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May 2016 | Nissan – Iyar 5776 | Vol. LXXI, No. 4

Shoah Exhibit and Observances Planned

On Thursday, May 5th, Savannah will commemorate Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. The Savannah Jewish Federation's Yom HaShoah Committee has been collaborating this year with The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust to provide an exhibit and program that honor the memories of those who perished and the valor of those who fought and resisted, and cherishes those who survived to provide testimony.

Our observance of Yom HaShoah this year actually begins April 26th when the travelling exhibit, *Witness to the Holocaust: WWII Veteran William Alexander Scott III at Buchenwald*, opens in the JEA Art Gallery. The exhibit, presented by The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, documents the experiences of Sergeant Scott, a photographer at Buchenwald after its liberation as part of an all-black

U.S. Army battalion who later became a civil rights activist. The exhibit will be on display in the Art Gallery through May 26th, and tours of the exhibit by various local schools are planned. For more information see CenterPiece.

Thanks to the work of the local Committee, middle and high school students have been writing essays and preparing art projects about the Shoah for the past few months as part of the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Yom HaShoah Art and Writing Contest. The artwork will be on display at the Jewish Educational Alliance for the Yom HaShoah observance.

On Yom HaShoah, we remember the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. So as not to forget the personal devastation of the loss of each life taken, we will continue our solemn tradition of reading

aloud names of children throughout the day. Members of the community will read these names in the lobby of the JEA from 9am to 7pm. We speak and hear their names, and we recall them as full human beings, not just as "victims." To participate in this meaningful tradition please sign up at www.savj.org.

The Yom HaShoah Commemoration Ceremony begins at 7pm at the JEA on May 5th. The keynote speaker for the evening will be Manuela



Manuela Bornstein

continued on page 4

In this Issue

- Vital Statistics, p2
- Federation President's message, p5
- Executive Director's message, p5
- Four Questions, p7
- I on Israel, p8
- JEA Centerpiece
- It's a Funny Thing, p13
- Condolences, p14

Upcoming Events

Yom HaShoah Observance — Educational exhibit through May 26th and community observance on May 5th; p1.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Barbecue and family fun for all planned on May 12th, special concert, too; p15.

Debut Novelist Reads from her Holocaust-era best seller on May 19th; p7.

Annual Levy Concert once again sure to please all ages on May 22nd; p2.

Little-Known Memorial at Bonaventure

We recently received an email from Paul Kulbersh, a former president of both the JEA and the Savannah Jewish Federation. He told us how his good friend, Chuck Mobley, a local freelance writer, is writing a story on historic cemeteries in Savannah and had asked Paul what he knew about the Holocaust ashes buried in Bonaventure. "I told him that I had no idea that there are ashes buried in Bonaventure that come from Holocaust victims. I have questioned a number of people and most also are unaware. But with Chuck's assistance, along with information from the United States Holocaust Museum and the Bonaventure Historical Society, here is the story, in honor of Yom HaShoah."

At the beginning of the 20th century, one of Savannah's synagogues purchased land in Bonaventure Cemetery and established a Jewish burial section. Also erected there was a chapel for services with benches for mourners and marble plaques with names of deceased. If you take a walk in the area surrounding the chapel, you will find a singular headstone with a direct tie to the grimdest event in history, the Holocaust, which was, of course, the deliberate and systematic murder of six million Jews.

Located in Section Q, Lot 415 is a stone adorned with the Star of Da-

vid and covered by the many small stones that represent the many tourists and locals who have visited. This marker sits above a third of the ashes of 344 cremated souls who were slaughtered by the Nazis. The inscription reads: "Here lieth a third of the ashes of 344 cremated sacred souls, victims of the Nazis, including the remains of Schmul, son of Y'Cheel Szczerkowski, who was killed on the third of Nisan 5705—March 17, 1945 and brought here from Alem, Hanover, Germany."

In the 1950s (according to Bill Raffel, who conducted tours at Bonaventure for many years), Felix and Manie Szczerkowski Budek, who then were living in Savannah, traveled to Germany to bring back the ashes of Manie's father for a proper burial. As there was no way to identify Schmul Szczerkowski's body, his ashes, along with those of other slain Jews, were stored in three separate boxes.

Felix and Manie

brought one of the three boxes back to Savannah for burial and those are the ashes that came to be buried in the grave designated by this headstone.

Paul added: "Especially during the time of our Yom HaShoah observance, I think that it would be a mitzvah and just an act of kindness and love to travel to Bonaventure and say Kaddish for those victims whose families have honored us by entrusting their loved ones' remains to our community."

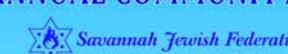


Headstone marking the grave of Holocaust remains buried at Bonaventure Cemetery



100 Days of ImpACT

2016 ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN



2016 SJF Community Campaign Update

\$1,040,438

As of April 14th, 2016 from 654 donors

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Levy Concert on May 22

Spring weather, friends, family and music – sounds like a perfect Sunday afternoon! Surely, the annual Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Concert, this year featuring *Velvet Caravan* and soloists from the *Savannah Voice Festival*, on May 22nd at the Jewish Educational Alliance, will be a Sunday afternoon to remember.

Velvet Caravan is one of the most unusual ensembles in the music business. Combining gypsy, honky-tonk, swing and Latin rhythms, the band plays upbeat tunes from all over the world. Featuring Ricardo Ochoa, violin, Sasha Stunjas, guitar, Jared Hall, keyboards, Jesse Monkman, Cajun and percussion and Eric Dunn on acoustic bass, *Velvet Caravan* most recently returned from triumphant shows at South by Southwest.

Also featured will be popular artists from the *Savannah Voice Festival*, a nonprofit arts organization

founded in 2013 that brings classical vocal excellence to the Savannah area through a two-week celebration of concerts, events and educational presentations during the month of August and other events throughout the year. The third annual Festival, which will be staged August 7-21 in and around Savannah, offers music from opera, musical theatre and popular song; visit www.savannahvoicefestival.com for more information.

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

The annual Levy Concert, sponsored by the Jack Malitz and Miriam



Velvet Caravan

Slotin Levy Memorial Fund, is free and open to the public, welcome to people of all ages and includes a dessert reception. Doors open at 1:30pm at the JEA, with the concert beginning at 2pm. For more information contact Alyssa Schoonover, Community Program Director, programming@savj.org, 912-355-8111.

Vital Statistics



Hallie Maejean Bender

BAT MITZVAH: Mazel tov to Hallie Maejean Bender, who became a Bat Mitzvah on March 12, 2016, at Beth David Reform Congregation in Gladwyne, PA. Hallie is the daughter of Cari Feiler Bender and Rodd Bender and the granddaughter of Jane and Ed Feiler.

Savannah Jewish News

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SJF Secretary/Treasurer: **Matthew Allan**
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

Neither the publisher nor the editor can assume any responsibility for the kashrut of the services or merchandise advertised in this paper. If you have questions regarding kashrut, please consult your rabbi.

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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.

JEA OUTDOOR MURAL PROJECT

Sunday, April 10



The cool, sunny day began with an almost blank canvas



A day at the pool is a classic slice of life at the JEA!



Camp Director DJ Horton, Project Director Anna Berwitz, Just Paint Director Cierra Selby and mural artist Danielle Busby

The wall facing JEA Camp Savannah's outdoor basketball court recently got a facelift with a mural designed by *Just Paint*, a community mural project. The mural depicts the history and activities of the JEA. More than 60 responded to the call for volunteers to help "fill in the lines" and had a great time putting their artistic instincts to work!



Cierra Selby and JEA President Joel Greenberg survey the progress



Someone had to brave the scaffolding!



The volunteers left at the end of the day should be proud of all they have accomplished!

**What does PJ stand for?**

Pajamas! We know those special Families with children 6 months to 8 years old and at least one Jewish parent in the household, currently residing in the Savannah area.

Who is eligible to register?

Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library® is free when your child is enrolled in the program. One subscription per child.

What's the cost?**Lag B'Omer Pool Bash****Sunday, May 15****1:00 - 3:00 p.m.****Jewish Educational Alliance's Outdoor Pool**

- Tie dye (bring your own shirt)
- Water Inflatables
- S'mores & Campfire
- Food for purchase

*In collaboration with JEA Aquatics Water Safety***Check out PJ Our Way™
the Newest Chapter of PJ Library®**

PJ Our Way offers the gift of exceptional books with Jewish themes to kids ages 9-11 – Books that they choose themselves!

Sign up TODAY
at www.PJOurWay.org

**What does
PJ Our Way
offer?**

- CHOOSE your FREE book each month
- Reviews and synopsis of authors and books
- Leadership with creating kids quizzes, polls, and video blogs



The Savannah PJ Library is made possible through generous support from the Savannah Jewish Federation, Jane Slotin, Nancy & Leon Slotin, and the Ceceile Richman JEA Fund.

For more information about PJ Library, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at pjlibrary@savj.org or 912-355-8111.



