A Haven for At-Risk Youth
Robert Arogeti is the new board chair of ImpactIsrael, the philanthropic partner of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives.

Beyond Terezín
Ilse Reiner, one of the few childhood survivors of the Terezín concentration camp, is the featured speaker at this year’s Holocaust Commemoration at Greenwood Cemetery.

Protecting a Legacy at All Costs
This year’s Tenenbaum Lecture focuses on the brave individuals who smuggled books, documents, and art out of the Vilna Ghetto.

Recording History, Making History
Founded in 1977, the Southern Jewish Historical Society is taking steps to expand its reach.

The Sound of Resistance
This year’s installment of the Fran Eizenstat and Eizenstat Family Memorial Lecture Series featured music of composers in the Terezín concentration camp.

For the Love of Books
Every year, the Book Festival of the MJCCA honors one of the community’s favorite bibliophiles with the Esther Levine Community Read.
The divisiveness of sophistry

BY Marvin Botnick

In today’s environment, under the influence of consultants and advice of attorneys, operating manuals have gained increased prominence. More and more, they have become a vehicle with which we try to set forth the specifics by which we are to operate responsibly.

But this is not a new, innovative concept; rather it is an expansion of societal codes and sacred commandments, the known record of which goes back to the 24th century BCE and the reign of Urukagina in Mesopotamia. As Jews, we have the Torah and all that has evolved and derived from its encompassed rules, teachings, and commandments.

One such moral imperative is found in Leviticus 19:14, in which we are told: “You shall not . . . place a stumbling block before the blind . . . .” simple words with far-reaching meaning and implication.

Aside from the literal meaning of these words, the major thrust of the principle is to condemn any action that places a harmful impediment, either physical or intentionally misled, in front of an individual so that the person either does not see it or is misled. Included in such transgression is an act or advice, which, on its face, seems genuine and harmless but which is proffered for personal gain by the offeror. Midrashic commentary expands this prohibition to include people who assist others in such transgressions.

Few people are capable of expressing with equanimity opinions which differ from the prejudices of their social environment. Most people are incapable of forming such opinions. — Albert Einstein

We now find a conflicted political environment in our beloved country due to sophistry and personal aggrandizement on the part of all of the involved parties. The focus is on “me” and not “us.”

In a 1932 pamphlet entitled “Washington’s Fourth Visit to Rhode Island,” John Williams Haley reported that in May of 1790, upon learning that Rhode Island, the last of the 13 colonies, had joined the union, George Washington acknowledged the ratification with the following words.

“Since the Bond of Union is now complete, and we once more consider ourselves as one family, it is much to be hoped that reproaches will cease and prejudices be done away; . . . if we mean to support liberty and independence, which it has cost us much blood and treasure to establish, we must drive away the demon of party spirit and local reproach.”

That same spirit and concept flowed through to Abraham Lincoln’s October 3, 1863 proclamation in which he established the last Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving. Even though this was issued while the nation was divided in a civil war, the content of the proclamation was addressed to “my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands . . . .”

We, as a nation, put great emphasis on morality, justice, and equality. We speak in reverence of the great leaders of this country who set the tone and forged a nation based on respect and the common good. These are unwritten concepts that are ingrained in our DNA, but it seems that we have had a lapse in memory.

It is time for us to stop mouthing platitudes and denigrating others for competitive advantage. It is time for us to speak truths, act responsibly for the good of all, respect divergent points of view, and honor and support the higher ideals on which our country was founded as a UNITED people.

“Embrace a diversity of ideas. Embrace the fact that you can disagree with people and not be disagreeable. Embrace the fact that you can find common ground — if you disagree on nine out of 10 things, but can find common ground on that 10th, maybe you can make progress. If you can find common ground, you can accomplish great things.” — David Boies
Years ago, during a job interview, Beth Ann Rosenberg was asked what her father did for a living, and to this day she and her two siblings still debate the answer. It’s the kind of question their father Marvin Botnick would’ve delighted in. It encourages spirited, perhaps even contentious discourse, but in the end would likely offer no precise solution.

“As a child,” said another daughter, Karen Paz, “if you asked a question, he wouldn’t always answer it. He wanted you to understand the steps that get you to an answer, like a mathematical equation. He valued opposing viewpoints, and even towards the end of his life he wanted introspective, challenging conversation.”

Early in his professional life, in the 1950s, Botnick was Atlanta’s first Jewish commercial loan officer with First National Bank of Atlanta. Leaving banking in the late 1970s, he became an entrepreneur who re-invigorated struggling businesses. On more than a few occasions, he offered room and board in his house for months to folks trying to get back on their feet. Paz remembers once returning home from college to find her room occupied by an elementary school coach between jobs.

Botnick was also an investor, philosopher, raconteur, financial consultant, president of The Temple and, for the last 28 years, publisher of The Jewish Georgian newspaper.

It publishes every other month, and over time Botnick became a provocative columnist. Though his pieces often had the gentle didactic veneer reminiscent of small-town journalism from a half-century ago, there was also considerable substance, carefully crafted opinion, and underlying logic.

He closed a 2016 column with a deceptively simple sentence that in retrospect seems to sum up an entire lifetime of his thought: “If you are going to open your mouth, make sure you also open your ears.”

“I think it’s pretty easy for me to tell you what Marvin did,” said Alvin Sugarman, senior rabbi at The Temple for 30 years and now rabbi emeritus.

“His job on Earth was to help fellow human beings. When I think of Marvin I think of a line in one of my favorite Dan Fogelberg songs ['Leader of the Band']: ‘He earned his love through discipline, a thundering velvet hand/His gentle means of sculpting souls took me years to understand.’”

Marvin Zachariah Botnick — his Jewish name: Mordechai Zalman ben Herschel v’Malka ha-Levi — died at home due to complications from prostate cancer January 17. He was 85. A service was held the following Monday at The Temple.

His parents were born in Belarus, eventually making their way to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where they operated a dry goods store. Raised in a kosher household, he learned early the subtle, unwritten rules regarding Jews in the Deep South.

“People were respectful,” Botnick said during a 2018 oral history given to the Breman Museum, “but there was definitely a social line. Jews were not allowed in high school fraternities or sororities. We weren’t allowed in the country club... The Ku Klux Klan, the headquarters in that area was in Laurel, Mississippi, about 25 miles away... I don’t recall anything other than on Halloween they used to soap the windows on my dad’s store with antisemitic sayings. Other than that there was there was no physical threat that I’m aware of.”

His parents sent Botnick, 14, and his older brother to Exeter Academy in New Hampshire for grades nine through 12. He went on to Duke University, majoring in business administration and playing four years of lacrosse. He told one interviewer, “I was so good I’m in the Mississippi Jewish Lacrosse Hall of Fame.”

Botnick moved to his banking job in Atlanta in 1956 and later became chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Mercantile National Bank. In 1959 he married Miriam Alicia Pass — her father was vice president at Rich’s Department Store — and they had three children.

He served as president of The Temple from 1983 to 1986, where he conceived and opened one of Atlanta’s first homeless shelters for couples, now the Zaban-Paradies Center for Homeless Couples.

“From the time he got the idea, it took nine days to open,” Sugarman said. “We opened in February 1984, a snowing, freezing night, and we picked up our first residents who were huddling up at The Varsity.”

“Among other things, this is one example of Marvin as a teacher,” he added. “It was a chance to put words into action — it taught our young people how to make words real.”

Peter Berg remembers first meeting him in July 2008, when Berg became only the fifth senior rabbi of The Temple since 1895. Botnick handed him a keychain with this verse from the Talmud: “The work is not for you to finish, nor are you free to desist from it.”

“Foremost,” said Berg, “he wanted me to understand that The Temple has always had a role in the larger community. But also he was saying, you’re not going to solve world peace, and you’re not going to finish everything you start. But you have the obligation to do your part.”

In 1992 Botnick became involved with the two-year-old bi-monthly, The Jewish Georgian, eventually becoming publisher and writing a column. It was an unlikely venture because as Botnick once said, when he was bar mitzvahed, “my mother wouldn’t let me write my thank you notes. She wrote them for me. That tells you how adequate I am with the English language.”

With a volunteer staff of writers, The Jewish Georgian covers stories about Jews or subject matter of interest to the Jewish community; to have information about people or matters with a connection to Georgia; to present material with a “feel good” story line; and not to be involved in local, state, national, or international politics.

“He really wrestled with what he put into those columns,” good friend Jim Hoover said. “It only dawned on me recently that column of his was an ethical will, it’s sort of a legacy of values of what you want your children and grandchildren to have.”

Botnick is survived by his wife of 60 years, Miriam Pass Botnick; his children, Karen Paz (Roy Cranman), Beth Ann Rosenberg (I.J.), and Harris Botnick (Geri); seven grandchildren; and his brother Dr. Robert Botnick (Lelia) of Augusta, Georgia.

