

April 2015 | Nissan-Iyyar 5775, Vol. LXX, No. 3

## Anti-Semitism Prevalent on Campuses

A national survey of American Jewish college students released in late February showed that more than half of those participating reported being subjected to or witnessing anti-Semitism on their college campuses. The National Demographic Survey of American Jewish College Students was conducted in the spring of 2014 with 1,157 self-identified Jewish students at 55 campuses nationwide, 54% of whom reported instances of anti-Semitism on campus during the first six months of the 2013-2014 ac-

ademic year (note – six months prior to Israel's conflict with Gaza in the summer of 2014).

The survey was conducted by a team of researchers from Trinity College (Hartford, CT) and reported jointly with the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law (Washington, DC). The report of the survey puts to rest, often sadly,

many historic notions of anti-Semitism, at least as they apply to college campuses.

The survey found that despite per-

ceptions that anti-Semitism might be localized to certain campuses or restricted to students who are politically active or religious, the problem is widespread. In fact, among the group of students who reported having been subjected to or having witnessed anti-Semitism, the most occurrences, 70%, were at public schools in the South. Public schools in the Midwest were the next most problematic area at 65%. Privacy laws precluded students in California's state university system from being included in the survey; only private universities there were sampled and private schools in the West had the lowest number of students reporting victimization of anti-Sem-

*continued on page 5*



### Candle Lighting Times

Friday, April 3	7:27pm
Saturday, April 4	8:24pm
Thursday, April 9	7:32pm
Friday, April 10	7:32pm
Friday, April 17	7:37pm
Friday, April 24	7:42pm

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#### Art as a Tool for Remembering

— As we prepare to observe Yom HaShoah, SCAD instructor Marcia Neblett reminds us that art can be a powerful way to document history; p8

## Two Special Yom HaShoah Events Planned

*"My father was a Nazi."*

Thus begins the life story of Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger, whose father was a former tank commander and member of one of the elite units of the Wehrmacht, the Germany army, for which he was awarded the Knight's Cross personally by Hitler. Bernd loved his parents and admired his father, but growing up he gradually

became eager to learn what his father refused to discuss with him, namely: what Germany and the Nazis did to Europe and to the Jews, and what his fa-

ther's role had been.

When Palestinian terrorists murdered Israel's Olympic athletes in 1972, the German press noted that again Jews had been killed in Germany. Bernd wanted to know what that again meant. However, he could not get a straight answer from his parents. What he learned about the Third Reich at school horrified him. When he asked his father about German crimes his father told him that Bernd's "teachers were all communists and liars and that a Holocaust never actually existed."

Besides curiosity about the German side of the war, Bernd was interested in learning about Jews and Judaism. He sought out a small Orthodox Jewish community in his hometown

where he met and befriended a Holocaust survivor who began to teach him about the Jewish faith. Increasingly rejected by his own family, these mostly elderly Jews became Bernd's new family.

One day he read about a peace conference being held in a nearby German town for Israeli Jewish and Arab youth. He decided to attend, and from then on wanted to visit Israel. The visit changed his life – he met the Jewish woman he would one day marry. Bernd returned to Germany, completed his medical degree, converted to Judaism, and made aliyah. These acts severed whatever bond was left with his father and

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Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger



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## 2015 SJF Community Campaign Update



The Jewish Community exists for you and because of you!

As of March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 791 donors



SJF Board Member Jack Levine (l) with Moon River Studios CEO Jake Shapiro at FedXI, Campaign Dollars at Work

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# Freedom



Steve Greenberg  
President,  
Savannah Jewish  
Federation

As family and friends gather around the Seder table, each of us has our individual thoughts and memories. It might be of loved ones not present. It might be the face of a child who is experiencing Pesach for the first time. It might be the comfort of our history, traditions and inspirations that are always present as we read the Haggadah. I submit that this year we should pause and direct our thoughts to a theme that permeates what Pesach has stood for over the centuries up to freedom. Freedom from oppression. Freedom of religion. Freedom to be Jewish. Freedom to identify who and what we are.

We have always sought freedom... from holocausts, persecution, fear and those who seek to build up themselves while tearing us down. Many of our ancestors came to this country in search of freedom. Today, we live in a nation of democratic principles based upon freedoms in our Constitution. But, as we have seen since Pesach a year ago, the freedom of Jewish people throughout the world is increasingly challenged by those who believe that we should not exist. To those who would do us harm, freedom is an anathema.

We live in a complex society. The same tools that offer us greater ability to express ourselves and to seek sources of information, also allow evil to travel faster and to be shaped as a narrative. We see the increasing tension between freedom and security. For our ancestors, freedom was achieved by arriving in the Promised Land. Freedom was easily defined. Yes, for us, freedom may be more complicated, but it is increasingly more important for us to stand ready to defend it.

The Jewish people have survived because we value being Jewish. We know it is the lifeblood of everything else. We know, both intuitively and intellectually, that the line between freedom and persecution is dangerously thin. One of the unique aspects of Pesach is that the Seder table attracts Jews who might not participate in any other observance during the year. There is simply a connection that goes to the soul. There is a desire

to be part of an identity that we all share. I submit to you that it is the "freedom" to want to be part of our united history. It is innately part of our DNA.

The simple fact is a challenge to any one of us is a challenge to all of us. We are here today because countless generations have been strong, have rejected fear and have stood up for the right to practice our religion, history and culture in the manner we want, to freely express ourselves and to have freedom of association. Those acts of courage are the yardsticks that we must measure ourselves by today. The forces may be different, they may seem far away, but they are just as real. It is a given that in a time of tragedy or war or public anti-Semitism, we would all pull together. However, the key is not for us to be as one on a periodic basis, but all the time. Yes, there are and always will be differences of opinion between us. But that should be considered a source of strength, not weakness. And the belief in each other should be the overriding factor that transcends those differences.

*"We are here today because countless generations have been strong, have rejected fear and have stood up for the right to practice our religion, history and culture in the manner we want, to freely express ourselves and to have freedom of association."*

invest in it, to insure it for the next generation? Do we look on events that threaten our people as someone else's problem or our united problem to deal with?

It is critical for us to have knowledge and understanding of our world, for both empower us. They make us pay attention. It is vital for us not to fear for fear only diminishes our core Jewish values. And, it is important for us to stand tall and celebrate our religion, our history and our contributions to the world. We have much to be proud of, both as a Savannah Jewish community and as a people. Dark forces have always sought to take these attributes away from us. They have never succeeded and they never will. But it is up to all of us to remind ourselves each day the individual role we play in the survival of our people. May we all meet that challenge with determination and perseverance.

From the Board of Governors and staff of the Savannah Jewish Federation, may this Pesach be one of joy for each of you, your families and friends.



Adam Solender  
Executive Director of  
JEA/SJF

# Able to Relax

*Just as the body becomes exhausted by hard labor and is reinvigorated by rest, so the mind needs its weariness relieved by rest – Maimonides*

Last month

Sarah and I took the opportunity to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a special birthday by taking some time away with a trip to the British Virgin Islands. Sarah had been before, but I had never been and was looking forward to the time. When I asked my wife what there was to do she told me that it is beautiful, lush, and warm. What more did I need to know?

Getting to the island was not quite the image I had of relaxation: a drive to Jacksonville, flight to Atlanta, flight to St. Thomas, an evening at a hotel, and a ferry to the island. It took an hour to get through Customs and then a 20 minute drive across the island through a few harrowing turns and we were deposited at the Sugar Mill Inn.

The rum punch drink I received upon arrival went a long way to helping me begin to relax. We were escorted up the hill to our room and in just a few short minutes we were unpacked, changed and on the way to the beach.

The week went by in a flash. While we did have wireless internet, we did not have a TV in the room (that was part of my wife's "master plan"). No evening news, no newspapers, and very few emails. I didn't totally disengage, but I did cut the connection for the most part.

While the trip was wonderful, we

enjoyed a day sail (well, Sarah did), imbibed in some tropical drinks and delicious meals, and did a lot of reading on the beach, I was ready to come home.

As we were making our way back to Savannah (the reverse of the crazy trip down), I started thinking about coming back "to reality" over the 18 hour trip:

*"How many phone messages would be in my voice mail?"*

*"How many emails would I have on my computer?"*

*"What issues would have to be resolved?"*

Friday morning, after a very sound night's sleep in my own bed, I drove to the JEA, part with dread and part with excitement and got ready for a very difficult day.

I shouldn't have been surprised that when I came into the JEA, "things" were running well. There were no messages in my voice mail, less than thirty emails (none from my leadership), a small pile of mail, and a group of smiling faces welcoming me back. I'm not saying that there were not a few "hiccoughs" and a couple of issues to resolve, but no "911s."

Staff meetings were held, programs provided, and member needs were met. The fact is that we have a great group of people working for the community. They each know their responsibilities, each are good at their jobs, and each have a wonderful work ethic.

When Friday was over, I was happy to go home and celebrate Shabbat, I kind of needed a vacation from my vacation. But I went home with a great feeling of satisfaction in knowing what a great group of people I am surrounded by.



**Israel  
Independence  
Day**

## A Community Celebration of Israel's 67th Birthday

**Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**5-7pm at the JEA**

**Israeli food, music, dancing  
arts & crafts, and more!**

**\$5/person; \$15/family**



# On the Personal Side



Michelle Krebs Levy was recognized at BBYO's recent International Convention in Atlanta with the David Bitker Unsung Hero BBG Advisor of the Year Award. Michelle is the daughter-in-law of Dayle and Aaron Levy, married to their son Rich. She is pictured here with the members of B'yachad BBG #2495 of Atlanta, the chapter she advises, who attended the convention. The woman to her left is her co-advisor. Michelle is the founder and CEO (chief everything officer) of The Sixth Point, a non-profit Jewish engagement organization for young professionals in the Atlanta area.



## 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](http://www.savj.org) or pick one up at the JEA.

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

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



## Don't forget...

The Savannah Jewish News is online at [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org).

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

# To the Editor:

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation:

On behalf of the people that Chimes serves, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for your very kind gift to Chimes Israel's 2014-2015 Annual Fund.

Chimes efforts and accomplishments this past year would not have been possible without your continued resources. Your unyielding support has renewed our strength in making progress throughout the Chimes organization.

