



May 2015 | Iyyar-Sivan 5775, Vol. LXX, No. 4

JEA Annual Meeting, Wed., May 20th



Joel Greenberg

As the JEA prepared for its 103rd Annual Meeting, Savannah's Jewish community center was buzzing with activities and improvements – in other words, working with standard operating procedures. The Annual Meeting, this year on Wednesday, May 20th at 7pm, will see the investiture of Dr. Joel Greenberg as the next President of the Jewish Educational Alliance, as well as the traditional presentation of awards and honors and update on the state of the organization. The dessert reception with delicious treats from Harriet Ullman is sure to be a highlight.

Retiring members of the JEA's Board of Directors — David Eichholz, Carol Greenberg, Amy Kaminsky, Ira Miller and Degi Ruben — will be recognized for their service and new Directors will be installed. Among the awards and honors to be present-

ed are the Harvey Rubin Memorial Award, given to a high school student who has shown exceptional athletic ability and leadership in the community, and the first grants of Kay Becker Israel Scholarships.

The meeting, which all members are asked to attend and is open to the community, also will be an opportunity to recognize and thank outgoing President Arlene Ratter for her very successful term at the helm of the organization. Her leadership set the stage for the many accomplishments that will be celebrated that night.

The month of April was but an example of what life is like lately at the JEA. In addition to the full schedule of daily fitness classes, the Health and

Wellness Center stayed busy with people working out on their own or with personal trainers, swimming, playing racquetball, fencing, etc.

Sounds of many happy children on Spring Break filled the building early in the month as they enjoyed *Days @ the JEA*, the year-round vacation programming offered by the Children's & Camp Department when school is out. It was the largest enrollment yet for the program! The fun of director DJ Horton's color wars and field trips made it difficult to go back to class, but these kids surely



'Days at the JEA' campers enjoyed the playground at Tybee during a field trip

are looking forward to summer at JEA Camp Savannah.

Special events in April included

continued on page 2



Candle Lighting Times

Friday, May 1	7:47pm
Friday, May 8	7:52pm
Friday, May 15	7:57pm
Friday, May 22	8:02pm
Saturday, May 23	9:02pm
Sunday, May 24	9:03pm
Friday, May 29	8:06pm

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- Exciting Levy Concert Planned** — Upbeat songs from Broadway and all over the world will delight annual Levy Concert audience; p5

Israel-Jewish Connection Film at JEA May 21

Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation will be shown at a special screening sponsored by the Savannah Jewish Federation, the JEA and the Joan & Murray Gefen Memorial Jewish Film Festival. The screening, on Thursday, May 21st at 7pm at the JEA, will be followed by a discussion with the film's producer and director, Gloria Greenfield.

Body and Soul comes from Doc Emet Productions, the same team that produced *The Case for Israel: Democracy's Outpost*. This new film examines the Jewish people's long, historical connection to Israel and answers all those who would deny this connection. It is

a concise but careful documentation of the Jewish presence throughout the ages in the land of Israel.

The world premiere of *Body and Soul* was held in Jerusalem at the Begin Center on October 20, 2014. Its sold-out U.S. premiere was one week later at Symphony Space on Broadway in New York. Since then, *Body and Soul* has had almost 200 individual screenings around the world; Greenfield has

made personal appearances at about 75% of them.

"It was really important for me, personally, that the world premiere be in Jerusalem, particularly at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center, because I've always had Menachem Begin's and Ze'ev Jabotinsky's portraits on my wall as inspiration. I feel

continued on page 5



Gloria Greenfield

2015 SJF Community Campaign Update



A Yonim student (16-24 months) learns to prepare a Seder plate at JEA Preschool Savannah.

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As of April 14th, 2015 from 810 donors

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Annual Meeting.....from pg 1

the community-wide observance of *Yom HaShoah* and all of the other programs associated with the occasion; a celebration of *Yom HaAtzma'ut*, the anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel; an art gallery opening and more.

The JEA also has been undergoing some major improvements, both to its program offerings and to the physical building. Reflecting the increased use and popularity of the JEA's pools, Adam Solender, Executive Director, recently announced the hiring of Kaylee Grue, the facility's first full-time Aquatics Director (see CenterPiece). Kaylee will be responsible for overseeing all activities associated with the indoor and outdoor pools including instruction

of swimming and lifesaving skills to the community and to campers. Solender said that with the addition of this position, there will be more emphasis for campers on attainment of Red Cross-recognized national levels of achievement.

The JEA also recently completed the installation of high-speed Wi-Fi throughout the building. Use of the service is free for members and guests and also will enhance the ability of speakers and others to make presentations in the JEA using the Internet.

The outdoor sports facilities also are being revamped and upgraded, a process that began last summer with the construction of a Gaga Pit. The outdoor basketball court is being reclaimed — having been previ-

ously lost to the ravages of disuse, nature and time — and will become the central part of JEA Camp Savannah's playground, which will include outdoor bunks, the Gaga Pit and other playground games.

Finally, enhancements continue to the JEA's security system and procedures. Additional cameras are being installed and new procedures will be instituted at both the entrance to the Health and Wellness Center and at the main entrance to the building. A biometric fingerprint check-in is being added at the H&W Center and soon there will be a single point of entry and egress for the building at the front door.

The community is invited to



Facilities Director Justin Robertshaw checks one of the poles on the outdoor basketball court that will be fitted with a new rim and net. The next phase in reclaiming the outdoor court will be sealing all of the seams and painting the 'floor.'

share in the excitement of the JEA's achievements and the investiture of Joel Greenberg and other new Board members at the Annual Meeting on May 20th at 7pm.



May Pool Parties

Sundays at the JEA outdoor pool

The JEA outdoor pool will be open Sundays in May, 10am—4pm, before opening for full, daily summer hours in June.

May 3rd, 1pm
Lag B'Omer Roast-n-Toast
BBQ, kite making, marshmallow roasting and more!

May 10th, 11am—1pm
Mother's Day Pool Party
Moms kick back. Our grill will be open and we'll have games for the kids to play while you enjoy your Day of rest.

May 17th, 11am—1pm
Yom Yerushalayim Pool Party
Celebrate the anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem with games, grilling and fun in the sun.

May 24th, Closed for Shavuot
May 31st, 11am—1pm
School's Out Pool Party
Yes, school's out for summer. Do we have to say more?



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

To the Editor:

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation:

On behalf of the nearly 200 special children of Meshi, the Children's Rehabilitation Center of Jerusalem, thank you very much for your generous contribution.

Your gift not only provides outstanding rehabilitative and educational services to severely disabled children, but also offers comfort and hope to their families who struggle with the economic and emotional burden of caring for their beloved children.

The extended Meshi family joins me in thanking you for your invaluable kindness.

Sincerely,
Asher Zuravin, *Administrative Director*
(See story on page 6)

Savannah Jewish News

Published by the
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5111 Abercorn Street
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www.savj.org

SJF President: **Steve Greenberg**
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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:
adam@savj.org

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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.

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Steve Greenberg
President,
Savannah Jewish
Federation

The Road

In the times we live in, where quiet moments are at a premium, sometimes circumstances allow time for clarity of thought and introspection. I had that opportunity recently and wanted to relate it to our Jewish community.

My grandparents had two sons, my father and Uncle Bob. The family lived in Brooklyn. The brothers were very close. My father was the oldest. As they grew into men, they went in directions that life dictated. Dad went to Wisconsin to college, Uncle Bob to Pennsylvania. Dad went to the Pacific in World War II, Uncle Bob to Ireland and England. After the war, Dad settled in Waycross, opened a store and raised a family. Uncle Bob settled in Silver Spring, Maryland, became an optometrist and raised a family. In later years, after both retired, they traveled with my mother and my aunt and always stayed in touch with each other.

In later years, Uncle Bob moved to Augusta, Georgia, to be closer to his daughter. We saw him periodically and it was always bittersweet. He and my dad resembled each other so whenever I was with him, I could see my Father. Uncle Bob was also the oldest link to my grandparents. If you are family oriented, like I am, it was always a source of comfort.

In January, Uncle Bob fell, broke his hip, and, at 95, the result was a domino effect. I checked on his health every few days but by all signs his condition was going in the wrong direction. His daughter called one night and after that conversation, I decided I needed to see him. I also knew my dad would want me to go.

So, the next day, I drove to Augusta and spent the afternoon at the rehabilitation facility visiting with him. I am not sure he heard me but I hope at some level he did. It was one of those times where you know the outcome but you do your best to convey some sense of normalcy. Uncle Bob would pass away the next day.

If you know Augusta, the rehab facility was on the north side of the city. There is a cemetery on the south side of the city where my dad is buried. As I drove down Washington Road after concluding my visit, it hit me. After two lifetimes of two brothers,

there was Uncle Bob, in his last hours, about nine miles away from my father's final resting place. And there I was, about midway between the two. The full circle of the paths of life could not have been clearer.

As I drove back to Savannah, it was cold and rainy. The only lights were those of oncoming cars and the glow of the instrument panel in my car. I left off the radio and the quiet provided the chance to think. First I clicked off in my head items I needed to take care of at work and, then, like any good Federation president, what needed my attention with SJF. When you are Federation president, it is never very far from your thoughts. And, often other life experiences blend in to shape one's perspective on our community and our Federation. This was one of those times.