This story is reprinted from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, with permission.
JScreen is recruiting participants for The PEACH BRCA Study. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the outcome and success of a new BRCA education and screening program for men and women with Ashkenazi Jewish background in the metro-Atlanta area.

**GET BRCA TESTING FOR FREE**

**Participation benefits include:**

- Learning your risk for certain cancers, including breast and ovarian
- Receiving information that will help inform your medical management and reproductive planning
- Gathering important health information that can be shared with family members

**Your time commitment:**

Over the course of 2-3 months, participants will be asked to complete two short surveys, provide a saliva sample for genetic testing, and review their results with a program genetic counselor via phone or secure video.

**In order to participate you must:**

- Have at least one Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jewish grandparent
- Be at least 25 years old
- Have no significant personal or family history of BRCA-related cancers, as determined by the study team
- Reside in the metro-Atlanta area (open to both men & women)
- Have not had previous BRCA testing

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**

[WWW.JSCREEN.ORG/BRCA](http://WWW.JSCREEN.ORG/BRCA)

JScreen at Emory University
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STAR ATHLETE AND ROLE MODEL
JAXON WARSHAW. Eighteen-year-old Dunwoody High School Senior Jaxon Warshaw is an outstanding athlete, excelling at basketball, baseball, and football (for which he serves as team captain). His dad, Jerry, a Grady High football star way back in the day, says that Jaxon “out-works, out-hustles, out-hits any kid he is competing against.” He is a leader and role model for the other kids at Dunwoody.

But there is another side of Jaxon that is even more impressive — being, in Jerry’s words, “a caring, giving, compassionate individual who treats everyone with respect.”

A case in point is Jaxon’s friend Kevin Mackey, also a great kid, who has Down syndrome. They have been friends since the sixth grade, and Jaxon has mentored Kevin at football and made sure their teammates understand and respect him.

Indeed, Kevin is so likable and has done so well at school that he was chosen to be this year’s senior homecoming king.

Jerry says, “The way that Jaxon tells the story, he has nothing to do with Kevin’s success. But the example of care, attention, understanding, and acceptance is important — it has had a dynamic effect on both kids and their classmates, and should stand as a lesson to us all.”

We think that having parents like Susie and Jerry might have had something to do with Jaxon’s character and integrity, and we congratulate them on such a great family.

TOP ATLANTA LEADERS. The new Atlanta Magazine is out, the “Our City’s Most Powerful Leaders” issue, but as usual, and surprisingly, we did not make the cut. But there’s always next year.

A photo of our community’s leader and Selig Enterprises President Steve Selig is on the cover. He is listed under the category, “Legends: the names who need no introduction.” Cool.

Also appearing is builder Marc Pollack, chairman of Pollack Shores Real Estate Group, which has developed more than 30,000 housing units worth more than $3 billion.

Other powers to be reckoned with include Temple Rabbi Peter Berg, Joel Babbitt, Arthur Blank, Kenny Blank, Matt Bronfman, Lucinda Bumsen, Fay Gold, Doug Hertz, Ben Hirsh, Joel Katz, Steve Koonin, Steve Labovitz, Gregg Paradies, and Joey Reiman.

ANNA TUCKER AND THE MUSEUM OF THE SOUTHERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE. Atlanta Anna Tucker, the renowned writer and historian, is now the project coordinator for the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience (MSJE), in New Orleans, scheduled to open in mid-2020.

It’s a huge job, and her goal is to help create a “transformational and innovative museum,” highlighting the unique experience of growing up Jewish in the South, telling inspirational stories that appeal to a wide variety of audiences.

When it opens next year in New Orleans, MSJE will be the “only museum in the United States that explores the unique history and contributions of Jews across the South — from Virginia to Texas, from Kentucky to Florida — a place for combating antisemitism and encouraging conversations for learning, sharing, and exploring our differences and, more importantly, our commonalities.”

All of this is something Anna knows exactly how to do. She was co-curator of The Temple’s highly acclaimed 150th anniversary exhibition in Atlanta and, with Catherine Lewis and Jeremy Katz, co-author of the forthcoming book The Temple at 150 Years.

Prior to joining the MSJE in April 2019, Anna was the outreach and special projects curator for the Department of Museums, Archives, and Rare Books at Kennesaw State University (KSU), which serves more than 175,000 campus and community members annually and includes the Museum of History and Holocaust Education, Bentley Rare Book Museum, and the KSU Archives.

Anna graduated summa cum laude from the history programs at Berry College (B.A.H.) and Georgia State University (M.A.) and is an alumna of Birthright. Her master’s thesis was entitled Institutions and Interactions: Shanghai Jewish Refugees, and she has studied in Beijing, Tibet, and Seoul.

She says, “I’m a huge fan of long-distance hiking and completed a through-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 2012.” And, finally, “I’m an amateur field archaeologist, astronaut, and falafel maker (in descending levels of ability).”

All of that should be great preparation for hanging out in New Orleans’ exotic French Quarter and exploring the delights and interesting people one encounters on Bourbon Street.

We have offered to endow a Kinky Friedman wing of the museum, and we understand it is under serious discussion. For more info on the valuable historical and cultural work of this important institution, visit MSJE.org, and become a founding donor.

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Steve Alterman
BY Reg Regenstein

Steve Selig
Marc Pollack

TO THE GOOD TIMES ROLL. Speaking of New Orleans, we always see lots of our readers at Chef Jamie Adams’ and Leonardo Maura’s acclaimed Italian osteria, Il Giallo, in Sandy Springs, including Bernie Marcus, the revered philanthropist and Home Depot co-founder.

Now, Jamie and Leonardo have opened the new fun and fabulous New Orleans-style restaurant, Lagarde American Eatery, at 5090 Peachtree Road, in Chastain Park, 25 years ago, renovated it, and installed a wonderful herb garden in back so he could provide his customers with the freshest possible seasonings.

Our favorite time of year to visit is in fall, when you can sit outside under the huge oak trees and watch and listen to the acorns falling to the ground and onto the umbrellas that protect the alfresco diners.

Steve sums up his experience of a quarter century by saying, “It’s been great fun — but I’m glad to be off the late night call list.” Of course, it takes lots of hard work to build one of Atlanta’s finest and most popular eateries. But since Steve will be staying around as investor/consultant, the great seasonal Southern food and service should continue to maintain its outstanding quality.

GREAT PERSIAN FOOD AT ZAFRON RESTAURANT IN SANDY SPRINGS. Ever since Sally and Bruce Alterman closed their popular restaurant, The Brickery, we’re been wondering where everyone has been going out for dinner.

The other night, we discovered one of the new hangouts. While dining at the Persian restaurant Zafron, in Sandy Springs, with Bonnie Wolloff, Susie and Jerry Warshaw, and Claire and Howard Peck, we ran into Jody
You can see it on the Fox Entertainment Network, which In Atlanta is WAGA Fox 5. Here is a promo that will whet your appetite: youtube.be/VCN26W0yvQ

Last year, Bex was honored with the 2019 Michael Jay Kinsler Rainmaker Award for courage in using his or her platform as an actor to promote diversity and gender equality and pride.

You’ve come a long way, miss....

BY Balfour
“Bo” Levine

Some years ago, there was a story on local TV about two sisters embarking on interesting careers — one was joining the police force, the other was a firefighter. In today’s work force the story is not unusual, but in days of yore it was a man’s world they were entering.

I peeked into my 1950 Pandora, the University of Georgia yearbook, and the law school graduating classification featured 40 young men and only two women. The 1983 law school graduating class, my daughter Sandy’s generation, featured 130 men and 74 women. My granddaughter Erica’s class of 2010, Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University, had 75 men and 65 women.

I spoke with a friend of mine, a Georgia Tech grad, who said there were no women there in the late 1940s; it was some years later that the school saw its first woman on campus. A retired physician told me that there were almost no women at the Medical College of Georgia, in Augusta, when he went there. Today, these institutions and most others have majority female enrollment in their professional schools.

Then, too, who would have thought that women could lead churches or be rabbis and cantors? Back then, the rabbi’s wife had just one option — she was the rebbetzin.

Until about the mid-1950s, most girls took up nursing, social work, or teaching. I really wanted to be a nurse and would have been a darned good one, too, steady of hand and purpose. However, in what would be a rarity today, I heeded my mother’s advice and did not take up nursing because it would “see naked men in the bed.” End of story! Who listens to their parents now? Oh, they might hear us, but they end up doing whatever they please.

After graduating the University of Georgia in 1950 (A.B.J., Henry Grady School of Journalism), I aspired to join the U.S. Army, thinking that with a college degree I could be an officer. But since I was not a U.S. citizen at that time, I would have to come up in the ranks from buck private. I declined that offer and went to work as a clerk-typist (another predominantly female career then) in the civilian world, first at the American Red Cross and later at Southern Bell.

I’m glad that the girls of today have so many choices. They can pursue a variety of careers, marry and raise families, do neither, or do both. They are now tougher in body and spirit, are better educated, carry guns when necessary, face danger daily, and keep us in good health, safe and sound, as well as spiritually joyous.

Sadly, though, there are still girls and women, both here and throughout the world, who are controlled or habitually abused by the men in their lives. They are not permitted education, nor do they have a choice in anything during their lifetimes. I am so grateful for my lot in life, thank goodness.

God Bless America.

Happening

From page 5

and Raymond Franco and Gladys and David Herckis.

The food’s great, too — all kinds of exotic rice dishes, kebabs, hummus, eggplant, fava beans, vegetarian dishes, and so much more. We love fava beans.

Be sure to ask, as soon as you get there, for the famous burnt rice dish with a crispy bottom and saffron, called tahdig, which always runs out early. Plus, you can impress your friends with your knowledge of Persian food.

Martha Jo Katz Chairs AJFF Gala. We were watching Georgia Public Broadcasting’s documentary on the old Rich’s department store and enjoyed seeing the eternally young and beautiful former fashionista model Martha Jo Katz talk about those great old days. The charming Irene Kent’s memories of her legendary husband, fashion director Sol Kent, were fascinating. The inimitable, indefatigable, incredible Martha Jo — the greatest model and event/party planner ever — now tells us exclusively that The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival team is gearing up for the 20th anniversary of the festival, which will run February 10-27.

She says that under Founder and Executive Director Kenny Blank and the new Festival Steering Chair Steve Mensch (president and general manager of Studio Operations at Tyler Perry Studios), this season is sure to be the best ever.

Martha Jo, who seems to have earned the title of lifetime chair of the Opening Night Gala at Cobb Energy, has chosen “Memories” for the gala theme, since “Magnificent Movies Make Magical Memories.”

Any event chaired by Martha Jo seems magical, as does she herself, and since she retired a few years ago from event planning, she seems to be more involved than ever in what’s happening. As we always like to think about these matters. All they really think about is barbecuing large amounts of pork.

Kinky Friedman

Kinky Friedman on Being Jewish at Christmas. Amidst all the turmoil, war, hatred, and suffering in the world, thank goodness for author and humorist Kinky Friedman.

He first achieved celebrity status — of a sort, in a Southern Jewish-y way — as lead singer for the band Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jewboys. Now Kinky calls himself “with the possible exception of Jack Ruby, the most famous Jew in Texas.” He also once wrote that he was the oldest Jew in Texas who did not own any real estate. We can relate, as we may hold that title for Georgia. We always enjoy Kinky’s annual holiday tribute in Tablet magazine, “A Jew’s Christmas In Texas.”

From his unique perspective, Kinky writes of his decades of experience during the holiday season, saying, “The nice thing about being Jewish is that you can feel spiritually out of place almost anywhere you go. If you keep the faith, you don’t fit in. If you assimilate, you disappear altogether. Meanwhile most Texans never think about these matters. All they really think about is barbecuing large amounts of pork.”

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God Bless America.
Community Read is a yearly reminder of Esther Levine’s importance to local book lovers.

BY Carolyn Gold

The Book Festival of the MJCCA, which recently celebrated its 28th year, continues to grow in size and stature. Even before its beginning, Esther Levine was escorting authors to Atlanta to discuss their books. Among those have been authors of bestsellers, prizewinners, local writers, politicians, and national personalities. Esther calls it a “dream job.”

On the evening of November 5, 2019, Esther was honored again with a special night at the festival. Called the Esther Levine Community Read, it is further described as “Honoring the many contributions of longtime lay leader, Esther G. Levine.” This is the 15th year she has been honored. The 2019 Community Read featured Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jodi Kantor, co-author of She Said. The book grew out of the Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment investigation. Subsequent abuse claims fueled the national #MeToo Movement.

Because of Esther’s longtime commitment to meeting authors at the airport and escorting them to their book signings and talks in Atlanta, she had connections with New York publishers. She was an advisor to the Book Festival from its start.

The first festivals, which were held at the old Jewish Community Center, on Peachtree Road, featured two to five authors. In 2019, the 15-day festival had 50 authors, and 12,000 people attended what is now a major cultural event for the city.

The Zaban Park campus of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MCCCA), in Dunwoody, is a great facility for hosting the large and varied crowds. Different audiences come to hear different authors. A real bookstore, A Capella Books, moves in for the two weeks of the festival. Another innovation is matching some authors with local media people, such as CNN anchors, for interviews instead of lectures.

Esther continues her work year-round, bringing authors to promote their books at venues such as the Carter Center, the Margaret Mitchell House, or the Atlanta History Center, in addition to her honored efforts with the Book Festival of the MJCCA.

What do we hope for in 2020?

BY David Geffen

Now that January 1 has arrived, we should begin thinking seriously about how we used the days in the past year and what awaits us in the year ahead. A noted author wrote, “Each day we have been given is a gift, and how we shape it is the soft eternal light, not the dramatic firecracker.”

What is it we want the most? Time. Yet, time moves steadily ahead. It cannot be hoarded. It cannot be reversed. Our film of life cannot be re-wound; nor can it be halted in its flight. Therefore, how we fashion the time we have means that we have realized what a great gift we have been given is a gift, and how we shape it.

Slowly, we must work hard to fill our personal self with elements that we have not utilized previously. What do we do daily for our spouse and children? How kind are we? Who comes first in our life, our loved ones or passing fancies? A rabbi put it this way: “Faith is a quiet dimension of daily living — it does not enter us via a spectacular explosion. Faith is the soft eternal light, not the dramatic firecracker.”

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This article first appeared in The Jerusalem Post and is reprinted with permission.
Tenenbaum Lecture explores the people who risked their lives rescuing books in the Vilna Ghetto

On March 19, at 7:30 p.m., Emory’s annual Tenenbaum Lecture will explore “The Book Smugglers of the Vilna Ghetto: A Story of Spiritual Resistance,” with guest scholar David E. Fishman, of The Jewish Theological Seminary. The lecture, sponsored by the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, will take place in the Presentation Room of the Oxford Road Building, 1390 Oxford Road, on Emory’s campus, and will be followed by a reception.

In Vilna, the city Jews called “The Jerusalem of Lithuania,” a group of ghetto inmates risked their lives to rescue thousands of rare books, documents, and works of art from the Nazis. In an operation that lasted 18 months, they smuggled the materials past guards and buried them in bunkers. Those members of the group who survived the war returned to Vilna after the city’s liberation and dug up the materials. They eventually smuggled the books across Europe until they reached the United States and Israel. What did they rescue, and why did they do it?

Dr. David E. Fishman is a professor of Jewish History at The Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Fishman also serves as director of Project Judaica, which publishes guides to Jewish archival materials in the former Soviet Union. Dr. Fishman is the author of numerous books and articles on the history and culture of East European Jewry. His most recent book, The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis, received a 2017 National Jewish Book Award.

A native New Yorker, Dr. Fishman has taught at Brandeis University, Bar-Ilan University, Russian State University in Moscow, and Yeshiva University’s Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. This year marks the 24th anniversary of the Tenenbaum Family Lectureship in Judaic Studies, which salutes the family of the late Meyer W. Tenenbaum ’31C-32L of Savannah, Georgia. Tenenbaum, a native of Poland, arrived in the United States at the age of 13 knowing no English and graduated from the Emory School of Law 11 years later. He went on to head Chatham Steel Corporation, now a major steel service center with headquarters in Savannah.

The lecturership was established in 1997 by Meyer’s son, Samuel Tenenbaum ’65C, and honors the entire Tenenbaum family and its ethos of citizenship and public service, which is expressed through its support of religious, educational, social service, and arts institutions across the United States.

For more information, visit js.emory.edu.

Southern Jewish Historical Society's mission is timely and enduring

By Janice Rothschild Blumberg

In 40 years of attending Southern Jewish Historical Society (SJHS) conferences, I’ve always been enlightened, but never so much as at the recent one held at the University of Virginia (UVA), in Charlottesville. Masterminded by SJHS president and UVA Professor Phyllis K. Leffler, it opened at Monticello with a tour of Thomas Jefferson’s house and grounds, after which historian Marc Leepson led a scholarly discussion about America’s third president. The conference concluded two days later with the city’s mayor and the dean of the UVA Law School — both Jewish — bringing us up to date on conditions surrounding and resulting from the racist/antisemitic obscenity perpetrated in their city two years ago, which our current president characterized as having surprised, chilling.

Between these two important sessions we enjoyed a colorful, informative program chaired by Professor Marni Davis, of Georgia State University. We first toured Jewish sites in Charlottesville, welcomed Shabbat with services and dinner at Congregation Beth El, and heard a keynote address by Nicole Hemmer, of Columbia University. The next day we were treated to an amazing number of scholarly presentations on aspects of the Southern Jewish experience. Their diversity was also surprising, ranging from pageants and monuments to politics and heritage tourism, to repositories for Southern Jewish archives highlighted by Jeremy Katz of The Bremen Museum, which now preserves Jewish history from throughout Georgia.