Mazel Tov to the 2016-2017 Savannah BBYO Boards

**Wexler Clark BBG***(pictured bottom to top)*

N'siah
Jami Goldstein
S'ganit
Allison Samuels
Aym Ha Chaverot
Hannah Boblasky
Mazkirah/Gizbor
Jordan Jaffie
Sh'lacha
Stephanie Kerniss

David Finn AZA*(pictured right to left)*

Godol
Peter Kronowitz
S'gan
Ben Finkel



MISSION: To create a pluralistic community of Jewish high school teens.
More Jewish Teens, More Meaningful Jewish Experiences.

 **Savannah Jewish Federation** Beneficiary Agency
Your Campaign Dollars at Work

J-SERVE**JEWISH TEENS SERVING THE WORLD**

**Calling all 8-12 graders to serve!
Sunday, May 1**

Contact Devra Silverman at engagement@savj.org for more information



MISSION: To create a community of Jewish 5, 6, 7 and 8 graders through social and meaningful experiences that will serve as a gateway to continued involvement in Jewish life.

For more information about BBYO or BBYO Connect, please contact Devra Silverman, Community Engagement Coordinator at engagement@savj.org or 912-355-8111.

Upcoming Events

X Marks the Spot
Sunday, May 22
2:00-3:30pm



A geocaching adventure awaits!



BBYO Connect participants enjoy making pottery and pizza at two of our recent events

Shoah Exhibit.....from pg 1

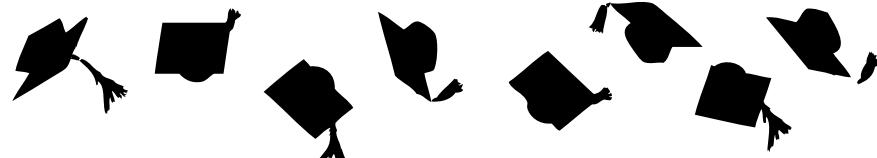
Mendels Bornstein, a Holocaust survivor appearing in cooperation with the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, who will share her memories and experiences. Manuela was in hiding in a village in unoccupied southern France during World War II; she moved to Atlanta in the 1970s. The ceremony also will include selected readings, the lighting of memorial candles, benedictions from our local Rabbis and recognition of the Art and Writing Contest winners. The ceremony is open to the public.

The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is a secular, non-partisan agency administered by the state's Secretary of State. It was first established in 1986 and became a permanent state agency in 1998. The Commission consists of 15 members



Generals George S. Patton and Omar Bradley tour Ohrdruf concentration camp (photo by William A. Scott III)

appointed equally by the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House. As its mission, the Commission strives to preserve the memory of and to promote public understanding of the history of the Holocaust. It ensures that learning how and why the Holocaust happened is an important part of the education of Georgia citizens. The Commission encourages reflection upon the moral questions raised by the Holocaust, and the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.



Mazel Tov to all High School & College Graduates and Your Families!

You are invited to submit your pictures and records of achievement for publication in our special graduation section of the June issue of the Savannah Jewish News.

To be included, please download the submission form from www.savj.org or pick one up at the JEA.

All submissions must be received by the absolute deadline of May 6th, 2016.
Listings will be published only in the June issue.

Return forms & pictures to: sjnews@savj.org or
Savannah Jewish News
5111 Abercorn St. | Savannah, GA 31405



Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day



May 5, 2016
27 Nissan 5776

Witness to the Holocaust

An exhibit presented by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust

April 27 - May 26, 2016
JEA Art Gallery

The exhibit highlights World War II veteran & civil rights activist, William Alexander Scott III, whose father founded one of the first black-owned daily newspapers in the United States – *The Atlanta Daily World*.

As a soldier in an all-black battalion, Scott and his comrades were fighting for rights they could not enjoy themselves.

Scott took photographs at Buchenwald concentration camp.

This exhibit draws parallels between the Jim Crow Laws and the Nuremberg Race Laws of 1935-1945 implemented throughout Germany and Nazi-controlled areas of Europe.

Community Observance

Thursday, May 5th

Reading of the names 9am - 7pm, JEA

To volunteer, sign up online at savj.org or call Alyssa Schoonover (912) 355-8111

Commemoration Program 7pm, JEA

Recognition of Survivors, Writing & Art Awards and a Survivor's Story



EVERY STEP COUNTS:

Hadassah's Walking Program



- ♦ Tour the world on a virtual route: take real steps towards healthy living!
- ♦ Track your steps on a pedometer. How many milestones can you pass?
- ♦ Swim, bike, yoga, etc. and convert to steps with Hadassah Track Wizard
- ♦ Three challenge levels—one right for you!
- ♦ Especially if you helped the JEA walk 6,388 miles to Jerusalem—help Hadassah walk you back to Georgia!

Register online at Hadassah.org under the health-medicine/*Every Step Counts*



Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
40 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005

Questions? Call Hadassah Fitness Guru
JWeitz@hadassah.org
912-354-2409



Sherry Dolgoff,
President of the
Savannah Jewish
Federation

Justice for Leo Frank

As I was thinking about the upcoming commemoration of Yom HaShoah and the rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel rhetoric, I reflected on one

of the darkest periods in American Jewish history, the Leo Frank case. In my reading I found a blog post on the ADL website that I excerpt here. While it is part of our American Jewish history and Georgia Jewish history, too, many of us don't know the story of what happened in 'our own backyard':

"Thirty years ago] ...the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles ... posthumously pardoned Leo Frank...the Jewish manager of an Atlanta pencil factory who was falsely accused and wrongly convicted in August 1913 of the rape and murder of Mary Phagan, a 13 year-old girl who worked in the factory.

...Leo Frank's trial attracted national attention and press coverage that inflamed the public with horrific anti-Semitic responses. The trial itself, with the prosecuting attorney's anti-Jewish sentiments, was filled with a hostile atmosphere. Outside the courthouse, the furious mobs could be heard shouting, "Hang the Jew!" Far too many were influenced by [the rhetoric]... such that the hatred of Jews took precedence over reason and truth... Leo Frank's trial and conviction shocked and galvanized the American Jewish community... [which led to the establishment of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in 1913. Its mission was and remains to 'stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.'

Frank appealed his conviction all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled 7-2 that Frank's Constitutional due process rights had not been violated...

After all appeals were exhausted, Georgia Governor Slaton reviewed the case and commuted Frank's death sentence to life imprisonment. That courageous June 1915 decision enraged many and sparked riots in the streets. Two months later, a mob of armed men kidnapped Frank from his prison cell, drove him more than 100 miles to Marietta, GA, Phagan's hometown. It came to public attention that the lynching of Leo Frank was executed with military precision by supposed "pillars" of the community – judges, a solicitor general, even a former sheriff. Under cover of darkness...the perpetrators cut the telegraph and telephone lines at the prison farm, overpowered the guards, rousted Leo Frank from his bed, and drove him to a grove outside Marietta where he was lynched. By morning light, some townspeople gathered around the dangling body to gape and pose for pictures.

Efforts to vindicate justice for Leo Frank were strengthened in 1982, when 83 year-old Alanzo Mann, who ran errands in the factory as a boy, came forward to announce that he had seen the factory's janitor, Jim Conley, carrying Phagan's body to the basement on the day of her death. The janitor had threatened to kill Alonzo if he told anyone. ADL's Atlanta-based Southern Counsel, Charles Wittenstein, and prominent immigration lawyer and national ADL leader, Dale Schwartz led a vigorous legal campaign to clear Leo Frank's name. On March 11, 1986, those efforts were rewarded with his name finally being cleared. By pardoning Leo Frank, even without exonerating him, the State of Georgia has at the very least recognized that he was a victim of a terrible wrong instead of maintaining he was a duly convicted criminal – as it had for over 70 years.

While hard, it is not impossible, to imagine a trial steeped in such virulent and vocal anti-Semitism or racism today. Our nation is far from free of racial and religious prejudice and discrimination. We have heard about the current rise of anti-Semitism mostly abroad, but anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim discrimination and prejudice, anti-immigrant rhetoric and hate of all kinds is sadly still seen and heard in the US and around the globe. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, 'The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.'

The anniversary of Leo Frank's pardon is a powerful reminder that while the arc of morality may bend towards justice, it can be too easily swayed and challenged. People striving for equality need to be vigilant in efforts to speak out against injustice, prejudice and hatred wherever it exists. Burying our heads in the sand with blinders on and ignoring the incitation of fear and prejudice that can rear its ugly head in private and the most public of places, moves us in the wrong direction. Let's actively work to bend and strengthen the moral compass in the direction of justice for all people – today – and every day."

His message is part of the mission of the Savannah Jewish Federation: "To promote mutual understanding with the community at large, and to that end, use means that are democratic and representative of the wishes of the Jewish community." We have seen firsthand, time and time again, what can happen when we ignore the harbingers of hatred. Let us ensure that Georgia and America never again experience anything like the Leo Frank case.



Leo Frank



Adam Solender
Executive Director of
JEA/SJF

Timeless Tale

As this paper is delivered to homes we are in the midst of Passover, perhaps the most observed holiday on the Jewish calendar.