“Where we go, what we do and what we are will all be up to us – whether individually or collectively as a community.”

We have a Jewish community with a rich presence over centuries and a long commitment to maintaining and enhancing our religion, our culture, and our history. For the past 72 years, the Savannah Jewish Federation has existed with one of its core missions to advance the welfare of the total Jewish community.

From our youngest to our oldest, we do have our own paths in life but together we form one road. It is a road that must not only be preserved but made better, stronger and more meaningful as each year goes by. Yes, as president of Federation, I have a different perspective. I see the nobleness of people and the human frailties of others. I see and hear the community's different opinions, approaches, feelings and desires. But, I also see the commonality of all of us – the common welfare that we all seek – whether we admit to it or not.

The geographical paths of my father and uncle did ultimately come together. One could never have predicted. Likewise, we each have our path to the future... and our community a road. Where we go, what we do and what we are will all be up to us – whether individually or collectively as a community. We all take responsibility for our own lives. Let us also take responsibility for our community and fulfill Federation's mission that we all look out for the total welfare of each other. There is nothing standing in the way of that goal but ourselves.



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Cain, He wasn't Abel

A few weeks ago, my wife and I were visiting with friends, Larry and Sheree Zaslavsky. It was a typical evening of socializing — catching up, talking about children/grandchildren, the community, politics, etc. Somehow, the conversation 'morphed' into memories of childhood and Sarah shared a silly song, *The Five Constipated Men*.

To be honest, she couldn't remember every verse, but certainly remembered:

“There were five, five constipated men in the Bible

The five, five constipated men in the five books of Moses.

The first, first constipated man was Cain, he wasn't Abel

Then there was

The third constipated man, was Moses who took two tablets and

Samson who brought the house down.”

Larry and Sheree laughed with glee at the silly song; they had never heard it before. What made it important wasn't that Sarah could remember the song (a minor feat), but the story about how Sarah had learned the silly song at the NFTY Zionsville (Indiana) Camp and almost forty years later our boys learned the very same song at NFTY's Eisner Camp for Living Judaism in Massachusetts. I still remember when the boys came home to share the song and the joy and amazement in their faces when Sarah joined in the song with them.

There are many in the Jewish world who posit that there is nothing more important to Jewish continuity and education than getting children to Jewish camps. Many of these children grow up as the only Jewish children in their classes, constantly having to explain what it means to be Jewish. But when summer comes they are able to go to camp, where “everyone is like them,” they move seamlessly from softball to Friday night Shabbat services, they go to dinner and routinely sing the *Birkat Hamazon*; it's a song, it's a prayer of thanks, it is what Jewish kids do after dinner. And maybe they learn a silly song like *The Five Constipated Men*, not as part of the official curriculum at camp, but as part of a long tradition, similar to

“There are many in the Jewish world who posit there is nothing more important to Jewish continuity and education than getting children to Jewish camps.”

our customs of oral history and storytelling, and as something to be shared and laughed about *l'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation.

In a study led by sociologist Steven Cohen (done on behalf of the Foundation for Jewish Camp), Jewish campers grow up to be more connected to Jewish life: “*The analysis indicates that they bring, first of all, an increased inclination to practice Jewish behaviors in their lives, from Shabbat candle lighting to using Jewish websites, and to appreciate the value of Jewish charity.*” Cohen concludes in the study. “*Secondly, they bring an increased inclination to value and seek out the experience of Jewish community, whether in the immediate sense of joining other Jews in prayer or in the more abstract sense of identifying with fellow Jews in Israel.*”

The Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Arnold Eisen, wrote, “*For once in these kids' lives, Jewishness is not something they are or do off to the side of life, in Hebrew school or synagogue. It is not a subject for debate but simply there, taken for granted, a part of what happens 24/7.*”

Universally, Jewish educators talk about their camping experience as the place where they discovered or strengthened their own Jewish identity... an identity they are transferring to today's children in Hebrew schools, day schools, BBYO, NFTY, NCSY and USY chapters, and on Birthright Israel trips.

It was also a few weeks ago when Savannah Jewish Federation met to review applications from families in our community for financial support

for programs that enhance Jewish identity. As fate would have it, there were 18 (symbolic of life) applicants. The objective of the funding is to “*encourage our Jewish children to expand their Jewish IQ, provide multiple opportunities to mingle and socialize, and connect them to the larger Jewish world.*”

Thanks to the generous support of the community, the Federation is proud to be able to assist these 18 children to attend Camps Barney Medintz, Amichai, and Coleman; to participate in Ramah in Israel and BBYO's Ambassadors program to Argentina and Chapter Leadership Training Conference. We are proud to help create memories and experiences that will last for a lifetime. We are proud to invest in the next generation.

Know Your Genes

by Hillary Kener

Hillary Kener handles national outreach and communication for JScreen, a non-profit, public health initiative based at Emory University. She also is a published author.

Wedding season is officially upon us. Whether you yourself are getting ready to take the leap into wedded bliss, or you are attending the nuptials of a friend or family member, it is clear that the countless hours of wedding planning will come to fruition this summer.

Close family friends habitually offer the soon-to-be husband and wife advice for a happy life together. They impart tidbits of wisdom such as: never go to bed angry at one another, be on your best behavior around your mother-in-law, and always be appreciative of each other. These are all wonderful ideals to strive for in order to achieve *Shalom Bayit*, or “peace in the home.”

But what about setting the foundations for a healthy future family? Often overlooked is what I’d classify as one of the most important pieces of advice — to make sure genetic carrier screening is completed sometime before having children. Although it may seem premature since the couple hasn’t even said “I do,” you are actually impacting the rest of their lives. It’s never too early for a couple to get tested to learn if they carry genes

that could potentially affect their future children.

JScreen is a non-profit, public health initiative based out of Emory University in Atlanta. By educating and creating awareness around the importance of Jewish genetic disease screening, JScreen has seen immense interest throughout Georgia as well as the entire country. JScreen makes it easy, convenient and affordable to get screened — all without even having to leave your house! (JScreen is a saliva-based test performed with a kit used at home.)

One of JScreen’s devoted genetic counselors, Melanie Hardy, resided in Savannah before accepting the position with Emory. She says she can’t remember seeing any Jewish patients come into her former clinic to request screening. Other genetic counselors I spoke with who still practice in Savannah echoed a similar response. They said that they are “surprised that more Jewish and interfaith couples don’t come in asking for screening and seem to be unaware of the need for it.” Thus, the need for a program such as JScreen is reflected right here in Savannah.

It’s important to point out that the majority of couples receive reassuring results. For those that are at in-



JScreen
Genetic testing just got easy

Nem Mikh mit Tsu Der Ball Geym

Is your Yiddish a little rusty?

That’s ‘take me out to the ball game!’

What do Baseball and Judaism have in common? For starters, both Judaism and baseball have long-standing traditions and rituals, such as baseball’s ceremonial throwing of the first pitch and the seventh inning stretch. (We’re sure you can list any number of Jewish traditions and rituals without any help from us.) Both have special foods associated with them, such as baseball’s peanuts and Cracker Jacks. (Again, you don’t need any help from us when it comes to Jewish food.)

But the thing they have most in common is the idea of community and teamwork. Just as the team is important in baseball, community is at the core of Judaism. Neither a baseball team nor a Jewish community can succeed without working together.

The Sand Gnats and the Savannah Jewish community will team up on



Wednesday, May 27th, at Grayson Stadium (game time 7:05pm) to celebrate their first ever Savannah Jewish Heritage Night at the Sand Gnats. The Savannah Jewish Federation and all Savannah Jewish community organizations have come together to co-sponsor this fun evening of baseball and Jewish pride.

The national anthem will be sung, as well as *Hatikvah*, Israel’s national anthem. Gottlieb’s Catering will be on site selling kosher food.

The Savannah Jewish Federation has tickets for sale at the discounted price of \$5. Tickets are available for purchase online at www.savj.org or by calling 912-355-8111.

creased risk, there are many available options, such as pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) with in-vitro fertilization, to help them plan ahead for healthy children.

As an alternative to purchasing your loved ones the 27th vase from their wedding registry, consider giving them each a \$99 JGift card to offset the cost of screening. This is really the gift that undoubtedly lasts a lifetime. To learn more about JScreen, visit www.JScreen.org.

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Body AND Soul
The State of the Jewish Nation
DOC EMET PRODUCTIONS®
Truth in film

Presenting the broad and deep connections between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel.

Thursday, May 21st, 2015
7pm, JEA
\$10 public; \$8 JEA members

Post-screening discussion with the film’s producer/director Gloria Z. Greenfield

Connection.....from pg 1

as if I've learned a lot from their writings and their actions," Gloria Greenfield, the director said. "The North American premiere with 756 people was really exciting; we would have had more but that was the capacity of the theater. And it was exciting to see Tyne Daly there - I was always a fan of hers from *Cagney and Lacy*," she added a bit impishly.

Greenfield says the mission of her production company is to produce educational films that strengthen Jewish identity, Jewish nationhood, freedom and democracy. "I view the films as educational resources that are intended to be used to create conversations that raise awareness about our identity, our history, the centrality of the land of Israel. From my perspective, making the film is just stage one; the real work begins when you take it out into communities around the world and engage in conversations with the audiences."