Since 1947, Chimes has been helping people with disabilities fulfill their potential; creating a better life for over 18,000 people we serve every day. Your energy has allowed us the capacity to do work, and the power to change lives. Thank you for helping us to continue our legacy.

Sincerely,  
Monica T. Jackson, Asst. Chief  
Development Officer  
Chimes Foundation

Dear Savannah Jewish Federation:

We are deeply grateful to have received your allocation to JTA, the global news service of the Jewish people.

JTA remains committed to creating and reinforcing Jewish community and Jewish identity through our quality news product. JTA is also working to promote a new brand of Internet-based journalism weaving together news, information, advice, analysis and user participation. Your support is critical to the success of the mission.

Thank you so much for your continued recognition of the vital work JTA does each day to keep the global Jewish community informed.

With warmest wishes,  
Ami Eden  
CEO and Editor in Chief  
JTA, The Global Jewish  
News Source

## Savannah Jewish News

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SJF Executive Director: **Adam Solender**  
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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](mailto:sjnews@savj.org)

Please send eNews submissions to:  
[adam@savj.org](mailto:adam@savj.org)

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### Savannah Jewish Federation Mission Statement

Charged with raising, collecting and distributing funds, the SJF seeks to "advance the welfare of the total Jewish community." The Federation strongly supports Israel and world Jewry. Additionally, the organization strives to "preserve the civil, political, economic and religious rights of all Jews" to develop an articulate, intelligent and constructive Jewish community and to promote mutual understanding with the community at-large.



## Editor's Note

You may notice that the *Savannah Jewish News* has a slightly different look and feel. Beginning this month, we're making some changes that we hope will result in cost savings and improved home delivery. We welcome your feedback! Please write to us at [sjnews@savj.org](mailto:sjnews@savj.org) with your thoughts and ideas.

# Anti-Semitism.....from pg 1

itism at 44%.

In general, Orthodox Jewish males have been the most likely targets of anti-Semitism, probably because they are easily identified by dress and appearance. But the survey revealed that on campuses, the reporting victims were 59% female and gave their synagogue denominations as 69% Conservative, 62% Reform, 52% Orthodox (male and female combined). 73% of students active with AIPAC said they were a victim or witness of anti-Semitism compared to 49% of students active with J Street.

Membership in a Jewish campus organization such as Chabad, Hillel or a Jewish fraternity/sorority raises the likelihood of reporting anti-Semitism. Students who reported membership in any of these had some of the highest rates of reporting anti-Semitism. But 59% of the students surveyed who said they are "never open" about being Jewish (a minority of the survey) also reported being victims of or witnessing anti-Semitism, virtually the same as the 58% of those who said they are "always open" about being Jewish.

Since this survey was conducted, the problem of campus anti-Semitism only has been escalating. Sometime on the night of October 4, 2014, at the conclusion of Yom Kippur, swastikas and other offensive graffiti were spray painted on the Alpha Epsilon Pi house at Emory University in Atlanta. This followed an incident of swastikas being painted in the school's library the previous month.

In May of 2014, students at DePaul University in Chicago told *The Jewish Press* that they no longer felt safe on campus. The school was caught up in a "DePaul Divest" campaign where students were being asked to vote on a non-binding resolution asking the university to divest from companies that do business with Israel. One young woman said: "I do kind of feel as a Jewish student that I am being targeted on campus... I have to defend myself, my Judaism, my pride in Israel every day and it's getting a little bit exhausting. I'd like to live and go to a university where everybody can have their own opinions and have a diverse community and feel safe."

In February of this year, Rachel Beyda went before the UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council to be questioned about her qualifications to serve on the school's Judicial Board. She found herself being asked if she thought she would be able to represent students' inter-

ests impartially in light of her Jewish identity and affiliation with the Jewish community. According to reports, four of the nine-member Council voted against Beyda believing she had a conflict of interest because she was Jewish. It was only after the school administrator who oversaw the proceedings stepped in and explained



A student exiting the defiled AEPi house at Emory University last October

the difference between a conflict of interest and a 'perceived conflict of interest' that they reversed their votes and Beyda was approved unanimously. By all accounts, the proceedings were tainted by anti-Semitism, though the four who voted against her apologized later.

Also in May 2014, *Accuracy in Academia* published an article by Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, a lecturer at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and co-founder of a non-profit initiative to combat campus anti-Semitism. She highlighted a number of recent anti-Semitic incidents on campuses that received no response or investigation by their university administrations and also identified a number of professors pursuing anti-Israel and sometimes anti-Semitic activities on various campuses. She called for university administrators to take action.

The authors of the National Demographic Survey of American Jewish College Students also identify university administrators as a problem. They point out that 62% of the students they surveyed have been to Israel, creating "a situation whereby Jewish students have a historical awareness and sensitivity that is lacking in general American society and more sadly among university administrators." They note that one of the principal beachheads that anti-Semitism is finding in America is in academia. The study suggests a number of ways for college authorities to implement policies that would ensure and reinforce effective investigation of anti-Semitism on campus. The authors suggest that otherwise, Jewish students "will feel increasingly uncomfortable."

The report also offers suggestions to Jewish organizations for working with members of the community and college students to deal with the issue of anti-Semitism on campuses and proposes that more attention be paid to the perpetrators, as well.

On the same day the student survey was released, the David Horowitz

Freedom Center, a conservative think tank, released a list of what it considers to be the ten campuses with the worst anti-Semitic activity in the country. They are: Columbia U. (NY, NY), Cornell U. (Ithaca, NY), George Mason U. (Fairfax, VA), Loyola U. (Chicago, IL), Portland State U. (OR), San Diego State U., San Francisco State U., Temple U. (Philadelphia, PA), U. of California, Los Angeles, Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, NY).

The list was released in alphabetical order, though many media outlets mistook it to be listed with the worst offender at the top. The list is one of the first initiatives of "Jew Hatred on Campus," the Center's new campaign to educate the public about anti-Semitic acts on U.S. college campuses and a call for university administrators to withdraw campus privileges from "the hate groups

responsible."

In general, the schools made the list because they "played host to numerous incidents of anti-Jewish acts, such as Israeli Apartheid Week; interrupt[ed] university activities by staging mock 'checkpoints' on campus; [hosted] campus speakers that call for the destruction of the Jewish state; and [had incidents of] verbal or physical harassment and violence against Jewish and pro-Israel students. These anti-Semitic incidents occur on university property, often with the support of university funds, despite the fact that such behavior is explicitly forbidden under campus codes of conduct."

But Jewish leaders at some of the schools on the list took exception. Brian Cohen, executive director of Columbia Barnard's Kraft Center for Jewish Life, told JTA: "I think the reality on the ground is very different than what is represented on the list. If you go to any college campus anywhere, in the United States or Israel, you will come across voices you disagree with. Jewish life on this campus has never been stronger."

Michael Rabkin, executive director of the San Diego chapter of Hillel, told the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, "I can tell you the kind of activities we're seeing at San Diego State are not putting it in a top-10 list of anti-Semitic campuses."

*Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and healthy Pesach.*



*From the Boards and Staff of the Savannah Jewish Federation Jewish Educational Alliance*

# Renovated CMI Museum Open

by Jane Kahn

The all-new Mickve Israel Museum is open! It's brand new, but it tells a compelling story that is 282 years in the making, the story of the third oldest synagogue in America.

Savannah's Jewish history started just five months after General James Edward Oglethorpe landed, on a bluff that is now Bull Street near Bay, to establish the colony of Georgia.

With ceremonial accoutrements brought to Savannah in 1733 by the original Jewish settlers and collected through the years, with a penchant for preserving records and history, with photographs of life cycle events and families through the ages, the Lawrence and Nancy Gutstein Museum details the religious, social and community involvement of the Jewish people and events in Savannah.

"From the beginning, we were here," proclaims the opening words on the timeline introducing the exhibit. "Since the birth of the colony of Georgia and through today, the Jewish community and Congregation Mickve Israel have held a place in the economic, cultural, social, political, and religious life of this region. We proudly share our story..."

The entire history of the congregation is synopsized on the introductory timeline that references the preceding Spanish Inquisition and the expulsion of the Jews in 1492 from Spain; the 34 Jews fleeing Portugal in 1726, settling in England. Seven years later, that connection with London's Bevis Marks Synagogue would lead to the trip to the New World. Just five months after the colony of Georgia was established!

The timeline weaves Mickve Israel's place in history with events occurring in the country and the world—(1790, Mickve Israel receives its charter from the Georgia Legislature—it was just two years earlier that Georgia had become the fourth state; 1820, Mickve Israel erects the first synagogue building in Georgia; 1861, Civil War begins (just 15 years before construction starts on the current sanctuary); 1904, official adoption of Reform practice, (10 years before the beginning of World War I.)

Housed in the 550-square foot area that has been the Mickve Israel Museum since Mordecai Sheftall Hall was built in 2003, it is now more open and spacious, professionally designed, with warm cherry-wood tones, lots of glass and Plexiglas and adjustable lighting. In 1974, in a now demolished building, the original museum opened on a small scale.

Centerpiece of the museum—ac-

tually, displayed in the center of the space—are Mickve Israel's two prized Torah scrolls—documented to be the oldest in the United States. One arrived here in 1733 with the ear-



Inside the renovated Lawrence and Nancy Gutstein Museum.

Mickve Israel's 1733 Torah is shown in the center.

(Photo by Bill Raffel)

ly Jewish settlers and the other, in 1737 as a gift from a member of London's Bevis Marks. Both scrolls are believed to have been handwritten in the 1400s on deerskin.

Enclosed in acrylic and mounted back-to-back at low, easy-to-read angles, the two scrolls are rolled to display four and five columns at a time and will be rotated periodically to protect them from light. The Torah scrolls were recently conserved, cleaned and patched by a professional document conservator, but much of the clear bright ink is thought to be the original, now in their 7<sup>th</sup> century of existence.

And there's more—primary sources including the Sheftall diaries, personal records of one of the first families (descendants are still here in Savannah today), the congregational seal and its charter of incorporation and a beautifully hand-scribed first minutes book of congregational records.

The 1876 cornerstone from the current sanctuary is on the right at the museum's entrance. It's a mere 100 years younger than the nation's Declaration of Independence.