In fact, the most recent Pew national survey indicated that 70% of all U.S. Jews participated in a Seder last year. While the details of each family Seder are unique, there are many traditions common to most seders — from the "four questions," the Seder plate with symbolic foods, to searching for the afikoman. As reported by the survey, participation in a Seder is more common than fasting for (all or part of) Yom Kippur (53%), (always/usually) lighting Shabbat candles (23%) or keeping Kosher at home (22%).

In reflecting on these numbers it's hard not to ask, "Why does Passover resonate so strongly?"

Many have answered this question stating that during Passover we have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in a Jewish narrative in a way that no other holiday offers.

Many of us have adapted the ritual meal to personally reflect our own lives. In our home we have added a Miriam's Cup (filled with water) next to Elijah's to serve as a symbol of Miriam's Well, the source of water for the Israelites in the desert. It draws attention to the story of Miriam and the other women in the Exodus story and highlights the contributions of women to Jewish culture, past and present. We have also

added a miniature Statue of Liberty that reflects on the unique freedoms we have in this country. Growing up, my family always drained the fourth and final cup remembering those in our family who were no longer with us to retell the story of our people.

The amazing thing is that the story "remains the same," but we find new meaning each year as the story is about the past and the future...the story of a people bound together by a set of principles that were as meaningful then as they are now: freedom, concern for others, and hope for a better future.

Whether it be the bitter herbs that reminds us of the suffering that our ancestors experienced; the roasted shank bone that commemorates the paschal lamb sacrifice; the salt water symbolizing the tears and sweat of enslavement; or the charoset that represents the mortar used by the (Hebrew) slaves (of course, there are many different interpretations); when we gather around the Seder table to recount the story, we remember and recommit ourselves to sharing this history and these values with future generations.

The ethics of Passover are universal and timeless. It is this story and these values that motivate many to "open" their Seder tables to friends—both Jewish and non-Jewish—and the reason the story resonates to all.

And as we each adapt and adopt new customs, the narrative resonates with successive generations, thus cementing the essential message of the holiday.

Chag Sameach



More than 20 Sigma Delta Tau sisters, alumnae of several different universities, gathered recently at the home of Judy Hirsch for a "Girls Night Out" to commemorate the 99th anniversary of the sorority's founding. The sisters ranged in age from their mid-20s to their late 80s and spanned more than eight decades of sisterhood.

If you are a SDT sister in the area and would like to be included in future events, email Judy at ghirsch3@comcast.net.

Splish Splash

The JEA Outdoor Pool is Open!

**The outdoor pool opens
Sunday, May 1st**

for Sundays May 1st, 7th & 15th

Hours: 11am—5pm

**Sunday, May 15th
is Water Safety Day
Special events 1-3pm**

**Regular Hours Begin
Sunday, May 22nd**

Sundays 10am-5pm

Monday-Thursday 11am-7pm

Fridays 11am-4pm

For more information about any of the JEA's aquatic services, please contact Kirby Southerland at (912) 355-8111 or aquatics@savj.org.



Savannah Jewish ARCHIVES

This is the continuation of the information sent to us by Jeremy Katz, Director of the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at the Breman Museum in Atlanta, about the transition of the Savannah Jewish Archives to the Breman:

The collections and papers of 24 families and Savannah Jewish institutions had been processed as of the time of this report, comprising 63.3 linear feet of space. “We have also begun a preliminary assessment of the photograph and oral history collections to determine the best methods for presenting these to a broad audience.”

Research Requests

We have had a number of requests including researchers seeking information on: the *William and Sarah*; a Minis family descendant; amateur and professional genealogists exploring family roots in Savannah; as well as a request from the Georgia Salzburger Society Board. We anticipate greater numbers of research requests as more collections are processed and made available online.



New Acquisitions

We are fortunate to have had three new acquisitions come to the Cuba Family Archives that are related to Savannah's Jewish history. These include:

Aaron Guthman Family Papers, consisting of two photographs of the Guthman Family, a letter written on Haas-Guthman Co. letterhead (August 1936) and two framed insurance policies of Aaron Guthman, who outlived each.

Matiel Roos Leffler Oral History. The oral history was conducted in August and has since been transcribed.

Beirne Prager Papers consisting of a WWI helmet, photograph and military discharge papers of Beirne Morton Prager from his WWI service.

Website

The Savannah Jewish Archives now has a landing page on the Breman website. Simply visit www.thebreman.org and use the ‘Research’ and then the ‘Cuba Family Archives’ drop down tabs. The Savannah Jewish Archives page includes an overall description of the collection, links to the *Minis Family Papers*, *Congregation B'nai B'rith Jacob Records*, *Mordechai Sheftall Cemetery Trustees Records* as well as the **Finding Aids** page. When one clicks on the **Finding Aids** link, they will be directed to the processed collections mentioned above as well as the Kaye and Don Kole Papers, Hadassah Savannah Chapter Records, Guthman-Kahn Family Papers and others. As more collections are processed, their finding aids will be added to the website.

Four Questions for the rest of the year



Martha Hall Kelly

M a r t h a
Hall Kelly is a first-time novelist who will be reading from and discussing her debut novel, *The Lilac Girls*, at the JEA on Thursday,

May 19th, at 7pm.

In this fictionalized account, real-life New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland and then sets its sights on France. An ocean away, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance. For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life, but then she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power. The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.

Kelly has undergraduate and graduate degrees in journalism from Syracuse University and Northwestern University. Before trying her hand at

fiction, she was a successful advertising copywriter who retired after the birth of her third child. She grew up in Hanson, MA; after many years living in Connecticut, Kelly and her family moved to Atlanta in 2009.

What was it about Caroline Ferriday's story that resonated with you?

One Mother's Day after my mother passed away, I took a trip by myself from my house in Connecticut to see a house I'd wanted to visit. It was Caroline Ferriday's house and I was the only person on the tour that day. I'd been carrying around an article that talked about her house; it didn't say anything about her philanthropic work. The magazine spread was beautiful; it had a picture of her as a young actress that captivated me. It showed a picture of the lilacs in her garden and I'm a huge fan of lilacs. It also showed her home and I love old houses and this is an old, federal-style house and I just thought, 'I have to see it.' I'd just get this little flutter every time I took the article out of my wallet; I had to go there.

We walked onto the landing off her bedroom and saw her desk just as she had left it with her manual typewriter, a picture of Charles DeGaulle (she was a big Francophile) and a photo of smiling middle-aged women. I asked who they were and the guide said, "Oh, those are the 'rabbits'; the women who are former Ravensbrück concentration camp prisoners who were experimented on." In the 1950s Caroline Ferriday brought them to the U.S. for rehabilitation and

galvanized post-war America into helping them. The whole way home I thought, 'How does no one know this story? She is a hero and we just don't have many heroes these days.' It bothered me for a long time but I didn't start writing until several years later when we had moved to Atlanta and one day after I dropped my son off at high school, I went through the Starbucks drive-thru and by mistake got a caffeinated cappuccino instead of my usual decaf. I went home and started writing and haven't stopped since.

Why write a work of fiction rather than a biography?

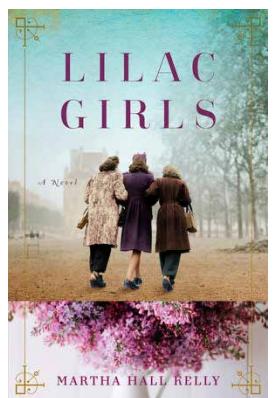
I went to dinner before I moved to Atlanta and met this wonderful book editor (who I didn't even know was a book editor) named Betty Kelly Sargent and started talking about this story. I had been researching in Caroline's archives for several years at that point; often I would go there on the weekend and sit in the cool root cellar underneath her home where the archival documents were kept and go through her things and just kind of adore her. My sister said I kept it secret from everyone and I told her not to tell anyone because they might think I was crazy, but I mentioned it to Betty and she said, "Well you know, I'm a book editor. All I need is a chapter." And I'd really never thought about a novel, but I finally sent her a chapter and she was so supportive. I kept sending her chapters and finally my husband said, "You're done with this book."

I also knew I wanted to include at least one character who was a prisoner at Ravensbrück; that at least one of the characters had to be a fictional Polish woman. And the more I learned about Herta Oberheuser, I thought she was a wonderful person to include, as well. So by the time I had three different characters in my head, I already was down the road of fiction.

Researching and writing this novel took you deep into the experiences of the Holocaust. Had you studied the Holocaust much before writing this book and do you think your new understanding has changed you?

No, I had not studied the Holocaust at all really. A lot of my friends at Syracuse and Northwestern were Jewish, but I didn't even know what a bagel was before I went to Syracuse. I was from a little town in Massachu-

sets and believe me, I was happy to learn about bagels. But before this



[*The Diary of Anne Frank*, which will always be one of my favorite books, was my main gateway to the Holocaust. I understand it on a whole different level now. Going to Lublin, Poland, to research, you can't help but begin to understand the Holocaust on a much deeper level. When you go to Lublin Castle and look down

and see where the Lublin ghetto once stood and know that it was once this thriving Jewish area and now see it's this empty space that the Nazis destroyed, you understand the enormity of what happened. When you go to Ravensbrück and see the crematorium, there's no way a person can't be changed by that.