Body and Soul has played without incident to diverse audiences - Green-

field says that at some screenings attendance has been as much as 40% - 50% Christian. She notes that the Toronto premiere was presented by two secular organizations but co-sponsored by a diversity of religious organizations including Jewish, Christian and Muslim groups.

"One of the things that has really touched me and validated the work is that at all of the screenings there have been significant numbers of people who expressed their gratitude that the film was made, saying they felt it was important not only for their own understanding but to be able to use it to educate their children, friends and colleagues," Greenfield said.

Tickets for the Savannah screening of *Body and Soul*, which is open to the public, are \$10 (\$8 for JEA members) and will be available at the door beginning 45 minutes prior to the start of the May 21st show. The film runs just over one hour.

Levy Concert May 17th

Spring weather, friends, family and music - it must be the Annual Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial concert, planned for Sunday, May 17th at 2pm the JEA. This year's concert will feature Velvet Caravan and soloists from the Savannah Voice Festival of the South, and as always is sure to be an afternoon to remember.

Velvet Caravan is one of the most unusual ensembles in the music business. Combining Gypsy, Honky-Tonk, Swing and Latin, the band plays upbeat tunes from all over the world.



Velvet Caravan

Featuring Ricardo Ochoa (violin), Sasha Stunjas (guitar), Jared Hall (keyboards), Jesse Monkman (cajon and percussion) and Eric Dunn (acoustic bass), Velvet Caravan recently returned from triumphant shows at *South by Southwest*. The Levy Concert also will feature vocal soloists recently showcased at the Savannah Voice

Festival, including the Festival's founder, soprano Maria Zouves.

The Levy Concert will feature a wide range of music sure to please both the young of age and the young at heart. The audience will enjoy some of Broadway's most beloved songs by Jerry Herman, Leonard Bernstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stephen

Sondheim and Rogers & Hammerstein; the vocalists also will include Rebecca Flaherty and Shana Grossman. The annual Levy Concert is free and open to

the public, and is sponsored by the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Fund at the JEA. The program is welcome to people of all ages and includes a free dessert reception. Doors open at 1:30pm at the JEA, 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah; the concert begins at 2pm.



103rd Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2015
7pm
 5111 Abercorn St., Savannah

<p>Investiture of Board of Directors <i>*indicates to be newly installed</i></p> <p>Executive Committee</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>*Joel Greenberg</td><td>President</td></tr> <tr><td>Gale Hirsh</td><td>Secy.-Treas.</td></tr> <tr><td>Steve Greenberg</td><td>SJF President</td></tr> <tr><td>Arlene Ratner, Bill Sand, Paul Kulbersh, Scott Samuels</td><td>Past Presidents</td></tr> </table> <p>Directors</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Michelle Allan</td><td>*Sam Carroll</td></tr> <tr><td>Carole Cohen</td><td>Lauren Fins</td></tr> <tr><td>Ricky Friedenberg</td><td>*Cookie Gale</td></tr> <tr><td>Sandy Goodman</td><td>Marc Gordon</td></tr> <tr><td>Vicky Halperin</td><td>Peggy Harris</td></tr> <tr><td>Allison Konter</td><td>*Suzanne Konter</td></tr> <tr><td>*Gene Kowell</td><td>Dayle Levy</td></tr> <tr><td>*Lisa Mackowiak</td><td>*Larry Silbermann</td></tr> <tr><td>Aaron Tillinger</td><td>Arnold Young</td></tr> </table>	*Joel Greenberg	President	Gale Hirsh	Secy.-Treas.	Steve Greenberg	SJF President	Arlene Ratner, Bill Sand, Paul Kulbersh, Scott Samuels	Past Presidents	Michelle Allan	*Sam Carroll	Carole Cohen	Lauren Fins	Ricky Friedenberg	*Cookie Gale	Sandy Goodman	Marc Gordon	Vicky Halperin	Peggy Harris	Allison Konter	*Suzanne Konter	*Gene Kowell	Dayle Levy	*Lisa Mackowiak	*Larry Silbermann	Aaron Tillinger	Arnold Young	<p>Presentation of Awards and Honors</p> <p>Harvey Rubin Memorial Award Kay Becker Israel Scholarship Other Recognitions</p> <p>Update on the State of the JEA</p> <p>Adam Solender, Executive Director</p> <p>A delicious dessert reception will be served, catered by Harriet Ullman</p> <p>All members are asked to attend and the community is invited.</p>
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Cookie Tenenbaum Gale reports:

"Lena Solomon moved to Boston a few years ago to be closer to her children, Harold and Milly Solomon and Steve and Sidney Solomon Ratnow, and their families. This southern lady never imagined she would be witness to so much snow. But she can move that walker quickly in the snow as she exits the car to enter a restaurant.

"Aunt Lena is well known to many of us who grew up here in Savannah. She wasn't really my aunt, but back in the 1960s all my parents' friends were addressed as aunt and uncle. She was the original "voice," loud and deep sounding. During my recent visit with her she loved being with someone from Savannah, finding out about her city and the people she knew. Since she is a lady I won't reveal her age, but must say she remains vibrant with energy."



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Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Meshi Children's Rehabilitation Center

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.

The Meshi Children's Rehabilitation Center was founded in 1998 by Hadassah Zuravin and her daughter Lifsha Feldman, who refused to accept a neurologist's dire prognosis for Lifsha's daughter, Ruchama. Although the infant's disabilities seemed overwhelming, these women set their sights on creating a new, unprecedented rehabilitation center for Ruchama and countless other children born with neurological disorders such as cerebral palsy or developmental birth defects such as spina bifida.

Using a client-centered approach to treatment, at Meshi, the family—and eventually the children themselves—are active participants in mapping out the overall goals and treatment to be pursued. Parents and children work in tandem with Meshi's multi-disciplinary staff to create individual therapeutic and educational programs, and together they evaluate patients' progress and satisfaction.

At the start, Meshi worked in partnership with Jerusalem's Alyn Hospital, until Meshi's growth compelled the establishment of its own facility. In 2001, the Donald Berman Meshi Educational and Rehabilita-

tive Center in Jerusalem opened its doors. Children residing outside Jerusalem began enrolling as well, and soon children from around the world started coming for Meshi's intensive summer therapy sessions. By 2003, Meshi's student population had grown—and so had the students—

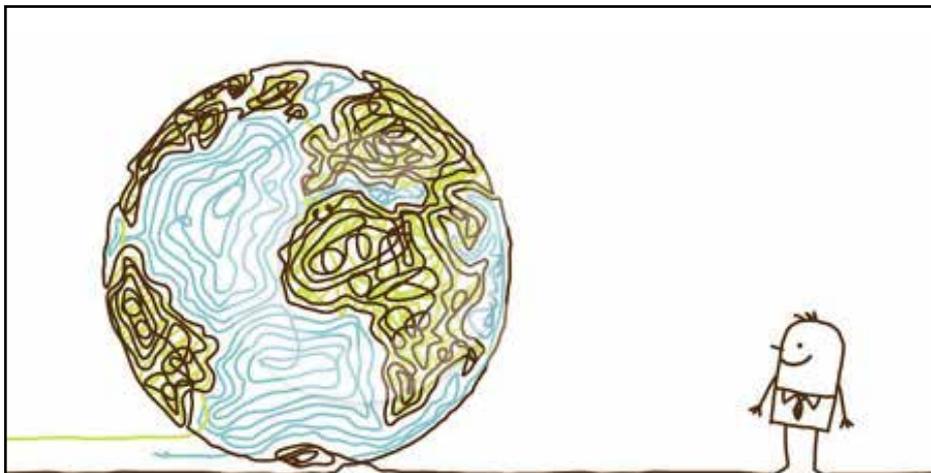


A child receives one-on-one therapy at the Meshi Rehab Center

and the Meshi School was opened, today serving grades one through seven.

The best state-of-the-art equipment is purchased or adapted for each Meshi student, each year. Meshi's supply of equipment includes power and manually-operated wheelchairs, specially equipped chairs, standers, walkers, benches, scooters, seats, bicycles and tricycles. Many children require the full gamut of apparatus, which is constantly adapted or changed as the child grows and develops. Beyond helping Meshi's children stand, walk and speak, these devices also enable children to play and to gain independence and mobility for interaction with teachers, therapists and the world at large.

To nominate one of your favorite overseas organizations for a 2015 Overseas Investment Grant, go to www.savj.org. Nominations are due by May 15, 2015.



The Federation encourages you to be a part of the Community Campaign and Allocations process and nominate an overseas program that you know about for an Overseas Investment Grant.

Nominations end May 15, 2015; the guidelines are:

- The organization being nominated must primarily have a direct impact on the lives of Jewish people outside the United States;
- Grants will not be considered to other grant-making organizations;
- There is a limit of two nominations per person;
- Nominations are due no later than May 15, 2015.

You can nominate one of your favorite overseas organizations for a 2015 Savannah Jewish Federation Overseas Investment Grant online at www.savj.org.

The JEA presents the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin

Levy Memorial Concert

Featuring a dynamic combination music from Velvet Caravan and the Savannah Voice Festival



Sunday, May 17th

Doors Open 1:30 pm

Concert 2 pm - 4 pm

(Dessert Reception during Intermission)

Jewish Educational Alliance

Free and open to people of all ages and backgrounds!