Additionally, the museum has entered the digital age, with two touch screen displays expanding on the items in the cases.

The museum's custom designed displays are organized into five sections with their own histories, stories and ceremonial objects, including: Building for a Congregation, Colonial Congregation, American Congregation, Congregation for Generations, and a Modern Congregation.

"It's what we wanted," said Museum Committee co-chairman Herbert Victor. "A fresh look with a historic welcoming atmosphere. It's powerful. It's all in keeping with the atmo-

sphere the museum committee wanted—it offers greater protection for the documents and highlights them better," Victor said.

"It's special," says John Kohn, parnas (president) of Congregation Mickve Israel. The new museum "reinforces for Mickve Israel congregants the history of what we are part of...the continuation of what started with the landing of the William and Sarah through our Sabbath services every weekend. This is a living, continual, vibrant congregation." And, he added, "It's for us...We welcome tourists to share our history, but this is for us."

Docent-led tours of the Mickve Israel Sanctuary and the museum are available Mondays through Fridays, from



The congregation's original book of minutes and records, on display in the new museum.

(Photo by Ken Chanin)

10am – 3:30pm (closed at lunch time from 1-2pm), except on Jewish and secular holidays. For group tours, contact Debbie Owen at 912 233-1547, or visit [www.mickveisrael.org](http://www.mickveisrael.org).

## Your Campaign Dollars at Work

### Ein Prat – Academy for Leadership



Ein Prat's music group, The Fountainheads, in their Passover music video, Breakin' Free

As part of the 2014 Campaign and Allocations process, the Savannah Jewish Federation reapproved the Overseas Investment Grant program whereby community members recommend overseas agencies to receive \$500 Overseas Investment Grants, with up to 20 being approved. Eighteen submissions were made this year and this continues our introduction to you of the grant recipients.

The Ein Prat Academy for Leadership offers a small group of Israeli teens an opportunity to spend a gap year between high school and military service in intensive study of Jewish texts, volunteer service, community living, army preparation and connecting to the land. The vision of the 'Mechina' is "to develop deep qualities of personal and national responsibility, sensitivity, social attentiveness and a commitment to influence and improve Israeli society and the Jewish people."

Established in 2001, Ein Prat was

one of the first joint mechina programs for religious and secular youth in Israel, and is a model for similar programs throughout the country. It is a springboard for dedicated social entrepreneurship.

A small group of students (who secure a six-month draft deferral), may enroll in the seven-month second year program, which dives deeper into biblical texts, Jewish and Zionist philosophy, and the Arab-Israel conflict.

Ein Prat maintains a strong alumni network and also offers Jewish identity, Zionism and leadership seminars for educational and leadership groups from Israel and abroad at its Rina Morr Zionist Midrasha.

To nominate one of your favorite overseas organizations for a 2015 Overseas Investment Grant, go to [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org). Nominations are due by May 15, 2015.

# Yom HaShoah Events.....from pg 1

family.

In Israel, Bernd joined the Israeli Defense Forces as a medical officer, served for two years in the West Bank during the first Intifada, married and had a son. He and his American-born wife relocated to Florida after the First Gulf War.

Today he is a practicing family physician and an addiction specialist. Dr. Wollschlaeger is the author of three books.

This is a rare opportunity to hear a Nazi's son speak out.

**Yom HaShoah Commemoration: Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, JEA**

Lighting of memorial candles, addresses by community leaders, featured speaker Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger

Preceded by day-long reading of names of the victims of Nazi extermination and Community Student Holocaust Art Exhibit before and after the evening program

**Yom HaShoah Educational Program: Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, JEA Brunch at 10am**

Brunch will be followed by the screening of the film, *Hitler's Children*, followed by a discussion and Q&A.

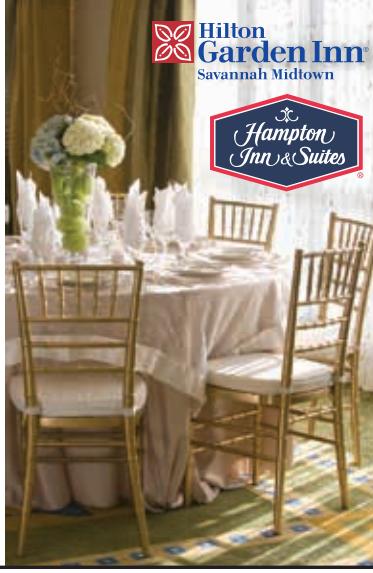
*Hitler's Children* is a film about the descendants of the most powerful figures in the Nazi regime — Himmler, Frank, Goering, Hess. The descendants who were left a legacy that permanently associates them with one of the greatest crimes in history. What is it like for them to have grown up with names that immediately raise images of murder and genocide? How do they cope with the fact that they are the children of Nazis, literally, not just metaphorically? For more than sixty years, they have lived in the shadows, trying to rebuild their lives without constant reminders of what their fathers and grandfathers once did. In *Hitler's Children* they discuss the delicate balance they have reached as they negotiate between the natural admiration that children have toward their parents and their innate revulsion of their parents' crimes.

The film brings to light important questions: How can they protect their families, even as they pass their names down to future generations? And how do they relate to the other side, the victims for whom their very names stir memories of terror that cannot be repressed?

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- Contact Melaina Jaudon at 912-721-5173/Melaina.jaudon@hilton.com



# Local Teens Asked to Join Camp Chavaya

For the past fifteen years, Camp Chavaya, a group of Jewish teens from Israel and New York, has joined a diverse group of Savannah teens to run a camp for one week for children in Savannah who otherwise would not be able to attend camp due to financial limitations. The Camp Chavaya experience also includes a week in Israel and a week in the New York area. For the first time, this year Camp Chavaya is inviting Jewish teens from the Savannah area to join them for this unique and rewarding experience.

The Jewish teens from Israel, New York and Savannah will be together for three weeks that will include a week in Israel, a week in the New York area, and a week here in Savannah where they will work with other local teens to fully program Camp Lighthouse for the younger children. Teens may participate in Camp Chavaya at the subsidized price of \$3,500.

As part of the Savannah leg of the Camp Chavaya program, for the past three years Rabbi Ruven Barkan of Congregation Agudath Achim has led dialogue programs to build bridges of racial and religious understanding between the Jewish, Israeli and Savannah teens. The discussions were

held as part of their orientation to be counselors at Camp Lighthouse. He recently was honored by Savannah Youth City as one of "the visionaries, entrepreneurs, and community leaders within the Savannah-Chatham community," not only for his participation in Camp Chavaya, but also for his vision and tireless work that helped shaped the program.

For more information about Camp Chavaya, please contact Rabbi Barkan at [RabbiBarkan@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiBarkan@gmail.com).

**Note: Local participants in this program may qualify for a Savannah Jewish Federation Teen Experience Scholarship. Applications for scholarships must be submitted by April 3<sup>rd</sup> and are available at [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org).**



Rabbi Ruven Barkan receives recognition from Savannah Youth City for his contributions to the Camp Chavaya/Camp Lighthouse program.



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# Art and Remembrance

by Marcia Neblett

Marcia Neblett is a professor of Foundations, Drawing & Design at Savannah College of Art and Design. She recently lectured in India on a U.S. Fulbright Scholar Grant. In commemoration of Yom HaShoah this month, she writes about her recent visit to the Florida Holocaust Museum.

Recently I traveled to the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg to see an art exhibition by Murray Zimiles, a painter and printmaker from New York. The exhibit featured about 30 works by Zimiles on the theme of the Holocaust that were recently acquired by the museum. These works were created over a period of 14 years and vividly reflect the meaning of the Holocaust to the artist and his own personal loss from this most poignant event in human



from *The Book of Fire*  
Murray Zimiles, large format, circa 1992

history.

As an art teacher, this exhibition made me realize how visual art can be a powerful tool for remembering the Holocaust. Art has the power to convey human horror in a single image. Look at Picasso's painting *Gernica* depicting the atrocities of war, or Kathe Kollwitz's lithograph, *Woman with Dead Child*. A painting can make an impression in an instant with visual symbols that words would take longer to convey. When they say a picture is worth a thousand words, it's true. Art has the ability to capture in a split moment, both the good and the bad, and in this particular case capture and reflect the horrors of this most heinous event in human history.

The Holocaust was an event that is unparalleled in human history for its utter dismissal of the value of human life. Just as it may seem hard to grasp how a human being could treat another without any trace of empathy or humanity, it was an event in history that was so well planned and executed that it needs to be told again and again, lest we forget that something like this can ever happen again. The visual medium serves this purpose well.

Art of the Holocaust must therefore take on this same lasting necessity. The visual arts have unique components distinguishing them from other creative art forms like dance, music or writing. A "dash of expression" for instance, made via charcoal or pencil can be recorded and remembered forever. This physical and visible

stroke is unique to the visual arts. There's immediacy, directness and urgency to the graphic mark that conveys the spirit and emotion of the creator at the time. In the works by Murray Zimiles that were on view at the Florida Holocaust Museum, one sees this powerful and physical mark-making that works well to convey the events of the Holocaust.

When I entered the exhibition, the large scale drawings drew me in immediately for their size. Drawings and mixed media works, like *Aktion, Poland, 1939* and *Fear, Panic and Surrender*, interpreted the Holocaust in a relatively literal manner compared to works made later on. Like black and white film stills, their visual emphasis was on dramatic lighting and stark contrast, creating a powerful graphic impact. Smudging and blurring of the pencil medium suggested the effects of memory and time, while also adding a sense of movement.

Most astonishing of all in this exhibition was *The Book of Fire*. Murray Zimiles created this book to tell the story of the burning of the wooden Polish synagogues. He learned of their beauty and craft, the remarkable geometry and mythic spirituality they embodied, from a book published in Poland after the war. And along with that he came to know of the total and swift destruction by fire of these



*Aktion, Poland, 1939*

Murray Zimiles, graphite on paper, 1987

most beautiful and symbolic structures by the Nazi regime. His artist book is about these synagogues, and it is accordion format in style, a book that runs the entire length of the gallery. Each page is nearly 4x5 feet in size, the height of an adult human. Its stories of heroism and destruction are compelling and touching.