You have a section of your website devoted to "musical inspiration." Can you talk a little about what role music plays in your writing process?

I walk a lot and listen to music when I'm out walking. I find that certain songs evoke whole worlds for me so I used music to evoke certain themes in my writing and it worked! Half of the themes in the book I mapped out while listening to music. There's one song from Seraphic Fire, actually a Christmas carol, that is written in three different languages and that gave me the idea to write a winter scene where all three of the main characters experience Christmas from their different locations. What was it like to be a prisoner in the concentration camp during that holy time; what was it like to be a German doctor at the camp at Christmas, where the Nazis made it such a different holiday, basically banning Christianity; and then an American's viewpoint in New York City at St. Thomas Church. What was it like at that same moment in time in three different places? That all came from that song, sung in three different languages.

The other song that inspired me so much was *Emanuel*, also listed on the website. I think that song evokes the tragedy, but also the hope and humanity of the story. If there's one song I had to choose, it would be that.

*If your book club is interested in reading and discussing *Lilac Girls* with Martha Hall Kelly, she may be able to join you via Skype; see her website, marthahallkelly.com, for details. She will be at the JEA on May 19th at 7 pm.*

The 28th Annual Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Concert

dynamic music featuring

**Velvet Caravan &
Savannah Voice Festival**

Sunday, May 22, 2016 • 2pm
(doors open at 1:30pm)

Jewish Educational Alliance

Intermission Dessert Reception



I on Israel

The Password Is?

In March the FBI and U.S. Justice Department dropped their suit against Apple Inc. because they already had accessed the data on the iPhone belonging to Syed Farook, the perpetrator of the December 2nd terror attack in San Bernardino, and no longer required Apple's assistance. Many assumed they had done so with the help of an Israeli company, Cellebrite. But the American authorities refused to reveal just how they unlocked the phone's password and retrieved its secrets without destroying any data.

Whether Cellebrite assisted in this case or not, they certainly are one of the leading companies in the increasingly important, and controversial, field of mobile device forensics. As the use of smartphones and other mobile devices (laptops and tablets) have outpaced the use of personal computers, so have their uses in criminal activities, creating a need/desire for methodologies to retrieve various types of evidence from these devices.

Formed in 1999 by an experienced team of telecommunications professionals, Cellebrite started out manufacturing hardware and software for

mobile phone-to-phone data transfer, a service that anyone who has ever purchased a new cell phone and had their contact list synchronized from their old phone to the new phone can appreciate. The service was extremely useful and popular at a time when cellular companies often were migrating from one technology to another and before the availability of convenient data backup services such as 'cloud' technology.

Headquartered in Petah Tikva and now with offices in the U.S., Germany, England, Brazil, Singapore and China, Cellebrite continues to offer commercial phone-to-phone data transfer products such as its Universal Memory Exchanger, which can move information between all formats of mobile phones. It also has released a number of other what it calls "mobile lifecycle" products, including diagnostics, analytics and secure wipes for phones about to be sold on the aftermarket.

In 2007, Cellebrite introduced its Universal Forensic Extraction Device (UFED) product line. Using hand-held devices and optional desktop software, data cables, adapters,

etc., the UFED products extract data from mobile devices directly onto SD cards or USB flash drives. They also can break codes and decipher encrypted data as well as find hidden and deleted information. UFED items have been spotted in television shows such as *CSI: NY* and *CSI: Cyber*; in real life they reportedly are sold only to approved government and corporate organizations.

So did the FBI work with Cellebrite or use its technology to gain access to the data on Syed Farook's phone? The company isn't saying, either. But no doubt, it is possible. The *International Business Times* reported that public records for the Federal Procurement database show the law enforcement agency has spent more than two million dollars since 2012 on Cellebrite surveillance products. And they weren't the only ones. The same article points to \$1.3 million in spending by the U.S. Secret Service



UFED Touch Ultimate

since 2013 as well as Cellebrite contracts with the DEA, TSA, State Department and other U.S. government agencies.

Today, Cellebrite is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Japan's Sun Corp., a publicly-traded company on the JASDAQ, the result of a 2007 acquisition.

Note: As we went to press, there were reports that the FBI had paid a 'professional hacker' to break into Farook's phone, casting doubt that Cellebrite or any other corporate entity had been responsible for unlocking the phone's password.

Shopping Green

Beginning January 1, 2017, customers at Israeli supermarkets and convenience stores who forget to bring their own shopping bags will be paying 10 agorot (approximately \$0.03) per plastic bag used to package their groceries.

In hopes of significantly reducing waste and pollution, late in March the Knesset passed a bill, more than two years in the making, that imposed the charge and also banned certain types of polymer bags. According to Israel's Environmental Protection Ministry, the average citizen uses 275 plastic bags per year, adding up to about two to three billion plastic bags across the country each year and accounting for approximately 7% of Israel's waste. The bill passed with unanimous support, 44-0.

Environmental Protection Minister Avi Gabbai called the move "an important step for the conservation of nature, without affecting the cost of living." MK Yael Cohen Paran (Zionist Union), an environmental activist and former chair of Israel's



Green Movement, said the charge was not high enough to make a difference.

"Studies by the Environmental Protection Ministry have shown a levy of less than 60 cents a bag will not be effective. Many people do not even pick up a ten agorot coin on the street so we can only hope this charge will make a difference," Paran said.

The law is only applicable to major supermarket chains. Local convenience stores and open-air markets will not be required to charge customers for bags. The Environmental Ministry noted that supermarkets are the largest plastic bag consumers, often triple-bagging heavy items like milk.

Other countries that tax plastic bags include Germany, Belgium, Great Britain, and France. In the U.S., about 20 states and 100 cities have laws requiring charges for bags. Some countries, such as Cambodia, Malawi, and Senegal, have banned plastic bags outright.



Rendering of the proposed Croata Laguna Ecopark

lence held in Tel Aviv with cooperation from the Brazilian government, Italian group Planet Idea, the Tel Aviv University center for entrepreneurship—Startau, and global security conglomerate Tyco's Israeli innovation center.

Israel has positioned itself in recent years as a hub for smart city

continued on page 09

Getting Smart

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — Three Israeli companies won an international competition to help create a pilot smart city in Brazil to house 20,000 residents of low socioeconomic status.

The startups won a challenge to develop high-tech solutions in security, landscaping and engineering for the future city called Croata Laguna Ecopark in the north-eastern municipality of Sao Goncalo do Amarante, the Brazilian Israelite Confederation announced March 28.

In most cases, smart technology is fitted to existing cities, but the Brazilian government decided recently to try a different approach and build a smart city from scratch.

Twelve Israeli tech firms participated in the 3C Smart Cities Chal-



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

May 2016



Children's Programming



JEA Camp Savannah June 6 - July 29, 2016

Days @ the JEA

May 23-27 and May 31-June 3

School is out and summer fun is at the JEA! Join us as we count down to the best summer of JEA Camp Savannah yet. Activities will include cookouts, field trips/stay trips, creative projects, new games, and of course, what would camp be without a few surprises?!

Age: Children Pre-K to 8th grade
Cost: \$35 - JEA Member, preregistered
\$45 - Non-Member, preregistered

* A \$5 late fee will be charged for all those signing up the day of the event.

JEA CAMP SAVANNAH
IS NOW HIRING
SUMMER CAMP STAFF!



We are currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Lead Group Counselors:** College Freshmen and up, Early Childhood Education Majors and Teachers preferred
- Junior Group Counselors:** High School Juniors & Seniors
- C.I.T. (Counselors in Training):** High School Freshmen & Sophomores
- Specialty Counselors:** Themed Program Counselors, WSI-Certified Swimming Instructors, Middle School Counselors (Counselors who specialize in working with middle school children)

Counselor Application available online at www.SavannahJEA.org.

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



Jewish Educational Alliance's AFTER SCHOOL Enrichment Program



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. *Join us May 3rd at 4 pm as we tidy up the JEA flower beds just in time for Yom HaShoah! Afterwards, enjoy Dinner & Dirt.*

- At the Savannah JEA, we believe that your child should have happy memories every day. We provide a foundation for their future, help shape their lives, and take part as your children grow and change.
- At the JEA's After School program, your pre-k through 6th graders will participate in activities such as swimming, sports, homework help, daily snacks, cooking, fitness fun, art and much more!
- After School hours are Monday-Thursday, 3-6 pm, Fridays 3-5 pm. We pick up from Garrison, Charles Ellis Elementary and Jacob G. Smith Schools.



Aftercare Prices: \$18/day plus transportation
\$75/week plus transportation

Member Value Prices: \$12/day plus transportation
\$50/week plus transportation

**Register in person at the JEA at 5111 Abercorn Street
Phone (912) 355-8111
Email DJ Horton, kids@savj.org**



Don't forget to call and make your reservation at the JEA Front Desk
912-355-8111.