Sponsored by the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Fund

Visit www.SavannahJEA.org for more information.



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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 south-eastern 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.

Four Questions for the rest of the year

Motti Locker first came to Savannah in 2000 as Savannah's first community *shaliach* (emissary) from Israel. He arrived here with his wife, Eva, and their young son, Tomer. The popular family extended their 'tour of duty,' but went back to Israel in 2003. Their twins, Shani and Uri, were born soon after. But the Locker family returned to Savannah in December 2005 when Motti was offered the position of Executive Director at Congregation Agudath Achim. Eva now is the principal of Shalom School and all three of their children attend Savannah Arts Academy. The whole family recently became U.S. citizens and we spoke with Motti about the experience.



The new U.S. citizens (l-r): Tomer, Eva, Motti, Shani and Uri Locker

money and lawyers, but after all is said and done, there is one moving moment where you have the swearing in together with people from 57 different places – a real American moment. But we studied together for the test and had discussions about liberty, freedom of speech, freedom of religion. Going through the process, you appreciate the things you are born with and sometimes don't realize how much they are worth. Some of the other people who became citizens when we did were from oppressed countries and it shows the good things the United States can offer to people as a country of immigrants – new beginnings and freedom.

What made you decide to become U.S. citizens?

There were several reasons. If you live in the United States for a while as a non-citizen there are tax issues and every time you leave the country there are issues about coming back. On the value level, for us it was about becoming part of this community that we've been embraced by and embraced for the past 15 years. And being a citizen lets you participate in the election process [vote] and have all the duties of an American citizen. It was the natural thing to do after living here for so many years.

Tell us about the process of becoming a citizen.

The process to become an American is very tiring and exhausting and involves a lot of paperwork, tests,

As you were studying, was there anything you learned about the United States that surprised you or was especially interesting to you?

The emphasis on "We the People;" that the United States stands on the fact that the people are the decision makers, that the freedom is really based on those three words in the Constitution.

Do you think you will stay in the U.S.?

I really don't know. We have mixed feelings about it. On one hand we have found a home, a community we love; we are investing a lot in the community. This community became a major part of our lives. On the other hand, we have our family in Israel; we really miss them. We are living between two worlds.

**Feeling tied to your home,
waiting for repairmen?**

Wait no more! Sign up now!
Call & register for DIY today!

912-355-8111



Do-It-Yourself Home Repairs & Maintenance Workshop Starts June 2

Free up your time & save money with basic home maintenance and repair, the tools to use, who and when to call for help.

\$5 JEA members; \$10 non-members

Taught by Fix-It Man extraordinaire: Murray Sauerbrei

- No previous knowledge or experience with tools necessary.
- Better understand your utility bills and job estimates.
- Maximize your dollars on simple fix-it jobs: understand your options.
- Get the most use out of your appliances and home systems.
- Get your home improvement questions answered by a professional.

Single and mixed-sex classes offered; space limited.
DIY 101 is taught in three sessions starting Tuesday, June 2.

Women's-only class: Tuesday, June 2 (3:30PM* to 5PM)

Mixed Class: Thursday, June 4 (4:00* to 5:30PM)

*Times may be altered to better serve the participants.

Empower yourself & save money!

Workshop provided by your JEA Buildings & Grounds Committee



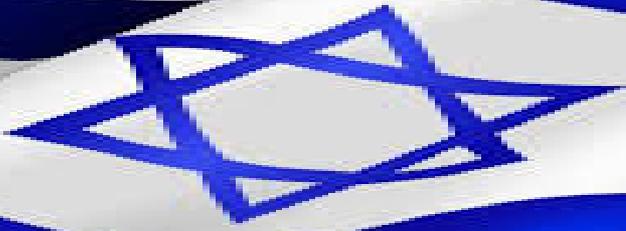
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The most comprehensive, professional, and client-friendly home inspection service in Savannah.

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I on Israel

Calling All Film Buffs

Are you a film aficionado? Have you enjoyed the sense of Hollywood that the Savannah Film Festival brings here each fall? Well if you are traveling to Israel, you can find an important, world-recognized film festival to attend almost any time of year where you are sure to get that feeling, too (at least at many of them).

Ever since it was a young country, Israel has been known as a place for serious filmmaking — its first nomination for Best Foreign Language Film was for the 1964 Academy Awards — and now it is a popular place to celebrate the art of filmmaking, as well.

Film festivals that recognize all different genres take place throughout the country throughout the year. Some of the festivals take advantage of the opportunity to showcase Israeli productions; most exhibit works from around the world. Several of them include major competitions, are internationally recognized and are attended by some of the most renowned actors, directors and other talent in the industry.

There's even an annual Palestinian Film Festival, this year held in Haifa over three days in early March. The event had been held in Tel Aviv but moved this year when the Israeli Minister of Culture & Sport cut the public funding that had subsidized the exhibition venue, not wanting to enable "a festival devoted entirely to preaching that the day on which Israel was founded is a day of mourning." The festival ended up in the theater of a cultural center that caters mostly to a Palestinian audience. Organizers said the films they screened, features and documentaries, focused on exploring Palestinian identity through cinema and were viewed by audiences of 100-150, "overwhelmingly, but not exclusively Palestinian." They said previous festivals had attracted predominantly Jewish audiences.

Here are some of the upcoming Israeli film festivals for the rest of the year. You can find information about how to attend on the Internet.

Docaviv
(May 7-16, 2015, Tel Aviv)

Docaviv International Documentar-

TLVFest
(June 6-15, 2015, Tel Aviv)

Founded in 2006, TLVFest is Tel Aviv's annual International LGBT Film Festival, held each June at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque. The festival offers public screenings of films with no other Israeli distribution, meetings with local as well as foreign filmmakers, panel discussions and special events. The program aspires "to enrich and empower tolerance and pluralism in Israeli society."

In addition to showing films from around the world, the festival encourages Israeli original work with an award for the Israeli Best Film and it specifically provides exposure for local LGBT filmmakers. The festival also runs the TLVFest Movie Club for monthly screenings and other cinema-related events throughout the year. The festival purchases theatrical rights of select LGBTQ international films, and distributes them in Israel.

TLVFest (June 6-15, 2015, Tel Aviv)

Cinema South Film Festival
(June 7-12, 2015, Sderot)

Since 2002, the Film and Television School of Sapir College has been coordinating the Cinema South Film Festival, held at the Sderot Cinematheque. The festival began very modestly, serving mostly local audiences. Sapir College (like SCAD here) devoted a great deal of resources to the event and it began to grow and attract attendees from throughout Israel and

the world and gain respect as an international film festival. The festival continues to gain exposure in the international press while exposing its audiences to the diversity of modern cinema and exposing the world to Israeli cinema.

Jerusalem (International) Film Festival (July 9-19, 2015)

Founded in 1984 with a festival spread out over three weeks, the Jerusalem Film Festival has matured into a tight ten days that showcase just about everything in filmmaking, including feature films, documentaries, the Jewish Experience (issues of Jewish identity and history), films focused on themes of freedom and human rights, TV dramas, new directors and Israeli film. From its inception, the festival has promoted premieres of all types of Israeli films. In 1989, the festival added more focus on Israeli film with the introduction of the Wolgin Competition, named for Philadelphia philanthropist Jack Wolgin. The Wolgin Competition grants yearly awards to a full-length feature, a documentary, and a short; the majority of these films then go on to become the most important Israeli films of their times. The festival has since added additional film and TV prizes.

Haifa International Film Festival
(Sept. 29 – Oct. 5, 2015)

The Haifa International Film Festival, established in 1983, was the first of its kind in Israel. The festival attracts approximately 300,000 visitors for some 280 screenings of new films of all genres from all over the world,

Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival
(Dec. 2015)

The Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival has been held annually in December since 1999 at the Jerusalem Cinematheque-Israel Film Archive. Films from Israel and from all over the world are screened — feature films, documentaries, shorts, animated and avant-garde films — that explore themes of Jewish faith and practice, history, culture, music, the Holocaust, contemporary life in Israel and the Diaspora, the relationship between Judaism and other world religions and the role of Jewish identity in the State of Israel.

Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival (Dec. 2015)

Along with premiere screenings of new Jewish cinema, the festival includes classic films and retrospectives that shed light on the history of Jewish cinema, often focusing on a specific filmmaker, theme or movement in Jewish cinematic history. Each year the festival also includes a special sub-theme on the Holocaust, part of the work of the Joan Sourasky-Constantiner Holocaust Multimedia Research Center.



An audience enjoys an outdoor screening at the Haifa International Film Festival

about 70 of which are Israeli. Most of the films shown in the festival are award-winning and are included in some of the most important film festivals in the world.

About 300 guests from the Israeli and international industry are hosted by the festival. These guests meet the audience and colleagues in talks between screenings, receptions in the festival garden, master class workshops and international conventions.

The festival includes a number of competitions judged by international industry professionals as well as special events such as an international marketing forum for Israeli films, a nearby artists' market and nightly cultural events such as concerts and outdoor film screenings.

Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival (Dec. 2015)

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The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

May 2015



Children's Programming



JEA Camp Savannah June 1 - July 31, 2015

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

Visit www.SavannahJEA.org to download camp brochure and registration paperwork.