The journey through this exhibit for me, though painful, was rewarding. After I shed my own tears I came to a sobering point of seeing each work of art as a testament to the power of the human will to survive; and each of the pictures led me to a new level of understanding and sympathy.

Murray Zimiles recently retired as Professor of Art & Design at SUNY Purchase College in Westchester, NY, where he taught printmaking for 35 years. As a disclaimer, he was my Professor at Purchase. Though he was my instructor, I still would have reviewed this show. Murray Zimiles now makes art full time and has had several solo art shows since his retirement. His works at the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg can be viewed by appointment.

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# Four Questions for the rest of the year



Dr. Jonathan Sarna

Dr. Jonathan Sarna is the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University, Chief Historian of the National Museum of

American Jewish History in Philadelphia and President of the Association for Jewish Studies. Dubbed by the *Forward* in 2004 as one of America's fifty most influential American Jews, he is a leading commentator on American Jewish history, religion and life. Sarna attended Brandeis University, the Boston Hebrew College, Merkaz HaRav Kook in Jerusalem, and Yale University, where he obtained his doctorate. He has written, edited, or co-edited more than thirty books. His latest, co-authored with Benjamin Shapell, is *Lincoln and the Jews: A History*. Sarna is best known for the acclaimed *American Judaism: A History*, praised as being "the single best description of American Judaism during its 350 years on American soil."

We spoke with Jonathan Sarna just prior to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what he calls the "most remarkable Passover celebrated in the United States," the one observed at the conclusion of the Civil War.

**Is there any indication that Jewish slave owners experienced any sense of irony when celebrating Passover?**

We'd love to believe they did. I only found one case — a man named Abraham Dittenhoefer who grew up in the South then moves to New York and becomes a significant lawyer. In college he becomes anti-slavery and also persuades his father to become a Republican. He learns that Senator Ben Wade once characterized Judah Benjamin as "an Israelite with Egyptian principals." Dittenhoefer writes that struck him with great force — that the Israelite, whose ancestors were enslaved in Egypt, ought not to uphold slavery in free America and could not do so without bringing disgrace upon himself.

There we have the most explicit statement I know of a Jew who couldn't reconcile the Exodus story with slave holding and actually converted from pro-slavery as a child to

anti-slavery.

***There are a number of truisms or perhaps myths, about Jews and slavery in the South. Which of these are true?***

—*Slaves held by Jews practiced Judaism.*

You could maybe find an individual case or two, especially where the slave was the child of a Jewish father and a slave mother — wherever there was slavery, you had those kinds of dalliances. But this would be more common in the Caribbean, not so much in the U.S. And there was no patrilineal descent then, so according to *halacha*, those children would not have been Jewish. There was a case in Charleston and a famous case in Boston, but for the most part it's not clear that they were brought up as Jews. Household slaves got used to the rhythms of a Jewish household, to the Jewish calendar and learned to cook Jewish foods but not many of them converted nor were they welcomed to convert in Southern congregations.

—*Most slaves owned by Jews were 'house' slaves; Jews did not own plantations.*

Judah Benjamin had a plantation for a time as did a few others. You could count on your fingers and toes the number of Jews who owned plantations. The bulk of Jews weren't in the South. Of the 150,000 Jews in the U.S. at that time, there were probably 25,000-30,000 in the Confederacy. Many of them had significant roles in the Confederacy, but it's not a big number. The vast majority were fairly recent immigrants and couldn't afford plantations.

—*Jews treated slaves better than did other Southern whites.*

Bertram Korn wrote the best in depth account on Jews and Southern slavery [*Jews and Negro Slavery in the Old South, 1789-1865*] and he certainly did not conclude this. I find it hard to draw that conclusion. The normative conclusion was that Jews resembled their neighbors. If their neighbors had house slaves, they had house slaves. Some were very good to their slaves; some were very bad to their slaves. Jews took their cue from their neighbors and followed the custom of the land, even though in many ways that local custom was pernicious.

I would add that it's a wicked fallacy to assume that Jews were somehow responsible for the slave trade. That is nonsense. It was a tiny community in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and the truth is the history of slavery in

North America would not be one whit different even if not a single Jew had come to North America, so to blame slavery on Jews has nothing to do with history and everything to do with anti-Semitic propaganda.

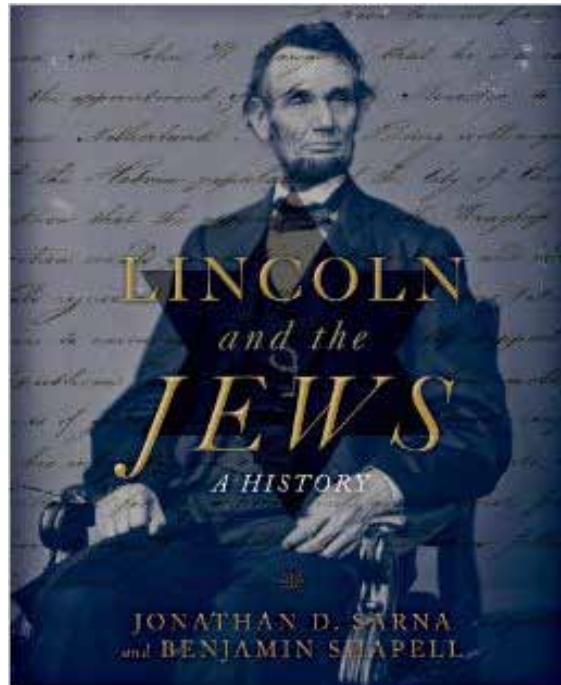
But it's very difficult to paint Jews as being deeply anti-slavery in the way that we might say Quakers, from their religious background, have a deep antipathy to slavery. We don't find that in the Jewish community. There are individual Jews who oppose it and you might argue one of the reasons that central European Jewish immigrants didn't move to slave states was their discomfort with slavery. But Jewish clothing dealers and manufacturers in the North certainly had trade with the South.

***We are seeing a frightening resurgence of anti-Semitism, both in the U.S. and throughout the world. What was anti-Semitism like at the time of the Civil War?***

You had a significant amount of hatred of Jews, even at the highest levels, but the word anti-Semitism hadn't been invented. What distinguishes Abraham Lincoln is he has Jewish friends and associates and holds Jews in high regard. But the generals who surrounded him — Grant, Sherman, Butler — they all make deeply anti-Semitic comments. You can find anti-Semitic comments in the speeches of James Buchanan and even more so in the speeches of Andrew Johnson (the presidents before and after Lincoln). Lincoln is distinctive in his remarkable effort to make Jews equals in America. When the law restricts the military chaplaincy to Christians, he works to change it; when Ulysses S. Grant expels Jews as a class from his war zone, Lincoln overturns it.

Lincoln's very language shifts out of respect for Jewish sensitivities. In his first inaugural address, he uses Christological language. Later on he's much more sensitive. He knew that Jews fell at Gettysburg; there is nothing in the Gettysburg Address that Jews could be offended by. He has created a new vocabulary that makes Jews insiders. Same story with his second inaugural address; it's deeply religious, it could be a sermon, but it's not Christological.

***By the time this is published, your new book, *Lincoln and the Jews*, will be on bookstands. Can you share something from it?***



The surrender at Appomattox Courthouse took place one day before Jews sat down to observe the Passover Seder in 1865 and folks linked those events.

The *New York Herald* reported, "The forefathers of the Jews passed over the Red Sea at the time of which this festival is the anniversary, also the American people seem to have passed over and beyond the red sea of blood which has been spilt so freely during the last four years." Similarly, another paper, the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, pointed to the "coincidence that the modern people of bondage (meaning the Southern slaves) had seen their deliverance confirmed and nearly consummated about the same season of the year as Passover and... they are not unlikely to regard its anniversary with equal reverence."

So, at the end of the Civil War, in the popular mind, with the freeing of the Israelite slaves commemorated on Passover, the links continue. Two days later, on April 11<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln gives his last public address on reconstruction on the second night of Passover, and John Wilkes Booth [a Confederate sympathizer] heard it and understood exactly what Lincoln meant by his timely discussion of freedom. Booth resolved, of course, on the assassination which took place on Shabbat *chol hamoed*, the Friday night of the intermediate Sabbath during Passover. Lincoln goes to Ford's Theater as Jews are sitting down to the fifth day of Passover.

Lincoln is shot, and one of the most important attending physicians is a Jew, Charles Liebermann. He is included in the famous painting, *The Last Hours of Abraham Lincoln* by Alonzo Chappell. Lincoln died the next morning, April 15<sup>th</sup>, and the news spread quickly. Because it was Saturday morning, the earliest eulogies for Lincoln were uttered in synagogues.

# I on Israel

## Repairing the World

Perhaps one of the single most underreported stories about Israel is that of Israelis' worldwide humanitarian efforts.

College campuses are awash in a sea of anti-Israel protests and major media outlets provide a constant barrage of coverage that at best seems lop-sided and at worst, down-right biased against Israel. Only rarely, in the immediacy of a terrible earthquake or conflict, might we see a feature on an Israeli medical team deployed to the disaster or a Palestinian child taken to an Israeli hospital. Occasionally, an unexpected media source such as Vice News or even Al-Jazeera will report on a story such as that of the IDF field hospitals in the Golan Heights quietly treating the victims of the Syrian civil war.

But these acts of *chesed* (loving kindness) actually go on day after day — long after the waters recede, the shelling stops and the camera crews leave. Israeli humanitarian organizations stay in place, often for years, to help rebuild communities ravaged, whether by natural disasters or by violent regimes. Israeli doctors are providing life-saving care and training to some of the most desperate people in the world. Here are some of their stories:

### IsraAID

IsraAID was founded in 2001 as a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to providing life-saving disaster relief and long-term support. Its teams of professional medics, search & rescue squads, post-trauma experts and community mobilizers have been first on the front lines of nearly every major humanitarian crisis in the 21st century. In addition to providing immediate response, its mission is to efficiently support and meet the changing needs of populations as they strive to move from crisis to reconstruction/rehabilitation, and eventually, to sustainable living.

IsraAID believes that the local population must be involved at every stage of a project — from planning to implementation, all the way to final monitoring and evaluation. They build strong connections with all sig-



An IsraAID healthcare worker treats a victim of the Haiti earthquake. Five years later, IsraAID is still on the ground in Haiti.

nificant parties where they operate, including government, international and national organizations, and the local communities themselves.