Join us on each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. for [Food For Thought!](#)

Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy a delicious lunch for only \$5, followed by an educational speaker or performer.

- May 5 A Survivor's Story, Allen Kupfer**
May 12 Israel Update, Motti Locker
May 19 Savannah Voice Festival, A Live Performance
May 26 Aging and Health, Kathy Ackerman
June 2 The Hidden Jews of Ethiopia, Melissa Toporek

New JEA Members

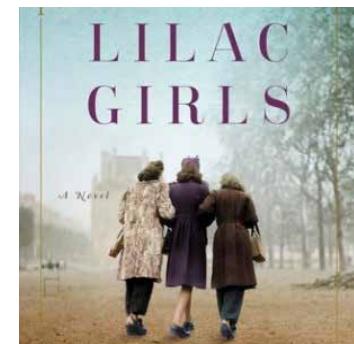
The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset!

(New Members as of 3/6/16-4/1/16)

Kendra Johnson
Sidney Karp
Conner Lawrie
David Peoples
Yvette Richter
Insley Smullen
Luke & Rachel Wolf



Jewish Arts & Culture Center
Squeal for the Summer Schpiel!
Thursday, June 2
7:00 p.m.
Jewish Educational Alliance
Tickets: \$8 JEA Members/\$ 10 Non-Members
Get Involved!
Submit your story or song with a Jewish connection about summer memories, camp and the games we play by Monday, May 2 to artsandculture@savj.org.
(All participants must sign up for a 15 minute rehearsal slot on Thursday, May 26 from 2:00-6:00 p.m.)



An Evening with Author
Martha Hall Kelly
May 19, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

"Inspired by actual events and real people, Martha Hall Kelly has woven together the stories of three women during World War II that reveal the bravery, cowardice, and cruelty of those days. This is a part of history—women's history—that should never be forgotten."

—New York Times bestselling author Lisa See



Health & Wellness

You Are Only as Old as Your SPINE is HEALTHY! - Joseph H. Pilates



Kat Ackerman
Health & Wellness
Director

The act of sitting or standing vertically for long periods of time can compress the spine and create muscle tightness; our posture becomes compromised, which can lead to back pain. When our lower lumbar spine becomes tight, glutes and hamstrings weaken, shoulders round forward (Kyphosis), the chest hollows and breathing becomes shallow. By moving the spine in all planes of motion - flexion, extension, lateral flexion and twisting movements - we can help prevent pain and maintain a strong spine.

Using a stability ball is a great tool for working mobility and strengthening and lengthening the spine and abdominals.

First, sit on the ball and reach your arms straight out to the side of the body, from the shoulders. Twist the torso from side-to-side, always using your breath to guide your fluid



movement. Think of lengthening the spine, as you rotate, creating space between each vertebra.

Second, laterally bend, extending one side of the torso, reaching the arm up to the sky; repeating side-to side. Try to create more space on the side of the body with each movement.

Third, lie on the ball (on your back); support your head with your fingers behind the ears. Curl up, engaging your abdominals (exhale as you curl up).

Fourth, round your spine around the ball and let everything relax. Support the head if you need to, but ultimately try to round the entire spine around the ball including the neck. Breathe deeply into the chest, expanding the lungs. This will open the chest, shoulders and hip flexors, which become tight from (the occupational hazard of) sitting.

If you are interested in adding to your existing

routine, please see Kat Ackerman in Fitness for a demonstration. These exercises feel really good, while challenging your powerhouse (core), allowing you to lengthen, strengthen, reach and stretch further than before.

Make Water Safety a Priority



Kirby Southerland
Aquatics Director

Reading, writing, arithmetic and swimming - these are the four things that should be taught as life skills. That was one of the most important concepts that I learned in my time at the Association of Aquatics Professionals annual conference in San Diego, California. Reading, writing and arithmetic are the building blocks for all other subjects we study. They create our foundation of education that leads us into everything else we will study in our lives. Why wouldn't a necessary skill such as swimming be included in this? It is just as important as learning to look both ways before

crossing the road. Often, we forget that swimming is not just a competitive sport or a means of exercise, but living on the coast - it's a necessity. Every summer in Savannah there are countless preventable deaths by drowning. Drowning does not discriminate - people of all ages are victims of drowning - and that can be stopped. Take the necessary steps to ensure that you and your family are safe this summer. Enroll in swimming lessons and make sure that it is a priority in your family to be water smart.

Swimming lessons at the JEA start with children as young as 6 months old (we teach adults, too!). It's never too early to get started! For more information, contact Kirby Southerland at 912-355-8111 or at aquatics@savj.org.

Fitness Classes

Sunday

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

Monday

8:45 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Aquasize
10:00 am - Vinyasa Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - AquaDance
6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

8:45 am - Firm It Up
10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic
6:00 pm - Total Body Blast

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Chi Sculpting & Tai Chi with Trevor Jaha

Classes begin June 6th - 12 pm - 1 pm

Taiji (Tai Chi) is the harmonic expression of oneness through breath and movement. Initially developed as a form of self defense, Taiji is one of the most powerful healing and longevity practices in the world.

Class Pricing:

JEA Member Rate: \$20 per class
Non-Member rate: \$30 per class

Five-class Pass:

Members: \$80, Non-Members \$120

Private Sessions:

Members: \$60 for 60 minutes/\$90 for 90 minutes
Non-Members: \$80 for 60 minutes/\$110 for 90 minutes



JEA Preschool Savannah News

Enroll Now

- Limited openings in toddler and 2-year old classrooms
- 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

2016 Summer Program

Weeks 1 & 2: Sticky, Slimey, Ooey, Gooey June 6-June 17

Explore everything from volcanoes to blubber! Paint with fingerpaint and pudding; cook with sticky ingredients; participate in fun experiments!

Weeks 3 & 4: Big Thinkers

June 20-July 1

Join our search for the Earth's biggest rock, biggest mountain, biggest building and biggest cargo ship! Find our biggest animal friends. Discover all that is big!

Weeks 5 & 6: Movin' and Groovin'

July 5-July 15

Engage in music from different genres and cultures. Dance the bunny hop, disco, salsa, Irish, tap and more. Participate in a musical presentation for your family!

Weeks 7 & 8: A Child's Garden

July 18-July 29

Get your hands dirty and watch your green thumb grow. We'll do outdoor planting and create indoor gardens such as an art garden, book garden and photo garden!

- Our summer program is open to children 12 months to 4 years.
- Your child will enjoy weekly shabbat celebrations, swimming lessons for 4-year olds, special guests and activities and hands-on experiences!
- Half-day and full-day options.

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



in the JEA Art Gallery

Witness to the Holocaust

WWII Veteran William Alexander Scott III at Buchenwald
An Exhibit Presented by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust

April 28-May 26, 2016

The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is bringing the traveling exhibit "Witness to the Holocaust: WWII Veteran William Alexander Scott III at Buchenwald" to the Savannah Jewish Federation. The exhibit will be on display from April 28, 2016, until May 26, 2016. It is free and open to the public.

The exhibit highlights World War II veteran and civil rights activist, William Alexander Scott III, whose father founded one of the first black-owned daily newspapers in the United States - *The Atlanta Daily World*. Scott was a reconnaissance sergeant, photographer, comoufleur, and part-time historian in S2 (Intelligence Section) of the 183rd Engineer Combat Battalion.

During WWII the United States Army was, like much of the nation itself, segregated. As a soldier in an all-black battalion, Scott and his comrades were fighting for rights they could not enjoy themselves at home. This fact was

magnified as the Allies began to witness first-hand the treatment of Jewish people and other groups targeted by the Nazis and their collaborators, as they liberated camps across Europe. Especially so for Scott, who took photographs at Buchenwald concentration camp, one of the largest camps established in German borders.

In addition to providing Scott's witness testimony about this experience, this exhibit draws parallels between the Jim Crow Laws and the Nuremberg Race Laws of 1935-1945 implemented in Germany and Nazi-controlled areas of Europe.