What's New for JEA Camp Savannah 2015?

- **Archery Program** for campers 8 years and older led by our certified Directors.
- **Junior Achievement** (a fun and innovative program designed for K-12th grade to teach concepts about personal financial literacy, business and workforce readiness in an age-appropriate manner)
- **Your Camp, Your Choice** (campers will make elective choices to explore their desired activities. K-2nd will get one choice daily, 3rd-5th will get two choices while 6th-8th graders will get 3 choices)
- Our 6th-8th grade campers will benefit from our **Fitness Program** led by Health and Wellness Director, Stephanie Johnson where they will meet twice a week to focus on strength training, flexibility and cardiovascular endurance
- Camp groups will be divided into **3 units: Rishonim** (K-2nd), **Habonim** (3rd -5th), **Giborim** (6th-8th). Each of these units will have their own counselors and be supervised by a Unit Head

For more information, visit our website www.savannahjea.org or call DJ Horton, Camp Director (ext. 221) or Anna Berwitz, Administrative Director (ext. 211) at (912) 355-8111!

Jewish Educational Alliance's

Spring Days @ the JEA

Days @ the JEA are packed with activities such as field trips, swimming, sports and arts and crafts!

Upcoming Days @ the JEA: May 26th-29th

Member Prices: \$30.00 per day

Non-Member Prices: \$40.00 per day

Please call 355-8111 or email DJ Horton at kids@savj.org for more information.

A Conversation with JEA 2015 Gatsby Gala Featured Performer, Jody Espina



Jody Espina

Jody Espina is the founder, president and designer of JodyJazz Saxophone & Clarinet Mouthpieces, located here in Savannah. He is a highly regarded Jazz saxophonist, clarinetist and flutist with a unique and personal sound. The JEA is excited to announce that Jody will be performing at the JEA's annual Gala on August 30, 2015, accompanied by Howard Paul and Mitch Hennes. Anna Berwitz, the JEA's Director of Development and the Gala organizer, recently toured JodyJazz and spoke with Jody about his company, his connection to the JEA and what he has in store for the gala.

So tell us a little bit about JodyJazz.

JodyJazz is a saxophone mouthpiece manufacturing company. We are 15 years old. We began in New York City and moved to Savannah in 2008. We currently have 10 employees; actually we are all musicians here. For a small company I am proud of the fact that we provide health insurance and a 401K. We sell all around the world so I keep a very busy travel schedule. I go on about six foreign trips a year and many, many domestic trips selling JodyJazz mouthpieces.

What is your connection to the JEA?

Both of my boys are in school at the JEA. Miles is in the Pre-K at JEA Preschool Savannah and Jordan is at the Savannah Honors Academy which is housed there. And also, Jerry Portman is a friend—Portman's sells our mouthpieces. I have played at the JEA several times with the Savannah Jazz Orchestra and I have been involved with previous galas donating various silent auction prizes.

Who will be joining you at the Gala on August 30th and what type of music will you be playing?

We will have Howard Paul on guitar. He is the best guitar player anywhere. He plays around the world with famous players. He is president of Benedetto Guitars, so we have a lot in common and we play together all of the time. Mitch Hennes on bass is the top acoustic bass player in the entire area. He is from Chicago originally. This is my A team. We will be playing jazz, and since it's a Roaring 20's theme we will do some of that stuff—I will play both clarinet and saxophone. My first love is Big Band era, Benny Goodman and things like that so we will be doing some of that with a little New Orleans/Charleston type of feel. I'm looking forward to it.



Meet Our New Aquatics Director



Kaylee Grue
Aquatics Director

Kaylee Grue has stepped in as the new Aquatics Director for the JEA. When it comes to the water she does it all: swimmer, lifeguard instructor, swimming lesson instructor and pool manger. Originally from Kwajalein in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, she grew up on an island that is

just about 2.5 miles long!

Kaylee attended Auburn University and earned

a BS in Health Promotion and a MEd in Exercise Physiology. After graduating she worked on Kwajalein as the island's Recreation Coordinator. Kaylee and her husband, Richard, relocated to Savannah in 2014 and are enjoying being on the East coast again.

Kaylee is responsible for coordinating the JEA's swim program and is a great resource for those who need help and guidance about anything aquatics! Kaylee is an ACSM Certified Exercise Physiologist and NSCA Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.



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.



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.

May 7th - Learn about the Japanese Ambassador to Lithuania who saved thousands of Jews during WWII, hosted by author Nili Gingold

May 14th - "Rolling Out the History of the Slany Torah," hosted by Herbert and Teresa Victor and Phoebe Kerness

May 21st - "Quirky Facts about the Classical Composers," hosted by pianist Anita Homansky

May 28th- "Tikkun Olam: How Values-Based Investing Can Help You Achieve Your Goals," hosted by Barbara Bart, CRPC®, Senior Financial Advisor



**Wednesday,
May 6, 2015
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

- Celebrate Lag B'Omer with a traditional bonfire.
- Drinks and food will be served.
- Bring your favorite instruments.

RSVP to yjs@savj.org or on the Facebook event to get the address!



Health & Wellness

Spring Clean Your Fitness Routine



Stephanie Johnson
Health & Wellness
Director

This month is the continuation of last month's story on spring cleaning your fitness routine.

Protect Your Skin

Now that it's warming up, you'll be heading outside again. This means more sunshine (and vitamin D, which is a good thing), but it

also means that your skin is exposed to harmful UV rays. Rub waterproof lotion with at least SPF 15 or more over all exposed areas of your body. Don't forget easy-to-miss areas like behind your ears, the back of your neck and the crease near your underarms.

Pump Up Your Playlist

Still listening to the same tracks from December? Do some iPod "spring cleaning" by downloading a fresh workout playlist to get you going.

Jump Rope

Heading outside and doing this favorite childhood "workout" can burn about 208 calories in just 20 minutes. Add other outdoor cardio exercises like walking lunges, short sprints, and jumping jacks, and you've got yourself a circuit program you can do right in your backyard.

Update Your Workout Wardrobe

Still sweating it out in cotton t-shirts? Throw away worn-out workout duds and replace them with shorts, tanks and tees in breathable, wick fabrics. While you're at it, women should update their sports bras, too (a typical bra has a lifespan of about six months, although hand-washing can make them last longer).

Stretch Out

The best way to prevent injury is to stretch before and after your workouts. Here's how it's done: Warm up with 10 minutes of light outdoor cardio exercises, then do dynamic stretching as in stretching while moving. This includes lunges, touching your toes and walking your hands forward, swinging your legs while standing and twisting from side to side. After your workout, complete "static" stretches, aka, your typical "touch and hold" routine.

Stay Hydrated

Avoid muscle cramping and fatigue by drinking two liters of water a day, and 17 ounces about two hours before exercising. Another general rule of thumb: The more you sweat, the more fluids you need to replace, so drink up after a vigorous workout. Use stainless steel bottles to avoid some of the chemicals associated with certain plastic varieties (such as Bisphenol A, or BPA).

Plan a Trip

Outdoor exercises are great, but if the weather's

still cool where you live, take a "health" vacation to a resort with hiking, biking and other activities (plus warm weather), or sign up for a yoga retreat.

Get Sporty

Break up your routine with outdoor exercises like tennis or golf, or team up with friends for an afternoon of ultimate Frisbee. Even kickball will get your heart going -- and you don't have to be athletically gifted to play!

Hit the Farmers Market

Soak up the spring sunshine while you shop for fresh fruits and veggies. Other items worth picking up include fish, dried fruits and nuts.

Change Your Thinking

Instead of designing goals based purely on weight loss, concentrate on how you feel. If counting calories has you down, think in terms of portions instead. Constantly checking the clock during your workout? Chances are you need to find a sport or activity you actually enjoy.

Step Off The Scale

Muscle weighs more than fat, so although you may look more toned, there's a chance you might not be shedding pounds at the rate you'd expect. To get an accurate measure of your progress, use a measuring tape once every two weeks to see where you're trimming inches from your waist, hips and other target areas.

Jump On the Twitter Train

Get vocal about your fitness routine and goals and make friends with others looking to get motivated this spring with a Twitter feed. Give updates on your progress, post links to your favorite fitness articles and products, and cheer on others (they'll do the same for you).

Tie On Weights

Tone up arms and legs by doing your regular routine -- whether it's walking to the store, cleaning your house or walking the dog -- while using wrist and/or ankle weights. The resistance will help strengthen muscles (and get your body that much more ready for summer).

Sign Up For a Race

Adding positive goals to your fitness routine will make you feel better and also give a purpose to your training other than losing weight or fitting into those skinny jeans. Look into local road races -- the 5K distance is perfect for beginners -- and sign up with your training partner. It's also a great way to get involved in your local fitness community!

Reward Yourself

Don't forget to take care of your hard-worked body! A sports massage is the perfect way to pamper yourself while alleviating toxins and speeding up muscle recovery.

Winter Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - 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

5:00 am - Master Swim
8:30 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Yoga
10:00 am - Aquasize

LAG B'OMER ROAST-N-TOAST

POOL PARTY, BBQ AT THE JEA
KITE MAKING
MARSHMALLOW ROASTING
AND MORE!