In addition to providing immediate, short-term response to disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, the Oklahoma tornadoes, a cyclone in Myanmar, an earthquake in Peru and many other natural or refugee crises, IsraAID has established local, long-term programs to aid in the recovery efforts from the earthquakes in Haiti in 2010 and Japan in 2011, the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan, the development of South Sudan, and much more. Their staff and volunteers are deployed in more than a half-dozen countries around the world working with local groups to rebuild infrastructure, provide drought and famine relief, trauma assistance and other services to meet the humanitarian needs of the populations being served.

A look at the list of IsraAID's donors and partners shows a variety of North American Jewish Federations and other Jewish organizations, foundations, international relief groups, the State of Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Mormon Church, among others.

### Save a Child's Heart

Save a Child's Heart (SACH) was established with the mission to both provide critical pediatric cardiac care to children and to train medical personnel from developing countries in the specialty. It was founded in 1995 by Dr. Ami Cohen, who immigrated to Israel in 1992 from the U.S. (and died suddenly in 2001). Cohen joined

the staff of Edith Wolfson Medical Center in Holon (about 4 miles south of Tel Aviv), became head of pediatric cardiac surgery and had the idea to start SACH after having participated in something similar while serving as a doctor with the U.S. Armed Forces in Korea.

SACH is active in Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia, where hundreds of thousands of children are born each year with surgically treatable heart problems

but often face certain death by age 20 because they do not receive proper treatment. Based out of Wolfson, their medical team now includes more than 70 doctors, nurses and paramedics. All children, regardless of race, creed, color, sex or religion are treated free of charge with the finest cutting-edge technology available at Wolfson Medical Center. SACH has operated on hundreds and treated thousands of children and boasts an astounding success rate of 96%.

Last summer, just before the ceasefire with Gaza that ended Operation Protective Edge, an officer from the Palestinian Authority in Gaza brought his young daughter to SACH for a lifesaving operation. Dr. Lior Sasson, the lead surgeon for SACH, performed open-heart surgery on 10-month old Fajar, assisted by the Palestinian and Ethiopian doctors training with him.



A recovering SACH patient and mother

Fajar recovered at Wolfson along with children from around the region and the world — Syria, Iraq, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Romania. At the time, SACH spokeswoman Tam-

ar Shapira related this story to ISRAEL21c:

"In the bed next to her in the pediatric intensive care unit is little Rumaisa, a two-week-old baby girl from Gaza who had an extremely complex heart surgery last week. Rumaisa arrived in an ambulance from Gaza in one of the most difficult days of the fighting in Gaza. She arrived in a very bad condition and the doctors needed a few days to stabilize her condition before operating. She is now recovering nicely and her grandmother, who doesn't leave her bedside, is finally smiling." Fajar's older sister, now two, also has cardiac issues, but luckily also is a SACH patient.

### Israeli Flying Aid

As you would expect in a country born from the pluck of the Irgun and Haganah, even when it comes to humanitarian aid, Israel has its rebels. Israeli Flying Aid (IFA) was founded in 2005 by Gal Lusky, a former flight attendant, with the motto, *nobody asks permission to take a life; we don't ask permission to save one*.

IFA aims to provide food, medical assistance and other post-trauma/life-saving relief to communities in areas stricken by natural disaster or territorial conflicts. They are not afraid to operate in places where local regimes prevent entry from formal international humanitarian organizations or to focus on countries that lack diplomatic relations with Israel, "transcending differences, prejudices, race, nationality, religion and creed."

IFA performed search and rescue missions during Hurricane Katrina,

delivered food and other supplies for tsunami and cyclone relief in the Pacific, has helped locate missing travelers and backpackers, and has assisted in delivering ambulances and hundreds of thousands of meals to Syrian rebels opposing the regime of Bashar al-Assad.

Lusky told the (Los Angeles) Jewish Journal that she got in trouble with one of the Syrian rebel commanders when he found out she was an Israeli Jew.



The Jewish Educational Alliance presents a monthly program guide:



# CENTERPIECE

Jewish Educational Alliance

April 2015



## Children's Programming



### JEA Camp Savannah June 1 - July 31, 2015

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

Visit [www.SavannahJEA.org](http://www.SavannahJEA.org) to download camp brochure and registration paperwork.

### Jewish Educational Alliance's Spring Days @ the JEA

The JEA offers year-round vacation programming for children pre K-8th grade. Your child will enjoy Days @ the JEA as each are packed with activities such as field trips, swimming, cooking, sports and arts and crafts!

#### Upcoming Days @ the JEA:

April 3rd-9th - Spring Break  
May 26th-29th

Member Prices: \$30.00 per day

Non-Member Prices: \$40.00 per day

Please call 355-8111 or email DJ Horton at [kids@savj.org](mailto:kids@savj.org) for more information.

### 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:** WSI-Certified Swimming Instructors, Middle School Counselors (Counselors who specialize in working with middle school children)

Counselor Application available online at [www.SavannahJEA.org](http://www.SavannahJEA.org).



## 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](mailto:MStarArts@gmail.com).

### Lunch Bunch - Every Thursday 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Join us for Thursday Lunch Bunch! Visit with old friends and meet new ones, enjoy lunch followed by an educational speaker or performer.

[April 2nd](#) - Preschool Savannah celebrates Passover with Lunch Bunch.

[April 9th](#) - Passover Break - No Lunch Bunch

[April 16th](#) - Commemorate Yom HaShoah with a collection of heroic short films.

[April 23rd](#) - Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day) talk with Motti Locker.

[April 30th](#) - "Remembering the 60's" Trivia Day hosted by Bob Schwartz and Mike Strear.

Come Together as One  
Savannah Jewish  
Community for

Wednesday, May 27, 2015  
Game time is 7:05 p.m.  
Cost: \$5/ticket



Purchase tickets and get more information  
at [savj.org](http://savj.org) or by calling 912-355-8111.

Savannah Jewish Federation



# Health & Wellness

## Spring Clean Your Fitness Routine



Stephanie Johnson  
Health & Wellness  
Director

It's that time of year again -- the clouds are starting to lift, the sun's shining and those thick sweaters in the closet are about to go into storage. It's the perfect time to re-ignite your motivation by breaking away from your boring gym routine and embracing the great outdoors. Kick off spring with a healthy start by getting

the right gear, revamping your routine and doing some "spring cleaning" in your pantry. Here are some simple tips to get you started.

### Book a Physical

Only about 20 percent of Americans get an annual check-up. Be one of them! While you might look and feel just fine, it's important to keep tabs on things like blood pressure, cholesterol, and vitamin deficiencies before designing your workout program.

### Set a Schedule... But Be Realistic

If you haven't been working out much this winter, don't write down that you'll do outdoor cardio exercises for 30 minutes a day, six days a week. You'll only find yourself getting frustrated and will be more likely to give up on your workout program. Post your exercise plan in places you'll look frequently, like the calendar app on your smartphone or on your desk at work.

### Team Up

You're more likely to stick with your plan if you've got a partner in crime. Choose someone who has similar goals and whose schedule fits with your own. Your best bet: Get together at the same time four days a week, whether it's before work or just before dinner.

### Buy New Running Shoes

If you've been hitting the gym (and the treadmill) all winter, chances are, you're due for a new pair. Most running shoes last somewhere between 300 and 400 miles -- but if you use them to walk around or do other parts of your gym routine, that wear and tear counts, too. Go to a running specialty store to get fitted, and have them look at your gait/pronation to find the best shoe for you.

### Clean Out Your Pantry

Still have that tin of popcorn from the holidays or a box of chocolates from Valentine's Day? Get rid of them. And while you're at it, throw away other foods low in nutritional value like chips, pretzels, sugary cereals, white bread and, yes, even those 100 calorie snack packs (a cookie is still a cookie, even if you flatten it and drop five in a bag).

These are just 5 suggestions. I have fifteen (15) more ideas that will help you re-ignite your fitness routine. Check back here next month!

## Winter Fitness Classes

### Sunday

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

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

5:00 am - Master Swim  
8:30 am - Firm It Up  
10:00 am - Sun Flow Yoga  
10:30 am - SilverSneakers Classic  
6:00 pm - Billy's Boot Camp  
6:00 pm - Evening Water Aerobics

### Thursday

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

### Friday

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



Young Jewish Savannah is about creating relationships and getting to know the community.

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?

Join Jamie for coffee! [yjs@savj.org](mailto:yjs@savj.org).



Join Young Jewish Savannah for PB&J (Pizza, Beer and Judaism)! On the third Monday of each month, 7-8:30 pm, you are invited to hang out at the JEA and talk about Jewish topics with a modern twist! Of course, pizza and beer will be provided!

Are you young (22-40), Jewish and living in the Savannah area? We hope you'll participate in one of Young Jewish Savannah's Judaic, social or community service programs. Contact Jamie Cahn, (912) 355-8111 or [yjs@savj.org](mailto:yjs@savj.org) for more information.



## JEA Preschool Savannah News

## Enroll Now for 2015-16

- 16-months through 4-years old
- Half-day and full-day options
- 2, 3 and 5-day options for the toddlers and two-year-olds
- For full details, visit our website at [www.savannahjea.org](http://www.savannahjea.org)

Contact Jodi Sadler, Director, at [Jodi@savj.org](mailto:Jodi@savj.org) or 912-355-8111

## Summer Program

- June 1st-July 31st
- Open to children ages 16 months to 4 years
- Weekly Shabbat celebrations
- Swimming lessons for children age 4
- Hands-on experiences and activities
- Special guests
- Half-day and full-day options

See [www.SavannahJEA.org](http://www.SavannahJEA.org) for more information and registration form



## Jodi's Trip to Israel

Recently, our Director, Jodi Sadler, took a trip to Israel. See her at the train station in Jerusalem in photo 1. She even met up with Maia Koiller, our former Shlucha (photo 2). Jodi has lots of interesting stories about her trip! See them in her column elsewhere in this issue.

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



## JEA Art Gallery



April Artist:  
Robert Segall



Robert Segall is a Savannah native. In the past 10 years, he has devoted his artistic efforts to oil painting. He is largely self-taught, but has studied with Telfair and Jepson art instructor Carl Fugeronne, Savannah artist Zola Delburn, and Charlotte Segall, his niece and an honor graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design.

His subject matter varies widely, from Savannah land and seascapes to portraits, still life and famous jazz musicians. He has also been commissioned for architectural renderings. His love of Savannah and its surrounding waterways is evident in many of his works, as are the images he's created of the jazz music and musicians to whom he owes so much of his inspiration.

His work has been displayed at the Telfair Art Fair, as well as the Horizon Gallery, Soho Gallery and many others. He has had several solo shows, a number of Savannah Art Association group exhibitions, and has had a number of his jazz portraits featured at the 18th Annual Black Heritage Festival.

For Robert, art is that joyous marriage of one's visualization and one's imagination, and for the artist, there can be no greater union.

Artwork available for viewing April 1-30, 2015  
Art Gallery Reception April 16th, 5:00-6:30 pm

## New JEA Members

The JEA would like to thank our members. Without your membership and support, we would not be able to offer all the services that we do. Our members are our most important asset!  
(New Members as of 2/1/15-3/6/15)

Jane Alpert  
Wayne Anderson  
Michael Butler  
Kirk & Bartlette DeWitt  
Tim & Emily Doherty  
Michael Elston

Marlowe Fox  
Ryan Holloway & Maxine Florio  
Malinda Gwyn-Thornton  
Gonzalo Hurtado  
Gary & Buffie Lee  
Arthur & Nancy Mackler  
Gerald Orlikowski & Barbara Harris  
Judith Parker  
Matthew Price  
Joan Silver  
Shawn & Kristi Smith  
Laura Summerlin  
Richard & Jutta Zaplinski

## JEA Donations

(February 4-March 4, 2015)

### ARKIN-CLARK GARDEN FUND

In memory of Ralph Dolgoff  
Nancie & Fred Clark

### JEA BUILDING FUND

In honor of Renee & Russell Bridges  
Arlene & Allan Ratner  
Carole & Jerald Cohen  
Lynn & Dick Berkowitz

In honor of Suzanne & Michael Konter

Arlene & Allan Ratner  
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Lynn & Dick Berkowitz

In honor of Sally & Steve Greenberg

Arlene & Allan Ratner  
Carole & Jerald Cohen  
Lynn & Dick Berkowitz

In memory of Ralph Dolgoff

In memory of Larry Waggoner

In memory of Henry Kaplan

In honor of Staci Robbins

Arlene & Allan Ratner

In honor of Marcy & Jerry Konter  
Arlene & Allan Ratner  
Lynn & Dick Berkowitz

### JEA GENERAL DONATIONS

In honor of Jane Winter  
Arlene & Allan Ratner

**JACK M. & MIRIAM S. LEVY CONCERT FUND**  
In honor of Dayle & Aaron Levy  
Merry & Richard Bodziner

**BERTHA & HYMIE KANTER YOUNG AT HEART FUND**

In memory of Larry Waggoner  
In memory of Pearl Baker  
In memory of Henry Kaplan  
Sally & Steve Greenberg

### HARVEY RUBIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Isie Rubin  
In honor of Brett Levine  
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**HENRY W. CENTER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Candace Peagler  
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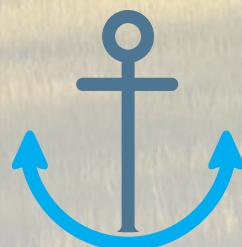
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# JEA CAMP SAVANNAH IS NOW HIRING SUMMER CAMP STAFF!

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  
A great way to fulfill your public service requirement and have fun at the same time.

**Specialty Counselors:** WSI-Certified Swimming Instructors  
Middle School Counselors (counselors who specialize in working with middle school children)

**Those applying should possess the following qualities:**

- Knowledge and experience working in a camp setting or with children.
- Ability to be an excellent role model, exuding maturity while still remaining youthful.
- Must be responsible, creative, motivated and professional.
- Flexibility with regard to tasks, work hours and changes in program.
- Ability to positively relate to children, coworkers and parents alike.

Counselor Application available online at [www.SavannahJEA.org](http://www.SavannahJEA.org).



For more information, please contact

**JEA Camp Director**

DJ Horton at 355-8111 x225 or

**JEA Camp Registrar**

Anna Berwitz at 355-8111 x211



# The Savannah Jewish Federation Gratefully Thanks Our Contributors

## SJF ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of Sam Jospin  
In honor of Sarah Kovensky  
In honor of Martin Karp  
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## SJF GENERAL FUND

In memory of Ralph Dolgoff  
In memory of Larry Wagger  
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## TIKVAH FUND

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## OVERSEAS NEEDS FUND

A donation was made by  
Ellen Busch

## JULIUS RUDIKOFF HEALTH CLUB & ATHLETIC FUND

In honor of Lynn & Dick Berkowitz  
Connie & Tom Glaser

Contributions to the Savannah Jewish Federation may be made on our secure website at [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org) or by calling 912-355-8111.



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## SAVE THE DATE

### Jewish Educational Alliance 2015 Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**7pm**

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



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Sign up today and receive a top rated Jewish book or CD FREE every month! This is the perfect way to share time with your children, share our heritage, and learn the rich values of Judaism.

The PJ Library in Greater Savannah is available to children six months to 8 years old and is a gift of Jane Slotin, Nancy and Leon Slotin, the Savannah Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Go to [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org) to register for The PJ Library, It's FREE!



## New to Savannah?

If you are new to Savannah and would like to become a member of Hadassah

or

if you would like to transfer your membership to the Savannah Chapter please join us



Tuesday, April 28th  
10:00 AM  
at the home of Sue and Ira Ruby:  
204 W. Jones St.,  
Savannah, GA 31401  
RSVP to Sue: [Iruby64@comcast.net](mailto:Iruby64@comcast.net)

# Condolences

We express our sympathy to the families of:

Ronald E. "Ronnie" Haysman  
Who died March 10, 2015

He is survived by his wife, Marsha Faye Finkelstein Haysman; two sons, Arnold J. (Janelle) Haysman and Alan Michael (Petra) Haysman; two daughters, Cheryl Haysman Collins and Sheila Haysman Bracewell; five grandchildren; two brothers, Dr. Melvin (Roberta Kamine-) Haysman, and Neil Haysman, and a number of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Dr. Philip Haysman and Steven Haysman.

Remembrances: The Florence Haysman Silver Fund, c/o Congregation Agudath Achim, 9 Lee Blvd., Savannah 31405.

## Sonia Robbins Greenfield

Sonia Robbins Greenfield died March 12 at age 78. She was cherished by her family and friends for her generous and grace-filled nature, compassion for all, love of life, and playful, gentle sense of humor. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Dr. Mickey Greenfield and their three daughters, Sharon Mueller, Lori Greenfield, and Tina Ronder, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Born in 1937 in Savannah, GA to Anne and Norman Robbins, Sonia is survived by her three siblings, Harry Robbins, Shirley Ghingold, and Deanna Allswang. She graduated from the University of Georgia in 1958 and did graduate studies at Georgia Southern. Sonia married Dr. Mickey Greenfield in 1957 in Savannah where they lived and raised their family until 1989. At that time they moved to Jacksonville, FL and founded Greenfield Center, an addiction treatment facility. The center has been in continuous operation ever since.

Sonia enjoyed being healthy, active and outdoors her entire life. She was an avid tennis player, loved taking walks, and being at the beach. Described as beautiful person inside and out, she was the most fun, caring, loving wife, mother, Nana, and friend anyone could have. A life well lived cannot be diminished by death. The beauty and guidance she provided will shine on as brightly as ever.

Graveside services were held Friday, March 13, 2015 at Greenlawn Cemetery (King David), Jacksonville.

**Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home of Mandarin**

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# LASTING LEGACIES

One of the very first endowed funds created after the establishment of the Jewish Community Foundation of Savannah was the **Charles and Josephine Lorant Glauber Fund for Senior Needs**. The fund was created in December of 1995 by Josephine's nephew, Charles Lorant, a little more than a year after her death. Charles Glauber had died in January of 1986.

Charles and Josephine Glauber were Holocaust survivors who arrived in Savannah after being forced to leave Nazi-occupied Slovenia, first for Italy. Their nephew Charles tells the story of the family's experiences in a compelling oral history that may be viewed on the website of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Various members of the Lorant family had settled in Italy in a hushed but hopeful existence until 1943, when the Italians signed the armistice and the Germans occupied Italy as they had much of the rest of Europe. Jews in Italy then were forced to flee or go underground. It seems that Charles and Josephine and several other members of Josephine's family, including her parents, headed for Switzerland. Most made it, though at least one of Josephine's siblings and their family were captured by the Na-

zis and perished. Some of the family remained in Switzerland; some made their way to the United States, including Charles and Josephine, who settled in Savannah soon after. Later, Josephine would bring her mother here to live, too.

Despite the fact that their family spent many of their earlier years on the run, Charles Glauber lived to just shy of his 87th birthday and Josephine lived to be 96. Their nephew chose to perpetuate their memories by establishing the Charles and Josephine Lorant Glauber Fund for Senior Needs, whose income will be used as long as the Jewish community exists to help see that the senior population is cared for with whatever assistance they may require.

## 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.

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**Studies show that Jewish camping is a powerful way to build strong Jewish identity and commitment in young people.**

***Our parents think we're just having fun***

Thanks to the generosity of the Annual Campaign, the SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION is offering scholarships for Jewish resident summer camps such as Camp Coleman, Barney Medintz, Ramah Darom, Judea, Blue Star and others.

**LIMITED FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE**  
Download a "Summer Experience Scholarship" application at [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org)

**DEADLINE: APRIL 3, 2015**



# MOVIE SPIEL

by Bonnie Strongin



Leonard Nimoy  
1931-2015

Born to immigrant Ukrainian Orthodox Jewish parents, Leonard Simon Nimoy was laid to rest in early March. His death was caused by chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder [COPD], the deadly dividend from decades of excessive smoking.

A Renaissance man, he was renowned as an actor, film director, photographer, singer and songwriter. He began acting in children's theaters at the age of eight and took drama classes in addition to later studying photography.

Graduating with an MA in Education, he also received two honorary doctorates for activism in Holocaust Remembrance, studies in the environment, the arts and humanities.

Active in the Jewish community, Nimoy engaged in a number of artistic endeavors to support Judaism and the documentation of the Holocaust. Among them was a movie for TNT, *Never Forget*, which protested organizations refuting the existence of the Holocaust.

He portrayed Golda Meir's husband opposite Ingrid Bergman in *A Woman Called Golda*, for which he received an Emmy nomination. On stage, he appeared in other shows with Jewish themes: *Fiddler on the Roof* (as Tevye) and *The Man in the Glass Booth*.

Nimoy went on to narrate the documentary, *A Life Apart: Hasidism in America* and published *The Shekhina Project*, his original photography inspired by the Kabbalah.

All this against the backdrop of dozens of other artistic successes spanning the years.

But nothing, *nothing* comes as close to putting him front and center before an enduring, adoring public as did his role of Mr. Spock in *Star*



Leonard Nimoy as the iconic Mr. Spock

*Trek*, both TV series and film. Voted by *TV Guide* as one of the fifty most memorable TV characters, he is half Vulcan/half human, filled with logic and rational thinking, unaffected by emotion.

*Rotten Tomatoes* said, "Spock was used as a device to examine humanity and what it meant to be human." On the bridge of the Starship Enterprise, he was part of a system of checks and balances. A tripod of reaction, Spock symbolized logic and rational thinking; Captain Kirk, passion and spirit; Dr. McCoy (better known as Bones),

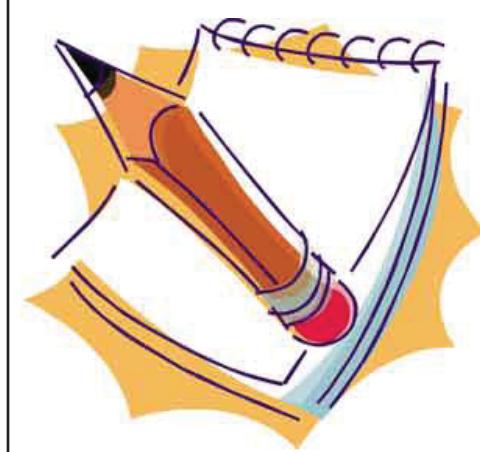
The aliens were metaphors for humans; their situations paralleled foreign policy and contemporary current events: genocide, pollution, war; their private problems reflected our humanity. It was entertainment that made you *think!*

Leonard Nimoy, celebrated actor and man of letters, created an iconic character that shaped pop culture and left us with these words:

Live Long and Prosper  
Mr. Spock-1966

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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](mailto:sjnews@savj.org).

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## The JEA presents the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Concert



Sunday  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

More details  
coming soon!

Sponsored by the Jack Malitz and Miriam Slotin Levy Memorial Fund

Visit [www.SavannahJEA.org](http://www.SavannahJEA.org)  
for more information.





## 20th Anniversary Tour of SCAD

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

The Savannah Jewish Archives, in recognition of its 20th anniversary, is offering a tour of some of the SCAD buildings with direct connections to Savannah's Jewish community. The tour will take place on Sunday, May 3, 2:00-4:00pm. This tour is for members only, with a charge of \$15 per person for bus rental. Meet at ShopSCAD (the old Armory) at 340 Bull Street promptly at 1:45pm. This tour is limited to only 30 people, so send your check as soon as possible, no later than April 19.

**Sunday, May 3rd, 2015**

**2:00—4:00pm**

**\$15 per person**

Send your check, made out to Savannah Jewish Archives, to Sharon Galin, 426 Abercorn St. Savannah, GA 31401

*Limited to the first 30 people to RSVP  
Archives members only*



*The SCAD Student Center, once Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob's synagogue*

## The Savannah Jewish Federation is eXcited to present



**eXplore New Opportunities • eXchange Ideas**

**eXpand Your Network • Learn from eXperts**

**Thursday, June 18, 2015**

**5:30 - 7pm**

**Jewish Educational Alliance**

**Networking Happy Hour with**

**David Herskovits**

**CEO of Energiya USA**

Energiya USA is the U.S. affiliate of Israel's **Energiya Global Capital**, an international solar development firm. They are constructing a \$30 million, 17.68 megawatt solar field in southeastern Georgia, the first utility scale solar project in the region.

## JEWISH TEENS:

### Experience/Education Scholarships available

Scholarships will be awarded to individuals for Jewish teen education experiences that will enrich the recipients, enhance the community, and increase the likelihood of future engagement with Jewish life.

### TEENS MAY REQUEST SCHOLARSHIPS FOR:

- Conventions
- Jewish youth group summer programs
- Leadership development programs



Scholarships are provided by the SAVANNAH JEWISH FEDERATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN on a non-needs basis

**DEADLINE: APRIL 3, 2015**

**LIMITED FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE**

*And don't forget to apply for the*  
Henry W. Center College Scholarship  
Jacob & Ida Ulman Scholarship  
Kay Becker Israel Scholarship  
Harvey Rubin Memorial Award

All applications available at  
[www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org)



To RSVP or for more information, call Jamie Cahn at 912-355-8111 or email [campaign@savj.org](mailto:campaign@savj.org).

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

## April Services

- April 3: Kabbalat Shabbat Musical Service, 6pm
- April 4: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- April 10: Yizkor Service, 11am  
Kabbalat Shabbat Choir Service, 6pm
- April 11: Shabbat Morning Service Honoring Ushers, 11am
- April 17: Tot Shabbat, 5:30pm  
Family Service & Movie Night, starting at 7pm
- April 18: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am
- April 24: Jazz Shabbat Service, 6pm
- April 25: Shabbat Morning Service, 11am

*Everyone is welcome to join us for our services and events!*

Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter by contacting [kayla@mickveisrael.org](mailto:kayla@mickveisrael.org), or by texting CMI to 42828.

For more information visit [mickveisrael.org](http://mickveisrael.org)  
To RSVP for an event: call 912.233.1547

## Tasting for the Temple SILENT AUCTION & DINNER



RSVP to [kayla@mickveisrael.org](mailto:kayla@mickveisrael.org)

May 7<sup>th</sup>  
at 45 Bistro  
(123 E Broughton St.)  
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Rabbi Ruven Barkan

For further information contact us at 912-352-4737, or email us at [Agudatha@aol.com](mailto:Agudatha@aol.com)

## Happy and Joyful Passover

## חג פסח כשר וישמחה



### SHABBAT SERVICES:

Friday 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

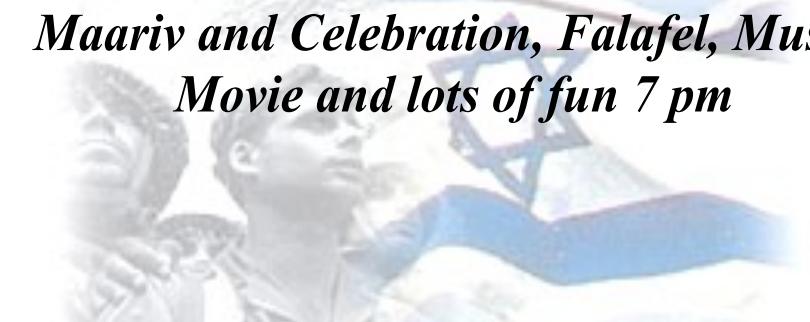
Saturday 9:15 am Shabbat Service & Kiddush Luncheon

Saturday Evenings Mincha/Maariv & Havdalah

## Israel Independence Day Wednesday, April 22nd

Mincha and Memorial service for fallen Israeli Soldiers 6 pm

Maariv and Celebration, Falafel, Music, Movie and lots of fun 7 pm



### DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 9:00 am & 6:00 pm, Monday & Thursday 7:00 am & 6:00 pm

Tuesday 7:30 am & 6:00 pm, Wednesday 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

Friday Shacharit 7:00 am & Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 pm

# It's a Funny Thing



Melinda Stein

Rabbi Friedman asked one of his congregants, Esther, how things were going with her mother.

"Well, she's a difficult person, Rabbi," Esther said. She then went on to relay all of the problems that she was having with her mom, but ended with, "Well, I suppose we all have issues."

"Issues?" said Rabbi Friedman. "Sounds like your mother's got a year's subscription."

"Oy, am I getting worried about my memory!" says 75-year-old Rachel to her best friend Sarah.

"Nu, so why is that?" asks Sarah.

"Because every time I want to do online banking, I just can't remember my password. I have to try many times before I enter the right code. Do you have such a problem?" says Rachel.

"No I don't," replies Sarah. "I've found a way around that."

"So what do you do?" asks Rachel.

"I changed my password to 'INCORRECT,'" replies Sarah. "Then, if I enter a different code, my computer tells me, 'Your password is incorrect.'"

Two of Jerusalem's most eccentric characters are standing by the side of the road holding up a sign that reads, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!"

"Go away, you religious fanatics!" yells a driver as he speeds by.

Suddenly, from around the curve they hear screeching tires and a huge splash.

"Do you think," says one eccentric to the other, "we should have just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out Ahead'?"

At his 103rd birthday party, the Rubenstein family gathered around Zadie Hymie for cake and words of wisdom.

"So, Zadie," asked little Stevie, "Are you going to be around for your 104th birthday party?"

"I certainly will," Zadie replied.

"How can you be so sure?" Stevie asked.

"Well," Zadie replied, "Statistics show that very few people die between the ages of 103 and 104."

A new forestry graduate received his first posting way out in the wilderness, miles from civilization (known in Yiddish as *yenem velt*). Included in his survival gear was a recipe for matzoh balls.

"What on earth is this for?" he questioned his boss.

"Trust me, you'll need it," came the answer. "A few years down the road, the solitude will get to you and you'll pull out the recipe and start to mix it together."

"And that will help me how?"

"Within minutes you'll have half a dozen Jewish women hovering over you, telling you what you're doing wrong!"



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Jodi Sadler,  
JEA Director of  
Early Childhood  
Education

## And So the Stories Go...

JECELI (Jewish Early Childhood Education Leadership Institute) Israel Experience 2015 was a ten day journey to Israel that was an amazing learning experience for me personally and as an early childhood professional.