JEA Donations

(March 6, 2016-April 1, 2016)

ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Ruth Sand

Sandee & Louis Lipsitz
Geraldine Greenberg

In memory of Abram Rubin

In memory of Rosalyn Corneille

In honor of Judy Hirsch

Nancie & Fred Clark

JEA GENERAL DONATION

In memory of Ruth Sand

Harriette Bernstein
Yetta Tureck

JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH FUND

In memory of Ruth Sand

Cindi Kobleur

Marcy & Jerry Konter
Camille DeLucia

June & Murray Arkin

Marilyn Seeman

Sally Krissman

Nancy & Leon Slotin

Linda & Michael Zoller

Sheri & Rob Feldman

Arlene & Allan Ratner

In honor of Lynne Spector

Marcy & Jerry Konter

In memory of Zena Kaplan

Sally Krissman

In memory of Abram Rubin

In honor of Sally Greenberg

In honor of Barbara & Ricky Friedenberg's grandchild
Lynne & Fred Spector

BERTHA & HYMIE KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND

In honor of Herb Sanders
Sally & Steve Greenberg

JEA FITNESS FUND

In memory of Abram Rubin
Linda & Eric Karpf

HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Abram Rubin
Marsha & Chuck Bernstein
Bernice Elman

Brenda & Patrick Salter

In memory of Abram Rubin

Shannon & Scott Javetz

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Peggy & Stanley Harris

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Arlene & Allan Ratner

Alpha Gamma Chapter of GA Alpha Delta Kappa

Thomas Gray

Eunice & Stephen Bernstein

Mary & Anthony Buttmer

HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Anne Scheer
Miriam Center

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

In honor of Frank Katz
Sherry & Norman Dolgoff

They Love it Here


Jodi Sadler,
 JEA Director of
 Early Childhood
 Education

It's that time of year when families are looking for places to enroll their children in summer and fall programs. We are in the process of registering children for both at JEA Preschool Savannah.

"the school and they love it here." So the word is out and people are interested in enrolling their children.

We have worked hard to create the premiere preschool program for our community. Some of the things we do that make us stand out above the rest include special activities like attending the Savannah Voice Festival concert at Food for Thought and weekly swimming in the indoor pool for our Pre K class.

All of the children experience Havdalah on Mondays and our Shabbat Celebrations each Friday. Many families enjoy this Friday "sacred time" with their children as they sing the Shabbat songs and blessings together and experience a community feeling in the environment we create.

Some of the extra activities offered for children include Yogi Palz, Science Sprouts, swim lessons, t-ball, and basketball. Through these enhancement programs, the children experience and learn about themselves and the world.

As we conclude this third year of JEA Preschool Savannah we are proud of all we've accomplished. I'd like to thank the teachers, families and community for their support and efforts.

As Whitney Houston sang, "I believe the children are our future." Don't you agree?

.....from pg 8

and plan smart cities.

Planet Idea operations director Gianni Savio said smart cities are urban spaces "in which the smartest and most economically sustainable technologies are designed and integrated," and are also focused on social housing, "and therefore targeting mid- and low-income levels, showing that the economical nature of a construction does not rule out its being of high quality."

The winner of the competition was Magos, which is taking part in a Tyco Innovation program. Its technology makes available for the first time high-resolution, compact security solutions with low energy consumption and a simple installation at affordable rates to civilian clients. Second-place GreenIQ develops solutions for smart management of green spaces, offering up to 50% savings in water consumption. Third place went to Pixtier, which develops an engineering system to build

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 (behind Portman's Music and Mall Blvd. Kroger)

Woof!

Eyes Opened at Conference

by Matthew Prater

April 1st-3rd, 35 brothers of Alpha Epsilon Pi from across North America joined together in Los Angeles for the fraternity's first "Combat Hate" Conference. David Marias, AEPi's Civic Engagement Coordinator, and others from AEPi's national headquarters in Indianapolis, spent more than one and a-half years planning this three-day conference.

"Alpha Epsilon Pi's Combat Hate Conference was created to honor our alumnus Michael "Mickey" Schwermer, who was a Brother and a freedom rider from Cornell who was killed by the KKK in 1964. We wanted to have a special conference in order to examine past instances of hate on and off campus, and find ways that we can help bridge communities and work with other diverse groups of students to make our campus communities better for all students," said Marias.

Brothers Matthew Friedrich, Josh Shapiro and I attended the Combat Hate Conference as representatives of AEPi at Kennesaw State University. After arriving and some sightseeing, we were taken to Hillel at UCLA for Shabbat dinner. We were welcomed with open arms by Hillel directors and students. Shabbat services were led by students with acoustic music and prayer. Shabbat dinner followed, hosted by UCLA students for their students and others from around the nation.

Saturday began promptly at 9am with speakers presenting throughout the day. The first was "Dialogues on Diversity" presented by The

Black-Jew Dialogues. This presentation, through the means of comedy, took an in-depth look at the hardships of racism and prejudice, and what we need to do to combat them. Although it may seem a bit unorthodox, it was very enlightening, and by using comedy, it was easier for the brothers at the conference to open up and ask things that were on our minds. Our next lecture came from "White People 4 Black Lives" and emphasized their definition of racism and how brothers of AEPi can help be supporters and advocates of the "Black Lives Matter" movement on and off campus.

After lunch we went right back into the conference room with the next speakers ready to go! AEPi alum, Tyler Gregory, Director of Programs and Development at "A Wider Bridge," spoke to us about the work his group does advocating for the rights of the LGBT community in Israel, as well as about the rights of the LGBT community throughout the Middle East. Although there are many hardships that we know of in the Middle East, Israel is very accepting of this community. Home to the largest Pride parade in the world, many seek refuge in Tel Aviv and other parts of Israel for the work and acceptance of this community.

We ended the day with two final speakers prior to dinner. Tim Zaal spoke on behalf of "Hate to Hope," an organization that does exactly that. Zaal is an ex-skinhead who spoke about acceptance of others telling his remarkable true story of reconcil-

iation with someone he had once hurt over four decades ago. We learned through his journey how to overcome our prejudices and to fight against discrimination. Our final speaker was Rabbi Aaron Hier, the Director of Campus Outreach for the Simon Wiesenthal Center. He currently is a J.D. candidate at Southwestern Law School.

He facilitated conversation focused on our first amendment rights and how these rights can be used on campus to fight hate speech and other actions.

We closed the session with dinner and a guest speaker, AEPi's Supreme Master Elan Carr, who gave an inspiring speech about the pride and power that we have as Jewish leaders. He emphasized that we are the next generation of Jewish leaders, and are the ones who can make a difference. We are the future of not only America but also our homeland, Israel. It was a great closure to the day and wrapped up everything we learned. We ended the evening in Hollywood exploring the city.

Sunday we had one more thing to do. We went to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. The museum was about tolerance in all aspects of the world. We split into two small groups and walked through the interactive exhibits where we saw scenes and life-like models of the ghettos and concentration camps from World War II. The stories we heard and presentations of the facts



Matthew Prater (center) with his Kennesaw State AEPi brothers, Josh Shapiro (left) and Matthew Friedrich (right) at the recent AEPi Combat Hate Conference

were simply jaw-dropping. I have been to Holocaust museums in Israel, Atlanta, DC and more, but I think this one will stick with me the most.

Over all, this conference was truly an honor to attend. I brought back valuable knowledge and information to share with my brothers and community regarding tolerance and how we can better ourselves in our community. It was eye opening on aspects that I didn't even realize were issues we face today (beyond racism and prejudice). Alpha Epsilon Pi is THE Jewish fraternity and emphasizes the push for Jewish continuity and acceptance of those who hold these ideals. By putting on multiple conferences annually such as this, AEPi plays a vital role in creating leaders of the Jewish community for today and tomorrow.

Matthew Prater is a founding member of and currently President of the AEPi colony at Kennesaw State University near Atlanta. His parents are Ilene and Michael Prater of Norcross, GA, and his grandparents are Sally and Herb Sanders of Savannah.



YOM HA'ATZMAUT

BARBECUE

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S

1948

THURSDAY
MAY
12

5:30 PM
TO
8:00 PM

Jewish Educational Alliance

ISRAELI BBQ

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From Shalom School

by Michelle Allan

Shalom School Teacher

Yom HaShoah. It's a day that goes unnoticed by many and evokes strong emotions in others. For me personally, I spend the day with mixed emotions. This is a very somber day, but I can't help but find a moment to rejoice. Especially coming off the heels of Pesach, I celebrate that we survived. Throughout history- we did it! Horrible events in our history, but we are here!

Last year, my husband and I both spent time at the JEA reading the names of those who perished. It was a very raw experience, even painful, when I read names and ages that corresponded with those I love. I thought about all of the children in my kindergarten and pre-k class and my friends with babies, and I saw the future of our people. How we were thriving with passion for Judaism and being an active community.

This year, I've taken on a new position at Shalom School, and I work with older students in 5th and 6th grades rather than the Kindergarten where I had been teaching for five years. I've always been the type that finds Judaism fascinating, so to share that with a new age group has been really special. However, they've taught me as well. As I think about my feelings on Yom HaShoah, I think of my students, preparing for their bar and bat mitzvahs, finding their own place within the community. Each one of them has fostered their own connection through their home life, the greater community, and within the walls of our religious school.

Most of these students have been enrolled at Shalom school since

age four. They've had some great teachers, and they've grown over time. They ask rich questions like: How do we know there is a G-d; why did G-d let bad things happen? They debate, oh how they debate! What was 'fair', what was 'pointless', why the women didn't get enough credit, etc?

My favorite part of teaching this year has been our focus on Words of Wisdom, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. They find connections between the words people lived by thousands of years ago and how we should live today. They've fallen in love with the stories and given them hypothetical twists. What would've happened to the Jewish people if Vashti had done as she was told? What if Moses didn't come at that exact moment? Where would we be if Hitler never existed? I love listening to the conversations during snack time. In 6th grade, they want to know which colleges have the most Jews, they go to BBYO Connect events, and they talk about summer camp all year long.