SUNDAY, MAY 3RD | 1PM
LUNCH: \$5/EACH





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

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 for more information and registration form

Meet 'n Greet Breakfast! Sunday, May 17th 9:30-11:00 am

- Visit our classrooms
- Pick up your summer t-shirt
- Connect with old friends and make new ones
- Learn about the ALEF Fund for Pre-K Tuition



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



JEA Art Gallery



**May Artist:
Deborah Raines**



Fairy Tales and Illusions

As a child, fairy tales gave meaning to my life. Fairy tales explained the world better than the adults around me. Through them, I understood that life is not always fair, injustice stalks all of us, and sometimes, one should not leave the path because there are, most assuredly, monsters out there. But fairy tales also upheld honor, celebrated courageous acts, and made it very clear that, in the end, good always conquers evil. Now, in this autumn of my life, I realized that these tales of myth and magic have always been central in my art; for what are we as artists, but illusionists? We build our own tales of wonder and sorrow, anger and love; using paint and pencil to weave and explain the world once again. It is through these personal illusions of mine that I hope to open the doorway into a world of mystery and wonder for all to enjoy once more.

Once upon a time begins now...

Originally from Huntington, WV, Ms. Raines received both her BA in Art Education and Masters in Sociology/Anthropology from Marshall University. She has worked on state and national committees for the support of the arts and co-founded a support system for Appalachian artists, but her proudest artistic accomplishments have been the four STAR Teacher awards she received while teaching art in Georgia.

Her art work has been exhibited in local, regional and national exhibitions.

Artwork available for viewing May 1-31, 2015

Art Gallery Reception May 3rd, 3:00-5:00 pm

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 3/8/15-4/11/15)

Christie Baer & Kindra Baer
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Lane & Laurie Kramer
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Patrick Simmons & Townley Smith
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Andrew & Molly Swagler
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Terry Wilson & Gracia Roldan
Victoria Yates

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(March 5, 2015-April 11, 2015)

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In honor of Brett Ratner

Elise & Victor Shernoff

Your Campaign Dollars at Work

A New Experience Each Time

by Eliot Kooden

When my cousin, Matt Klugman, asked me if I wanted to go on Birthright with him, I was excited about the thought of returning to Israel! I went on BBYO's ILSI three summers ago, but knew this would be a totally different trip; and it was.

I loved that I had the chance to go back to the Western Wall for Shabbat, after shopping in the Mahane Yehudah Market, and I was glad to climb Masada and float in the Dead Sea again, and hike and jeep ride through the Golan Heights, tour Yad Vashem and Old Yaffo, and spend the night (and New Year's Eve) in a Bedouin Tent.

But the highlight for me this time was having Israelis our age, some of them having just finished with the Army, accompany us on the trip. I feel like I have made lifelong friends, even though they live on the other side of the world. We taught them American customs and games, and they taught us and showed us how they live and play in "our" homeland.

Although there were a lot of people on our trip that had never been to Israel, I felt like everything for me was new and different, and I loved being there this time as much as I did last time. I would like to think that every trip to Israel will always



Eliot (l) and his cousin, Matt, in the Negev near the tomb of David ben Gurion

be that way, and I can't wait to go back again!

I feel fortunate that the Savannah Jewish Federation helps fund Birthright, because I would love to see as many people as possible take advantage of this wonderful experience.

Eliot Kooden, 21, is a junior at the University of Alabama majoring in marketing. He is the son of Joanne and Michael Kooden. Eliot went on a Birthright Israel trip during their last winter session. Taglit-Birthright Israel, a beneficiary of the Savannah Jewish Federation Annual Campaign, provides free, peer group, educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26 with the belief that a trip to Israel strengthens Jewish identity and is the best way to build a lasting bond between young Jewish people around the world and their peers in Israel. For more information, see www.birthrightisrael.com or call Jamie Cahn at (912) 355-8111.

Hadassah wants children of all ages to have fun in the sun this summer:



When it comes to the health and well being of our members and their families we are always **SPOT ON!**

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Call or email now to participate this summer in **SPOT ON:** Hadassah's new initiative to bring the latest advancements in both medical and cosmetic protocols to Savannah for caring for our body's largest organ: our skin! From safe products and protection to prevention, repair and treatment for damaged skin for all age groups, Hadassah is always **SPOT ON!**

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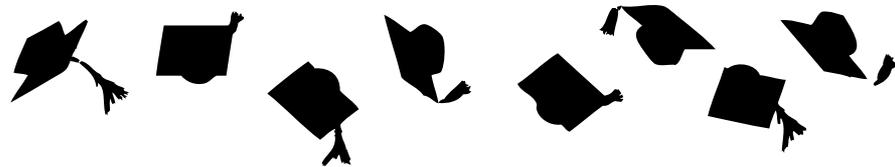
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All submissions must be received by the absolute deadline of May 3rd, 2015.
Listings will be published only in the June issue.

Return forms & pictures to: sjnews@savj.org or Savannah Jewish News
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ISADORE SCHEER JEA CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Sheryl Katz
Myra Scheer

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Martha Grunin Gincel
Who died April 8, 2015

She is survived by her daughter, Minnie (Martin) Katz of Staten Island, NY; her sister, Bertha Grunin (Morris) Lamhut of Savannah; one grandson; two great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hymie Gincel.

Lea Ward Sutker
Who died March 19, 2015

She is survived by her daughters, Suzanne Sutker (Dick) Cashwell and Linda Sutker (John) Cope; her son Lawrence (Patty) Sutker; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Karl A. Sutker; her sister, Evelyn Ward Karsman and her brother, Marvin P. Ward.

Remembrances: Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah 31405; Beth Israel Congregation, Box 328, Beaufort, SC 29901; or a favorite library or musical organization.

Max Kaplan
Who died March 17, 2015

He is survived by his nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Sylvia Richman, and his brothers, Alex, Herman, Harry and Henry Kaplan.

Helen Levington Spiers
Who died March 17, 2015

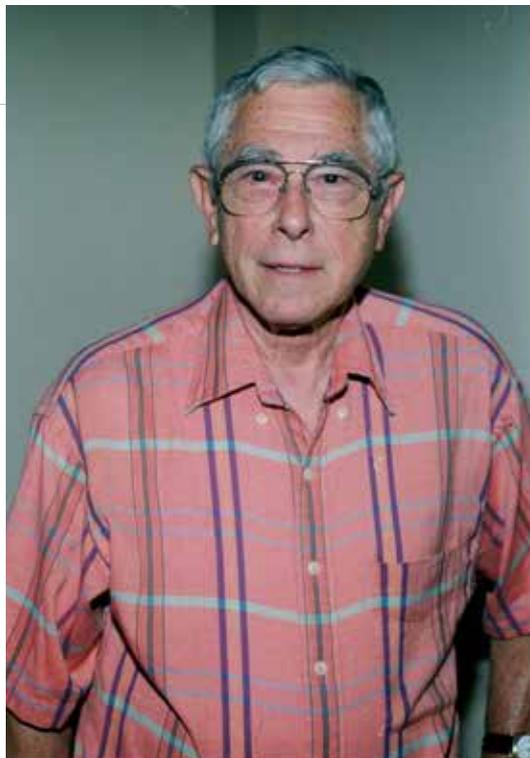
She is survived by her daughter, Malkah Rosen; three grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren, and her sister, Nancy (Leon) Slotin. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edmund, and her son, Joseph Spiers.

Contributions to the Savannah Jewish Federation
may be made on our secure website at www.savj.org
or by calling 912-355-8111.

Don't forget...

The Savannah Jewish News is online at www.savj.org.

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



A.J. COHEN, JR.

14 April 1996
Interviewed by Harriet Meyerhoff

"When I was vice president of the congregation, I kept telling the board I wanted to build an archives. I had it on my mind to build it. . . . I was really determined to build the archives, and I knew that if I asked the congregation whether I could spend money or not, people would say, "No." I didn't want to ask anybody. And I had been talking about it for three, four, five years, and going nowhere. So I sent out for the cases from Cincinnati, the cases that are in the archives right now. And I didn't know what was gonna go in there. But in talking to [Rabbi] Saul Rubin, he said, "Well, we'll find some things. Okay." Some of the things of Uncle George's and new things were gonna show up. So Ed Feiler was on the board, and he said that Jane was a licensed contractor. And she was. I never knew that. Oh, before that, how we got to where we were gonna put it. [Rabbi] Saul Rubin and I were talking, Suzanne Danzig [Mendonsa] walked up, she got in the conversation. I told her what I was doing. No big secret. And she said, "I know where you need to put it." She said, "You don't need that stage with the curtain for kids can run up and down, and go behind the curtain, and peek through the curtain, and we don't have any . . . The number of plays you were having were diminishing, and what did you need the stage for? Tear up the stage and put the archives there." And I said, "Capital! That's what we'll do." So then, at the meeting, I told the board I was gonna do that, and Ed volunteered Jane, his wife, as a contractor, to tear it out. And she did. She cleared it all out, the cases came in. We put the [ancient] Torah in there, and the stuff that we had in there, and all of a sudden stuff began to come in. And it was coming from everywhere. Now they've got more things than they can put in there, and they have to rotate. . . . The trouble was getting it off the ground, and I was determined to do it. And that was my biggest contribution to that congregation, was to get that archives done.