As with all organizations, SJHS holds a brief but necessary business meeting at each conference, usually before sessions begin on the final morning. This time, members who opted for an extra hour of sleep missed an invigorating discussion. It focused on two key initiatives for the coming year — membership growth and obtaining named support for parts of its mission to encourage studies in Southern Jewish history. In addition to a membership drive, the society launched a plan to raise $20,000 in 2020 for increasing its research grants and ensuring ongoing support for its top-rated peer-reviewed journal, Southern Jewish History.

Now in its 22nd year, Southern Jewish History is recognized nationally and internationally as a leading publication in its field. Under the leadership of Founding Editor-in-Chief Mark K. Bauman, it features fascinating insights on Jewish experience in the South, for both individuals and communities. The latest issue carries a story profiling four World War II chaplains, one of whom was Lt. Jacob M. Rothschild of the Americal Division, U.S. Infantry, more recently rabbi of the Temple (1945-1973), and a leading Civil Rights activist.

Since its founding in 1977, the Southern Jewish Historical Society has been led by three Atlantans as president — Beryl Weiner, Bruce Beeber, and me — in addition to numerous officers and the journal’s remarkable Mark Bauman. To introduce more area residents to the work of SJHS, president-elect Jay Silverberg will present a major program at The Temple on Monday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. I hope to see you there.

Visit JewishSouth.org for more information about the Southern Jewish Historical Society.

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NEW COURSE HONORS SUSAN ARNOVITZ SALTZ. The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA) was recently involved in a beautiful tribute to one of its deceased members, Susan Arnovitz Saltz, who passed away in 2015, at the age of 61. The memorial gift was given in Susan’s memory by her three daughters and their husbands, Shauna and Steven Grosswald, Dara and Andy Grant, and Jessica and Jeff Sacks, as well as all nine of Susan’s grandchildren. The curriculum, Exploring a Forgotten World: A Social History of Medieval Jewry as Revealed in the Cairo Genizah, was commissioned through the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning by Shauna, Dara, and Jessica, as a gift from Mimi’s Fund, which they had established.

“Mimi’s Fund is about preserving our mom’s legacy,” explains Dara. “One of the ways we do that is by contributing to programs and causes that are meaningful to us and were to our mom, as well as showing our children how and why this is so important.”

“Our mother was a long-time student of the MJCCA’s Lisa F. Brill Institute for Jewish Learning,” says Jessica. “We made this gift as a lasting tribute because Shauna, Dara, and I know how much she loved her Melton classes. It was an important part of her life for years.”

The Melton School hired Dr. Shelley Buxbaum, one of Susan’s instructors from the Lisa F. Brill Institute for Jewish Learning, to write the curriculum.

“This exceptional project has been in the works for years; we are so pleased that Exploring a Forgotten World is now written and published and that we get to share it with the community,” says Dr. Buxbaum.

“This newly commissioned curriculum can now be used all over the world for the Melton School,” adds Shauna, “and it will be dedicated with love to our mother’s memory.”

The course will reveal how a collection of manuscripts and documents (a storeroom for timeworn sacred history) and examine some of its contents. Through translations of the original texts, the course will explore the daily lives and behaviors of Jewish men, women, and families living along the Mediterranean during the Middle Ages.

Dr. Buxbaum will teach this course four times at several Atlanta locations:

- MJCCA/Zaban Park, Wednesdays, 9:30–10:45 a.m., January 8-April 29
- MJCCA/Zaban Park, Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, January 16-March 19
- Atlanta Jewish Academy, Tuesdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m., January 21-May 19
- Congregation Etz Chaim, Fall 2020

“We are so humbled by this inspirational gift made by Shauna, Dara, and Jessica,” says Talya Gorsetman, director, Lisa F. Brill Institute for Jewish Learning. “They are truly embodying their mother’s ideal of the importance of Jewish education.”

“Likewise, we are thrilled to present this new class that we feel will be so enlightening to the community.”

To learn more, visit atlantajcc.org/brill, or call 678-812-4153.

JEWS BRILL HISTORIC MONTH AT THE MJCCA. In celebration of Black History Month, the MJCCA invites the community to hear two fascinating speakers as they discuss topics related to Jewish and African-American relations.

“Growing Up Black and Jewish,” featuring Dr. John Eaves, is Monday, February 10, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Raised in a middle-class family in Jacksonville, Florida, John Eaves learned the value of hard work, education, and service from a young age. John’s grandfather immigrated to the U.S. from Jamaica with big dreams, but life was not easy for a black, Jewish man. He faced racism, religious discrimination, and financial trouble, but despite these obstacles he raised a large family, instilling the values of hard work, faith, and serving the community. Inspired by the legacy of his family, John has dedicated his life to learning and service. After graduating from Morehouse College, John pursued his master’s at Yale University. He was director of the Atlanta office of the Peace Corps and has served on the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Through his career in local politics, John seeks to bring opportunity to his constituents through policies that stimulate economic growth, reduce crime, and bring social and financial security to an ethnically and religiously diverse population.

“A Select History of Black and Jewish Relations in Savannah, Georgia,” featuring Dr. Jeffrey Jenkins, is Thursday, February 27, 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.

Dr. Jeffrey Jenkins was taught to read at the age of four by his Jewish neighbors, the Rubins, in Savannah. The Rubins were the first Jewish family Jeffrey knew, and they became his great friends and influenced his life in many significant ways. In 1976, Jeffrey was the first graduate of Savannah State College to earn a Ph.D. He went on to teach and later retired from a beloved position as a professor of American history and economics at Savannah State at the age of 52. For the next eight years, he worked as an administrator for the Savannah library system and for a local nursing home. Jeffrey also worked for the Jewish Educational Alliance for 10 years and most recently decided to return to those roots by taking a support services position at the MJCCA. He believes Jewish people set an example for the world, valuing a good education, love, and family as most important.

Both programs are free and open to the community. For more information visit atlantajcc.org/blackhistory, or call 678-812-4070.

MJCCA DAY CAMPS. Summer is just around the corner, and hundreds of campers from rising Pre-K to 10th grade will be welcomed to the MJCCA Day Camp’s three locations, Dunwoody, Intown, and East Cobb, May 26-August 14. Free bus transportation will be provided from 19 locations in the metro area.

“We know that camp can provide a welcome alternative from screens and social media,” says MJCCA Days Camps Director Jodi Sonenshine. “When our campers unplug, this translates to boating, swimming, and playing in nature; cooking, climbing, or trying a new sport; strengthening social skills; and building self-confidence and independence.”

New camps this summer are: ABCs of Cooking, American Ninja Warrior (new for teens), Bring the Hype Dance Camp, Camp Isidore Alterman Western Wall, Challenger Soccer Camp, Cheer and Dance Camp, Concorde Fire Soccer Camp, Dancing With Purpose, Delicious Disney, Drumline Camp, Elite Skills Training: Basketball, Girls Volleyball Camp, Jr. Drone Pilot Academy, LEGO Builders, LEGO STEAM Heroz, LEGO STEM Engineering, Marvel Mania, Master DIYers, Minecraft Creators, Pokémon Party, Project Style, Rec Sports U, StemQuest, Summer Sampler, The Chopping Block, Triple Threat: Act, Dance, Sing, and YouTube Star.

Additional MJCCA Day Camp options are Camp Isidore Alterman (CIA), in which campers enjoy boating, archery, ropes course, zip lining, outdoor cooking, swimming, fishing, and more, and Specialty Camps, including Sports Camps, Performing Arts Camps, Teen Camps, Theme Camps, and Travel Camps.

MJCCA Day Camps have earned recognition by the American Camp Association (ACA). ACA collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and other youth-serving agencies to assure that current practices are current and reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation. ACA accreditation is the best evidence parents have of a camp’s commitment to a safe and nurturing environment.

MJCCA Day Camp Highlights:

- An extra week of camp — From August 10-14, rising K-6th graders who have not yet returned to school can choose from options such as Camp Isidore Alterman, Edible Art, and Coding Camp.
- Before Camp Care: Reading Program — Participants will work on summer reading/assignments from 7:30–8:15 a.m., in a designated reading room. Children can be signed up for this program during the online registration process. This program is the same price as Before Camp Care, $35 per camper, per week.
- Camp Isidore Alterman Western Wall — Campers of all ages and backgrounds will be able to leave notes in the cracks of CIA’s very own Western Wall (modeled after the Western Wall, in Jerusalem) during the summer. Shlichim (emissaries) will then place them at the real Western Wall when they return to Israel after the camp season.
- Free bus transportation to MJCCA Day Camp at Zaban Park — Buses pick up and drop off campers and staff from various locations in Sandy Springs, Brookhaven, Norcross, Dunwoody, Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Roswell, Intown, Toco Hill, Midtown, and East Cobb.
- Multi-week discount — Come for 3+ weeks and save on every week, starting with the fourth week of camp.
- Before Camp Care (7:30-8:15 a.m.) and After Camp Care (4:00-6:00 p.m.) are available at all three locations.
- MJCCA Day Campers gain on so many fronts when they are part of our day camp family,” said Sonenshine. “From their ability to socialize with their summer friends, to giving them the opportunity to use their senses in nature, MJCCA Day Camps provides the opportunity to build summer camp memories and lasting friendships.”