As my mailbox fills with invitations and they become sons and daughters of the Torah, I can't help but smile knowing that these young men and women, with so many other things on their plates, make a commitment to continue to be part of the Jewish people. Through all of their classes and all of their questions, they've found answers. They provide the affirmation we need. We survived all those years ago, and we will continue to survive. And right now, we are thriving.

So, as you light a remembrance candle, and mourn the lives of those lost, keep in mind those teens, this next generation and the bright future they represent for our Jewish people.

Israeli Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General to the New York area, spoke to a full room at the JEA on Sunday, April 17th. Ambassador Aharoni gave an enthusiastic talk about the many achievements of the State of Israel and the challenges facing the Middle East. The event was co-sponsored by the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Jewish National Fund.



Ester Rabhan,
Principal of
Rambam Day School

The Unveiling

Being a Jewish educator and holding dear the values and lessons taught in a Jewish day school; I was quite fascinated and drawn to

Charles Krauthammer's article in the newspaper on March 12th. His comments were prompted by a recent Democratic debate. However, I was not fixated on the politics but rather what Krauthammer espoused as a result of words heard during the debate.

When Anderson Cooper acknowledged his being Jewish and made reference to the Holocaust, the following response was elicited by his words from Krauthammer: "We must of course remain dedicated to keeping alive the memory and the truth of the Holocaust, particularly when they are under assault from so many quarters.

"Nonetheless, there must be balance. It would be a tragedy for American Jews to make the Holocaust the principal legacy bequeathed to their children."

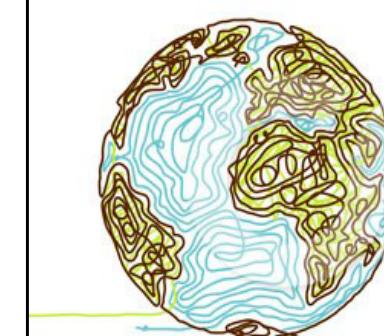
Krauthammer then wrote: "The philosopher, Emil Fackenheim famously said that the 614th commandment for the Jewish people (there are 613 commandments found within our Torah) is to deny Hitler any subsequent victories. The reduction of Jewish identity to victimhood would be one such victory."

The education received in a Jewish day school ensures that this victory will not take place; at least not among those who are fortunate to receive an extensive Jewish education. Extensive isn't used lightly. Extensive means learning how to read Hebrew, learning inside our many holy scriptures; thus affording one the opportunity to learn in great detail about their history and the laws and customs of our heritage. Extensive means not just a surface exposure to the Jewish heritage but an in depth exposure so one feels comfortable with who their people are and the history of their people. Extensive doesn't mean practice but it does mean an in depth unveiling to the many practices and truths of our heritage, thus allowing one to be thoroughly knowledgeable which then enables them to make well thought out decisions.

This school year Rambam Day School is up for its third SACS accreditation. I hope I never forget our first experience with becoming accredited. The panel that visited our school was mesmerized by the concept of Jewish education and how we successfully accomplished all that we do having a dual curriculum.

When the outside world applauds your efforts on behalf of your people- you can't help but wonder why ALL of your own people don't applaud.

Time to Recommend Overseas Investment Grants



Previous recipients include: American Friends of Magan David Adom; American Jewish World Service; Atlit Ma'apalim Detention Camp; HIAS; IsraAID; Jewish Cuba Connection; Mir Yeshiva; and many more.

As part of its Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation instituted the Overseas Investment Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$ 500 mini-grants, with up to 20 being approved each year.

All members of the Savannah Jewish Federation are invited to submit recommendations for the agencies to receive grants next year.

Recommendations may be made online at www.savj.org.

Deadline is May 15, 2016!



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

Join us for our yearly
Gala
Honoring
Lynn Reeves
Our 2016 Volunteer of
the Year!



For information contact
AA at 912-352-4737 or
at agudatha@aol.com

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SAVANNAH, GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

2016 Gala
Honoring Lynn Reeves, Volunteer of the Year

Chris Collins and Boulder Canyon The Nation's Most Exciting John Denver Tribute Band

May 15, 2016
5:30 P.M.
Congregation Agudath Achim
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Chance to win your choice of a trip to the Biltmore Estates, Greenbrier Resort and Spa, or \$3,500.

Dinner **Live & Silent Auctions** **Open Bar**

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\$136 for 1 ticket to the event and 1 raffle ticket
\$300 for 2 tickets to the event and 3 raffle tickets

Join Agudath Achim

Join our mishpacha!!!

Tefila/Service
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Backpack Buddies
Shalom School
Hebrew Classes
Midrash Study Groups
Friday Night Young Family Shabbat

SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday 9:30 am Shabbat Service &
Kiddush Luncheon
Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm
Monday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm
Friday Shacharit 7:00 am & Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 pm

SCOTCH TASTING

SUNDAY MAY 15TH

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It's a Funny Thing

by Melinda Stein



Melinda Stein

Estelle came home to her husband Sol and said, "Honey, the car won't start, but I know what the problem is." Sol asked her what it was and she told him that there was water in the carburetor.

Sol thought for a moment, then said, "Don't take this the wrong way, but you don't know the carburetor from the catalytic converter!"

"No, there's definitely water in the carburetor!" she insisted.

"OK, sweetheart, that's fine, I'll just go take a look. Where is the car?"

"In the lake."

A couple of hours into Sarah's visit with her mother Sadie, Sadie noticed that her daughter — a chain smoker — hadn't lit up a cigarette once. "Are you trying to kick the habit?" Sadie asked.

"No," Sarah replied, "I've got a cold and I don't smoke when I'm not feeling well."

"You know," Sadie observed, "you'd probably live longer if you were sick more often."

Sam was out shopping at the mall when he meets his friend Morty outside the jewelers. Sam notices that Morty has a small gift-wrapped box in his hand.

"So what have you just purchased, Morty?" Sam asks.

"Well, now that you've asked, it's my wife's birthday tomorrow and when I asked her this morning what she wanted, she said, 'Oh, I don't know, dear, just give me something with a lot of diamonds in it.'"

"So what did you get her?" Sam asks.

Morty replies, "I bought her a deck of cards."

Larry — the big boss at his company — was complaining in the staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect. The next day, he brought a small sign that read,

"I'm the Boss!" and he taped it to his office door.

Later that day when he returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said: "Your wife called, she wants her sign back!"

Some years ago, a strategist for John McCain was thinking of a way to win the Jewish vote. After a time, he concluded that it would be good to hook up with Mike Huckabee. That way they could run on the Maccabee ticket.

In the years before the Balfour Declaration, a member of Britain's House of Lords asked Chaim Weizmann (later to become the first President of Israel), "Why do you Jews insist on Palestine when there are so many undeveloped countries you could settle in more conveniently?"

Weizmann replied, "That is like my asking you why you drove 20 miles to visit your mother last Sunday when there are so many old ladies living on your street."

Sign seen in a Jewish deli:
"Our tongue speaks for itself!"

SAVE THE DATE

**Jewish Educational Alliance
2016 Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 15th
7pm**

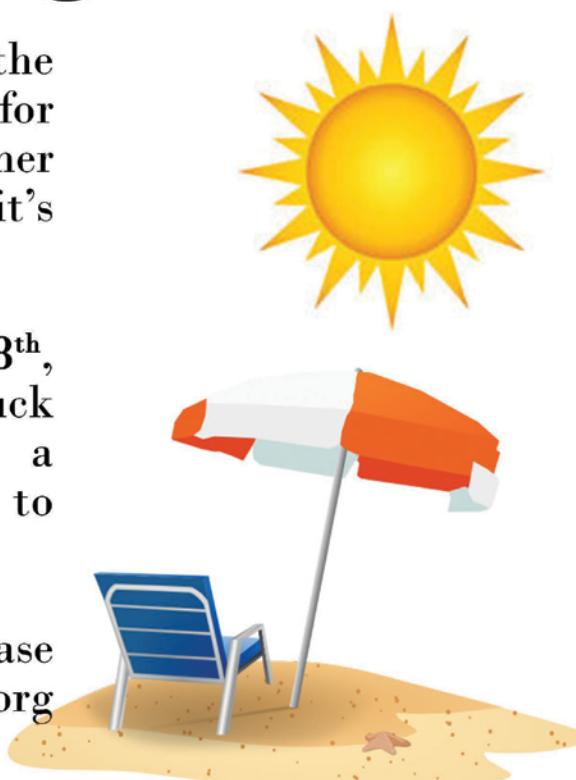
Installation of New Board Members
Presentation of Awards & Honors
Update on the State of the Organization

Enjoy Savannah with Summer Shabbats!

From Tybee to the Southside to the Landings, join us in congregants' homes for Shabbat Services and laid back Summer Potluck dinners. It's fun, it's social – it's Shabbat, Savannah style!