The group was made up of sixteen early childhood teachers and directors, four mentors, one JECELI director, and two Israeli educators/guides for a total of twenty three people traveling and learning in the land of Israel. We learned about the history of the land, the people, and the early childhood educational system there. This journey will be told through the experiential stories.

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> — I arrive early at the airport with Kenneth, the birthday man. Excitement, apprehension, and a bit of sadness were in my thoughts as we waited for me to board the plane. I was excited about the long-awaited trip to Israel; it had been fifteen years since my last visit. I was a bit nervous about the long plane ride and leaving my parents who were struggling with some medical issues. I was feeling sad because I was leaving my husband on his birthday. But as we waited in the airport square, I saw what real sadness was.

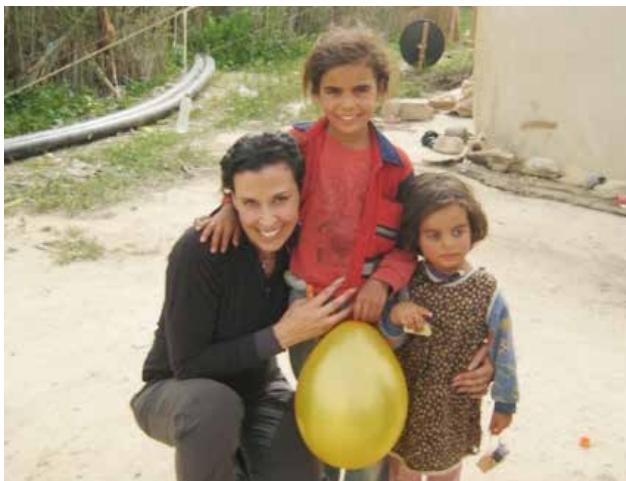
Across the way, Kenneth and I saw a military man, his wife and elementary-age son standing together and talking. Then it happened, the moment they were all dreading; the time they needed to say goodbye. We watched the hugs, kisses, touching of each other's faces, more hugs and then the tears from the wife and son.

## Repairing the World.....from pg 10

Although Lusky had provided critical humanitarian assistance to his group, the commander could not stomach that she was the 'Zionist enemy.'

"Let me finish with them [the Syrian government], and then I'm coming for you," he told her.

The problem for the commander, though, was that there was no consensus in his 'party' to get rid of Lusky's group. As Lusky explained it to [the Jewish Journal], many Syrians in the rebel party were sympathetic to her



Gal Lusky, CEO and founder of Israeli Flying Aid, with Syrian children

group because they saw how these Jews were risking their lives to help them." Eventually the rebel group splintered over the issue.

Then came tears of my own. I had no idea how long the military man would be away or what his mission would entail. What I did know was that he was going to serve our country and leaving his family behind.

At that moment I thanked him in my heart for his service. I tried to find him to personally thank him when I went through security but had no success. What a scene for me to experience to begin my journey to Israel. It made me reflect on how lucky I am to live in America and to have all kinds of freedoms this soldier protects. I also was excited to embark on this adventure of learning more about Israel and to meet the people who make up the fabric of this special place.

I also was looking forward to reconnecting with my colleagues whom I had bonded with in New York last summer. Most of the group met in Philadelphia for the flight to Israel and you could see and hear the excitement and anticipation when we all met up together.

Upon arriving in Israel, we met our ECE guide for the trip, Shira Ackerman Simchovitch. Shira is the director of early childhood at the TALI School Fund where she oversees training and materials for more than 120 preschool classes in Israel. She also is the director of educational content and outreach for Shalom Sesame, the Israeli version of Sesame Street. Who better to guide us on this experience?

Our first experience was at *Beit Shean*, a Moshav in the north. We were warmly welcomed by the director of *Gan Ner*, a cluster preschool that houses secular, religious, and special needs children. I was deeply moved by the hospitality shown to us. The table was set with delicious jam made

by the children, fruits, breads, and drinks. In addition, the children had prepared an adorable special dance for us. At the conclusion, three precious five-year-olds stood in the middle of the circle and held a big Israeli flag. We all began to sing the *Hatikvah*. I was all *ferklempt* (that feeling you get when something makes you well up inside and you're on the verge of tears) and could barely sing. It was just the first of many emotional moments for me during these ten days!

We toured the classrooms and met the children and teachers. Two of the boys really enjoyed playing with *Tzardi*, my stuffed frog who was my traveling companion – a sort of ambassador from JEA Preschool Savannah! We saw the beautiful birthday throne made out of paper mache the children and teachers had created and how each child's art work was displayed in their own designated picture frame.



The paper mache birthday throne created by the children and teachers at Gan Ner. Shira Ackerman Simchovitch is on the left.



*Tzardi* leaps into a little mischief while visiting Israel.

I came away with some new ideas and activities for our classrooms, so stay tuned for more news on those and more about my trip!

Wishing everyone a *Chag Pesach Sameach*.

## Celebrating a simcha? (Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, engagements, weddings, births.)

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## Better Together

In the story of Purim when the evil Haman approaches King Achashvairosh to destroy the Jews, he was speaking to someone who hated

the Jews as much as he did; however, Achashvairosh was not a complete fool. He showed Haman that all those before him who had tried to destroy the Jews found themselves being eradicated. Haman, also not being a complete fool very wisely pointed out to Achashvairosh the reason for all the other's downfall was due to the unity of the Jewish people.

Even in the time of King David, many lives were lost in battle and King David was a tremendously righteous individual. Yet when Achav, also a king of the Jewish people at one time led the Jews into battle, not one life was lost. Achav was a terrible king for the Jews; he brought idol worship and other concepts that diametrically oppose our heritage into the fold of our people. Why was he successful and not David Hamelech? Because in Achav's time, the Jewish people were united as one. Throughout our history no matter what the Jewish people were doing, G-d favored them if they were UNIFIED.

Haman convinced Achashvairosh to destroy the Jews because he described them as separated from one another, dispersed throughout the country. What was Haman portraying? A lack of unity and therefore an assurance of success.

Purim has just passed and Passover is upon us. Where do we fall? Are we united or are we dispersed? Are we tolerant and respectful of others or judgmental? Dispersed means more than physically miles apart. Are we separated by intolerance, by discrimination?

The Torah has 600,000 words found within it. 600,000 Jews left Mitzrayim. This is no coincidence. Jewish law states that if one letter in a Torah scroll is scratched out, the scroll is invalid and cannot be used until it is fixed. We are each descendants from one of those 600,000 Jews who left Egypt. Every

one of us counts. Each one of us is part of making the WHOLE of Klal Yisroel. The law further states that if one letter overlaps onto another the Torah scroll is invalid. We are not all perfect; we complement one another. Each one of us has our unique strengths and talents and again, together we make the whole of our people. Overshadowing each other, not acknowledging each other doesn't create harmony or unity.

And upon us is Passover and in the Hagaddah it states that in every generation there are those who wish to destroy us. How sad if we destroy ourselves through baseless hatred.

Interesting point of information: Hitler checked us out thoroughly to make sure we were Jewish. He didn't check to see what sect of Judaism we were.

Enjoy the pictures of our eighth graders with seniors from Buckingham South. They are involved in a program specific to bringing seniors together with the younger generation. Both the seniors of Buckingham and our eighth graders look forward to each visit and when the visit is over, both the seniors and the eighth grade students are different because of their time together. Tolerance, patience, friendship and love are feelings that have taken on a whole new meaning.



Rambam eighth graders at Buckingham South for Purim



RDS student Caroline Garfunkel baking hamantaschen with Bertha Freedman



Eva Locker,  
Principal of  
Shalom School

## Baking, Farming...Learning

I love Jewish traditions. And Jewish tradition generally acknowledges that when the Jewish month of Adar commences, joy increases! Why? Well, the simplest

answer is that the holiday of Purim occurs during the month of Adar, and Purim is associated with rejoicing and celebrating. So that's what we did last month at Shalom School.

To prepare for the celebration of Purim, our students learned about the story of Purim. For some children it was the first time and for others it was a refresher course on a favorite tale. They also learned about the mitzvot associated with this holiday; like going to hear the Megillah read, or making gifts of food. We finished the study unit with students getting a chance to bake and eat *Hamentaschen*. The cookies were delicious, even if some were quite weirdly shaped!

While the ovens were filled, our youngest students continued what has become an annual Shalom School tradition by paying the residents of Buckingham South a lively visit. Decked out in their costumes, the little ones sang songs, danced and handed out the *Mishloah Manot* (Purim baskets) that they had prepared.

With Purim behind us, we look forward to Pesach which is quickly approaching. Our "Parsley Contest" continues to be a great source of excitement among our students

who planted seeds during *Tu Be'shvat*. Many have been earnestly tending their crops and regularly sending in photos to update us on their "farming" progress! The same parsley that we planted weeks ago has now seriously sprouted and promises to make it to the Seder plate of many Shalom School families.

And speaking of Seders, plans are underway for our school-wide mock Seder, scheduled for March 29. Having mastered the Four Questions, our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning how to lead the Seder and should be ready to run the show for us!

There has been a lot going on in March and April promises to be even busier. We look forward to all of the upcoming activities and events because we know, you know...There's something about this place!

Wishing you Chag Pesach Sameach!



Shalom School students preparing hamentaschen



While visiting Israel in February, Susan Timna presented Liron Ackerstein, Educational Coordinator at the Atlit Ma'apalim Detention Camp historical site, with a check for an Overseas Investment Grant from the Savannah Jewish Federation. Tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants were interred at Atlit trying to immigrate to the British-occupied Palestine after WWII. The site now is a museum.

Why do we have to  
wait so long to eat?

Why do I have to sing?

Why do we have to  
have matzah  
the whole week?

Why do I have to sit  
at the kids' table?

Why am I always  
the youngest?

Why can't we just  
help people?



On Passover, kids rarely stick to asking just the four questions. This year we're asking an extra question, too. Will you help us make a difference in the lives of Jewish children, here at home and around the world?

By giving to Federation you feed hungry children. You connect children to Judaism — through Jewish education, BBYO, summer camp and Birthright. You provide counseling to troubled teens. You help children with special needs. And more.

So this Passover, our fifth question is, "Will you help make a difference in the lives of Jewish children?" Please answer "yes" and give as generously as you can. Visit [www.savj.org](http://www.savj.org) and donate today.



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