For more information, visit mjccadayscamps.org or call 678-812-4004.

Summer comes to life at MJCCA Day Camps. (photo courtesy of the MJCCA)

CAMP BARNEY MEDINTZ INFORMATION SESSIONS. On Sundays, January 19, February 9, March 8, and April 5, from 1:00-2:00 p.m., Camp Barney Medintz (CBM), the MJCCA’s award-winning summer resident camp, will host Information Sessions at the CBM office at the MJCCA, 5342 Tilly Mill Road.

See MJCCA NEWS, page 14
MJCCA News

From page 13

Dunwoody. Families of boys and girls completing second through 10th grade will enjoy a media presentation, meet the Camp Barney directors, and learn about Camp Barney Summer 2020.

Camp Barney offers two-week and four-week sessions, June 7-July 31. The camp is situated on 540 wooded acres surrounding two lakes, in the North Georgia Blue Ridge Mountains, just 75 miles northeast of Atlanta.

“Camp Barney provides an enriching, Jewish environment where campers make lifelong friendships, enjoy exhilarating activities, and learn more about themselves,” says Director Jim Mittenthal.

CBM campers will enjoy soaring down a 180-foot “Hurricane” water slide; leaping off the “Blob”; horseback riding; zip lining; whitewater rafting; wake boarding; paddle boarding; playing all land and court sports; participating in theater, dance, arts and crafts, music, Israeli culture, movie making, cooking, swimming, kayaking, mountain biking, yoga, and scuba diving; and much more.

Atlanta community members are invited to attend one of these informative and fun gatherings to explore, schmooze, and consider if Camp Barney will be a meaningful and exciting fit for their families.

For more information about the camp, the two- and four-week options, or staff opportunities, visit campbarney.org, email summer@campbarney.org, or call the Camp Barney office in Atlanta at 678-812-3844. To RSVP for an information session, visit campbarney.org/infosessions.

MJCCA Preschools offer a premier educational experience for young children for elementary school.

The Weinstein School will offer its third year of Transitional Kindergarten, ideal for children who have completed a four-year-old preschool program or “young” five-year-olds who may benefit from another year to develop academically, emotionally, physically, and/or socially, before progressing to a public or private kindergarten program. The curriculum features literacy, math, science, and social studies exploration, as well as problem-solving and communications skills, with a heavy emphasis on social-emotional development.

“Having Ari do Transitional Kindergarten at The Weinstein School was the best decision we could have made,” says preschool mom Allison Sofsky. “Ari grew and changed so much last year. We also love that he got to continue learning about Judaism and observe Shabbat. His teachers understood our child and his needs, and he just loved school. Ari is currently thriving in 1st grade.”

The Sunshine School opened a new infant class in January.

“We are excited to bring the infant program back to The Sunshine School, after many years,” says Suzan. “There has been an increased demand for it, and we agreed that it was the right time.”

Additionally, in 2020-2021, The Sunshine School in East Cobb will offer its first Transitional Kindergarten class.

The Schiff School, which is entering its third year in fall 2020, recently became accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission.

“Our newest MJCCA preschool, The Schiff School, is growing in so many areas,” says Suzan. “It offers an intimate environment with programs from infant through Pre-K, plus specials such as art, music, drama, science, PE, and all of the benefits of our MJCCA curriculum. Our families are especially excited about the beautiful, newly-installed preschool playground.

“The MJCCA Preschool curriculum, which each of our schools follows, encourages children to be actively involved in the learning process,” says Suzan. “All lessons and activities are carefully selected to align with each stage of a child’s development. When children progress at their own pace, they experience success and grow one step at a time.”

“The introduction of new skills and behaviors is always based on a child’s state of readiness, not on chronological age,” adds Suzan. “It gives me great pride to say that our preschool’s balanced curriculum combines exploration and discovery, with academic readiness, and truly prepares children for elementary school.”

For more information about all the programs offered and to schedule a preschool tour, contact MJCCA Preschools atlantajcc.org/preschool, or call 687-812-3833.

IN CONVERSATION WITH HARLAN COBEN. A Page from the Book Festival of the MJCCA will welcome Harlan Coben for his first conversation with the MJCCA community — and the world. The Harlan Coben author talk and book-signing event will be held at the MJCCA (Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta - 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody), and will be in conversation with Emily Giffin, New York Times bestselling author.

Tickets are $35.00 and include a hardcover copy of the book. For information, visit atlantajcc.org/bookfestival or call 687-812-4002.

Library Journal.

Carreyrou is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter at The Wall Street Journal. For his extensive coverage of Theranos, Carreyrou was awarded the George Polk Award for Financial Reporting, the Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism in the category of beat reporting, and the Barlett & Steele Silver Award for Investigative Business Journalism. Carreyrou lives in Brooklyn with his wife and three children.

Tickets are MJCCA member/$15, community/$20 (does not include book); and $32/MJCCA member and community (includes one paperback copy of the book).

For information, visit atlantajcc.org/bookfestival, or call 687-812-4002.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION. The MJCCA has opened registration for the 2020-21 school year for each of its preschools: The Weinstein School, at the MJCCA, 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody; The Schiff School, at Temple Emanu-El, 1580 Spalding Drive, Sandy Springs; and The Sunshine School, at Temple Kol Emeth, 1415 Old Canton Road, Marietta.

“We are thrilled about everything we have lined up for the 2020-2021 preschool year,” says Kim Suan, director of MJCCA Preschools. “From new infant rooms to a successful returning Transitional Kindergarten class, there is so much to offer our families.”

Mohamed Shams Helmee

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John Carreyrou (photo: Michael Lionstar)

Ari Sofsky (photo courtesy of the MJCCA)
JScreen launches Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week

A proclamation is being passed in the Georgia State Legislature for Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week. JScreen, a national non-profit public health initiative dedicated to preventing Jewish genetic diseases, announced plans for the first-ever Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week (JGSAW), taking place February 3-7. With organizational partners across the country, JGSAW will focus on powerful stories, timely information, and resources to help raise awareness about the importance of screening for Jewish genetic diseases.

“We know that education and awareness are essential in the journey toward ensuring our health and the health of our families,” said Karen Aronovitz Grinzaid, executive director of JScreen. “Each day during JGSAW, along with our committed partners, we will share resources and real-life stories highlighting both the need for and ease of a simple saliva test for screening. We are hopeful that this increased awareness will lead more families to #getJScreened.”

JScreen’s partners in JGSAW include Honeymoon Israel, Hillel, and Interfaith Family.

“This week is a call to action for screening, for yourself, for your friends and family,” said State Representative of Georgia HD79 Mike Wilensky, who introduced the proclamation declaring Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week. “We are thrilled to highlight JScreen’s honorable efforts to help people take charge of their health and that of their children. Knowledge truly is power.”

JGSAW will focus on a specific theme each day:

- Monday, February 3 — More than just Tay-Sachs. While Tay-Sachs is certainly the best-known Jewish genetic disease, JScreen tests for hundreds of other diseases that can be devastating for families. Knowledge is power, and knowing this information through reproductive carrier screening prior to pregnancy is important for family planning.
- Tuesday, February 4 — College Students. The farthest thing from many college students’ minds is having a baby. However, JScreen’s simple, quick, and easy reproductive carrier screening test provides information that is important for future family planning. For this reason, JScreen often hosts discounted screenings at colleges and universities throughout the country.
- Wednesday, February 5 — BRCA Awareness. Ashkenazi Jews are at 10 times greater risk to have a mutation in the BRCA genes, increasing their risk for breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic cancer. BRCA screening can provide lifesaving information.
- Thursday, February 6 — Sephardi Community. It’s commonly thought that carrier testing for family planning is solely for Ashkenazi Jews. In fact, Jews of all backgrounds are at risk and should be screened, including those with Sephardi and Mizrahi ancestry (such as Persians, Syrians, and Bukharians).
- Friday, February 7 — Interfaith Couples. While there are a number of diseases that are commonly found in people with Jewish background, these diseases also occur in the general population. For this reason, screening is important and informative for Jewish and interfaith couples. Pan-ethnic screening panels, like the one offered by JScreen, include diseases common across ethnicities. During JGSAW, JScreen is offering a $36-off discount code for reproductive carrier screening with coupon JGSAW.

“We hope that our efforts to raise awareness about the simple spit test that can be performed to provide genetic screening information will help people make the important decision to #getJScreened,” added Grinzaid.

For more information, visit www.jscreen.org.

I give a spit! It’s time you did too.

Proclamation declaring Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week

By Michael Wilensky

A RESOLUTION

Designating the week of February 3rd as Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week in Georgia; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, everyone is a carrier for a number of genetic diseases, and there are certain genetic diseases that are more common in certain ethnicities.

WHEREAS, Jewish people are among the ethnic groups at high-risk for certain genetic diseases, some of which cause early death or severely debilitating symptoms. Non-Jewish people can also be carriers of these and other genetic diseases.

WHEREAS, genetic screening is recommended for any couple thinking of starting or expanding their family.

WHEREAS, carriers are healthy individuals who unknowingly have a mutation in a disease gene. They do not have symptoms, thus the only way they can know if they are a carrier is to get tested or to have an affected child.

WHEREAS, carrier couples have a 25 percent risk, with each pregnancy, of having a child affected by the genetic disease they both carry.

WHEREAS, many couples are only offered genetic testing once they are already pregnant and for a limited number of diseases. Educating the community about the importance of comprehensive pre-conception screening is essential to afford couples more options to plan ahead.

WHEREAS, Jewish people are also at higher risk to have mutations in genes (e.g. BRCA) that increase the risk for certain cancers, and knowing those risks can be lifesaving.

WHEREAS, genetic screening is now easily accessible to those in Georgia and nationwide via at-home screening on saliva.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of Georgia that the week of February 3 shall be set aside and officially designated as Jewish Genetic Screening Awareness Week in Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the press.

Federation News

READY TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST ANTISEMITISM? On January 6, Jewish Atlanta turned out, with thousands in attendance, to stand proud as a community at the Jewish Atlanta Solidarity Event. Whether people attended in person or by live stream — or were unable to attend — Federation appreciates the support of the entire community and the readiness to show up when called upon, and hopes the next time the community comes together it is under better circumstances.

In the meantime, below are the resources shared at the event, so community members can take a stand against hatred and antisemitism.

Ready to take a stand against antisemitism? Here’s what you can do:

- Sign the #HateFreeGA online petition demanding action from our Georgia lawmakers. For more information visit: atlanta.adl.org/hatefree-ga
- Urge your U.S. representative to join the Bi-Partisan Taskforce to Combat Antisemitism: ajc.org/taskforce
- Report antisemitic incidents to the FBI and ADL: adl.org/reportincident
- Keep yourself informed on the evolution of hate speech: ajc.org/translatehate
- Contact Zach Williams (zwilliams@jewishatlanta.org) with the Secure Community Network (SCN) for a comprehensive security assessment and implementation strategy for your organization.

Connect with the Atlanta Initiative Against Antisemitism for additional connections and resources: stopantisemitismatl.org
INeTurAL BIG PAl AWARD. Jewish Family & Career Services (JF&CS) has created an award named in honor of former Big PAL Joel Libowsky. The award honored a Big PAL who has had a “superlative influence” on their Little PAL’s life, helping their little PAL navigate through difficult times in their lives and acting as a support for the family.

Robert Tinter received the Joel Libowsky Big PAL award at this year’s Havinagala, the annual benefit for the PAL Program, at SweetWater Brewing Co. on Saturday, January 25. Family and friends of both Robert and Joel attended this heartfelt presentation. Robert’s Little PAL, Jonah Lorman, participated by sharing a personal video.

Attendees enjoyed dinner, drinks, music, a raffle, a silent auction, and handcrafted cocktails. This year’s event chairs were Sarah and Brian Meyer, Jodi Seligman, and Jared Kopelman.

The PAL Program, Atlanta’s Only Jewish Big Brother/Big Sister program, provides one-on-one mentor relationships for children who could benefit from extra time with a trusted adult. PAL serves a diverse range of families, including single-parent households, LGBTQ+ families, military families, children raised by guardians other than their parents, and siblings of children with developmental disabilities. Big PALS are Jewish young professionals carefully matched with children to help build confidence, self-esteem, and a Jewish identity.

Libowsky was a Big PAL to two little PALS for more than 13 years. One of them was Scott Tenenbaum, who spoke at the JF&CS Community of Caring event in 2018.

Libowsky, co-owner of Jeckil Promotions, continues to be an advocate for the program, and is actively involved in JF&CS and the Jewish community. While the PAL program has a history of having exceptional volunteers serve as Big PALS, Libowsky’s passion and commitment has inspired countless others to volunteer as PALS.

“Being part of the PAL program has made me who I am today; it has made me a better person,” said Libowsky. “It is an honor to present this award to an exemplary Big PAL, and there were so many touching nominations.”

For more information visit Havinagala.org.

THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON. About 100 local filmgoers were recently treated to an exclusive screening of The Peanut Butter Falcon recently at The Springs Cinema & Taphouse, followed by a conversation with one of the film’s stars.

Sponsored by JF&CS, in partnership with the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) and the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA), the private event included an appearance by actor Zack Gottsagen.

Gottsagen plays a man with Down syndrome who runs away from a residential nursing home to pursue his dream of becoming a pro wrestler. The comedy-drama, Gottsagen’s first feature film, also stars Shia LaBeouf and Dakota Johnson.

More than 50 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their guests attended the event. The group is affiliated with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services (IDDS) of JF&CS, which offers programs and services that support individuals with disabilities, as well as their families and caregivers.

Libowsky, who has Down syndrome himself, lives independently with the support of his family. After the film, he took questions from the audience about his life and lifelong dream of acting.

“Bringing Zack to Atlanta and featuring The Peanut Butter Falcon reflects the commitment behind the work we do with the disability community, striving to ensure each and every client has the opportunity to live to their full potential,” said Terri Bonoff, CEO of JF&CS.

“Zack inspired us with his big heart, his immense talent, and the ability to connect with each person he engaged with,” Bonoff said.

Focusing on abilities and inclusion, IDDS offers a full-day program that includes volunteer activities and trips around Atlanta, a supportive employment program, group residences, and independent living supports. Sharing this movie with its clients was important to JF&CS leadership.

“This movie is a massive leap for inclusion, and Zack is leading the charge,” said Abby Frantz, IDDS Community Access Program Manager. “The fact that JF&CS assisted in bringing this film to our community is incredibly meaningful as well.

“I will never forget watching our clients getting in line to meet Zack after the film. They got the opportunity to go to an exclusive screening and meet the star of the show — someone they could identify with. This was inspiring to many of the clients who also participate in MJCCA’s Habima Theater for adults with special needs. This was a truly groundbreaking moment.”

“We are privileged to work with VIPs every day — our clients, their families, and community members in this field,” said Melissa DaSilva, IDDS director. “Zack’s heart and smile shone the most brilliant light on all of us.”

For more information about JF&CS, visit jcsatl.org.

— Kathy Des Jardins Cioffi

STRATEGIES FOR COPING WITH ADHD. As a licensed clinical social worker, I often am asked how to make day-to-day tasks simpler for those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Here are some strategies I recommend when working with both children and adults who have ADHD. Many of these tips can be used for those without ADHD, who simply are looking to structure their daily tasks.

• Break assignments into smaller, more manageable tasks. Large, multi-part assignments can be overwhelming and result in feeling disorganized and lost. Creating smaller tasks and establishing time frames for completing them makes the entire project more doable. Also, don’t forget to reward yourself as you complete tasks.

• Determine what you need from your environment to feel more efficient. While some people can work only in a quiet, sterile setting, others need white noise to filter out possible distractions.

• Be realistic with your expectations about time. Knowing yourself, consider using a timer, and decide how long you will work before taking a break. Establishing a schedule and adhering to it will help you work more efficiently. Similarly, knowing what time of day you are most productive can help you create a schedule that promotes efficiency.

• Try to establish routines that you can follow. Doing things the same way each day establishes patterns and means that you are less likely to forget important tasks. It also means that you’re not re-inventing the wheel every time you complete routine tasks.

• Organize your belongings in ways that work for you. Think about the daily tasks that are essential to your day and develop strategies. For example, put your wallet/purse, keys, and phone in the same place every day, so you know where to find them in the morning.

• Create daily to-do lists that are prioritized. Many of us choose to do the more favorable tasks immediately and then procrastinate with the less desirable ones, often resulting in them being undone. One suggestion is to conquer the less desirable tasks first, and then reward yourself with the tasks that you enjoy.

• Find a method of accountability that works for you. Whether it’s the more traditional pen-and-paper list or an electronic device, it just needs to be a way you can keep track of your tasks.

For additional assistance, or to schedule a psycho-educational assessment, contact JF&CS Clinical Services at 770-677-9474.

— Dan Arnold, LCSW
Concert highlights the musical resistance to the Holocaust

BY Reg Regenstein

During the Holocaust, Jews found various ways to resist the Germans. One recent such form of resistance was movingly demonstrated at the Ahavath Achim Synagogue, before an audience of more than 1,000, by the Defiant Requiem Foundation, chaired by distinguished Atlanta native Stuart Eizenstat.

This event was the focus for the 31st year of The Fran Eizenstat and Eizenstat Family Memorial Lecture Series, established in 1987, which has featured Nobel Peace Prize and Pulitzer Prize winners, United States presidents and vice presidents, Supreme Court Justices, and Israeli prime ministers.

The performance was superbly conducted by Defiant Requiem Foundation founder Murry Sidlin, the creator and writer of *Hours of Freedom*, which was generously supported by The Molly Blank Fund of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

Murry Sidlin leads the ensemble in the performance of *Hours of Freedom*.

