

# Just One Gift.....from pg 1

veteran; he previously co-chaired the Men's Division and worked on many other campaigns in a variety of capacities." A New Yorker by birth, Allan has called Savannah home for more than 52 years. He and his wife, Arlene, the current President of the JEA, both work tirelessly for the Jewish community because they believe in its significance for their family and for all Jewish families.

Joining Allan on the 2015 Campaign Management Team are Men's Division Chair Harvey Lebos, and Women's Division Chairs Stacey Schlafstein and Stephanie "Steffi" Zerden.

**Harvey Lebos** will oversee the Men's Division with Allan Ratner. Harvey and his family have had strong ties to the Jewish Federation and this community for 40 years. His investment in the Federation is of primary importance to him, as the many programs it supports have influenced the lives of his wife, children and grandchildren. In addition to his tireless campaign work, his service to the Savannah Jewish community includes many years on the boards of the Savannah Jewish Federation and Congregation Mickve Israel.

**Stacey Schlafstein** grew up in Federation. She was born and raised in Miami where her parents gave their time, money and support to the Jewish

community and taught Stacey its importance. She worked at the Miami Super Sunday Telethon all through her high school years and then became involved in Young Leadership while living in Baltimore. Since moving to Savannah, Stacey has worked on many campaigns. She currently serves on the Board of Governors of the Savannah Jewish Federation, is a past president of Hadassah and has served on the board of Congregation Agudath Achim. Stacey and her husband Barry have traveled to Israel and Cuba with Federation missions from Savannah and to Ethiopia and Israel on a national Federation mission. And talk about commitment? She, her sister and sister-in-law go to the Lion of Judah Conference for top women donors each year as their idea of a family girl's getaway!

**Steffi Zerden** previously chaired the Women's Division and has worked on many Federation campaigns. She is an active member of the Savannah Jewish community - a past president of Hadassah, a former board member of Jewish Women of the Landings and the recipient of Agudath Achim Sisterhood's Woman of Valor award. Steffi has traveled on three Federation missions to Israel, including one that participated in the March of the Living. She and her husband Sol believe it is their turn to help preserve and strengthen what others have created and she hopes to pass on to her six grandchildren the sense of a strong Jewish community they have benefitted from living in Savannah.

## Vital Statistics

**ENGAGEMENT:** Drs. Theodore Geffen and Adelle Burnsed-Geffen proudly announce the engagement of their son, **Dr. Joseph Burnsed Geffen** to Miss Ann Ngo. Joseph is a graduate of Savannah Country Day School and received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Occidental College. Joseph received a Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine and Master of Public Health degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He presently is an internal medicine resident at the University of Florida, Jacksonville. Joseph is the grandson of the late Joseph and Pearl Geffen, and James and Thelma Burnsed of Savannah.

Ann is the daughter of Joan and Mike Ngo of Orange County, CA.



Ann received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Ecology from the University of California at Irvine, a Master of Arts degree in Strategic Public Relations from the University of Southern California, and a Juris Doctorate degree from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Ann currently is the Executive Director of the March of Dimes for northeast Florida in Jacksonville.

The wedding is planned for September 2015 in Jacksonville.

## LASTING LEGACIES

For so many years, Julius "Julie" Rudikoff was a fixture in the health club or athletic facilities at the JEA. His daughter, Lynn Berkowitz, recalls:

"As long as I can remember, he was always at the JEA. He was certainly there on Sunday morning, playing racquetball, using the health club, getting rub downs from Charlie; in his later years the athletic part was important because he was always in the gym, even into his late eighties he was always riding that bicycle every day." She says they moved to Savannah from New York in 1946 and "I would imagine he started using the JEA right then and there, particularly the athletics programs."

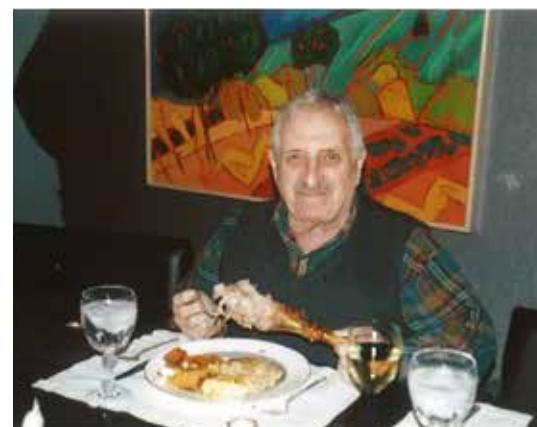
So in 2006, on the wonderful occasion of Julie's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, his family established the *Julius Rudikoff JEA Health and Athletic Club Fund*. When asked why they chose to do this, Lynn said: "At 90 there's not a lot that you need so it was important to do something for a program that had given him so much satisfaction and support through the years."

"The JEA health club meant everything to him. It meant a lot to us, too, because it gave Daddy some peace and quiet, I guess. He had so many friends there, he was always over there playing racquetball or handball with his buddies; he would use the health club afterwards. He would shower there which was great for us because we had a one bathroom house and he showered there most of the time and freed up the bathroom for us. He was certainly honored and pleased that we had set up this fund."

Julius Rudikoff died in 2010, but every year income from the *Julius Rudikoff JEA Health and Athletic Club Fund* is used to support the programs and facilities of the JEA Health and Well-



'Julie' Rudikoff (r) with Sidney Raskin relaxing in the JEA Health Club in their younger days



Julius Rudikoff around the time of his 90th birthday

ness department. It is a gift that perpetuates the name and memory of Julie Rudikoff.

His daughter Lynn commented: "I hope that it will benefit others who want to exercise, want to be healthy, want to enjoy the programs in the health club itself and that it's just a good legacy and a good memory of my dad."

### 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.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday  
December 11, 2014  
7pm at the JEA**

Join us to hear  
**Opher Aviran**

Israel's Consul General to the Southeast address the community with an important Middle East update

*A program of the Savannah Jewish Federation Community Relations Council*