Beginning June 3rd through August 28th, all services begin at 6:30pm with a potluck dinner. Guests are asked to bring a potluck-style dish (no pork or shellfish) to serve at least 8-10 people.

To request the schedule of locations, please contact Kayla at kayla@mickveisrael.org or 912-233-1547.



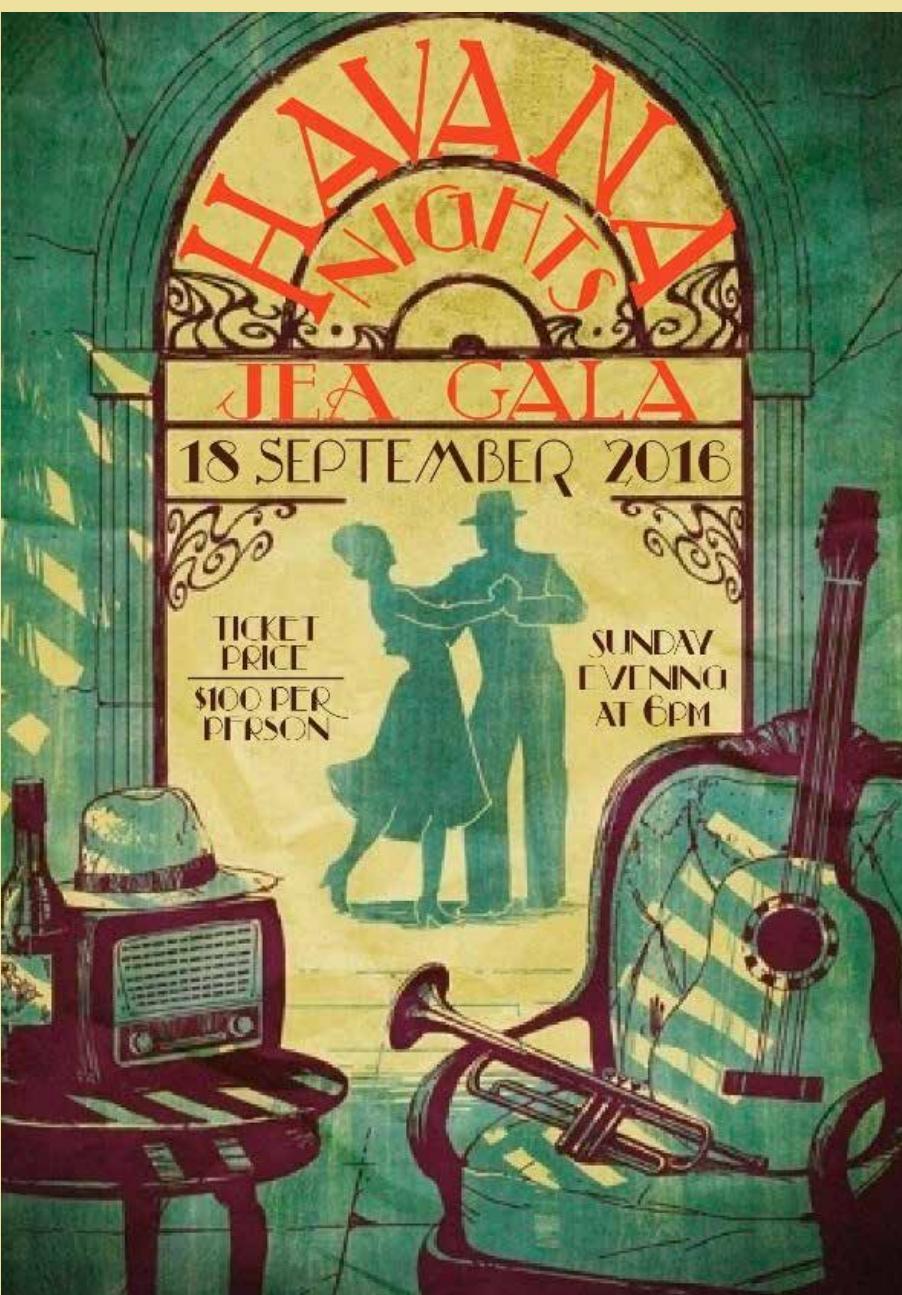
CONGREGATION
MICKVE ISRAEL

For a complete
schedule of services
and events,
visit our website at
www.mickveisrael.org

*Everyone is welcome to join us for
our services and events!
Sign up for our weekly
e-newsletter by contacting
kayla@mickveisrael.org, or by
texting CMI to 42828.*

*For more information or to RSVP to
an event: call 912.233.1547 or visit
mickveisrael.org*

SAVE THE DATE



Join us September 18, 2016, for a sultry summer night of romance and intrigue, dining and dancing at the annual JEA Gala, "Havana Nights." Enjoy Mojitos and tapas followed by a family-style, Cuban-themed dinner and dessert bar.

For more information or to get involved, contact Anna Berwitz, anna@savj.org.



is looking for Teachers for our Sunday mornings.

Are you enthusiastic about teaching kids Jewish values?

Join our great faculty! Whether you have a passion for teaching Jewish history, telling Bible stories, or other Jewish topics, we need teachers to inspire the next generation.

**Positions available for a semester or a full school year.
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The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

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In honor of Jack Margareten
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A generous donation was made by
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TIKVAH FUND

In honor of Sharon & Murray Galin
Harriet & Eric Meyerhoff

Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Suzanne Iris Lissner Bernard
Who died April 14, 2016

Errol Phillip Cohen
Who died March 25, 2016

She is survived by her husband,
Edward Bernard.

He is survived by his wife, Carol
Lynn Fleischaker Cohen.

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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.

RAMBAM DAY SCHOOL

Memorial Day 5K Race

brought to you by St. Joseph's/Candler Immediate Care

Monday, May 30th 2016, 8:00 A.M.

Challenge yourself with a 5K course, bring the kids along to participate! Enjoy a nice run or walk.

The event offers great fitness opportunities for the whole family. All abilities welcome!

Register now online at: www.FleetFeetSavannah.com/Rambam

Walk-In Registration at: Rambam Day School 1111 Atlas St, Savannah, Ga 31405

(912) 352-7994 | M-F 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

www.RambamDaySchool.org

Or at Fleet Feet 3405 Waters Ave Savannah, GA 31404

Refreshments & Awards to follow the 5K Race. Rain or shine!!

Entry Fees:

Early bird: until Feb. 29 \$25 | Race Day: \$40 | March 1- May 29 \$35

(5 & Under - no charge)



Celebrate Israel's Birthday

Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's birthday, at the JEA on Thursday, May 12th this year with music, dancing and delicious Israeli food. Headlining the celebration will be Klezmer Local 42, the Athens-based practitioners of the lively Eastern European music genre who humorously bill themselves as "at the forefront of the klezmer revival in north-central-eastern Georgia." The band recently appeared at the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival and at the Golden Isles Jewish Food and Culture Festival. Their playlist reflects a mix of traditional selections along with original songs written with the band's delightful sense of humor, such as *Chanukah in Dahlonega*.

The annual Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration is being held in collaboration with a number of other local Jewish institutions and organizations. The fun begins at 5:30pm when everyone

is invited to the JEA to join together as one community to celebrate Israel's 68th birthday. Yom Ha'Atzmaut gives us the opportunity to celebrate Israel's Independence Day and learn about and celebrate the Jewish State.

Local caterer Ina Kuller is planning a wonderful menu of Israeli delights for supper; the room will be decorated with Israeli-themed artwork and centerpieces created by the JEA Aftercare students and JEA Preschool Savannah. Additional fun events will include a photo booth provided by Carlson Premier Events, S'mores prepared by BBYO and activities planned by the JEA Children's Department and PJ Library.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut promises to be an evening of family fun for all ages. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. For more information please contact Alyssa Schoonover, programming@savj.org.



Klezmer Local 42



If you are Jewish, in your 20s and 30s and want to meet new people, connect to the community and make a difference - YJS is where you want to be!

Young Jewish Savannah's goal is to provide meaningful opportunities for engagement in the Jewish community through social and professional networking, community service, Judaic and leadership programs for Jewish young adults in their 20s and 30s.

Young Jewish Savannah is made possible through the Savannah Jewish Federation.

We want to get to know you!
New to Savannah and want to get connected?
Want to help plan events?
Have ideas you want to share?
Just want to hang out?
Let us take you for coffee!



We want to hear from you!

For more information about Young Jewish Savannah call Jamie Cahn at 912-355-8111 or email yjs@savj.org.



UP COMING EVENTS





A Rich Inheritance

Jewish learning changes all the time, as educators find new ways to engage people of all ages in our tradition. But some things never change. Like the way each generation has planned and built for the next, making sure the foundations of Jewish life are strong and can respond to evolving needs. When you leave a Jewish legacy, you join this chain of builders. You leave your children and grandchildren a precious inheritance, and a lasting testimony to your values.

To learn more about making a legacy gift, contact Adam Solender at (912) 355-8111 or adam@savj.org.

Archival image provided courtesy of Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest.