

# Savannah JEWISH LIFE

## SAVANNAH JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL

ART, MUSIC,  
FILMS,  
COMEDY &  
MORE

SPRING 2022 - VOLUME 2, ISSUE 01

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Savannah  
JEWISH  LIFE

# Shalom Savannah

Adam Solender

In the last edition of Savannah Jewish Life, we provided highlights of the results of the (then) recent Community Survey sponsored by the Savannah Jewish Federation that was made possible thanks to the generosity of six area donors who made the project possible. There were many results from the survey; so many that we may be reading the conclusions over and over again for the next year. When Joy Goldstein (the author and administrator of the survey) provided the JEA and Federation Boards a "40,000-foot view" of the community, she spoke about "areas to celebrate." Those areas included: we have a "strong, established, and committed Jewish community, excellent lay and professional leadership, young board members (over 50% of both boards are under the age of 50), and that there are good foundations on which to build future successes." There are many things to be proud of. Yet, those lovely compliments didn't tell us what we didn't know. What we did get (in addition to the compliments) was plenty of information that gave us our "marching orders" for the coming months and years. One of the conclusions was that the community wanted more Jewish programming: programming that was specifically targeted to adults. It was with this direction that Jamie Richman and her team set out to create the Savannah Jewish Cultural Arts Festival. This 21-day festival has something for everyone including the Konter Weiland Comedy Night, Joan & Murray Geffen Memorial Jewish Film Festival (9 movies), a community Shabbaton, six pre-movie meal opportunities, Jewish cooking and dance classes, a Jazz concert with Joe Alterman, and more. It also hit one of the other goals of the survey—more cooperative programming as both Mickve Israel and Agudath Achim will be cosponsoring and hosting events as part of the Festival. It is an opus initiative, and with the rapidly falling Community Transmission Index, we hope that people will be (more than) ready to come together for fun, entertaining, learning experiences.



Another one of the conclusions was that the JEA needed improvement. The facilities need investment and offerings need to be expanded both in variety and accessibility. Capital Campaign Co-chairs, Jeffrey Lasky and Mark Konter are working on raising the essential dollars it will take to modernize the JEA, including a new outdoor pool that is family-friendly and handicap-accessible, significant improvements in the Indoor pool, a new roof and HVAC units, renewing the auditoriums, and new furnishings throughout (among a number of other smaller initiatives). Thus far, they are 40% of the way to their goal of \$5M—the amount of money that it will take to address all the needs; the amount of money it will take to have a 21st century facility that will resonate with Savannahians—new and old. There were a number of other initiatives that were outlined in terms of governance, leadership development, Community relations, outreach, marketing, and developing a more welcoming culture at all programs to reach new and old members of the community. As we exit the last wave (hopefully) of the Pandemic, the Savannah Jewish Federation and Jewish Educational Alliance will be here, as we have been for over a century, to help enhance and define Jewish life in Savannah. Stay tuned for more initiatives and programs over the coming months. It's going to be an exciting ride.

## Savannah JEWISH LIFE

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### Letters to the Editor

Savannah Jewish Life is a community publication. Letters should be civil and considerate in tone and not contain personal attacks, random attacks on businesses, or defamation. All statements of facts must be verifiable (state the original source of the information). Letters should be no more than 250 words and may be edited for length, clarity, or factual content. The opinions expressed are always the writer's.

All letters must include the author's full name, address, and phone number (only your name, and if appropriate, job title and organization or business name, will be published).

No more than two letters from the same author will be published within 12 consecutive months.

Submit letters to [savannahjewishlife@savj.org](mailto:savannahjewishlife@savj.org). Savannah Jewish Life retains full and sole discretion about which letters to publish.

### Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

Charged with raising, collecting and distributing funds, the Savannah Jewish Federation 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.



# Table of Contents



04	<b>YOUR CAMPAIGN DOLLARS AT WORK</b>
06	<b>SAVANNAH JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL</b>
10	<b>OUR FRIEND, KAYE</b>
13	<b>AND MY HE(ART) BELONGS TO...</b>
15	<b>OBITUARIES</b>
18	<b>LEARNING THROUGH PLAY</b>
20	<b>MY CAMP STORY</b>
21	<b>SPRING INTO ACTION</b>
25	<b>THROUGH THE LENS OF A CHILD</b>

# Your Campaign Dollars at Work



Savannah  
Jewish  
Federation

Editor's Note: Charged with raising, collecting and distributing funds, the Federation seeks to "advance the welfare of the total Jewish community." Each issue highlights some of the organizations that are beneficiaries of allocations from the Savannah Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign.



JELF (Jewish Educational Loan Fund) provides interest-free last dollar loans for higher education to Jewish students in need bridging the gap between a student's total financial resources and the cost of attending school. Since 1961, JELF has provided over \$14+ million to 5,000+ students from JELF's 5-state region of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South

Carolina, and Virginia (excluding metro DC). JELF is proud to boast a 99% repayment rate and strongly believes that money should not stand between a student and the education that they need to excel in life. JELF's board and professional team are actively working to support students and their families by attracting the financial resources JELF needs to meet the ever-increasing demand for loans. For more information about JELF, please visit [jelf.org](http://jelf.org).

In 2021, JELF assisted a total of 398 students with \$1,845,851 in interest-free loans. Of this total, one Jewish student from Savannah was provided \$7,418 towards his educational journey.

Applications for JELF's interest-free loans for higher education (college, graduate school, and vocational programs) for the 2022-23 academic year will open to Jewish students beginning January 3 through April 30, 2022. JELF, in partnership with the Savannah Jewish Federation, helps Jewish students reach their academic goals.

JELF loans are designed to help cover costs associated with the educational and living expenses that other financial aid often does not cover, such as travel, rent, food and books. JELF's 0% interest loans help save borrowers thousands of dollars in high interest-bearing debt each year. With 45 million Americans in some form of outstanding interest-bearing student loan debt, this savings is a significant benefit to the Jewish students that JELF serves annually. The strength of the longstanding "free loan" model is based on funds lent to those in need, and then paid back to serve the next student - and so on. As funds are recycled indefinitely, the organization's

sustainability allows it to always help future students in need. In addition, hundreds of former JELF recipients continue donating to JELF each year after completing their repayment. "This is the only type of organization I know of that when I write a check I know exactly where it's going, and it keeps going. My dollars never die," says Stan Lowenstein, former Board Chair and long-time JELF volunteer.

There are many organizations that provide interest-free loans, but JELF is distinct in that it is the only Jewish organization in the U.S. focused solely on higher education.

## Savannah Jewish Federation earns 4-Star Rating for the 7<sup>th</sup> Straight Year

The Savannah Jewish Federation announced that it has been designated a 4-star charity, the highest level of recognition offered by Charity Navigator, for the seventh straight year. Fewer than 1% of all national charities have received such recognition which indicates that the Federation "exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its Cause."

The Federation received 100 points for Accountability and Transparency which includes evaluation of Governance, Policies, and Transparency. To achieve this "perfect score," the Federation provided in-depth financial information, qualitative information about goals, strategies, and capabilities, and qualitative information about results and progress towards its mission.

"Measurement matters and telling our story in a compelling and fiscally responsible way is critically important," stated Adam Solender, Savannah Jewish Federation CEO. "We're thrilled that our Charity Navigator profile helps us better communicate our organization's story and provides our donors with an independent authoritative analysis of our organization."

# Greenberg to be Honored with Levy Award

Over two years since the original date of the Levy Award, Stephen F. Greenberg will finally receive the Jack Malitz Levy Leadership Award at a dinner in his honor on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at the Jewish Educational Alliance.

Greenberg is only the eighth recipient of the Levy Award, the highest honor given by the Savannah Jewish Federation, since it was established over thirty years ago in 1988 upon the death of Jack Malitz Levy, the second-generation owner of Levy Jewelers.

Steve's leadership service to the Savannah community cannot be overstated. Over the past 44 years, Steve has been president of Leadership Savannah, Voluntary Action Center, Savannah Jaycees, Leadership Savannah's Graduate Program, and Educate Chatham Foundation. He served as a Commissioner for the Housing Authority of Savannah from 1992 to 1997 and 2004 to 2010. He is a recipient of the Outstanding Young Man of the Year Award for the Savannah Jaycees and also a recipient of the Distinguished Leadership Award for the National Association for Community Leadership. He has been active with the United Way of the Coastal Empire, having served on the Board and acted as legal counsel during various terms.

A partner at Weiner, Shearouse, Weitz, Greenberg & Shawe, LLP, Steve's practice is a combination of real estate, business, estate, and creditor bankruptcy work. He has earned peer-review distinctions as one of the "Best Lawyers in America" and "Super Lawyers." Within the legal community, Mr. Greenberg has served on the Executive Committee of the Real Property Section of the State Bar of Georgia and was on the Executive Committee of the Savannah Bar Association for a number of years. He is also a recipient of the 2005 Justice Robert E. Benhem Community Service Award given by the State Bar of Georgia and the 2012 John B. Miller Award given by the Savannah Bar Association for Service to the Community.