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The Jewish Cardinal

Le Metis de Dieu (God's Half Breed)



Bonnie Strongin

Is there only one correct way to worship?

Do I stand before God in my singularity

when I disassemble and suffer inner conflict?

How do I reconcile my disparate heritage, faith, and identity?

Can I make choices?

Who am I?

The answers to these questions are at the core of *The Jewish Cardinal*.

Born of Jewish heritage, Aaron Jean-Marie Lustiger converted to Catholicism when other boys celebrated their bar mitzvahs.

The Jews perceived him as having turned his back on his faith. They were unhappy. The Catholics were suspicious of the convert, and they were unhappy. The Lustiger family was faced with Jean-Marie's rejection of his identity and heritage; they were unhappy. And all of them were unhappier still when he proclaimed publicly, "I am still a Jew!"

As the film unfolds, we see the argument for duality: each of us is more than one person. We are mother and daughter, student and teacher, Jewish and American. Could this ever prove to be a problem?

Only when there is conflict...

Have you given thought on which side of the ocean you would stand if Israel and the United States were at glaring odds with each other? This is our land. They are our people. Ours is an age of ever-changing uncertainty, when the world is on fire and a country's survival hangs on the precipice of balance of power.



Laurent Lucas as *The Jewish Cardinal*

There could be stranger suppositions, I suppose.

When Jean-Marie made rapid ascension to the office of Cardinal and became close adviser to Pope Jean Paul II, could it have been a political ploy? A pope's clarion call to wake up, shake up the establishment at the Vatican? Was it the hallmark for change to reverberate within the walls of the Holy See?

The character of the Cardinal is a device, a prism of faith, identity, and consequence. There is seldom, if ever, one answer – an only answer.

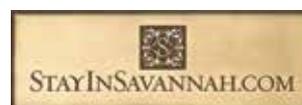
If someday we can follow our own paths and independently arrive at the same conclusion, we will have borne out the premise of the movie.

We are all part of the family of man, different but the same.

See you at the movies,
Bonnie

The Jewish Cardinal, 2013 biopic/docudrama
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May Services

- May 1: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- May 2: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- May 8: Tot Shabbat, 5:30pm
Family Service, 7pm
- May 9: Sisterhood Shabbat Service, 11am
- May 15: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- May 16: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- May 22: Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6pm
- May 23: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
Erev Shavuot Program, 6pm
- May 24: Shavuot Yizkor Service, 10am
- May 29: Summer Shabbat Service, 6:30pm (Off site)
- May 30: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am

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Saturday, May 9th 11AM

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Melinda Stein

It's a Funny Thing

Miriam had been gaining weight steadily for many years and her doctor recommended that she go on a doctor-assisted weight loss program. Every week she began to weigh in.

One week the scale read 174 pounds, not at all what she wanted. "Why don't you just take off the last four," she suggested to the nurse, who then made a notation on her chart.

A few moments later, the doctor came in and flipped through her chart. "I see you've lost quite a lot of weight, Miriam," he said. "And it seems that you're down to 17 pounds!"

David was consulting with his Rabbi in advance of his upcoming wedding. But for some reason, Rabbi Epstein was having trouble connecting with David on the subject. So the Rabbi decided to try a different approach.

"David, think of getting married like the Super Bowl," and David suddenly perked up. "You spend your whole life training for a large, jewel-encrusted ring."

On the morning of her birthday, Sadie told her husband Mort, "I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond necklace for my birthday. What do you think it means?"

"Maybe you'll find out tonight," Mort said, smiling.

That evening, he came home with a small wrapped package and handed it to Sadie. She ripped off the festive paper and found a book titled, "The Meaning of Dreams."

When Esther Siegel was in her late eighties, she decided to move to Israel. As part of the preparations, she went to see her doctor and got all her charts. The doctor asked her how she was doing, so she gave him the litany of complaints — this hurts, that's stiff, I'm tired and slower, etc.

He responded with, "Mrs. Siegel, you have to expect things to start deteriorating. After all, who wants to live to 100?"

The grandmother looked him straight in the eye and replied, "Anyone who's 99."

Six-year old David asks his mother, "Mommy, where did I come from?" Flustered, and wondering how to respond, she says, "Um, what makes you ask me that, son?"

And young David replies, "Because my friend Jake comes from Detroit, so where did I come from?"

Zach was interviewing for a job. The interviewer said, "In this job we need someone who is very responsible."

"I'm the one you want," Zach replied. "At my last job, every time anything went wrong, they said I was responsible."

At the conclusion of the Shabbat services, the congregants of Beth Israel synagogue filed out of the sanctuary to have kiddush. As Sol left, he said, "Thanks for the sermon, Rabbi. You must be smarter than Einstein." Beaming with pride, the Rabbi said, "Why, thank you!"

As the week went by, the rabbi began to think about Sol's compliment. The more he thought, the more he became baffled.

The next Saturday the rabbi asked his congregant, "Exactly what did you mean that I must be smarter than Einstein?"

Sol replied, "Well, Rabbi, they say that Einstein was so smart that only ten people in the entire world could understand him. But Rabbi, not even one person can understand you."

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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

bbyo corner

Savannah AZA recently enjoyed the "rites of passage" for the young members with their annual Kidnap orchestrated by the older boys.

The fun began at the home of Zachary Kole on March 28th, included a stop for treats at DQ and culminated with a sleepover at the home of Gabe Adler. The kidnap is an old Savannah BBYO tradition.



Gabe Adler leads some 'victims' into the Koles' home as Jeff Kole and Art Altman watch in amusement



(l-r) Isaac Lichtman, Philip Boblasky, Richard Epstein & Zachary Kole after being 'freed by their captors'

Wexler-Clark BBG held a sleepover also on March 28th where they had havdalah services and inducted new members on the dock at Melanie Ourhaan's home. Their next event is chapter board elections.



Your Campaign Dollars at Work

Beneficiary Agency

BBYO Connect is the BBYO experience for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students offering social and meaningful experiences that will serve as a gateway to continued involvement in Jewish life designed to help bridge the gap between immediate pre- and post- Bar/Bat Mitzvah and high school programs. For more information, contact Jill Strauss at (912) 844-5588 or jill.strauss@savannahmagazine.com.



**Rising 6th, 7th and 8th Graders
Join us at the JEA for a Pool Party
Sunday, May 31st, 2-4pm**



Jodi Sadler,
JEA Director of
Early Childhood
Education

The Stories Continue...

As a continuation from last month's column, I'd like to share with you more highlights from my JECALI Israel Experience. The biggest take

away for me was the relationships I made with my other colleagues and how these new friends have become a wonderful resource for the sharing of ideas. As we studied together, prayed together, and conversed with each other we continued to build relationships and learn from each other. All of the learning was in the context of children, families, the educational programs we lead and what we can bring back to our individual preschools.

The overall feeling I am left with of my visit to Israel was that this land is a special and holy place. The history of the land and the age of bricks and mortar in Jerusalem are powerful, fascinating stories.

I then began to think, how can we bring "specialness and holiness" to JEA Preschool Savannah? I believe we have begun to do this. When we greet the families every morning, we are showing kindness to others, a Jewish value. When we welcome guests at our weekly Shabbat celebration, we are showing *Hachnasat Orchim*, welcoming guests. When we say the *HaMotzi* before we eat, we are thanking G-d for our food. All of these experiences are holy and exactly what we want to teach our very young children. However, as a continuation of this concept, I will begin

to discuss with my teachers and staff how we can add to these special, daily moments.

Our visit to the Levinsky Teacher College Lab School in Tel Aviv was interesting and informative. The classroom environment had the sounds of thirty-five children's voices as they built with blocks, played with open-ended materials, and dressed up in costumes for Purim. The walls of the room were covered with beautiful materials in vibrant colors in celebration of the Purim holiday. What a fun and active learning environment this was! I saw how materials in the rooms were organized by the children, how the children's art work was displayed so beautifully in picture frames, and how the children were interacting and learning with each other through their own play. The challenge for me was how and when to implement these ideas into our classrooms.

This trip was transformative for me as a Jewish Early Childhood Education professional. It has brought many opportunities, challenges, and goals to the forefront of my work. This was an opportunity and experience for which I am truly grateful.



Some of the preschoolers Jodi met in Israel

**Come Together as One
Savannah Jewish
Community for**



**Wednesday, May 27, 2015
Game time is 7:05 p.m.
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Purchase tickets and get more information at savj.org or by calling 912-355-8111.



LASTING LEGACIES



Toby Hollenberg

"I had been of the feeling for awhile that for the things that I support in my lifetime, I'd like there to be continued support, if possible." That was Toby Hollenberg talking about why she decided

responsibility for making sure it happens. As much as I like supporting other things in the community, and I do, there will be plenty of other people supporting those things, whereas there is only the Jewish population to support Jewish life.

"So being very much committed to how Federation supports Jewish life in this community and elsewhere, I felt that I wanted to plan ahead and look at how I would leave a legacy gift once I'm gone. So I created this fund for me to designate money to continue to make annual gifts to Federation after I'm gone as I'm doing in my lifetime."

