JEA on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm. Tickets will be on sale at the JEA front desk.

## Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES



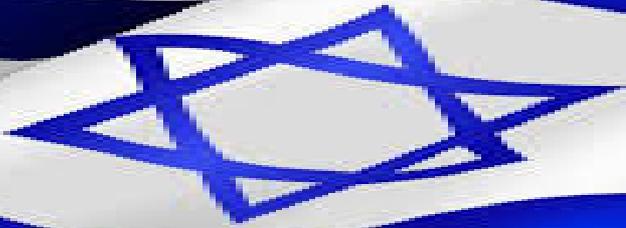
### MARCUS "MAX" KREH

August, September 1993

Interviewed by Gerald Caplan

Videographed by Leslie Caplan

Finally, at the end of December of '40, the friend of ours . . . came to the United States. We were in contact always. So one day he calls me and said, "Max, I need you." He was a working man. He said, "Look what happened to me. A lot of my relatives came from Poland. I have to help them. I bought a factory." I said, "What kind of factory?" He said, "I don't know exactly what it is." He said, "I'll take you there." So he took me there. They were making those leather tubing, you know, for suspenders, those two pieces there? He said, "Max, do you know anything about it?" I said, "No." He said, "I don't know anything about it either. What about if we try our best?" I said, "All right. Where does it come from?" He said, "Nobody knew it, where it came from." He had to wait until the next day, from other places where they were making purses or whatever. Anyhow, it wasn't our business. They had a stencil, and that was a very heavy stencil, and a hammer, and they were stenciling wherever they could find a piece of good leather, they were stenciling out a piece of this. "Max, all I can pay you is \$12.50 a week. I don't know if I lose money or if I can." I said, "I take it." I expected to see American workers speaking English where I could learn something. Instead of that, half of them spoke Yiddish and half of them were Italians. That was the end. But anyhow, we managed the factory until May, April '41, . . .



# I on Israel

## IDF Responds to Crisis in Nepal

More than 250 doctors and rescue personnel went to Nepal as part of the Israel Defense Forces response to the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that devastated parts of that country on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The IDF established a 60-bed field hospital there, complete with two operating theaters and an obstetrics department designed specifically to handle premature births anticipated as a consequence of the natural disaster.

The Israeli team was one of the largest of any of the international aid teams on the ground in Nepal. The field hospital opened on the Wednesday after the earthquake (delayed by logistical difficulties at the damaged Kathmandu airport) and by that first Friday morning had treated almost 250 patients, including performing 15 life-saving surgeries and delivering three babies. Israeli medical personnel also were providing assistance at local hospitals in Nepal, primarily in surgical departments.

In addition to the field hospital, the IDF team included three large search and rescue units and their gear, including cutting equipment, electronic devices to help find trapped victims, generators, lighting equipment and more. Three IDF Oketz K-9 dogs and their handlers also went to Nepal.

Along with the IDF, numerous other Israeli and Jewish humanitarian organizations were active in Nepal immediately after the earthquake. Magen David Adom (the Israeli organization similar to the Red Cross here) and IsraAID (see *I on Israel*, April 2015) both dispatched relief and rescue teams to the area. JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) mobilized relief efforts right away and like AJWS (American Jewish World Service), established an emergency fund for donations for the victims.

Rabbi Chezky Lifshitz, co-director of the Kathmandu Chabad House, borrowed and rode along in a helicopter to a remote mountainous region of Nepal to bring food and water to hikers stranded there. (Early reports credited him in error with piloting the chopper.) His wife prepared thousands of meals to be served



*First baby (boy) born in IDF field hospital in Nepal*

in their neighborhood or distributed elsewhere.

Nepal is very popular with young Israelis for tourism after they complete their service in the armed forces and there were more than 300 known to be there when the quake hit. Many Israelis were briefly stranded and reported missing in remote areas popular for trekking, including a few climbers on Mount Everest. Sadly, one young man, Or Asraf, 22, who was wounded in last summer's war with Gaza, died with a number of other hikers in Langtang National Park, apparently in an avalanche triggered by the earthquake. Asraf's body was found by members of his elite Army unit who went to Nepal to search for him when he did not make contact after the quake. He was Israel's sole fatality from the earthquake.

The IDF team was just returning home when a second large earthquake hit Nepal on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The field hospital had treated approximately 1,600 victims of the first quake, including performing 85 surgeries. Greeting them at Ben Gurion Airport, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "I told the Nepali ambassador just a few minutes ago that we are prepared to the best of our abilities to help now, too. I hope that they will not need you, but if they do, we know – and the world is beginning to know – that we can count on you."

## El Al Nurturing Developers

El Al has become the first airline to establish its own tech accelerator – dubbed Cockpit – hoping to enable startup companies to develop apps and software that make travel easier for passengers and help airlines make more money.

As an accelerator, a concept in use in the tech industry for about 10 years, El Al's Cockpit will offer office space and resources to startups in the travel industry. The carrier said it plans to host ten startups and provide them with tens of millions of dollars in investment funds and other benefits including mentoring and support from El Al's professionals in aviation and tourism. The startups also will enjoy access to the Israeli carrier's domestic and international business connections network. El Al will also provide seed financing and commercial, technological and legal consulting.

The program was announced at ThinkNext, an event sponsored by Microsoft Israel, whose own accelerator program will collaborate with Cockpit so that participants may benefit from Microsoft's guidance, as



well.

El Al announced the first two startups to participate in Cockpit: *Shoppfly*, an app that allows travelers to browse and pre-purchase items that may be picked up at a duty-free shop, or delivered in-flight or to a destination hotel; and *BidFlyer*, an online space for airlines to sell off hard-to-sell seats via a bidding process.

David Maimon, El Al's CEO, said Cockpit is the first accelerator to focus specifically on the travel industry, though it does join the Labs 90 program for tourism startups launched in July 2014 by Israeli travel agent Daka 90, which is investing \$10 million in 3-5 startups each year for four years.

## Idea Whose Time has Come?

Better Place, Israel's first attempt at a line of electric cars and system whereby drivers would refuel by swapping spent batteries for fresh ones at service stations (rather than plugging in and recharging), died in bankruptcy two years ago, perhaps an idea ahead of its time. But battery-swapping technology is getting another try.

Ziv Av Engineering (ZAE), one of Israel's largest high-tech product development firms, announced in late April that it had signed an agreement with the Chinese bus manufacturer Bustil to design and supply battery switching stations for electric-pow-



*ZAE CEO Dr. Amir Ziv-Av and Standards Institute of Israel Director General Ziva Patir (center) at the deal signing at Bustil's Nanjing factory.*

ered vehicles (mostly buses) in Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu Province in Eastern China.

According to reports, the deal calls for ZAE and Bustil to jointly design and supply 7,000 swapping stations; ZAE alone will be responsible for designing and supplying the battery



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:

# CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

June 2015



## Children's Programming



### JEA Camp Savannah June 1 - July 31, 2015

	Week 1	<b>Holiday Bonanza</b> June 1st – June 5th	<b>Highlights:</b> LIT/CIT Sleepover & Wildlife Presentation <b>Dress-Up Days:</b> Go Green! <b>Shabbat:</b> Disney Purim Breakfast Celebration
	Week 2	<b>Siesta Fiesta</b> June 8th – June 12th	<b>Highlights:</b> All-Camp Sleepover <b>Dress-Up Days:</b> Crazy Sombrero, Onesie PJ's <b>Shabbat:</b> Mexican Fiesta Taco Celebration
	Week 3	<b>Cowabunga Corral</b> June 15th – June 19th	<b>Highlights:</b> On-site Carnival, Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan <b>Dress-Up Days:</b> Bandana Bonanza, Cowboys and Aliens <b>Shabbat:</b> Hoedown Throwdown Celebration
	Week 4	<b>Color War</b> June 22nd – June 26th	<b>Highlights:</b> Olympic Day, Magic Marc Performance <b>Dress-Up Days:</b> Crazy Hair, Crazy Socks <b>Shabbat:</b> Hogwarts Chanukah Feast Celebration
	Week 5	<b>Gameboy Remix</b> June 29th – July 3rd	<b>Highlights:</b> Clubhouse Field Trip <b>Dress-Up Days:</b> So Geek, So Chic; Nintendo Bazaar <b>Shabbat:</b> Minecraft Build Your Own Burger/Hotdog Celebration
	Week 6	<b>Arctic Blast</b> July 6th – July 10th	<b>Highlights:</b> On-site Water Park <b>Dress-Up Days:</b> Tacky Tie Dye, Beach Bum <b>Shabbat:</b> Polar Pizza Party Celebration
	Week 7	<b>Into The Woods</b> July 13th – July 17th	<b>Highlights:</b> Movie Theater Field Trip <b>Dress-Up Days:</b> Villain Vogue Off, Prince Charming's Soiree <b>Shabbat:</b> Medieval Times Banquet Celebration
	Week 8	<b>Camp Ruach</b> July 20th – July 24th	<b>Highlights:</b> LIT/CIT Sleepover & On-site Extreme Obstacle Course, Black Out Pep Rally <b>Dress-Up Days:</b> Ultimate Sports Fan, Neon Tutus and Ties <b>Shabbat:</b> Camp Fire Cook-Out Celebration
	Week 9	<b>Glee</b> July 27th – July 31st	<b>Highlights:</b> All-Camp Sleepover, Glee Performance <b>Dress-Up Days:</b> I Love the 80's, Celebrity Look-Alike <b>Shabbat:</b> Drive-in Diner and Movie Celebration

Visit [www.SavannahJEA.org](http://www.SavannahJEA.org) to download camp brochure and registration paperwork.



**The Israeli Scouts  
are Coming to  
Entertain You  
Friday, June 19th, 3 pm**

Each year, the scouts spend a day with our campers educating them on Israeli culture through songs, dance, storytelling and games, before taking it to center stage for a show stopping performance. The Scouts travel to North America to represent Israel and spread a message of hope and peace, as well as bridge the connection between North America and Israel. Join us and hear an amazing performance in English, Hebrew & Yiddish!

## Soccer is Starting!

Soccer Registration will start July 1st. Practice will start in August. Practice and games to be determined.



Ages: 4-10  
Member Value Price: \$50  
Non-member Price: \$75

Contact Stephanie Johnson –  
[stephanie@savj.org](mailto:stephanie@savj.org) or 355-8111

# The JEA 2015 Gatsby Gala Featured Baker (and JEA member) Lisa Moore



Lisa Moore is the owner, baker and inspiration behind Mattie Belle's Bakery. Mattie Belle's Bakery, which opened in November of 2014, is located at 1000 Eisenhower Drive and specializes in Southern baking with a French twist. The

JEA is excited to announce that Lisa and the Mattie Belle's team will take over the JEA kitchen to provide kosher desserts to the Gala on August 30, 2015. Anna Berwitz, Director of Development and gala organizer recently sat down with Lisa to learn more about her bakery, her connection to the JEA and what she has in store for the gala.

### So tell us a little bit about Mattie Belle's Bakery.

Mattie Belle's was inspired by a milestone in my life—my 50th birthday. I have always loved France, and opening the bakery was a way for me to connect with my passion. I have always loved to bake and had worked in the restaurant business in Atlanta, so opening a bakery was a natural fit. We specialize in wholesome, real ingredients that are locally sourced. We don't use food dyes or artificial ingredients—all of our goods are made with natural ingredients.

### What is your connection to the JEA?

We are long-time members of the JEA. My 13-year old daughter Sydney attended camps at the JEA as a young child, and in recent years has been a member of the JEA swim team. We live in Ardsley Park so the JEA is right in our neighborhood.

### What type of treats can guests expect at the Gala on August 30th?

Being that we specialize in wholesome, real ingredients, we are excited to expand our thinking for this event. There are many great non-dairy cakes out there that use olive oil and coconut oil, so we hope to offer those at the gala. There are many delicious possibilities and we look forward to thinking outside of the box.



*This year's gala, which will be held on Sunday, August 30th at 6pm, will feature a 1920's GATSBY theme. Co-chairs Dayle & Aaron Levy and Lori & Paul Robinson invite you to experience a night of food, music, auctions and fun. For tickets, please visit [www.savannahjea.org](http://www.savannahjea.org) or call 912-355-8111.*

# Adult Programming



- Bridge** - Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Scrabble** - Wednesdays 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Mah Jongg** - Mondays 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Thursdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



**Community Garden**  
Love to garden, but don't have the space? Be part of the JEA Garden Club and help work one of the 18 garden boxes at the Midtown Miracle Community Garden, three blocks north of the JEA. Excess produce and herbs will be donated to Second Harvest to aid them in their mission to feed up to 6000 children daily. For more details, "like" **Midtown Miracle Community Garden** on Facebook or email Carol Greenberg [MStarArts@gmail.com](mailto:MStarArts@gmail.com).



**Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm**  
Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

**June 4th** - "The Magic of 3D printing for artists, corporations and the medical field." A talk and demonstration by Electrical Engineer, Jason Rich.

**June 11th** - "Kaifeng Exhibit at the JEA: Jews at the End of the Silk Road." A discussion and tour of the Exhibit with Rabbi Arnold Belzer.

**June 18th** - "Folk Impressionism: What is this New Type of Painting Style?" JEA Gallery Artist for June, Joshua Hill.

**June 25th** - "Taglit-Birthright Israel: What happens when a program sends over 400,000 young Jewish people from 65 countries to Israel for FREE?" Learn about this amazing experience and its impact with Jamie Cahn, SJF Outreach Coordinator and Birthright Trip Staff.

## Perimeter Grounds Tour

When was the last time you played in your community backyard?  
Whether you were once a community planner, camper, sports enthusiast or you never have ventured beyond our beautiful building:

**Come spend an hour and experience your past, present & future**

Sunday June 14, 2015

From 10 AM to 11:30 AM \*Rain date: June 21



Event is free but RSVP for "Grounds Tour" 912-355-8111  
Presented by Building & Grounds Committee & JEA Garden Club





# Health & Wellness

## Benefit of Having a Certified Exercise Physiologist on Staff



Stephanie Johnson  
Health & Wellness  
Director

Good nutrition without physical activity is like eating one-half of a really tasty sandwich. Although it may be nourishing and appealing, it isn't fully satisfying. To achieve good health and glycemic control you need both halves of the sandwich. Just as you may need a dietitian to help

you maneuver the world of healthy eating, a guide in your exercise journey can be a lifesaver, also.

Now is a good time to talk about the dietitian's partner, the exercise physiologist (EP). Most people are familiar with dietitians and have some idea of what they do and why seeing one is a good idea if you have diabetes. However, determining why their doctor wrote out a referral for an appointment with an exercise physiologist may leave a lot of people scratching their heads.

Some people confuse exercise physiologists with physical therapists. Physical therapists help restore muscle and limb function after people have had an injury, but you don't have to be injured to benefit from the services of an EP (such as Stephanie Johnson, MS, CPT, CEP - Health & Wellness Director at the JEA). Planning for and starting an exercise program can be challenging for many people with diabetes. EPs can help you learn how to exercise safely no matter what your starting condition is.

The EP is trained to identify lifestyle-related issues that promote poor health and to design and implement a behavior-based treatment plan aimed at modifying those lifestyle behaviors. Lack of time and distaste are two reasons people give for not wanting to exercise. A strength of the EP is the ability to match exercises to your lifestyle.

The EP will analyze your current fitness level and come up with a complete, individual exercise plan to improve your cardiovascular function and blood glucose control that takes into account your medical condition(s). For people with diabetes, an exercise physiologist is an excellent choice as a coach because he/she understands how exercise can affect blood glucose levels.

According to Health Careers.org, the Board Certified Exercise Physiologist (EPC) is trained to:

- Administer exercise stress tests in healthy and unhealthy populations
- Evaluate a person's overall health with special attention to cardiovascular function and metabolism
- Develop individualized exercise prescriptions to increase physical fitness, strength, endurance and flexibility

- Design customized exercise programs to meet health care needs and athletic performance goals

EPs must have a degree in exercise physiology and/or be certified by the American Society of Exercise Physiologists (ASEP). The coursework includes science courses such as Kinesiology (functional anatomy), biomechanics, exercise physiology, psychophysiology, cardiac rehabilitation, exercise testing and prescription, ECG interpretation and statistics.

You might consider seeing an EP in the following circumstances:

- Newly diagnosed with diabetes or pre-diabetes or trying to prevent diabetes
- Trying to lose weight or gain weight
- Seeking help in getting your blood glucose under control with exercise
- Trying to improve your aerobic capacity or increase muscle mass
- Been diagnosed with other health conditions besides diabetes that will benefit from an exercise plan (e.g. high blood pressure, high cholesterol and high body fat)
- Finding an exercise regimen that fits your goals, health conditions, culture and lifestyle

If you have a newly diagnosed medical condition, post rehabilitation, want to decrease your medication, or prevent a condition from becoming worse, then you should schedule a training appointment with our very own Exercise Physiologist – Stephanie Johnson. You can reach me by calling the JEA at 355-8111 or send me an email to [stephanie@savj.org](mailto:stephanie@savj.org).

# Summer Fitness Classes

## Sunday

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

## Monday

- 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

- 8:30 am - Firm It Up
- 10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
- 10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
- 6:00 pm - Billy's Boot Camp

## Thursday

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

## Friday

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

## Parent 'N Tot Swim Classes!

Help your young children get ready to swim by emphasizing fun in the water. Parents and children participate in several guided practice sessions that help children learn elementary swimming skills, including water entry, bubble blowing, front kicking, back floating, underwater exploration and more. All Tots need to be accompanied in the water by an adult.

Course length: Four-Lesson Commitment- 30 minute sessions – Indoor Pool

Sundays - July 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th  
10:00 am or 1:00 pm

Member Value Price: \$50  
Non-Member Price: \$75

Registration Ends July 1st. Classes may fill up, so register early.

You MUST register by emailing [aquatics@savj.org](mailto:aquatics@savj.org) or calling 912-355-8111, ext 225

For more information, please contact Kaylee Grue, JEA Aquatics Director at [aquatics@savj.org](mailto:aquatics@savj.org) or call 912-355-8111.





JEA Preschool  
Savannah News

## Enroll Now for 2015-16

- 16-months through 4-years old
- Half-day and full-day options
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for the toddlers and two-year-olds
- For full details, visit our website at [www.SavannahJEA.org](http://www.SavannahJEA.org)

Contact Jodi Sadler, Director, at  
Jodi@savj.org or 912-355-8111

## Summer Program

- June 1st-July 31st
- Open to children ages 16 months to 4 years
- Weekly Shabbat celebrations
- Swimming lessons for children age 4
- Hands-on experiences and activities
- Special guests
- Half-day and full-day options

See [www.SavannahJEA.org](http://www.SavannahJEA.org) for more information and registration form



Preschool Shabbat

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



## JEA Art Gallery



June Artist:  
Joshua Hill



Living and working as a decorative painter in Savannah for almost twenty years, Joshua has enjoyed beautifying homes and businesses from Connecticut to Florida. Design and décor have always been a passion of the artist. As well as faux finishes, painted furniture and murals, Joshua has designed greeting cards and painted canvases. Ultimately, Joshua's goal has been the mastery of color and how to affect his world through its use. Seeking a voice of his own, Joshua has chosen to focus on developing a new style of painting to express his creativity.

Painting for nearly twenty-five years, Joshua is still excited by new colors, new possibilities. Still inspired and challenged by the great masters of the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist movements, he seeks to use his palette knives and leftover paints to perfect his new movement called "Folk Impressionism."

"Folk Impressionism" strives to use paints from past projects to render images that inspire him while keeping the paints from harming the environment. The act of dragging the paint is inspired by Gerhardt Richter and produces a canvas of compliments and contrast that come together to create form and then function. One hopes through "Folk Impressionism," the useless becomes useful.

Artwork available for viewing June 1-30, 2015

## 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 4/12/15-5/8/15)

Jason Blackburn  
B. Warren & Lara Blauth  
Clifton & Shannon Buck  
John Chambers  
William & Josephine Crake  
Denise German  
Susan Gray  
William & Yvonna Harrell  
Elizabeth Lietzau-Kluetsch  
Jeremy & Juni Margrie  
Muriel Maida  
Siran & Beth Watt  
Mary Wolfe

## JEA Donations

(April 12, 2015-May 11, 2015)

### JEA BUILDING FUND

In honor of Linda Zoller  
In honor of Don Kole  
In honor of Aaron Levy  
In memory of Helen Spiers  
In memory of Gertrude Barr  
In memory of Shirley Loundy  
Arlene & Allan Ratner  
In honor of Arlene & Allan Ratner  
Betsy & Larry Lehner

### JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In honor of Harvey Lebos  
In honor of Lynn & Dick Berkowitz  
In honor of Merry & Richard Bodziner  
Arlene & Allan Ratner  
In memory of Georgeann Graves  
In honor of Arlene Ratner  
Carole & Jerald Cohen  
A generous donation by Heather Szatmary

### JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH

In memory of Georgeann Graves  
Marcy & Jerry Konter

### HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Stanley Rosenberg  
In memory of Florence Sussman  
Brenda & Patrick Salter  
Bernice Elman  
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein  
In honor of Bernice Elman  
Emma & Ralph Sprouse  
Sherry & Norman Dolgoff  
Elise & Victor Shernoff  
Heather, Jason, Kristina & Reed Shernoff  
Linda & Steve Sacks  
Vickie & Richard Halperin  
Sheryl & Gustave Kreh  
Annette Karp  
Ann & Steve Solomon

## Save the Date!

Sunday, July 26, 2015  
7:00 pm

J. Rep Theatre Presents:  
"I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly"

Enjoy a play whose focus is the civil rights era and features a character reminiscent of our own Aaron Buchsbaum.

# Mazel Tov to the 2015 High School and College Graduates!

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



**Hadley Bess  
Gordon**  
St. Andrew's School

The daughter of Kelly and Marc Gordon, Hadley played JV volleyball, varsity soccer, was a varsity cheerleader and participated in Student Council. She was a member of the National Honor Society, the National French Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society and was MIT Mom and President of her BBG chapter. Hadley will be attending the University of Georgia. She attended Rambam Day School for pre-school and Shalom School from first through sixth grades.



**Hannah  
Kovensky**  
Savannah Country  
Day School

The daughter of Sarah and Seth Kovensky, Hannah was active in dance, photography, chorus and the school magazine. She was a member of the National Honor Society and a leader of the school's Special Olympics group. Hannah also was the photographer for Music Vault in Hardeeville, SC, participated in the Duke TIP program for four years and attended Grammy Camp in Los Angeles. She will be attending the University of Southern California and plans to pursue a career in the music industry. Hannah attended Rambam Day School for pre-school and Shalom School from first through eighth grades.



**Max Aaron  
Strauss**  
Savannah Arts  
Academy

The son of Jill and Brad Strauss, Max was a member of the National Honor Society, the Thespian Society and the Jewish Student Union. He was active in BBYO serving as President and New Member VP of his AZA chapter; New Member and Programming VPs for Dixie Council; was named Matthew Cranman and Dixie Council Members of the Year in 2013; and received bronze and silver Shields of David and the International Tree of Life award. Max also served on the Ronald McDonald House Charities Teen Board. He will be attending the

University of Georgia where he plans to major in Computer Science. Max attended Rambam Day School from pre-school through eighth grade.

## COLLEGE GRADUATES



**Ben Adler**  
University of Michigan

The son of Susan and John Adler, Ben graduated with a B.A. in Political Science. He was President of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, founder and director of the Interfraternity Development Council, a member of Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, Gamma Sigma Alpha Greek Honor Society and a James B. Angell Scholar. Ben also studied abroad at Charles University in Prague and did political campaign work. He attended Shalom School.



**Rachel Brody**  
Armstrong State  
University

The daughter of Jan Epstein and Jerry Brody, Rachel graduated with a B.S. in Health Sciences. She plans to work in the home health care industry. Rachel attended Rambam Day School from kindergarten through eighth grade.



**Elle Byck**  
Georgia Regents  
University

The daughter of Peggy and David Byck, Elle graduated with honors with a B.S. in Nursing. She was a Dean's List student at both the University of Georgia and GRU, was a member of Chi Omega sorority, participated in intramural sports, trained with the Federal Emergency Management Authority and was a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Elle plans to begin her career in Intensive Care nursing before continuing her education. She attended Shalom School from pre-school through 10<sup>th</sup> grade.



**Amy Robinson  
Kole**  
Shenandoah  
Conservatory

The daughter of LeeAnn and Jeff Kole, Amy gradu-

ated with a BFA in Acting. She was President of Alpha Psi Omega theatre honor society, a producer of The Playwright's Performance for four years, and participated in Lip Sync 4 Your Life, Shenandoah Cares, Guerilla Theatre, Relay for Life and Coming Together (a benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS). Amy will be participating in the Disney College Program then plans on pursuing a MFA in screenwriting, hoping to one day write for television and film and to continue in the performing arts. She attended Rambam Day School from pre-school through fifth grade.

*The graduates included in this listing 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 who are graduating this year – and to your families! We wish all of you the very best in your future endeavors.*

## Celebrating a simcha?

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

## We want to know!

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



## The Savannah Jewish Federation is eXcited to present



**eXplore New Opportunities • eXchange Ideas  
eXpand Your Network • Learn from eXperts**

**Thursday, June 18, 2015**

**5:30 - 7pm**

**Jewish Educational Alliance**

**Networking Happy Hour with**

**David Herskovits**

**CEO of Energiya USA**

Energiya USA is the U.S. affiliate of Israel's Energiya Global Capital, an international solar development firm. They are constructing a \$30 million, 17.68 megawatt solar field in southeastern Georgia, the first utility scale solar project in the region.

**To RSVP or for more information, call Jamie Cahn at  
912-355-8111 or email [campaign@savj.org](mailto:campaign@savj.org).**

## Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

**Samuel Harvey Jospin**  
Who died May 13, 2015

He is survived by his wife, Sara Ehrenreich Jospin; his son, Walter Jospin (Wendy Shoob); his daughter, Deborah Jospin (Chris Gallagher); four grandchildren; and his sister, Charlotte Cohn of Gadsden, AL.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah 31416-0190; or the Jewish Educational Alliance, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405; or the charity of your choice.

**David Barron Silverman**  
Who died May 12, 2015

He is survived by his wife, Andrea Ryan Silverman; his daughter, Hannah Elizabeth Silverman and his son, Samuel Galin Silverman, both of Savannah; his brother, Dr. Victor (Saba) Silverman, of Atlanta; his father- and mother-in-law, Tim and Mary Ryan; brothers- and sisters-in-law; and by many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Benjamin and Edith Berman Silverman and his sister, Donna Lee Silverman.

Remembrances: Rambam Day School, 111 Atlas St., Savannah 31405-5461; or Help Save One Of Our Own,

Suite B-1, 7505 Waters Ave., Savannah 31406; or Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, 5444 Abercorn St., Savannah 31405.

**Glenda Delores "Dee" Kleiner**  
Who died May 12, 2015

She is survived by her daughters, Myron K. (Jerry) Wilson, Karla K. Mobley, and Simone K. (William) Wiggins, all of Savannah, and Cydney K. (Chris) Pass, of Maryville, TN; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Martin "Marty" Francis Kleiner.

Remembrances: Hospice Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah 31416-0190 or a charity of the donor's choice.

**Evelyn Goldie Wills**  
Who died May 12, 2015

She is survived by her sister, Miriam Wills; and by many nieces and nephews.

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

## George Gustave Altman

George Gustave Altman, 96, passed away peacefully on November 28, 2014, surrounded by his family. George was born Oct. 11, 1918 to Dr. Gustave and Estelle Altman of Helena, Arkansas. After an idyllic childhood in Helena, George moved with his family to Louisville, Ky. where he joined the Boy Scouts and enjoyed camping and canoeing adventures along the Ohio River on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout. He was confirmed at Adath Israel Temple in Louisville in 1933. George graduated from the University of Louisville and attended The United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.

He served as an officer in the Army Air Corps during WWII, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He was always proud of the recognition he received from senior military commanders for significantly improving the efficiency of retrofitting aircraft for combat at six air bases in the U.S. In 1945 while stationed at Hunter Air Field, in Savannah, he met and married a young volunteer nurse's aide, Frances Karp. They founded and operated Altman Realty Company in Savannah for many years until George was offered a senior position with the FAA in Atlanta as Director of Airport Operations from Panama Canal Zone to Virginia. George was subsequently recruited by Raytheon Corporation, and after several years, retired again.

George is remembered by all who knew him as a man of the highest moral standards, a dry wit, and a great intellect. He never had a harsh word for anyone, and upheld the highest traditions of Judaism. He instilled in his children, and his grandchildren, a deep appreciation of learning and the joy of observing the world and its people. He took great pride in the accomplishments of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and remains an inspiration to them.

George is survived by Frances, his wife of 69 years, their three children, Gary, Craig and Bonnie, a daughter-in-law, Judy Rich Altman, five grandchildren, David Altman and his wife, Leigh Braslow Altman, Jonathan Altman and his wife, Xiaofei Altman, Allison Savage and her husband Michael Savage, Erin Altman and Andrea Auerbach. George is further survived by six great-grandsons, Ely Gustave Altman, Gil Braslow Altman, Samuel Braslow Altman, Alexander Savage, Thomas Savage and Luke Altman.

Graveside services were conducted by Rabbi Barry Coffsky on Sunday afternoon, November 30th at two o'clock at Arlington Memorial Park. Arrangements by H. M. Patterson & Son, Arlington Chapel.

## The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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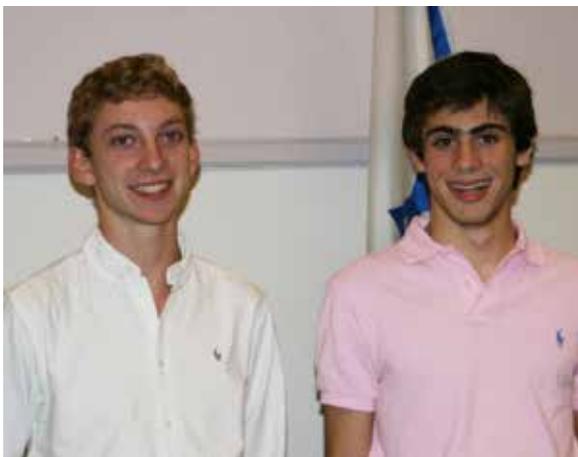
*Looking for  
something to do?*

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



# LASTING LEGACIES

The first scholarships from the Kay Becker Israel Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah were awarded at last month's annual meeting of the Jewish Educational Alliance. Tomer Locker and Nathan Luskey will participate in youth programming in Israel this summer with the assistance of scholarships from the Fund.



Nathan Luskey (l) and Tomer Locker

Kay Becker, who died in 2012, originally was from New York but lived in Savannah for more than 65 years; 44 of those years with her husband Johnny Becker, who predeceased her in 1992. She had minimal exposure to her Jewish roots growing up, but as a life member of Hadassah, nothing was more important to her than supporting anything and everything that would have a positive impact on Israel. In fact, Kaye made approximately 15 trips to Israel after the age of 53 and made it possible for her grandchildren to make meaningful trips to Israel.

Grants of up to \$1,000 from the Kay Becker Israel Fund may be available, depending upon the number of applicants and other circumstances. Scholarships may be used for peer group travel, gap year programs, Yeshiva attendance or college abroad programs. The scholarships are intended to encourage travel to and participation in programs in Israel for high-school and college youth.

In recognizing the deep and profound love for Israel that Kaye developed in her adult life, her family has honored her memory in perpetuity with a fitting tribute.

# MOVIE SPIEL

by Bonnie Strongin



Bonnie Strongin

## The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Film—like all forms of literature—has a handful of important purposes, the most primary of which is entertainment. Not to be dismissed or trivialized. If the public does not find a film entertaining, there is no box office, and it becomes a financial loss.

In truth when I am not as entertained as others after a movie, I am greeted in the theater lobby with comments like, “Well, you look for different things.” Not true. I may see different things, but I always want to be entertained.

So besides the obvious, other purposes include: To reflect the history of the time (of the setting); to indicate the social mores and standards of behavior; to teach.

When *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*—based on Irish novelist John Boyne's book of the same name—was released in 2008, we added to our treasure trove

of learning about the single most horrific event of modern civilization: The Holocaust.

Did we find new facts? No. Is historical drama always, point by point, what actually occurred? No. So how/what did we learn that was new or different?

*It is the horror of the Holocaust seen through the eyes of a child.*

It is the end of childhood, the loss of innocence witnessed by an eight year old. It is the impact of war on a boy who chases butterflies and reads adventure books. It is the powerlessness of childhood.

We are the enlightened audience. We know what he doesn't. “No,” we want to scream. “Don't go there.” But the story unfolds as it must. And it works because of Bruno's innocence, beautifully played by Asa Butterfield (*Hugo* and *Ender's Game*).

Bruno's father Ralf (David Thewlis) receives a promotion. He is an SS officer now promoted to commandant of a prison camp. An extermination

camp. Mother (Elsa played by Vera Farmiga) is the conscience of the film. As film critic Kathryn Hughes noted, she represents the “willful refusal of adult Germans to see what was going on under their noses” or to do anything about it.

Bruno befriends another eight-year-old, Shmuel, a boy who lives inside the camp. He too wears the mask of innocence. When Shmuel's father disappears, Bruno offers to join him inside the camp to look for him. Bruno removes his clothes, puts on ‘the striped pajamas,’ and digs himself in under the barbed wire.

The story ends with the discovery of his discarded clothes and his parents' screaming realization of what



Asa Butterfield (l) as Bruno and Jack Scanlon as Shmuel

has transpired. The closing shot is the now empty, silent gas chamber.

The film has been criticized for not being plausible. Historical inaccuracies. Impossible to suspend disbelief to meet the story's demands.

Roger Ebert declared the film does not attempt a forensic reconstruction of the Holocaust, but is “about a value system that survives like a virus.” Genocide, racism, the destruction of a people's history.

Today.

All over the world.

Bonnie Strongin, a film analyst, is the host of the film series movieSPEAK. The next screening is *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas at Mickve Israel, Sunday, June 14 at 1pm*. Guest Speaker: Vera Hoffman, *Holocaust Survivor*. For information: (912) 233-1547.

***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, 2008 narrative  
Mark Herman, director  
Available on DVD, Blu-ray, Amazon Prime & Netflix**

!欢迎!欢迎 WELCOME! !שלום-עליכם!

The JEA, the Confucius Institute at Savannah State University and the Sino-Judaic Institute together present:

*Jewish Refugees in Shanghai (1933-1941)*

&

*Kaifeng: Jews at the end of the Silk Road*

May 31, 2015 through July 5, 2015

Jewish Educational Alliance

The Exhibits will be open during regular JEA hours for self-guided tours.

Please join us for the following events:

**Sunday May 31, 6:30 pm**

Opening night celebration hosted by Savannah State University President, Dr. Cheryl Davenport Dozier

**Sunday June 7, 7:00 pm**

*Chinese Jews: Why Were Pat Robertson, the Vatican, Oliver Cromwell and Modern Evangelicals So Interested?* presented by Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer, President of the Sino-Judaic Institute

**Thursday June 11th, 12:30 pm**

Lunch & Learn program featuring a talk by Rabbi Belzer and guided tour of both exhibits.

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



### Congregation Agudath Achim

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Come to our  
Annual Meeting  
Sunday, June 7th  
at 3 p.m.

# ANNUAL MEETING



Join us for Kiddush  
Saturday, July 11th  
Honoring  
Rabbi Ruven & Adina Barkan

Join us for  
Young Family  
Friday Shabbat  
July 24th at 5:30 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 & Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 pm



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# It's a Funny Thing

After services one Shabbat, Abe approached the Rabbi and said, "Sadie and I both thoroughly enjoyed your sermon today on keeping the Ten Commandments."

Rabbi Rosen replied, "That's nice of you to say, Abe; but why don't you and Sadie come to synagogue more often?"

"It's difficult," he replied, "but at least we keep the Ten Commandments."

"That's good to hear," said the Rabbi.

"Yes," said Abe proudly, "Sadie keeps 6 of them and I keep the other 4."

David was speaking to his brother Jacob the night before David was set to pack up his family and drive off to Jacob's home in the country for the week.

Jacob: You all set for the trip tomorrow? Do you need directions to our new place?

David: No, I'm all set. I have the address, a GPS, and a GPS override.

Jacob: What's a GPS override?

David: My wife.

Sol, an aspiring comedian, visited a patient in the hospital, and spent some time entertaining him with jokes. As Sol stood up to leave, he said, "Goodbye now, and I hope you get better soon."

And the patient replied, "Yeah, well, you, too."

A new, young Rabbi thought it would help him better understand the fears and temptations his future congregations might face if he first took a job as a policeman for several months.

He passed the physical examination; next was the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency.

Among other questions he was asked, "What would you do to disperse an angry crowd immediately?"

He thought for a moment and then said seriously, "I would take up a collection."

The Morgensterns had worked hard and done well, so they decided to engage a butler.

After a thorough search, they found the perfect candidate — very proper, very British -- named Cadbury.

On his first day, the couple explained that the following day would be a holiday and that they had invited their friends the Cohens to join them for a dairy luncheon. They asked Cadbury to please set the dining room table for four.

Next morning the couple left to go to Shavuot services. When they returned home, they found the table set for eight, instead of four. The Morgensterns demanded to know why the butler had done the job incorrectly.

Replied Cadbury, "Sir and Madam, the Cohens rang soon after you left, and asked that I inform you that they would be bringing the Blintzes and the Knishes."

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## Don't forget...

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

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

### June Services

- June 5: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm  
*Off site*
- June 6: Shabbat Morning Service, 11 am
- June 12: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm  
*Off site*
- June 13: Shabbat Morning Service, 11 am
- June 19: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm  
*Off site*
- June 20: Shabbat Morning Service, 11 am
- June 26: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm  
*Off site*
- June 27: Shabbat Morning Service, 11 am
- July 3: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- July 4: Shabbat Morning Service, 11 am

*Everyone is welcome to join us for our services and events!*

Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter by contacting [kayla@mickveisrael.org](mailto:kayla@mickveisrael.org), or by texting CMI to 42828.

For more information visit [mickveisrael.org](http://mickveisrael.org)  
To RSVP for an event: call 912.233.1547



CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL  
MEN'S CLUB PRESENTS A

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*If you'd like to join us for dinner on  
Thursday, June 11 at 6:30pm visit  
[tinyurl.com/cmi-valor](http://tinyurl.com/cmi-valor) to fill out and  
return a reservation form. \$25 per person.*



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# How to Fill a Jar

We've all heard the expression the cup is half full or the cup is half empty depending on your perspective of life. I heard a new thought, a better thought, a more hit you between the eyes thought; that I wish to share with you.

A teacher took a jar and filled it with rocks up to the top. He asked his students if the jar was full and of course they said it was. The teacher then poured some pebbles into the jar and the pebbles found their way to small nooks and crannies between the large rocks. The teacher asked his students if the jar *now* was full. The students with more conviction in their voices said, "Yes, now the jar is *really* full."

The teacher then poured sand into the jar and the students watched the speckles of sand fill every last crevice that was not taken up by the rocks and the pebbles. Without having to be asked the students though stunned into silence momentarily, responded in unison, "Now the jar is *completely* full!"

We have to ask ourselves the following: What part of our lives are the rocks, what part of our lives are the pebbles and what part of our lives is the sand?

The teacher expounded on an incredible insight with his students.

He told his students that if the rocks were the most important things in their lives, then the rocks were indeed taking up the proper amount of space, the most space in the jar which was to represent their lives. And, if the pebbles were things important but not as important as the rocks and if the sand was the least important things, then the jar was representing a life that had its priorities in order. Keeping the rocks representing the most important things in our lives, the pebbles the next most significant things in our lives and the sand the least significant; what would happen if we let the least significant take precedence?

The teacher emptied the jar and poured the sand in first, then the pebbles, then the rocks - all the rocks didn't fit.

As an individual, as a community - we need to constantly evaluate and reevaluate if we have our priorities in the right order or are we filling our jar all the way to the tippy top, but with the wrong things.

Rambam Day School just celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year with a birthday bash geared to what we're all about - the children. Magic Mark was there, professional face painters, a blow up slide, a blow up game, cupcakes and an ice-cream truck. Over thirty people including children helped before and during the event. The best part was so many people wanted to know could we celebrate every year?!!



Ester Rabhan, Principal of Rambam Day School

Eva Locker, Principal of Shalom School

# L'Hitraot: Until Next Year

For the final session of Shalom School before summer break, students and teachers enjoyed a day of games, pizza and song featuring talented musicians Dominic and Sean Kelly. It was a great way to celebrate the end of what has been a busy year for the school; one that has seen many changes and new programming.

Improving building and student security has been one of our focuses this year. Security policies have been reexamined: a SCMPD officer is now patrolling the entrance on Sunday mornings and walkie-talkies and a new security camera were purchased. On-line safety was also addressed as we have launched a secure, on-line portal for parents to access more sensitive information.

"Le Dor va Dor" (From Generation to Generation) is the Jewish concept behind this year's focus on family programs: Our first Grandparents/Special Friend Breakfast brought three generations together at the same table discussing Jewish values. Our Parent-Student study sessions have invited parents to join their child's class for a Torah or history discussion. To further build on this concept, next year we are planning to invite parents to join in some of our Sunday morning services and to be more involved in special projects such as baking and hands-on mitzvah activities around town.

Another new program this year

was the introduction of a Hebrew tutoring program that provides an alternative to traditional "Hebrew School." This program is for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who seek supplemental Hebrew education but are unable to attend midweek Hebrew classes. We have had several families participating and are so happy to be able to offer this option. These students who were previously unable to join the midweek classes are now on their way to preparing for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs!

We continue to look for ways to improve the Shalom School. To promote faculty development, we will be sending two of our teachers to the CAJE conference in Hartford, CT, this summer. And in order to keep pace with current trends in supplemental Jewish education, we plan for our principal Eva Locker to visit other religious schools to gain a broader understanding of different programming formats.

Shalom School currently has over 90 students enrolled. Sadly we will be saying goodbye to some lovely families who will be relocating out of the area this summer. We will miss them and wish them well.