As special representative of President Obama and Secretaries of State Hillary Clinton and John Kerry on Holocaust-era issues, he successfully negotiated major agreements with Switzerland, Germany, Austria, France, and other European countries. These resulted in restitution of property, payment for slave and forced laborers, recovery of looted art, return of bank accounts, and payment of insurance policies. He also served President Trump as expert adviser to the State Department on these issues.

Stu has been awarded nine honorary doctorate degrees and special awards from the government of France (Legion of Honor), Germany, Austria, Belgium, Israel, and, of course, the United States.

Stu was one of the most respected and accessible members of the Carter administration.

Philanthropist and real estate executive Steve Selig, President Carter’s liaison with the business community, said that Stu was an invaluable asset to the White House in meeting with constituents, “The amazing thing is that, no matter what the issue or group was, whether it was the Chamber of Commerce or truck-stop operators, he had a firm grasp on the details. He was always available, as busy as he was, and we were so grateful for his help. As Carter’s domestic policy expert, he was the ‘go-to guy’ when we needed someone to talk with authority about an issue. He was, by far, the best prepared to discuss such issues and foreign policy as well. He was universally respected and liked — and he’s a good guy, too.”

Stu’s 2018 book, *President Carter: The White House Years*, describing the administration’s successes and failures from his front-seat view of events, has received rave reviews.

Stuart Eizenstat, President Carter, and Henry Bauer in the Oval Office (courtesy of Henry Bauer)

Julian Schwarz, cellist, featured soloist

Susan and Fred Feinberg’s friendship with Fran and Stu goes back to 1969. Susan tells us exclusively, “In about 1978, we took our kids up to Washington, when Stuart was in the Carter White House. We took a taxi there and as we were walking through the gate and into the parking area, we were surprised to see a very dilapidated, old car, and realized that it was Stuart’s! This reminded us how humble Stuart has always been, not one to be concerned with fancy things.”

Henry Bauer, his (and our) childhood pal and a lawyer of some renown here in Atlanta, who is also known for his modesty, remembers when Stu was a basketball star at Henry Grady High School. Stu’s dad, Leo, would not sit with Stu’s mom, Sylvia, because “she would make such a fuss when a referee made a call against him, whom she felt could do no wrong.” Stu was known to prefer shooting baskets rather than passing to teammates, or so they complained, in what may be the only instance known of Stu’s showing a bit of a swelled head.

Stu’s attitude was pretty well summed up in the 1979 article “Before the Buck Gets to Carter, It Stops at Stu Eizenstat, His Man for All Domestic Issues,” in *Parade Magazine*: “The linked ideals of service and family were apparently bred in Eizenstat early. The only child of an Atlanta shoe wholesaler and his wife, Stu was ever the hard-working straight arrow, a compulsive student-athlete who shunned all the usual adolescent digressions. ‘Even in grammar school,’ says his father, Leo, ‘he’d lock himself in his room for six to eight hours at a time studying, without even going to the bathroom.’ At Henry Grady High School, Stu took up basketball with the same determination, staying home from camp one year to practice his shooting all summer long. It paid off in stardom (one national magazine listed him among the top 500 high school players in the U.S. in 1960), but Stu, painfully shy, would flee the court at the end of every game. Afterward he would refuse with his favorite ‘chili pickle steak’ (hamburger, pickle, relish, and barbecue sauce) at the Varsity drive-in near Georgia Tech.”

We bet Stu misses the Varsity and gets tired of those “working lunches” at fancy D.C. eateries, filled with big-shot politicians and lobbyists, where he always gets the best table in the house.

And we can tell you firsthand about Stu’s dedication and integrity when the chips are down. When The Endangered Species Act came under attack in the late 1970s from special interests, he was the only White House official who showed an interest and was active in helping those of us working to save the act and the many rare creatures dependent on it — a typically selfless, compassionate gesture by someone who did not need to get involved in an issue that would not benefit him, but who is always determined to do what is right. And it was a gesture that would surprise no one who knows Stu.
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JOIN US FOR NCJW ATLANTA SECTION PROGRAMS: JANUARY - APRIL 2020

125th Anniversary Kickoff. Tuesday, February 11. 10:30 am Brunch event at Park Avenue, Buckhead; 7:00 pm Evening event at Congregation Shearith Israel. Guest speaker: Sheila Katz, NCJW’s new, young, vibrant CEO.

Frankly Speaking: Looking at the News Through a Jewish Lens. Thursdays, January 30, February 27, and April 30. 12:00 Noon – 1:30 pm, NCJW Office. This monthly discussion is led by Sherry Frank. Beverage and dessert provided.

Women’s Community Seder. Thursday, March 26, 6:00 – 8:30 pm. Congregation Or Hadash, 7460 Trowbridge Road, Sandy Springs.

SAVE THE DATE: 2nd Annual “Women Who Dare: Celebrating our Sheroes” Wednesday, May 6 at 11:30 am at City Springs in Sandy Springs.

For additional information, RSVP for all programs, and to join NJCW ($54), call 404 843-9600, send us an email to njcw@ncjwatlanta.org, send snail mail to R.O. Box 76162, Sandy Springs, GA 30328, or visit our website: www.ncjwatlanta.org.
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FEBRUARY 16
Let’s Fall in Love
Joe Alterman Trio
with Special Guest Lena Seikaly

Join us for a sweet afternoon filled with music and romance. Enjoy love themed songs from the Great American Songbook. Hear songs from Sinatra, Nancy Wilson, Nat King Cole and Ella Fitzgerald. Join us and let’s fall in love. Presented with the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival.

APRIL 26
Perla Batalla In The House of Cohen

Leonard Cohen was one of the most fascinating and enigmatic singer/songwriters of the 20th century. This performance features former Cohen band member, Grammy nominated singer-songwriter Perla Batalla sharing songs and personal anecdotes from her time and travels with Cohen.

MAY 10 - MOTHER’S DAY SPECIAL PERFORMANCE
On the Sunny Side of the Street
The Songs of Dorothy Fields

Celebrate Mom with the music of Dorothy Fields, a lyricist and author who wrote innumerable classic Broadway hits, and learn how this trailblazing songwriter’s Jewish heritage impacted her artistry. Enjoy tunes like, “On the Sunny Side of the Street,” “Big Spender,” and “If My Friends Could See Me Now”. This performance is produced by Atlanta Audible.

Tickets and Info at TheBreman.org or call 678.222.3700
Mazel Tov

We Congratulate the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival on 20 Years of Storytelling
We — the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Atlanta — offer our huge and heartfelt congratulations to the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) for an incredible 20 years.

From its humble beginnings as a program of AJC’s Atlanta office, to being one of the leading arts institutions in Atlanta, this powerful initiative continues to build bridges through film.

As the founder and partner of the AJFF, AJC is provided with a unique opportunity to strengthen relationships with Atlanta’s ethnic, religious, and international communities. Through the sights and sounds of movies, AJC raises awareness about issues affecting Israel, educates about antisemitism, fights extremism and hatred, and promotes pluralism around the world.

AJC recently published a landmark survey showing that nearly 90% of American Jews believe antisemitism is a growing problem in the U.S. More than one-third of those surveyed are afraid to wear anything that identifies them as being Jewish.

However, each time we walk into a theater, whether we are seeing a film about Israel, the Holocaust, or Jewish life around the world, it’s vital to remember we are making statements about the importance of Judaism and of being Jewish.

It is equally crucial to educate our community about antisemitism. After you’ve seen a film, please use ajc.org/TranslateHate as a resource to educate your friends and family about antisemitism and its terms, themes, and memes.

This is a defining moment in our country, including at AJC and for all of us in Atlanta. Together we must fight rising tides of antisemitism and hate, take on those who challenge Israel’s legitimacy, and safeguard our democratic values. If we don’t act, who will?

Please join us at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival and hear from AJC experts and other analysts following many films. And we hope we’ll see you at AJC programs and initiatives throughout the year…we all can make a positive impact.

Now, we look forward to joining you at the movies...many treats in store!

Dov Wilker is AJC regional director, AJC Atlanta, and Ilene Engel is president, AJC Atlanta.

By Max Leventhal, Kenny Blank, and Steve Mensch

As the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival (AJFF) celebrates its 20th year, it is grateful for the support and pride that has enabled it to evolve into a landmark cultural force. Throughout, AJFF has remained true to its mission: to entertain and engage diverse audiences with film through a Jewish lens.

Atlanta’s Jewish community, like many others, is located in a city of great diversity, so building connections is fundamental. These carefully curated films honor struggle, celebrate triumph, and bridge divides in these polarized times.

The Opening Night film, Shared Legacies: The African-American Jewish Civil Rights Alliance, explores the historic relationships among civil rights pioneers, including many notable Atlanta leaders.

