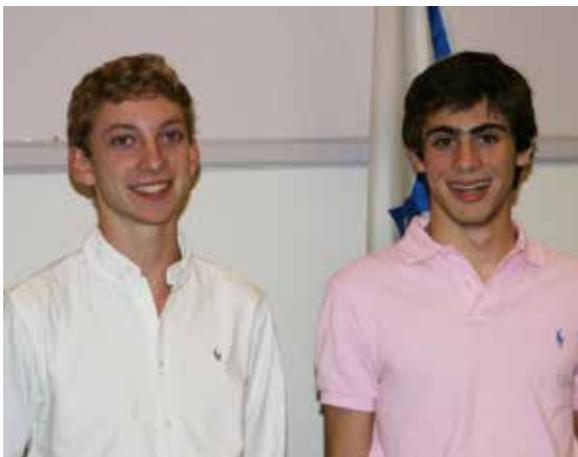


LASTING LEGACIES

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.