Federation Past-President, Edwin Byck stated, "Steve has been my law partner for over 25 years. In that time he has mentored me and my other contemporaries in the ethical and professional way to run our business, community and family life. The impact he has made to younger generations cannot be overstated." Former two-time JEA and Federation President, Paul Kulbersh mused, "One might wonder, is this the same Steve Greenberg who often sits quietly in a meeting with no comments. Even while sitting there, I know that he is giving the agenda his full attention and he does not miss anything. When a log jam is reached, someone in the meeting will invariably ask, "Steve, what do you think? Give us your opinion". His opinions are always well thought out and many times he can summarize 30 minutes of debate in five minutes. And many of us may then think, "Wow I did not think that he was listening!" When given a task, everyone can be assured that the final result will be well thought out and accomplished in a first class manner. Quiet, unassuming and thoughtful, THIS is the Steve Greenberg who we are honoring."

Hailing from Waycross, Georgia, Steve certainly appreciated his small Jewish community and when he came to Savannah (after attending UGA for undergraduate and his law degree), he dove in "head first" into this community. Over the past four decades he has been President of the JEA (1989-1991), Savannah Jewish Federation (2013- 2015), and been a member of more committees, strategic plans, and allocations committees than we can remember. Known for his "level headedness" and fairness, Steve is one of the community "go tos" when there are "differences of opinion." Perhaps it is his legal training or vast experience, but we believe that it is because Steve always "takes the high road."

Most recently, Steve has co-chaired the YESOD community leadership program. Over the last two cohorts, Steve has invested in a new generation of leaders sharing his many experiences in the Jewish and secular community. He has invested hundreds of hours and the "payback" has been immediate. Like most things Steve does, it was effective, thoughtful, and meaningful to those that he touched.

Steve is married to Sally Konter Greenberg. They have two sons, Greg (Susan) and Matt (Karina) and four grandchildren, Eleanor and Grant, Leo and Thomas.

When someone first reads these accolades, one may wonder how Steve could have time to accomplish all of this and still be a much sought after attorney and a wonderful husband and father. Steve is also a son who faithfully and lovingly took care of his classy and beautiful mother, Geri Greenberg and a son who loved and adored his incomparable father, Big Marv.

Paul Kulbersh quipped, "All I can say is I also do not know how he does it all. Well okay, Sally lets him."



# Savannah Jewish Cultural Arts Festival

The Savannah Jewish Federation (SJF) is proud to host the inaugural **Savannah Jewish Cultural Arts Festival** beginning March 1, 2022.

For almost 20 years, The Joan & Murray Gefen Memorial Savannah Jewish Film Festival has been an integral part of the fabric of our Jewish community. From comedies to poignant dramas and documentaries, each film has helped to promote and celebrate our diverse Jewish history. Because of the success of prior year festivals, the SJF decided to transition into cultural arts in addition to films, thus, the **Savannah Jewish Cultural Arts Festival** was born.

Between March 1 and March 24, the **Savannah Jewish Cultural Arts Festival** will host a variety of films, speakers, meals, artists, music, and more, all to illuminate our rich Jewish culture, right here in Savannah.



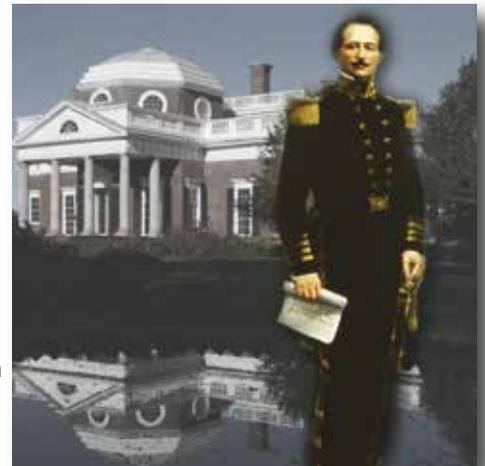
Kicking off the Festival is a familiar favorite, **Konter Comedy Night** on March 5.

This annual event is a present of humor to the community. This year, we are excited to welcome America's Got Talent's Sklar Brothers!

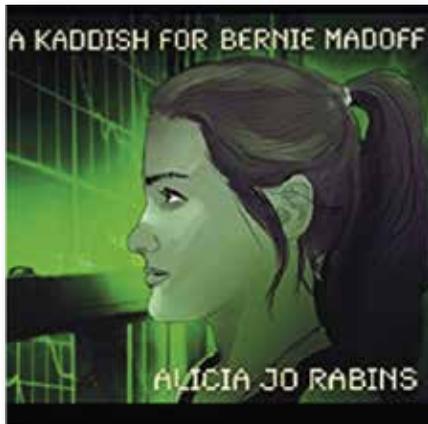
The show includes an open bar and dessert reception. Doors open at 7:30pm. This exciting event is possible thanks to the Lawrence Konter & Bertam Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah. This comedy event is the ninth hosted through the Lawrence Konter & Bertram Weiland Jewish Cultural Arts Fund established by Marcy and Jerry Konter. Due to the generosity of the donors, this event is free to either JEA members in good standing or contributors to the 2022 Savannah Jewish Federation campaign of \$50 per person.

Check out the 9 movies that will be screened at this year's festival! Each movie will be screened in-person at the location listed. We understand the challenge of these times, so this year, we will also be offering virtual options. If you choose the virtual option, a link to the film will be emailed to you and you will be able to view it for 72 hours BEFORE the in-person screening date and time.

Movie highlights include **"Levys of Monticello"** which will be screened on Sunday, March 6 at 3:00 PM at Congregation Mickve Israel. Uriah Levy, the one who purchased Monticello from the Jeffersons in 1836, is the great-grandson of Dr Nunez, one of the original Jewish settlers in Georgia who helped found Congregation Mickve Israel. Following the screening, meet film director and producer, Steve Pressman.



Another movie to be sure to catch is **"Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen"** which will be screened on Saturday, March 12 at 8:00 PM at the Jewish Educational Alliance, with a free dessert reception preceding the screening. The fall of 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of Fiddler on the Roof, the film Pauline Kael (The New Yorker) called "the most powerful movie musical ever made." Narrated by Jeff Goldblum, this documentary captures the humor and drama of director Norman Jewison's quest to recreate the lost world of Jewish life in Tsarist Russia and re-envision the beloved stage hit as a wide-screen epic.



**"A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff,"** will be screened on Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 PM at the Jewish Educational Alliance. Set on Wall Street in 2008, A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff offers a singular perspective on

devastating financial fraud. Musician/poet Alicia Jo Rabins plays herself in New York's financial district, obsessing over Madoff and the capitalist system that enabled him, in this head-spinning hybrid of fantasy, music, and personal memoir. This hybrid of memoir docudrama and narrative fantasy is sure to be something very different. And, be sure to come early to the dinner which begins at 6:00 PM for a **New York Deli Experience.**

A festival highlight will surely be **"Music Between Cultures: The Sounds of Jewish America"** with Joe Alterman on Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 PM at Congregation Mickve Israel. Throughout the 20th century, Jews have always contributed to American popular

music, from Irving Berlin to Carole King and beyond. But according to musician Joe Alterman, executive director of Neranenah Concert & Culture Series, the Jewishness of the music is defined by its story and not necessarily its melody. Part performance, part storytelling, Alterman, will share great American music with its fascinating Jewish stories woven in.

Sprinkled throughout the festival are cooking classes, painting workshops, wine tastings and more. For a full calendar of events, please visit [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org). There, you have access to watch trailers of the films being offered, purchase tickets, or become a Friend of the Festival!



Please consider becoming a "Friend of the Festival" to help support the Savannah Jewish Film Festival and other cultural programs. Your participation makes it possible for us to provide the Savannah Jewish community this unique Jewish cultural experience.

We can't wait to see you at the Festival!

**SAVANNAH JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL**

**MARCH 2022**

[WWW.SAVJ.ORG](http://WWW.SAVJ.ORG)

Savannah Jewish Federation

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
			Art Gallery Opening Opening Festival Reception Movie: Adventures of a Mathematician	Food for Thought  Movie: Neighbours		Konter Weiland Comedy Night  JEA Kids Night Out Comedy Show
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Movie: Levys of Monticello  Filmmaker Steve Pressman	Jewish Cooking Class: Bobka Making with Sharon Sand	Dinner  Movie: Greener Pastures		Food for Thought  Movie: Love & Mazel Tov  Kosher Wine Tasting	Community Shabbaton	Dessert Reception  Movie: Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Concert with Pianist Joe Alterman  PJ Library Splatter Paint Party	Jewish Cooking Class: Bobka Making with Sharon Sand	Dinner  Movie: Tiger Within		"The Relevancy of Purim Today" Rabbi Rachael Bregman		
20	21	22	23	24		
Community Purim Carnival	Israeli Cooking Class: Dinner with Tzila Lemberger	Israeli Cooking Class  Dinner Movie: A Kaddish for Bernie Madoff	Kvetch & Sketch Jewish Painting Class	Food for Thought  Movie: 1618		

# WCCU: Serving Savannah for 72 years

Cathryn Cohen



1954 Workman's Circle 45th Anniversary celebration. Pictured L-R Seated: Harry Applebaum, William Scheer, Israel Cooper, Sam Swadlow, Hymie Hoffman, Nathan Passink. Center Row: Leah (Cooper) Applebaum, Dora (Berkowitz) Grossman, Dora (Gaspin) Scheer, Sarah Pike, Bailee (Birnbaum) Dinerman, Mary (Cooper) Kaplan Swadlow, Bertha (Scheer) Friedman, Harry Dunn. Back Row: Isadore Scheer, Sarah (Dunitz) Dunn, and Aaron Udinsky.

When Jews began immigrating to America from Europe in great numbers at the end of the 19th Century, most stayed in the New York City area where they found themselves living in overcrowded, filthy and disease-ridden tenements, limited to working in hazardous sweatshops and factories. They were faced with much of the same antisemitism that prevented them from prospering financially, availing themselves of decent schooling and medical care, borrowing money and otherwise enabling themselves to reach the American Dream they had expected when escaping the oppression, they had faced in their prior lives abroad.

In 1900, the leaders of the Jewish community in New York City founded the Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring as a "mutual aid society". They established schools and camps for children and adults, operated a renowned medical facility for their members' care, bought tracts of land for cemeteries, and ran credit unions for their members. Eventually, similar credit unions sprang up all over the country to support Jews in their struggle to access capital for business financing or for the purchase of a home.

Workman's Circle in Savannah began in the early 1909 when a group of Jewish businessmen decided to form Branch 383, a mutual aid organization to assist Jewish immigrants with their social and financial needs. It was four decades later that, a branch of the Credit Union made its way to Savannah. Following the practices of the original founders in New York, loans were provided at "fair and reasonable" rates

to local businessmen and other individuals who were unable to obtain such financing elsewhere. On February 6, 1950, the local branch was officially chartered by local Jewish businessmen, A. Leon Cooper, Harry Dunn, Jacob Dunn, Sam Hirsch, Hymie Hoffman, Sidney Paderewsky, Nathan Passink, William Scheer, and Harry Applebaum, and began serving those who lived and worked in Chatham County.

According to the history of this group, the original Mission stated as "People Helping People" still exists today. Research has revealed that this mission "is accomplished through providing high dividends, quality service and competitive loan rates offered to its members." The Credit Union strongly encourages families of existing members as well as all other residents to join in order to continue its strength and prosperity and to aid the Jewish community.

While professionally managed, WCCU is unique in that it's Board of Directors is made up entirely of volunteers who provide their time and acumen for the benefit of others in the community. They have volunteered countless hours on the Audit, Loan, and Marketing Committees, some of which have been almost three decades including Harold Yellin (Board Chair), Fred Rabhan (Board Secretary), Michael Kooden, Stephen Greenberg, Lloyd Goodman, Paul Kulbersh, Michael Karpf, Gale Hirsh, Frank Slotin, and Matthew Allan.

Through prudent investment, sage loan policies, and "old-time" relationship-building, WCCU has been extraordinarily successful for over seven decades.

Everyone is also encouraged to check out the wide array of available products including, but not limited to, share certificates, money markets, home equity lines of credit and first mortgages with both fixed and variable interest rates. The Credit Union is located at 527 Stephenson Avenue, Suite 1, Savannah. They can also be reached at 912.365.9225, or online at [workmenscirclecu.com](http://workmenscirclecu.com).

## About the Author

*Born in Los Angeles, Cathryn made her home in various locales along the coast of California, in Phoenix, in and around Chattanooga and then on to Georgia. Always engaged in her Jewish Community, she was deeply involved in BBYO, enjoyed responsibilities on the Board of Directors of her temple, and is a Life Member of Hadassah. Writing has been her vocation and avocation all her life. She now lives in Savannah with her husband and their two dogs.*



Are you a Jewish business owner in Savannah and want to be interviewed for a feature in Savannah Jewish Life Magazine? Email [SavannahJewishLife@savj.org](mailto:SavannahJewishLife@savj.org).

# MOMentum Trip to Israel

Yael Elfassy

"I'm not into Kumbaya" is what I told Dr. Dina Linfoot when she informed me of my nomination for the Momentum Healthcare Heros trip to Israel this past November. I was skeptical and anxious to go on a trip with 100 women from all over the US, Canada and Israel to reconnect with myself and my Jewish faith, but I knew this was a trip of a lifetime that I couldn't turn down.

Momentum (previously JWPR) made a shift during the Covid pandemic to create a trip to Israel for mothers who are also Healthcare workers, focusing on personal growth, reconnecting with others after over a year of social distancing and visiting the land of Israel.

This trip was different from all my other visits to Israel. I visited many times as a child and young adult, and even chose to get married there in 2008. Yes, the tour did bring us to the common tourist sites including Jaffa, the Western Wall, Yad Vashem, Tel Aviv museums etc. But due to our healthcare background we also got to visit the Sheba Medical Center, Shalva, Hadassah Hospital and United Hatzalah. They also arranged for an intimate Shabbat lunch with families in Jerusalem and Havdallah at a home in the Old City overlooking the Kotel. Most importantly, we had daily conferences for personal growth and smaller meetings with our group to help our healthcare workers recharge and confront the trauma we had endured from the pandemic.

This was my first trip back to Israel after becoming a physician and having children, and it allowed me to reframe my connection to Judaism. I always termed myself "A bad Jew" - I am sure many of us have. I enjoy a good low country boil and lobster at New Years, cheese on my burger, I have tattoos, and I didn't really take the time to enjoy or honor Shabbat. This trip reminded me that there is no one or right way to be Jewish. Our collective experience, cultural differences, and different levels of faith all contribute to the strength of the Jewish community.

An important message we reflected on was: It does not have to be all or nothing. Your level of practice and faith is good enough. The importance is consistency and bringing small rituals into your daily life. Whether it is lighting candles on Shabbat, making challah with your kids, saying havdallah or as simple as devoting a morning to screen-free time to allow for self-reflection. The points are, small actions lead to large impacts and do not compare your level of practice to others. Personally, I have added lighting Shabbat candles with my daughters and baking challah as my new consistent rituals.



powerful connection to Judaism for me and my family.

Lastly, a big thank you to Dina for this nomination and to Momentum for sending thousands of men and women to Israel for these transformative trips. If you are interested in nominating someone or yourself, I strongly encourage you to sign up and make it a priority to invest in yourself; you are worth it!

*Yael Elfassy is a Pediatrician who works at Curtis V Cooper. She is a mom of two girls and is originally from Montreal, but has called Savannah home for the past 12 years.*



# Our Friend, Kaye

## Adam Solender

Our friend, Kaye Kole died in December. We say "our friend" because Kaye was a friend to all. It was easy to view Kaye as reserved and modest, because she was. But never mistake her modesty for someone who did not have opinions; never mistake her reserved personality for not being effective and meaningful; never mistake her petite stature for someone who wasn't powerful.

The stories and tributes to Kaye come from every walk of life. Kaye didn't judge people by the color of their skin, their wealth or education; she judged people for who and what they were. It was just as typical to see Kaye go out to lunch with her childhood friends of seven decades as it was to see her lunch with one of the JEA employees. She was equally interested in everyone.

Kaye was born into a family who served this community and she did the same over her lifetime. Her father, Sam Robinson, was President of the Savannah Jewish Council (1952-55).

Kaye was the driving force behind the creation of the Savannah Jewish Archives (now housed at The Breman Museum in Atlanta). Over many years, she prodded, cajoled and convinced members of the community to donate their family photos, papers, and mementos so that the 278-year history of the Savannah Jewish community

would be available for future generations. While not a trained archivist (Kaye was actually a licensed genealogist and a librarian), Kaye was able to assist many Savannahians as they combed through personal papers and photos. For most of us, the job would be daunting and overwhelming; Kaye had a vision of what could be, and what it would be. For over two decades, Kaye led archiving, scanning, identifying and fundraising to make the Savannah Jewish Archives a permanent asset and a gift to future generations of historians, students, and families.

Kaye published a number of books during her lifetime including, *The Minis Family of Georgia* (an opus work about one of the first families to arrive to the colony after Oglethrope, who claimed the first "true-born" Georgian (conceived and born in Georgia), *Voices of Savannah* (excerpts of oral histories from members of the Jewish community), and *The Jewish Community of Savannah* (a pictorial compilation tribute to Savannah's Jewish community).

Kaye was honored by the Savannah Jewish Federation, Jewish Educational Alliance, and the City of Savannah for her many contributions in "saving" and defining our history.

Individually, over a lifetime, Kaye served on the Armstrong State College Commission (now GA Southern University), as president of Hodge Memorial Day Care Center, as a curator of the Georgia Historical Society, as a board member of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, and a trustee of the Live Oak Public Library system (the Genealogy room at the Bull Street branch is named in her honor). With Don, her loving husband of 67 years, Kaye was honored multiple times by Union Mission (a building was named for them), by the Georgia Historical Society for outstanding service, by the Live Oak Public Library Foundation, and was named a "Notable Alum" by Armstrong State University.

A unique gift to our community, The Savannah African Art Museum was created with the many rare and fabulous pieces that Kaye and Don collected over a lifetime of travel. The list of community organizations that they supported are too numerous to mention, but the import of their support and influence cannot be overstated.

More than anything, Kaye admired and loved her family. Just from the mere mention of one of her children or grandchildren, Kaye's eyes would light up and the stories would gush forth. Savannah lost one of the kindest, most generous, and loving members of our community when Kaye died. Her life was one of joyful generous devotion and commitment to family, friends, and the Savannah community. And she was a Scrabble player extraordinaire!



# Breman Museum Marks 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



It took *chutzpah* to launch Georgia's only Jewish museum 25 years ago, so it's only fitting that the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum will mark its silver anniversary with the appropriately titled exhibition *History with Chutzpah*.

The exhibition presents an artifact-rich and interactive immersion into the colorful history of Jewish culture in Georgia and Alabama that serves as the foundation of Jewish life in the Southeast today.

*History with Chutzpah* is "driven by stories," co-curator Sandra Berman said, illustrated and enhanced by more than 300 objects, documents, photographs and oral histories. It will give voice to many people – past and present – whose experiences, achievements and perspectives are reflected in The Breman's deep archival collections.

The exhibition draws strongly from the Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Archives for Southern Jewish History. Seeded by a gift from Atlanta Erwin Zaban in 1984, the archive has grown to be one of the country's most respected repositories documenting Jewish life.

Berman was the archivist who began organizing and building the archive for the Jewish Federation of Atlanta even before a Jewish museum was on the drawing board. Her *Chutzpah* co-curator Jane Leavey was the museum's founding director who got it there.

Breman Museum Executive Director (and Savannah native) Leslie Gordon knew that they were the perfect dynamic duo to organize a 25th anniversary exhibition about those who have helped shape Jewish life in Georgia and Alabama from 1733 to today, enhancing communities in both states.

"Museums are important because without them, without archives, people can be forgotten," Gordon said. "Jane and Sandy were insistent even before the

founding of the Breman Museum that these stories be captured and treated with respect, for the insights and lessons that they would provide in the future. Now with *History with Chutzpah* important chapters of our past come alive once again."

So, what is this *chutzpah* that serves as the exhibition's connecting thread?

*Chutzpah* is a Yiddish word that describes a person boasting a character that is bold, audacious, gutsy. People with *chutzpah*, also derived from the Hebrew word *חִטְּפָה*, do not lack self-confidence or nerve. The word originally carried a connotation that leaned toward the negative. But in English, it has taken on a broader, more positive meaning, emphasizing an individual's courage, mettle or ardor. It's those latter meanings that *History with Chutzpah* embraces.

Berman and Leavey have organized the exhibition into six sections: *Courage & Conformity*, *Hope & Survival*, *Success & Loss*, *Patriotism & Perseverance*, *Benevolence & Community* and *Murder & Mayhem*. The exhibition is expected to remain on view for at least three years.

The Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History proudly houses the Savannah Jewish Archives. The Savannah Jewish Archive houses 100 manuscript collections, 10,000 photographs and 150 oral histories, documenting Jewish life in Savannah and Chatham County from Colonial Georgia through the end of the 20th century. Keep your family history alive through the Savannah Jewish Archive at the Breman Museum! You can access the Savannah Jewish Archives at [www.thebreman.org/Research/Savannah-Jewish-Archives](http://www.thebreman.org/Research/Savannah-Jewish-Archives).



You know the old expression, March comes in like a lion and goes out with a Mah Jongg card? Don't know that one? Take my word for it – it's very famous. I can't wait until the end of March to see what hands the

National Mah Jongg League has come up with for the year 2022. How will they handle the need for so many twos? The last time there was a situation like this was the year 2000, but it was the soaps that were so hard to get. Just think of the complications they will have when putting together the card for 2222!

After a very scientific study (I read the comments on the Mah Jongg websites), I determined that right now, the beleaguered League has an approval rating of Lower Than Low, and that's low. It makes me feel awful because I try to support everything The League does. After all, they donate millions of dollars to the charities we support. But lately, they have been making very

# Mah Jongg and More

Robin Rackoff

questionable decisions. I still can't believe they instituted the "first one to grab the discard gets it" rule. Why would they promote grabbiness over civility? And they refuse to commit on the issue of where we should place a tile that we call. We have been taught since forever that when we call a tile, we have to put it on top of our rack, not on the slanted part mixed in with our tiles. There are so many reasons for this rule, including preventing cheats from cheating. So, what did they just do? They issued a "RECOMMENDATION" that a called tile SHOULD be placed on the top of the rack and not on the slanted part. You either can do it, or you can't. Mah Jongg League, Take a Stand! I RECOMMEND that they rethink this hot-button topic.

There you have it. This is too much suspense for me. Until next time, be well and Maj On!

# Hollenberg Patient Assistance Fund Changes Lives

With the sale of Memorial Hospital to HCA in 2018, the organization transitioned from a nonprofit to a for profit hospital. As a for profit enterprise, it had to disband its foundation which had a number of funds that assisted local individuals during the most challenging times of their lives. One of those funds was the Hollenberg Patient Assistance Fund.

The Hollenberg Patient Assistance Fund was created in 2005 in memory of Stephen Hollenberg to help cancer patients who don't have the money to cover the auxiliary costs of treatment and recovery. In the 17 years



since the creation of the fund, it has helped thousands of South Georgians "fill the gap" of coverage whether it be transportation needs, housing, utilities, prescription and nonprescription medication.

When HCA purchased the hospital, Toby Hollenberg, as the initial creator of the fund, looked to the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah to administer and distribute the funds. The "Federation's Foundation" is proud to be a partner in helping assist

# And My He(art) Belongs To . . .

Vernon Mosheim

Baltimore. Babe Ruth was born there. So was Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. And Frank Zappa. Not to overlook such other celebrities as Jada Pinkett Smith, Cass Elliott and David Hasselhoff. Today, despite her strong Georgia roots, Ali Mirsky also calls it home.

Ali Mirsky? Yes, the Georgia native, who has made a name for herself in the art world with her achievements in weaving, sculpture and mosaics.

Born in nearby Statesboro as Ali Seligman, she spent the formative years of her youth in and around Savannah and has never lost her emotional attachment nor affection for the town and its surroundings. As she remembers it, Ali not only spent memorable years in Savannah, but she was also especially fond of the neighboring, oceanfront community of Tybee. There she enjoyed carefree, gratifying summers, swimming in the ocean and relaxing on the sandy beaches. And the setting also proved to become a great source of inspiration for her work.

The daughter of Marcus and Sandra Seligman, Ali at the age of ten, moved with her parents to the Habersham Woods neighborhood in Savannah, where her father worked as a stockbroker. Her mother taught at the Jacob G. Smith School in town. Today, her parents live on Tybee Island.

In Savannah, Ali found a large, extended family of uncles, aunts, cousins and, the beloved focus of her life, her grandmother, Tillie Seligman. Among her treasured memories from that time are the weekly Shabbats she shared with her grandmother. Here she also received her primary schooling, attending a number of educational institutions, among them, the JEA (Jewish Educational Alliance), Savannah Country Day, St. Vincent's and St. Andrew's, from which she graduated.

Ali spent only eight years in Savannah. However brief the time, it left an indelible, remarkable, vivid impression on her. Upon graduation at the age of eighteen, she left the area permanently. And yet, to this very day, she returns as often as possible, to visit family and to rejuvenate her soul in the sand and surf at Tybee. Following a rather peripatetic life after leaving Savannah, she took a route that brought her from Arizona, North Carolina and Pennsylvania to Maryland, the place she now calls home.

After graduation from high school, Ali moved to Tucson, Arizona, where she enrolled at the University of Arizona and was introduced to weaving. She developed a keen interest in fiber arts. After moving to North Carolina, she enrolled in a fiber arts program, studying production weaving and dyeing. Two years later, now married and a mother, Ali moved to Pennsylvania, where she started a weaving business, creating, among other items, custom-designed tallit, woven out of silk, wool or cotton.

When she returned to Arizona for a visit, after an absence of ten years,



she decided to enroll in a one-day mosaic workshop. It took just one session to awaken a great passion with a new found obsession to create mosaic art. She remembers it being an instinctual process, where she found a great deal of creative freedom, creating organic shapes and fluid movement with small hand-cut pieces of glass.

"I quickly realized that mosaic art was my true calling," Ali recalled. She put away weaving looms and began a career as a mosaic artist. She credits her understanding of color and textures from her background in weaving and fabric dyeing.

She not only sold her work through galleries, including her own, but she also taught community mosaic workshops. "I later served as artist-in-residence," she continued, "at many elementary, middle and high schools in Pennsylvania and the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area."

Along the way, she met her husband-to-be, Steven Mirsky, who holds a PhD from Penn State and works as a research scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in their ARS Sustainable Food Systems Laboratory. Celebrating their silver wedding anniversary recently, the couple are the proud parents of two daughters, Tillie, currently in her second year of a Master's program in Nutrition at

continued on page 20

# In Memory of Sharon "Sherry" Dolgoff

Sharon "Sherry" Dolgoff, President of the Savannah Jewish Federation, 2015-16, died on January 16, 2022.

Sherry was born in Houston, Texas and earned a degree in Education from the University of Texas. After college she began her teaching career in Houston. After moving to Savannah in 1969, she taught in public and private schools (she retired from the Chatham County School District in 2006).

Sherry was a "teacher's teacher" and never missed an opportunity to work with children. Whether it was language arts (she could turn a 'mean phrase') or the lessons of the Holocaust, Sherry, even though she was of short stature, was a giant. For years, the phones of the Federation were filled with requests for her to speak to area schools...and Sherry never turned them down. When she had the opportunity to share the lessons from "one of the darkest periods" of our people, Sherry was the voice of the Jewish community. Not a Yom HaShoah observance went by without Sherry sitting in the lobby selling books that would change generations of Savannahians.

Sherry sat on so many boards it would be impossible to count them. She served on the JEA Board of Directors numerous

times. When called on, Sherry accepted the presidency of the Savannah Jewish Federation.

We will never forget her face when the head of Federation's National Women's Leadership called Sherry up in front of hundreds of attendees of the General Assembly to congratulate her for her leadership and present her with a gold Lion of Judah pin that signified her leadership. Sherry was certainly a proud woman, and for good reason. She had a heart of gold, gave to those she knew and those she didn't. She spoke to adults and children with equal ease.

Everyone who knew Sherry would agree that she was so very special to her students, her friends, and especially her family. Sherry is survived by her beloved husband of 57 years, Norman Dolgoff, her three daughters, Marcey (Howard) Alter, Karen (Mark) Hasson, and Laura (Terrell) Roberson; three grandchildren, Taylor Roberson, Sarah Isabel and Matthew Benjamin Hasson; and one great-granddaughter, Layla Skye; her nephew, Andy Roth, and her brother Leonard (Barbara) Roth.



## On The Personal Side

### Mazel Tov

To **Ruchoma & Rabbi Avi Nitekman** on the birth of their daughter, Faiga Bracha.

To **David Altschiller** on the publication of his new book, No Business for Adults: My Life in Advertising, a view of the agencies and campaigns of Madison Avenue from one of those who lived on the inside.

To grandparents, **Steve & Sally Greenberg** and parents, **Matt & Karina Greenberg** on the birth of a son, Tomas Greenberg.

To great-grandmother **Rhoda Weiland**, grandparents, **Jerry & Marcy Konter**, and parents, **Tess Konter & Albert Neudeck** on the birth of a son, Albert Otto Neudeck, V.

To **Sarah Denmark & Adam Solender** on the engagement of their son, David Solender to Megan Clark.

To **William Jacob Berman**, son of Kasey Reeves & Daniel Berman who became a Bar Mitzvah on November 27, 2021.

To **Dinah Henkin**, daughter of Rabbi Steven & Orly Henkin who became a Bat Mitzvah on January 9, 2022.

To **Sydney Linfoot**, daughter of Scott & Dina Linfoot who became Bat Mitzvah on January 22, 2022.

To **Eli Berwitz**, son of Steven & Anna Berwitz who became a Bar Mitzvah on February 5, 2022.

To grandparents **Cathy & Philip Solomons** and parents **Delia and Josh Shapiro** on the birth of Nora Emi Shapiro.

To **Alice Gerber** who was featured in Georgia Southern's Winter magazine as a featured "Triple Eagle" highlighting her return to college at 72 years of age and her program GEM (Get Excited and Move) to help those afflicted with Parkinson's disease.

**Tell us your good news!** Celebrating a significant event, simcha, birthday or anniversary? Submit to [savannahjewishlife@savj.org](mailto:savannahjewishlife@savj.org) by May 1st.

# Obituaries

through 1/31/2022

## Harry Lewis Katzman

Who died Sunday, November 7, 2021

He is survived by his daughters, Karma L. Cain, Risha Marie Katzman; brother, Jack Katzman; grandchildren, Joshua Katzman, Jennifer Katzman, Haley Watson, Amy Katzman, Mary Beth Browning and a sister, Gloria Kaplin. *Donations: The National Museum of The Mighty Eighth Air Force, PO Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402*

## Barbara Jane Witte Charmatz

Who died Tuesday, November 9, 2021

She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Arthur Edward Charmatz. She is survived by her children, Shawn Perry Cottingham, Jeff Perry, Micah Charmatz Valbuena, David Charmatz, and her nine grandchildren.

*Donations: Humane Society of Savannah, 7215 Sallie Mood Drive, Savannah, GA 31406*

## Marilyn Klein Cranman

Who died Tuesday, November 16, 2021

She is survived by four children, Judy Rosen Rubin (Howard), Kathy Embrey (Jeffrey), David Jay Cranman (Marie Christine), and Billy Cranman (Tina); eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and Melissa, Debbie, and Susie, her loving nieces.

*Donations: Hospice Savanna, PO Box 13139, Savannah, GA 31416 or Rambam Day School, 111 Atlas Street, Savannah, GA 31405*

## Alan Michael Simon

Who died Wednesday, November 17, 2021

He is survived by his wife Lynn Carol Weinberg Simon and children Sabrina Simon and Daniel (Rozalyn) Simon, grandchildren, Addie & Isla Simon.

*Donations: Jewish War Veterans of America, 1811 R Street, Washington DC 20009*

## Kaye Robinson Kole

Who died Friday, December 3, 2021

She is survived by her husband, Donald Kole, daughter Deborah (Charles) Shelton and son, Jeffrey (LeeAnn) Kole; grandchildren, McKenzie Shelton and Amy, Jeremy, and Zachary Kole; brother Paul (Lori) Robinson, and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

*Donations: To the non-profit organization of donor's choice*

## Harold Sacaloff

Who died Thursday, December 9, 2021

He is survived by his children, Laura (Craig) Robertson, Debra (Paul) Potenzzone, Mark Sacaloff, Paul Sacaloff, and Rebecca Morgans, as well as several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Alvin Ray Steiner

Who died Monday, December 20, 2021

## Kathryn "Kate" Simon Salus

Who died Monday, December 20, 2021

She is survived by her husband Judge Samuel "Skip" Wieder Salus II.

## Lee Alexander Sellinger

Who died Thursday, December 23, 2021

He is survived by his wife, Erin Caitlin Sellinger; two daughters, Adelaide Isabella and Laelia Ruth Sellinger; his parents, Steven Lin Sellinger and Nancy Karen Eisen Sellinger; one brother, Aaron Irwin Sellinger; maternal grandparents, Gerald and Dorothy Eisen; and many loving extended family and friends.

## Joy Adel Bradley Warshaw

Who died Wednesday, January 5, 2022

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Irvin Jack Warshaw, sons Michael Warshaw, Stephen (Carol) Warshaw and Benjamin (Deborah) Warshaw; daughter Arlene (Jay) Gould, five grandchildren, first cousins Betty Kaminsky Jacobson and Alan Kaminsky, along with several nieces and nephews.

*Donations: Savannah Humane Society, 7215 Sallie Mood Drive, Savannah, GA 31406*

## Walter Diamond

Who died Saturday, January 8, 2022

## Sharon "Sherry" Roth Dolgoff

Who died Sunday, January 16, 2022

She is survived by her beloved husband of 57 years, Norman Dolgoff, her three daughters Marcey (Howard) Alter, Karen (Mark) Hasson, and Laura (Terrell) Roberson; three grandchildren, Taylor Roberson, Sarah and Matthew Hasson, and one great-granddaughter, Layla Skye, and her brother Leonard Barbara) Roth. *Donations: Savannah Jewish Federation, 5111 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31405*

## Muriel Lewis Bono

Who died Sunday, January 23, 2022

She is survived by her sons Michael (Susan Ash) Bono, David (Holly Happe) Bono, and Mark (Brenda) Harris; four grandchildren Mitchell (Caroline) Bono, Allison Bono, Cayle Bono, and Abby Lou Bono; and one great-grandson, Mason Bono.

*Donations: In memory of Muriel Bono to the Savannah Jewish Federation, Temple Mickve Israel, or charity of donor's choice*

## Murray C. Perlman

Who died Sunday, January 23, 2022

He is survived by his many close friends, nephews and nieces, and other extended family.

*Donations: Historic Savannah Foundation, 321 York Street, Savannah, 31401 or Hospice Savannah, PO Box 13190, Savannah, 31416*

## Herb Sanders

Who died Thursday, January 27, 2022

He is survived by his wife Sally Rotkow Sanders, and their blended family including children Ilene (Michael) Prater, Mark (Lynne) Levine, and Lynn Levine; grandchildren Andrew Prater, Matthew Prater, Melissa (Eli) Shalom, William Levine, Brett (Paige) Levine and Marissa Levine; great-grandchildren Moriah Shalom and Elliot Levine. He was predeceased by his son, Craig Sanders and wife, Elaine Segal Sanders.

*Donations: ALS Association, Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob, Jewish Family Services at the Savannah Jewish Federation*



**COMMUNITY  
CALENDAR**

Stay up to date on all events in  
the Savannah Jewish  
community

[WWW.SAVJ.ORG](http://WWW.SAVJ.ORG)

**VISIT THE JEA  
ART GALLERY**

*Let Your  
Dreams  
Blossom*

**JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH  
ART BASH FUNDRAISER**

April 30, 2022 | 7-10 PM  
Cocktail Attire

COCKTAILS & DESSERTS  
SILENT AUCTION  
LIVE AUCTION  
BENEFITTING THE JEA PRESCHOOL

[JEAARTBASH22.GIVEMART.COM](http://JEAARTBASH22.GIVEMART.COM)

**CAMP PURIM**

JOURNEY THROUGH THE STORY OF PURIM  
WITH A JEA CAMP SAVANNAH TWIST!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20 | 3:30 - 5:00 PM**  
\$15 PER FAMILY

STORY WALK THROUGH PURIM •  
ICE CREAM • CRAFTS • FACE PAINTING •  
PETTING ZOO • CAMP FIRE

WEAR YOUR BEST KING OR QUEEN COSTUME  
FOR THE COSTUME PARADE

**PJ Library**

BAKE YOUR OWN  
**MATZAH**  
AT THE MODEL MATZAH BAKERY



**Sunday, April 10 • 3:30 p.m.**  
**Jewish Educational Alliance**

# YOM HASHOAH

**JOIN SAVANNAH'S ANNUAL MEMORIAL  
OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST.**

★ **APRIL 28, 2022** ★  
**JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE**

**9:00 AM - 6:00 PM**  
**READING OF THE NAMES**

*In observance of Yom HaShoah, we take 15  
minute shifts to read the names of children  
who died in the Holocaust.*

*To sign up to read names visit  
[www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org)*

**6:00 PM**  
**COMMUNITY OBSERVANCE**

*Candle lighting, Holocaust contest awards  
& special guest speaker*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[WWW.SAVJ.ORG](http://WWW.SAVJ.ORG) OR CALL 912-355-8111**



## THURSDAYS AT 12:30 PM

- |          |   |          |  |
|----------|---|----------|--|
| MARCH 3  | Savannah Jewish Cultural Arts Festival<br>Movie: Neighbours       | APRIL 28 | Yom HaShoah - My Family's Story<br>Milton Koch                 |
| MARCH 10 | Savannah Jewish Cultural Arts Festival<br>Movie: Love & Mazel Tov | MAY 5    | Yom Ha'Atzmaut<br>Tzila Lemberger                              |
| MARCH 17 | The Relevancy of Purim Today<br>Rabbi Rachael Bregman             | MAY 12   | Decriminalizing The Homeless Population<br>Fraser Rowell Klein |
| MARCH 24 | Savannah Jewish Cultural Arts Festival<br>Movie: 1618             | MAY 19   | 2022 Georgia Teacher of the Year<br>Cherie Dennis              |
| MARCH 31 | Career and Renovation of The Trustees' Garden<br>Charles Morris   | MAY 26   | Prostate Cancer<br>Kiran Devisetty                             |
| APRIL 7  | Male & Female Breast Cancer<br>Dr. William Burak                  | JUNE 2   | Over the Moon Diaper Bank<br>Katie Griffith & Rachael Currie   |
| APRIL 14 | The Streit's Matzo Family<br>Mikie Heilbrun                       | JUNE 9   | Jewish Pirates<br>Rabbi Robert Haas                            |
| APRIL 21 | CLOSED FOR PASSOVER   | JUNE 16  | The Skidaway Oceanographic Institute<br>Emily Kenworthy        |

# Learning Through Play

Heather Lieberfarb

Assistant Director, JEA Preschool Savannah

We have all heard the phrase, "Work, that's child's play," but have you ever stopped to think about how true it is? Play, quite literally, is children working; it is how they acquire knowledge.

As children grow and develop, they grapple with how to make sense of the world around them. The best way for them to do this is to have a connection to something they know. Play is a way for them to navigate through and take an active role in their own learning experience.

Don't underestimate the value of play. There is a misconception that play has to be a free-for-all. Play is actually a crucial component to a curriculum that is supervised and set up by a teacher in a structured way. Play works off the interests of children to develop critical skills. The elements of play-based learning use self-direction, exploration, and, of course, fun! The process becomes just as important as the result.

A child's play can be simple or complex, social or functional, can be imaginative or mimic life skills. All this promotes cognitive, physical,

social and literacy skills. Play is instinctual in children and provides a natural context for learning. Even more important, is that while playing they gain the self confidence in their own abilities, independence and a positive attitude toward learning. These are life-long skills that will foster a love of learning.

When parents want to know how they can best help their children learn, the answer is easy: play with them. Play is meaningful. Play is joyful. Play is actively engaging. Play is interactive. Play is social.

"Children learn as they play. More importantly, in play children learn how to learn"

-O. Fred Donaldson

Heather Lieberfarb, JEA Preschool Savannah Assistant Director, has over 15 years classroom educator experience, and nine years of administrative experience. Heather is a proponent of offering enriched programs that encourage the social and emotional development of children in their early years. She loves working in conjunction with teachers, children and families to build a strong partnership that nurtures, educates and uplifts our community.



**Summer AT** Jewish Educational Alliance Preschool Savannah

**MAY 31 - JULY 22**

**2 Week Sessions**

[SavannahJEA.org](http://SavannahJEA.org)

The graphic features a light blue background with a wavy pattern at the bottom. It contains several circular icons: an orange slice, a child in an orange shirt, a blue Star of David, a child playing with blocks, a child in a blue shirt playing with blocks, a child on a red tricycle, and a yellow circle with the text '2 Week Sessions'. The text 'Summer AT' is in yellow and red, 'Jewish Educational Alliance Preschool Savannah' is in purple, 'MAY 31 - JULY 22' is in white on a blue circle, and 'SavannahJEA.org' is in white on a green rounded rectangle.

# Hollenberg Patient Assistance Fund Changes Lives

Continued from page 12

our community. Recently, Julie Roberts, the head Oncology Clinical Social Worker at Anderson Cancer Institute at HCA shared her thoughts about the fund:

## **HOPE:**

The Hollenberg Fund helps our patients to have hope while undergoing cancer treatments, by allowing patients and families to focus on the cancer treatment versus other practical worries. The fund has provided our patients with Chatham bus passes to get to treatment. One story of hope is about our young lung cancer patient (Patrick) who was helped by the Hollenberg Fund to live his life to the fullest before he died six months after his lung cancer diagnosis. Patrick used the Hollenberg Fund to obtain his medications, due to being uninsured. Hollenberg also helped Patrick to remain in his home and independent, by supporting this gentleman through food, rent and utility support. Patrick was a private and proud man, so for him to be able to remain in his home for the limited time he had left, was a precious gift. After Patrick died in October 2021, his mother called me to thank our staff for taking care of Patrick in a loving way. Patrick's mom felt that our care was so much more than just about cancer, but seeing Patrick as a whole person with hope and dignity. Hollenberg was so very important in allowing us to provide quality-of-life during Patrick's treatment. His family is so very thankful and honored about the care that Patrick received. Hollenberg Fund was a foundational part of this psychosocial care that we were able to provide to Patrick for his time with us.

## **DIGNITY:**

The Hollenberg Patient Assistance Fund provides our patients and families with dignity. One example is a man who was living on the streets and undergoing six weeks of radiation therapy. Our staff noticed that this gentleman did not have many clothes, so the Hollenberg Fund was able to provide clean clothing and allow this patient to have his own dignity. The Fund also has been instrumental in helping our patients who are transitioning to permanent housing to have access to supplies, such as: toilet paper; toilet brush and cleaning supplies. One of our young rectal cancer patients did not have any funds to pay for toilet paper or cleaning supplies, as this gentleman had to choose between food and other necessities. The Hollenberg Fund provided this young patient with the supplies he needed to live independently and care for himself, but also gave dignity. As an Oncology Social Worker, I am often astounded by how resourceful our patients can be and how much they do without, until our staff ask how we can help.

## **COMFORT:**

The Hollenberg Fund helps our patients facing cancer to get the medications they need to manage complex symptoms due to cancer. For example, our newly diagnosed cancer patients may not have any way to pay for medications. Hollenberg helps these patients to access the medications they need, such as pain and anti-nausea medications. Georgia Medicaid does not pay for "Magic Mouthwash," which is an oral medication that many patients need due to oral thrush and pain from chemotherapy. The ability for our patients to receive this medication is crucial to maintaining quality-of-life, as well as the ability to eat, drink and manage through the side effects of chemotherapy.

## **PEACE OF MIND:**

The Hollenberg Patient Assistance Fund helps to provide temporary support for payment of utilities and rent, when our families are forced to choose between food, rent, utilities and obtaining medical care. Due to the Hollenberg Fund's support through Walmart Cards, many of our patients who are living with limited to no income, have the ability to obtain gas/fuel for treatment, as well as groceries. As Memorial Health is a large, tertiary care hospital, we provide oncology care for patients who live many hours away from Savannah, GA. The fund has been able to assist with short-term lodging needs at a local hotel, so patients and families can rest before a planned surgery or procedure.

As you can see, the impact of the Hollenberg Fund is so very important, as well as the cancer care we provide. Living with cancer is more than just medical treatments, but allowing a person to live their fullest with the best quality-of-life. As an Oncology Social Worker, I am so appreciative of the support from the Savannah Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah and the Hollenberg Fund. The ability to access the funds and in a timely manner, provides so much peace and support to our patients. In my heart, I know that Steve Hollenberg would be so proud to see how this fund changes lives for the better. The Hollenberg Family and many generous fund donors continue to honor Steve's legacy and life well-lived, by helping others who are on the cancer journey.

**The Hollenberg Patient Assistance Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah is just one of dozens of funds created to address the needs of our community today and tomorrow. For information on how you can create a lasting legacy, please contact Adam Solender at [adam@savj.org](mailto:adam@savj.org).**

# And My He(art) Belongs To . . .

continued from page 13

Maryland University of Integrative Health Institute, and Sara, a sophomore at the University of Maryland, majoring in public health science.

In 2013, Ali won the Members Choice Award for Floating on the Surface, on display at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma WA. It highlights her connection with the natural world, in particular to the shores of Tybee Island.

In 2016, Ali received an invitation to create a custom mosaic with students in Tanzania. Teaching and working with six hundred local elementary-aged students, she created a mosaic mural on the facade of a wall at the Kisimani School in the town of Arusha.

Two years later, Ali took another major career stride forward when she took a position with a Baltimore non-profit, Art with a Heart. Today, she serves as its Director of Community Service and Public Art, a position that allows her to have a larger impact within the community and utilizes her talents on a global scale.

For two decades, she has created works for exhibitions, custom public and private installations, both interior and exterior, and has worked with communications both nationally and internationally, leading to the creation of dozens of community mural projects.

More, Baltimore Jewish Living magazine recently reported, "To commemorate the 20th anniversary, Art with a Heart created a six foot by eight foot mosaic heart sculpture on permanent display at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Created at a cost of \$130,000, it represents AWAH's anniversary gift to the city of Baltimore. It weighs over 1,000 pounds, features eighteen different colors of glass, mirror and recycled glow-in-the-

dark tiles and took over eighteen months to complete. More than 1,000 people, young and old, of diverse races, ages and socio-economic backgrounds, devoted their time and love to this project. All in all, they created close to 2,500 ceramic hearts with messages of love and encouragements.



In addition, Art with a Heart also distributed 425 pounds of clay in the community. The response was tremendous, as people of all ages, seniors, students, whole families participated, making ceramic hearts to further embellish the sculpture.

Erected as a symbol of hope, today, with the emergence of the pandemic, the piece has taken on an additional role: to pay tribute to the strengths and resilience of the city's frontline health care workers.

"This project is particularly special, because of its remarkable creative story," said Ali. It is a beacon of hope and light and I am truly honored to have played a part in its creation."

You can find all of Ali Mirsky's incredible work on Instagram @alimirskymosaics or [www.artwithaheart.com](http://www.artwithaheart.com).

## My Camp Story

### Dinah Henkin

My name is Dinah Henkin and I would like to thank the Savannah Jewish Federation for granting me a scholarship this past summer. I attended Camp Ramah Darom in Clayton, Georgia and had a great time. It is my Jewish home away from home!



Something I really like about Ramah is that it is a Jewish community that I feel comfortable and safe at. Due to Covid, I didn't get to see my camp friends last summer so going this year in Kochavim (Stars) felt even more special. At camp, I got to have new experiences and try new things that I enjoyed doing. I got to lead services and participate in other fun Jewish activities. My friends and I did many different activities such as swimming, climbing, hiking, kayaking and more.

Every year, Kochavim puts on a play all in Hebrew for the whole camp. This

year, the play was Shrek. My friends and I spent hours learning our lines and practicing, and we had a lot of fun doing it. We performed the play and had so much fun wearing special shirts that we made and getting to eat ice cream afterward.

Camp Ramah also has a climbing tower, giant swing and rock wall. My group got to try all of them. The swing is my favorite! We also have a Color War at camp, called Yom Sport. It includes a bunch of fun activities like soccer, basketball, volleyball and Torah Bowl.

Camp Ramah is one of my favorite places to go and where I can be comfortable being Jewish and really get to enjoy being away from home and spending time with my friends. My favorite is Shabbat. Shabbat at Ramah is the most special place ever.

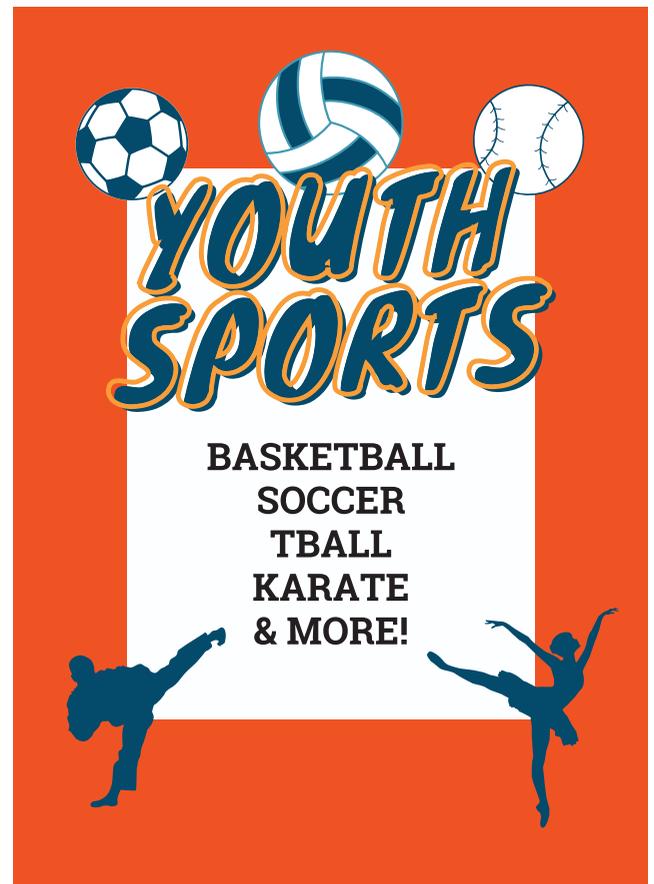
Thank you to the Savannah Jewish Federation for your help in giving me such a great opportunity.

*Dinah attended Camp Ramah this past summer with the assistance of a Jewish Youth Summer Experience grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation made possible by your generosity during the annual Community Campaign.*

# Spring into Action at the JEA

Spring is in the air and summer is just around the corner. Before you know it all the summer vacations and activities will begin. Use this spring to get ahead and take action to prepare for all the summer fun by either starting a new workout plan, getting the whole family active, or preparing for water filled summers at the JEA pools.

Taking action when it comes to your health is easy when you have the JEA's variety of fitness classes and experienced personal trainers to help you along the way! Want to take your family on vacation and feel safe around the water? Still looking for another after school activity for your child to keep them moving this spring? Sign your child up for one of our new youth sports or clinics such as T-ball, baseball, Swim Club, karate and more! With such a large variety of programs to help you get moving, why wait when you could spring into action today at the JEA!



## WELCOME NEW JEA MEMBERS!

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DOUGLAS BROOKS

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MANUEL & BETSY DOMINGUEZ

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BENJAMIN & KIMBERLY YOUNG

**DON'T WAIT  
ANOTHER DAY  
JOIN THE JEA TODAY**



[SAVANNAHJEA.ORG](http://SAVANNAHJEA.ORG)

**SPRING  
DAYS AT  
THE**



**School's Out Camp**

**MARCH 17-18  
MARCH 28-APRIL 1  
APRIL 15  
MAY 25-MAY 27**

**4 year olds - 8th grade**

**8:00AM-6:00PM**

**[WWW.SAVANNAHJEA.ORG](http://WWW.SAVANNAHJEA.ORG)**





# COMMUNITY CONCERT THE MACCABEATS

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**COMMUNITY Concert Committee**  
Bianca Hollander, Chair  
Rachael Currie, Tziri Lob, Avi Nitekman, Jamie Richman



## NEED A HELPING HAND?!

### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES IS HERE FOR YOU!



WHETHER YOU NEED A DELIVERY OF A MEAL, WOULD APPRECIATE A WEEKLY CHECK-IN CALL, OR MIGHT ENJOY A "VIRTUAL FRIENDLY VISIT" - COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS ARE READY TO HELP.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE, WE NEED YOU, TOO!

LET'S STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE TOGETHER!

[JFS@SAVJ.ORG](mailto:JFS@SAVJ.ORG)



## #lifegoals

**To be published in Savannah Jewish Life**

Submit your articles, poetry, reviews, recipes and more!  
All Welcome!

Deadline: May 1  
[savannahewishlife@savj.org](mailto:savannahewishlife@savj.org)

Workout Worry Free!

# J CARE

## BABYSITTING at the JEA

Monday- Friday | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm & 4:00 pm - 6:00pm  
Sunday | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
\$5 per hour/per child

Reservations required at [www.savannahjea.org](http://www.savannahjea.org)



# RAMBAM DAY SCHOOL

Setting the Standard for Excellence in Education



111 Atlas Street  
912.352.7994  
rambamdayschool.org

## THE TOP OF THE CLASS:

- We've had four successful SACS accreditations.
- We are licensed and have three stars – the highest rating – from Quality Rated.
- Our teacher-to-student ration fosters high levels of academics.
- A dual program of secular and Judaic studies promotes higher levels of thinking, strong critical thinking and confident students as they meet the challenges of a dual curriculum.

## WE'RE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS:

Our students care about others, strive for success and, when graduating after their eighth grade year, are sought after from various high schools. We follow our students' transitions, and we witness their successful high-school careers.

## THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

We offer individualized, warm, nurturing and inclusive learning where students can remain focused and be successful.

## WE TEACH FOR THE FUTURE BY:

We use technology to broaden our students' scope of knowledge. We incorporate real life experiences through our curriculum, and we encourage our students to strive, to be kind, to be tolerant and to be respectful.

# TELL US YOUR good news

CELEBRATING A SIGNIFICANT  
EVENT, SIMCHA, BIRTHDAY OR  
ANNIVERSARY?

SUBMIT TO  
SAVANNAHJEWISHLIFE@SAVJ.ORG  
BY MAY 1.



Savannah Jewish Federation 2022 Annual Campaign



Thank you for being a partner with the Savannah Jewish Federation to impact our community. YOUR donation enables us to:

**\$100**

Pay for prescriptions for a needy senior

**\$180**

Send PJ Library books to 4 kids for a year

**\$365**

Underwrite a Food for Thought lunch n' learn meal for community members

**\$500**

Throw a Young Jewish Savannah event to engage young adults

**\$1000**

Help a teen attend a summer program in Israel

**\$1800**

Provide a subsidy for 5 children to attend Jewish Summer Camp



Make your gift today at [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org)

# Through the Lens of a Child



Eva Locker, Principal

Year after year we tell our children the stories of Hanukkah, Purim and Passover. We do this, not for lack of new texts to share, but because repetitiveness in teaching emphasizes the importance of the message. Yearly retelling of the Passover story also gives children the opportunity of a deeper perspective and a more active involvement as they grow. While all our Jewish Holidays are occasions for children's participation, none require it in the way that Passover does. The Haggadah we read during the Seder includes many parts dedicated to the children: the Four Questions, the hiding of the Afikomen, and the description of the Four sons. Why does Passover put the children at the center in this fashion?

Passover is the remembrance of our lives as slaves, the celebration of rescue

by God's hand, and the 40 years it took us to become a free nation. Over three thousand years later, so much is ingrained in our lives that limit that freedom: things such as our dependence on technology, the way we might rush our meals to get another task done, or the lack of time left for deeper human interactions.

What if the children's leading role at the Seder was purposely intended to create a time for adults to learn from the children? Revisit the meaning of freedom through the lens and spirit of a child, with curiosity and an open mind so we can let go of old ways and move with excitement about what's coming ahead. For the Israelites, it was Mount Sinai and Eretz Israel but in today's world, being willing and able to learn from our children could be the opportunity to break the bonds of modern days that limit us so we can reach a freer and more meaningful life.



## PJ Library® & PJ OUR WAY™

PJ Library is for Children birth to 8 years old being raised in a Jewish home, residing in the Savannah area. Parents can register their children for PJ Library at [PJLibrary.org](http://PJLibrary.org)



Families with children ages 9 to 12 years old can register for PJ Our Way at [PJOurWay.org](http://PJOurWay.org).



Thanks to our generous local donors, PJ Library® is free for those who qualify for the program, which grants one subscription per child. The subscription is renewable annually for qualifying Savannah families.

Need more information? Email [PJLibrary@savj.org](mailto:PJLibrary@savj.org)

 Savannah Jewish Federation  
Your campaign dollars at work!

 Savannah PJ Library & PJ Our Way

# *Bnai Brith Jacob Synagogue*

*Join Us for all things*

## **SPRING TIME**

*Spiritual and Soulful*

**ANNUAL SUPERBOWL WATCH PARTY DINNER  
FEBRUARY 13TH**

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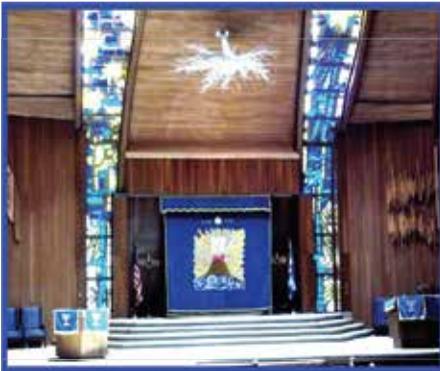
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**912-354-7721**

**[WWW.BBJSYNAGOGUE.COM](http://WWW.BBJSYNAGOGUE.COM)**



# CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM

SAVANNAH GEORGIA'S CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

9 Lee Boulevard, Savannah Ga. 31405

Rabbi Steven Henkin

[www.agudath-achim.com](http://www.agudath-achim.com)



## Who We Are

It is easy for us to say that Congregation Agudath Achim is our spiritual home. When we say that, it is because:

We **SUPPORT** each other on our Jewish journeys

We **CARE** for each other when one of us struggling or mourning

We **CELEBRATE** each other's accomplishments, life cycle events, and holidays together

We **HELP** each other be the best we can be

We **LEARN** together how we can live faithfully as Jews in our modern world

We **BUILD** our community together

We are **COMMITTED** to each other and to the larger Jewish and Savannah communities

Feel free to join us for any of the services, programs, or classes we offer! We're always ready to welcome you into our spiritual home.

**Rabbinic Literature Study Group** Thursday afternoons, 3:00-4:15 pm

**Skeptics Study Group** second Thursday of every month, 11 a.m.

**The Rabbis of the Mishnah**, their life and deed. Classes are held every other

**Wednesday** at 10:30am.

**In Person Minyan**, Tuesday (7:30am) & Friday (8:00am & breakfast to follow) & Shabbat (9:45am)



## Agudath Achim wishing you joyful Purim & a wonderful Passover!

### Join us for Megillah reading & party on Wednesday, March 16th at 6pm.



## Congregation Mickve Israel

20 E. Gordon St. Savannah, GA

912-233-1547

[www.mickveisrael.org](http://www.mickveisrael.org)

[youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah](https://youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah)

Upcoming Events  
at  
Mickve Israel



## Spring Classes and Services

Mickve Israel enters this spring with a continuation of our diverse offering of in-person and virtual worship services and classes taught by Rabbi Haas and Glenn Kersey. Classes are streamed on Zoom as well as on our CMI YouTube channel. Each week's topics and links are available in our weekly e-news.

Sign-up to receive all the information at [rsvp@mickveisrael.org](mailto:rsvp@mickveisrael.org). Our YouTube channel is: [youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah](https://youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah)

### Weekly Judaic Classes

#### **CMI Study Group with Rabbi Haas**

A new topic is chosen each week covering Jewish history, culture, entertainment and more!

Wednesdays at 10:30 am

#### **Torah Study with Glenn Kersey**

Go deeper into each week's Parsha in this interesting class that includes a lively discussion.

Saturdays after services at 12:30 pm

### In-Person and Online Shabbat Services

Our doors are open for in-person services and all of our Shabbat services are streamed on our YouTube channel.

#### **Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

Every Friday night at 6 pm

#### **Saturday Morning Shabbat Service**

Every Saturday morning at 11 am

All events will be in-person and streamed on our YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah](https://youtube.com/mickveisraelsavannah)

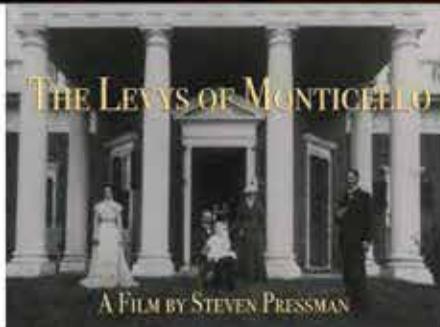
*As part of the Savannah Jewish Cultural Arts Festival* Tickets at [savj.org](http://savj.org)

**Sunday**

**March 6, 2022**

**3 PM**

Special Screening followed by Q&A w/ Producer/Director *Steven Pressman*



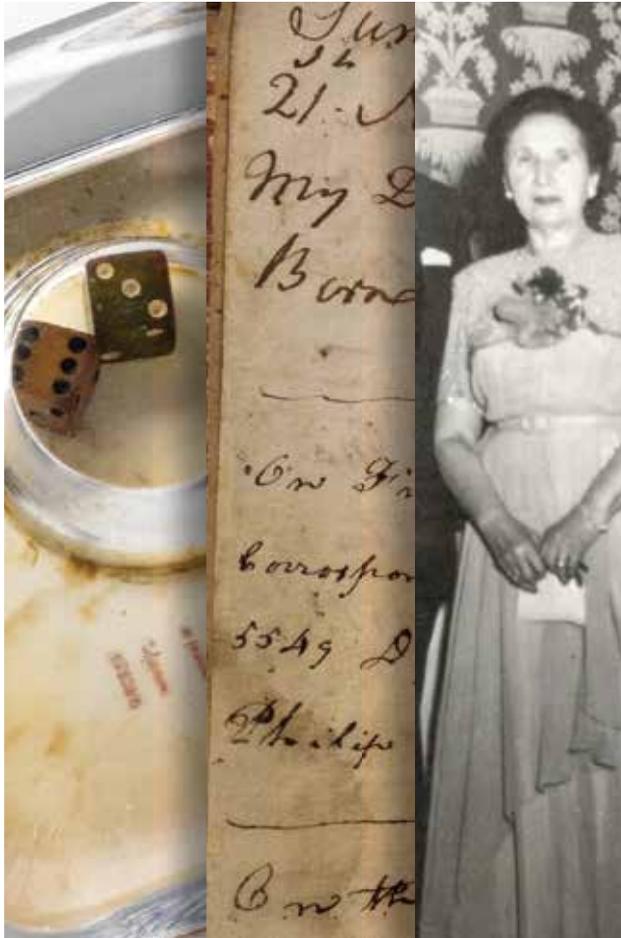
**Sunday**

**March 13, 2022**

**3 PM**

Atlanta native and preeminent Jazz Pianist *Joe Alterman* in Concert.





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Remarkable Stories of the Southern Jewish Adventure  
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CHABAD OF SAVANNAH PRESENTS

## PURIM NIGHT OUT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022  
OPEN TO ALL 21+

MEGILLA READING • OPEN BAR • MASQUERADE

Chabad of Savannah

MORE INFO: [JEWISHSAVORG/CELEBRATE](http://JEWISHSAVORG/CELEBRATE)

NEXT P

# Kids Birthday Parties

Mermaid ~ Sports ~ Arts ~ Dance themes & more!

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(Donations made 10/30/21 through 2/1/22)

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Harry Center  
*In memory of Edwin Feiler*  
*In memory of Kaye Kole*  
*In memory of William Ware*  
*In memory of Walter Weil*  
Miriam Center

## JEA PRESCHOOL SAVANNAH

*In honor of Tess & Albert's new baby*  
Susan Feld

Donating to a Savannah Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah fund is a wonderful way to honor a special simcha or life cycle event, honor the memory of a friend or a loved one, or recognize someone in the community. Visit [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org) to see a complete list of funds and to make a donation.

# Wishing you a happy Passover.

Looking for recipes? Find Kosher for Passover favorites at [publix.com/passover](https://publix.com/passover).



# JEA CAMP SAVANNAH

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FAVORITE THEMES**



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