We hope everyone has a fun and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing students when classes resume on August 16, 2015.

Shalom School welcomes children from pre-K through grade 12. If you would like to enroll your child or know someone who would, please visit our website at [www.theshalom-school.com](http://www.theshalom-school.com) for more information and an application.

# Idea.....from pg 8

switching system interface and for transporting the 'spent' batteries to charging stations. It was not clear exactly how many buses are in use in Nanjing, but there are thousands. Each bus has 7-9 batteries. Nanjing has a population of almost 8 million people. If the program goes well,

taxis also may be included.

The Israeli bus company Dan has purchased electric buses from Bustil. The deal is part of the framework of an Economy Ministry-sponsored bilateral R&D program between Israel and Jiangsu Province.

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Presented by Arlene Ratner  
President 2014-2015



Dayle and Aaron Levy



Steve Greenberg



DJ Horton



JEA  
SAVANNAH'S  
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# Returning some Southern Hospitality

As part of my Jewish Early Childhood Education Leadership Institute (JECELI) program, the original

and its impact on me and our program. Adam shared with Miriam his belief that the JECELI program was definitely making a positive impact on me and subsequently on the teachers, children and even the JEA staff. As an example, using techniques I learned at the JECELI summer experience last year, I led a Jewish text study with my teachers one morning and then brought the same exercise to a JEA staff meeting. I'm enjoying sharing what I've learned and it is good to know that the impact is being felt throughout our organization.

Fortunately, Miriam's visit wasn't all 'business.' I did get to show her our beautiful and historic city and we even had a chance to see the newly remodeled Jewish museum at Mickve Israel. She got a flavor of our Jewish community and also met some of our preschool families at the JEA's *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, Israel Independence Day celebration.

Miriam has been a great sounding board for me, listening to all of the positive things happening at our school as well as being there to hear about the challenges we sometimes face. She always offers sound advice and guidance through the difficult times. This relationship is just one more wonderful benefit of my participation in JECELI.

I look forward to continuing to learn with and from my mentor through our JECELI connection and I thank Miriam for all of her support.

large group of 16 participants was divided into smaller groups, each with a mentor as its leader. I became part of a group for smaller communities. A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of hosting my mentor, Miriam Kalmar, for a visit.

Miriam has 15-plus years experience as an ECE educator from New York City. As a Bank Street College of Education graduate, she is well versed in the ECE progressive philosophies, including Reggio Emilio, reflective thinking and the Project Approach, that we look to as we build a contemporary preschool. Her counsel is invaluable in helping us apply these educational philosophies alongside and as part of our Jewish teachings.

Miriam's visit to JEA Preschool Savannah gave her a firsthand look at the people and programs we discussed this past year during our monthly calls. She had the opportunity to meet the teachers and children at the school, and Adam So- lender, my program liaison.

She knew from our conversations that Adam is a great supporter of both the preschool and of my vision for the school. Now she was able to meet with him face-to-face to ask him what he thought about JECELI



Jodi Sadler, JEA Director of Early Childhood Education

# Israeli Scouts Performing at the JEA on June 19

What better way to get in the mood for Shabbat than to spend the afternoon being entertained by the exuberant Tzofim Friendship Caravan, or as we call them, the Israeli Scouts? JEA Camp Savannah invites everyone to join them on Friday afternoon, June 19th, at 3pm, for a really special program of song, dance and storytelling performed as only our friends from the Tzofim, the Israeli scouting movement, can do.

The Tzofim Friendship Caravan is celebrating over 40 years of bringing excitement, energy and friendship to North America. The Israel Scouts sent its first delegation of seven young people to the U.S. in 1958 and in 1973 it founded the first Caravan to bring here a message of hope and peace for Israel. Since that first Caravan, the program has grown to three different Caravans traveling all across North America.

"The Israeli Scouts' visit each year really enhances the cultural element of our program and reinforces what the kids have been learning about Israel," said DJ Horton, JEA Camp Savannah Director. "The children relate more to the Scouts because they are younger and it helps provide an authentic experience for them," he added.

Out of 60,000 Tzofim (Israel Scouts) throughout Israel, only about 60 are chosen each year for the Tzofim Summer Delegation. These 16- and 17-year-olds

of scouting achievement, fluency in English and strong communication skills. Most of all, they have a love for their country and their people and a desire to share that love.

Each Caravan is made up of a group of five girls, five boys and two leaders. In addition to being selected for all of the attributes mentioned above, the members of the Caravan are, of course, chosen for their tal-

ent in the performing arts. The scouts then spend a full year training and rehearsing for their summer in North America.

While visiting day and overnight camps, Tzofim Caravan delegates share their experiences and back-

grounds with other counselors and campers, teaching them about Israel's culture and history. When visiting Savannah, the Scouts often also take the

opportunity, when their schedule allows, to spend some time with the JEA/SJF *Lunch 'n Learn* program. Their unique enthusiasm, energy and passion bring a joyful Israeli spirit to any programs. Through them, tens of thousands of American children have gained deep exposure and meaningful bonds to Israel, its people and its culture.

The community is invited to join us for the Tzofim Friendship Caravan performance at 3pm on Friday, June 19th at the JEA. We hope you will consider a donation to the *Friends of Israel Scouts* at that time and help to continue to make possible these visits by the Tzofim to JEA Camp Savannah.



At the Israel Scouts' last visit to Lunch 'n Learn



Tzofim Friendship Caravan performing



Campers on stage with the Tzofim



Arlene Ratner presenting JEA Past President Bill Sand with his portrait that will hang in the Hall of Presidents.

# Taste it.

Certain Jewish foods have magical powers. For some, it's a piece of egg challah. For others, some flaky rugelach, a sweet noodle kugel, or a savory brisket. Magical foods might taste good, but they get their power from the memories they bring us — memories of home, community, heritage, and love. When you leave a Jewish legacy, you're setting a table for the future, ensuring that what you cherish about Jewish life continues to sustain, nurture, and delight the generations to come. To learn more about leaving a legacy gift, contact Adam Solender, (912) 355-8111

or [adam@savj.org](mailto:adam@savj.org).

The Jewish Future.  
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