Having been actively involved in Campaign and foundation work, Toby is perhaps more knowledgeable than most about legacy giving. "What I am aware of is that people think that you have to have lots and lots of money in order to leave a legacy and you really don't. Any time someone makes a designation in their will or something else – there are so many ways to do

something, it doesn't have to be a lot of money – they can make a statement and support things important to them. It's important for family and friends and heirs to understand, that supporting causes – and in my mind, especially Jewish causes – is important, whether you leave a hundred dollars or a hundred thousand dollars. I think that there's room for every level of giving. You don't have to be wealthy to be a philanthropist, you just have to be caring and giving and want to support things that are meaningful and need our support."

How do Toby's children feel about this? She says they are very supportive and in fact, it was her son's idea to endow the first fund she created, one to honor her husband shortly after his death that helps needy cancer patients at the Anderson Cancer Center at Memorial Hospital. "I do this for my family, in terms of being an example – it shows a philosophy of caring and giving that I want to pass on."

Toby wants people to know that you don't have to be wealthy to make a difference. "I want to emphasize to others that in addition to setting up a fund like this, there are other ways

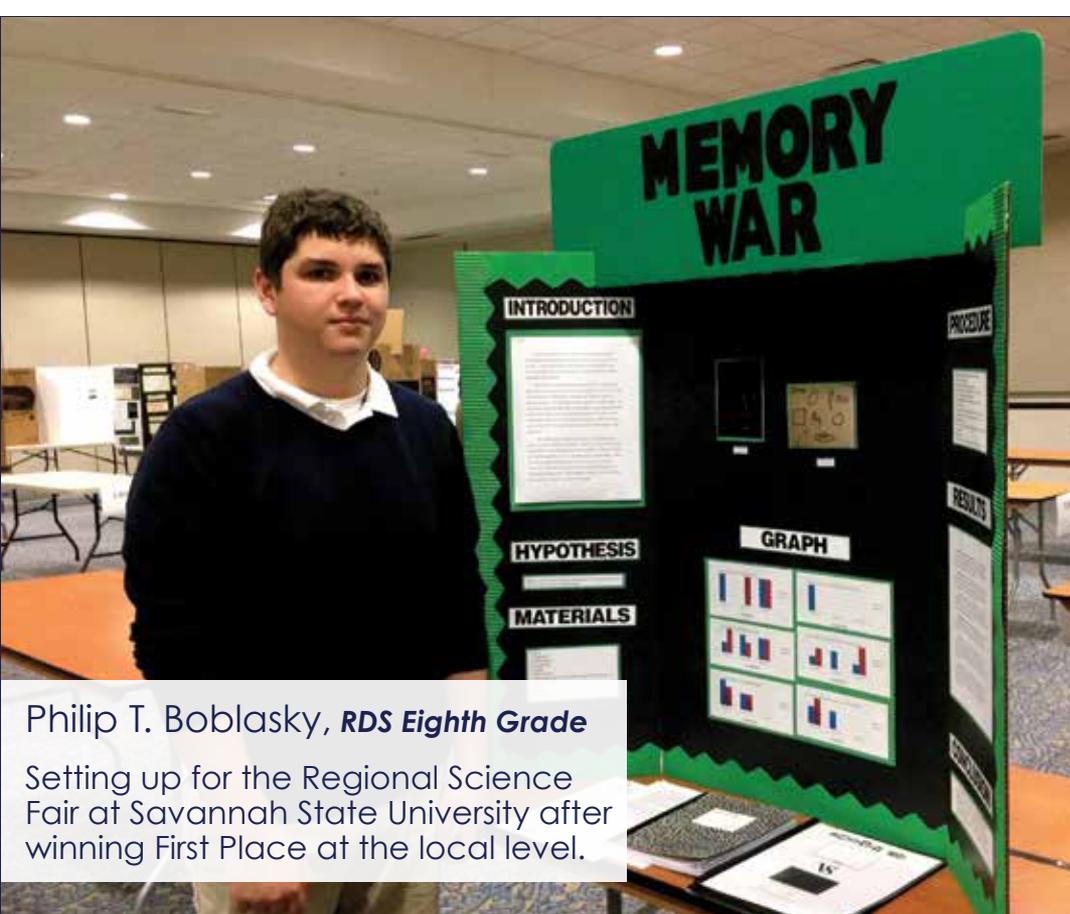
to leave a legacy. For example, you could leave a gift in your will to the Tikvah Fund [to benefit Jewish social services in Savannah] that we know will be matched. For me, this is an extension of what is important in my life while I'm alive and I want to show that it will be important once I'm gone, too.

"One thing that is important to me to have people realize is that *what ever* you give makes a statement. If you happen to have the resources to establish funds, that's wonderful; if not, that shouldn't be a reason not to support Jewish life. I was designating money for the Federation and it made sense to do it so that every year there would be a gift for the campaign just as I've done every year since I've been here."

"I wanted to plan ahead and look at how I would leave a legacy gift once I'm gone. So I created this fund... to continue to make annual gifts to Federation after I'm gone as I'm doing in my lifetime."

Create a Fund

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



Philip T. Boblasky, **RDS Eighth Grade**

Setting up for the Regional Science Fair at Savannah State University after winning First Place at the local level.

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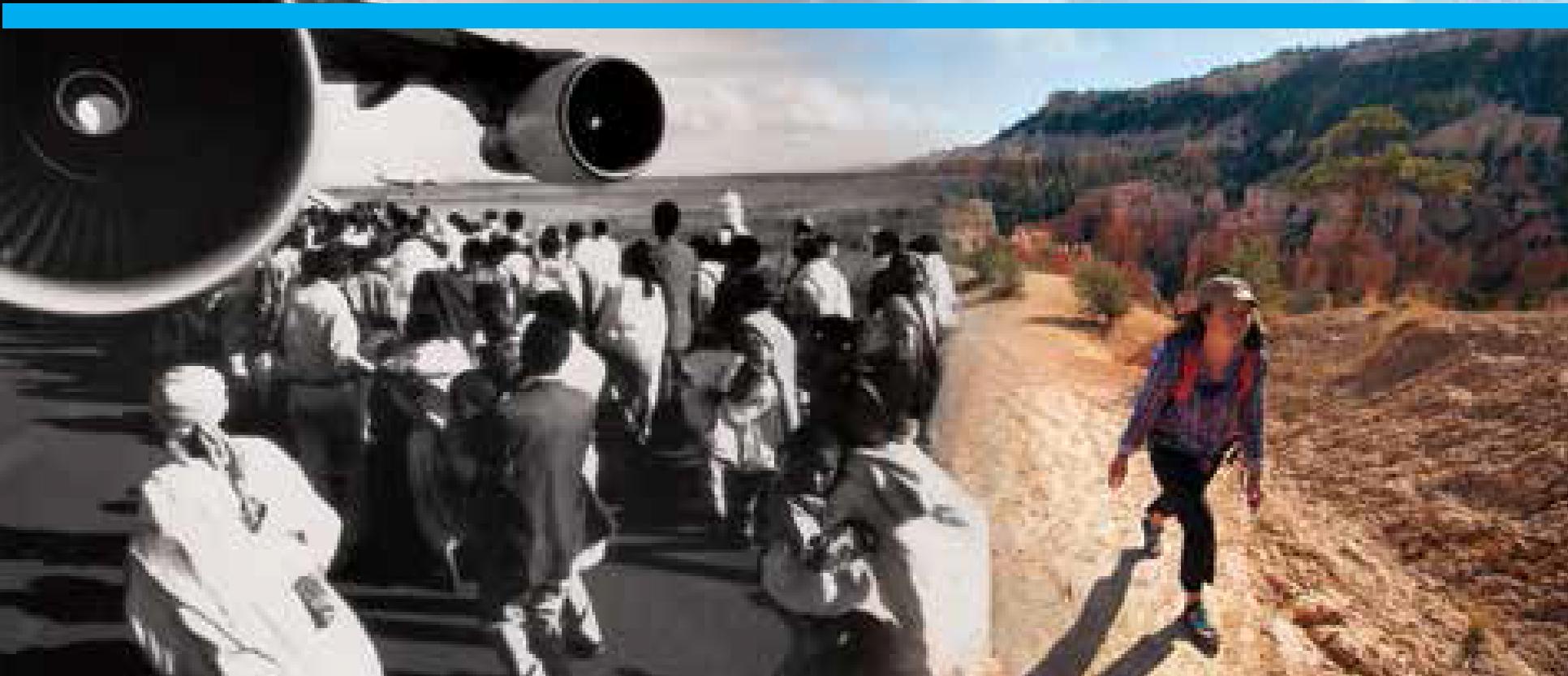
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Gifford K. Lockley, **Principal**
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This time it's not a rescue mission.

Yesterday we saved millions of Jews by bringing them to Israel. Today we're taking a new generation to inspire them. It's a mission of identity that transforms their lives forever.

At home, in Israel and around the world Federation is there. Changing lives. Helping to care for our entire Jewish community Seeking innovative approaches to building Jewish life. Supporting, nurturing and rescuing our people wherever they're in need.

Your Federation gift enables us to accomplish all this and more. You're an integral part of all we do. Give to the Annual Campaign today. Visit us at www.savj.org or call (912) 355-8111.



Savannah Jewish Federation

The **Strength** of a People
The **Power** of Community