American Jewish Civil Rights Alliance

The festival lineup also examines little-known aspects of extraordinary people: Israeli Prime Minister Meir in Golda; the renowned British neurologist in Oliver Sacks: His Own Life; a visionary filmmaker in Alan J. Pakula: Going for Truth; and a notorious power broker in Bully. Coward. Victim. The Story of Roy Cohn.

Dramas that demand big-screen viewing include The Glass Room, Black Mercedes, Those Who Remained, and Incitement, Israel’s Oscar entry. And for sports fans, Aulcie, Back to Maracanã, and The Keeper will have you cheering.

Welcome to the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival
type: Serial (Bad) Weddings 2, a sequel to the 2015 AJFF hit; and Wolkenbruch’s Wondrous Journey Into the Arms of a Shiksa, the sexual awakening of a Swiss Orthodox student.

The family-friendly menu offers #AnneFrank, Parallel Stories, Abe, Crescendo, Flawless, and When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit, among others.

What began 20 years ago as a modest but noble desire to enable Atlantans to explore Jewish culture through film has grown beyond the annual festival into a year-round calendar of programs.

AJFF remains first and foremost the audience’s festival. The community’s enthusiastic participation defines AJFF’s success. We can’t wait to see you on Opening Night and throughout our 20th season.

Max Leventhal, AJFF board president; Kenny Blank, AJFF executive director; and Steve Mensch, AJFF 2020 festival chair.
THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF SUCCESS.
The Weber Rambots Robotics Team secured a spot in the GA FIRST Tech Challenge state championship. FIRST Tech teams are challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in head-to-head competitions in an alliance format. Teams also must raise funds, design and market their team brand, and participate in community outreach for which they can win awards.

A PART OF THE COSMOS. To learn about the solar system, TDSA’s first-grade girls were assigned the roles of planets, stars, comets, and asteroids.

THE JEWISH GEORGIAN January-February 2020

By Belle Klavonsky

KEHILLAH. On Wednesday, January 15, the classes of 2019, 2018, 2017, and 2016 were welcomed for the 14th Annual Homecoming Alumni Reunion. The Epstein School embraces all students, not only in their learning, but also in their lives, working to create a loving and vibrant community within the school’s walls and beyond. This sense of community — Kehillah — is evidenced by the ongoing relationships alumni have with one another and the school. All of the former classmates and teachers had a wonderful afternoon full of fun, friends, and food.

INNOVATION GRANTS. Thanks to the 20Chai initiative, several Epstein faculty members have received Innovation Grants. Instructional Technology Specialist Tali Ben-Senior takes students through the design thinking process as they build apps that will answer the needs of students and teachers throughout the school and allow students to deepen their 21st-century skills, follow their passions, and innovate. Fifth-grade teacher Ali Clement and Debbie Levine, middle school learning support, will start the Rock Your School Movement to create outside-the-box educational experiences for students in pre-K through eighth grade. Teachers will challenge their own instructional practices and deliver ordinary content in an extraordinary way.

ENLIGHTENING TRAVEL. Two groups of Weber students have started 2020 with life-changing travel education experiences — the Spanish Immersion trip and the Senior Israel-Poland Experience. Weber’s intellectually engaged and committed students, led by visionary educators, will meet and build relationships with Jewish communities, as well as communities in the broader world, past and present.

LEARNING TO PRAY. Learning to daven is exciting for TDSA Kindergarteners, as they earn tickets for prizes for stellar participation.

BRINGING A BOOK TO LIFE. After reading the book Poppy by Avi, TDSA fourth-graders dissected owl pellets to see what the owls had eaten. They identified claws, beaks, bones, and more.

FIRST SIDDUR. Torah Day School of Atlanta (TDSA) first-grade boys proudly received their very first siddur after impressing their families with a fabulous performance.

CREATIVE LEARNING. In TDSA’s Kindergarten, the students are methodically learning the aleph beis. When the girls learned the letter kof, each one dressed up like a kallah (bride).

A CULTURE OF KINDNESS. Adding extra kindness to the school year, Mechinsa, fifth graders participated in “Throw Kindness Like Confetti.” For this initiative, students wrote various ways they exhibit kindness on small confetti-like pieces of paper. Responses included “caring for each other,” “showing respect to everyone,” “being inclusive,” “and more. The goal of the project is to frame the school year around kindness by highlighting that anyone can be kind at any time and at any place. Pictured are Rebecca Good, Hebrew and Judaics teacher and one of her students.

ON THE BUS. After a successful pilot year, The Davis Academy added a Sandy Springs route to its free bus program in January. With this addition, The Davis Academy now has four bus routes serving new and returning families in Alpharetta/John’s Creek, Brookhaven, Buckhead/Chastain, East Roswell, Dunwoody, and Sandy Springs. The Davis Academy recognizes that young families are busier than ever, juggling school, work, and personal responsibilities. Through the implementation of its transportation hands-on approach in multiple prototyping (with recyclable materials and various technologies), and testing until a viable solution was generated. When design thinking is coupled with tikkan olam, students develop a deeper level of empathy, ask meaningful questions, and believe they can make a difference as they solve real challenges.
program. The Davis Academy is committed to making itself more accessible to Metro Atlanta families. Shown here are Jude Galion and Isaac Lichtenstein.

TO GROW A TREE. Judaism teaches that there’s nothing more important than a Keter Shem Tov — the crown of a good name. In anticipation of their b’nai mitzvah, each Davis student researches and designs a leaf to add to the Keter Shem Tov tree. This tree is a testament to the enduring relevance of Jewish wisdom and profound spiritual awareness of Davis students. Each leaf, which includes a passage from the Torah or Jewish tradition deeply relevant to the student, is presented at a ceremony immediately after the student reads from the Torah at school for their b’nai mitzvah.

ONCE A LION ALWAYS A LION. Recently, members of The Davis Academy Class of 2009 came together for their 10-year reunion. The 30+ alumni in attendance (pictured), demonstrated their learning of text study and through projects and a performance for their senior athletes and cheering the high school boys and girls basketball teams to victory. The graduating athletes were honored for their hard work and dedication to AJA Athletics over the years.

SERVICE LEARNING. Atlanta Jewish Academy (AJA) students recently participated in a service learning day in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Reverend King’s legacy of service. Jewish service learning provides an opportunity to understand and consider Jewish values and express those values through hands-on service to others, simultaneously transforming students and changing the world. High-schoolers participated in off-campus service trips with different organizations around Atlanta. Middle schoolers had the opportunity to hear from individuals from different countries about their cultures and life experiences; they also packed breakfast bags for Rebecca’s Tent, a local women’s homeless shelter.

with different organizations around Atlanta. Middle schoolers had the opportunity to hear from individuals from different countries about their cultures and life experiences; they also packed breakfast bags for Rebecca’s Tent, a local women’s homeless shelter.

Atlanta professionals honored at 30th Annual Torch Gala

Emory gastroenterologist Tanvi Dhere, MD, community leader Jodi Berman Sonenshine, and Atlanta-based STONE Resource Group were honored at the 30th Annual Torch Gala for their efforts in support of the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation. The Torch Gala took place on Saturday, February 1, at the InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta, and raised more than $500,000.

Tanvi Dhere, MD, is an adult gastroenterologist and the director of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) at Emory University Hospital. When she’s not seeing patients, Dr. Dhere serves on the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation Georgia Chapter Board of Trustees and the chapter’s Medical Advisory Committee, and she plans and attends patient and professional education programs for IBD. For her efforts in research, patient education, and support of the estimated 3.1 million Americans living with Crohn’s disease or ulcerative colitis, the foundation presented Dr. Dhere with the Premier Physician Award.

CHAGIGAT CHUMASH. AJA presented its second-grade students with their own Chumash, one of the most important books they will ever receive, and honored them for their achievements this year. They demonstrated their learning of text study and Hebrew, while incorporating art and music, through projects and a performance for their parents and special guests.

HAVDALAH. AJA’s third-grade students learned all about the meaning and symbols of Havdalah through lessons in Hebrew, technology, art, and music, and shared this with their families and friends.

STONE Resource Group, founded in Roswell, Georgia in 2010, provides professional staffing services heavily focused in the information technology, telecommunications, and engineering sectors. STONE also focuses on social responsibility; each month its employees volunteer with and donate to Atlanta charities, including the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, and the Neighborhood Enrichment Project. For its dedication to the local community and support of the IBD community, STONE Resource Group received the foundation’s Corporate Citizen of the Year award.

The Torch Gala is the premier fundraising event of the year for the Georgia Chapter and attracts Atlanta’s finest and most generous philanthropists. The evening featured a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, and seated dinner, followed by live music and dancing. The Torch Gala makes an impact on the estimated 3.1 million Americans living with IBD by funding vital research and enabling education and support for patients. It has raised more than $8 million to date to fund cutting-edge research and therapies for patients living with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. The Torch Gala Committee is chaired by Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation Georgia Chapter Board of Trustees member Scott Zweigle, Partner at Parker, Hudson, Rainer, & Dobbs, LLP.

The Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation is the leading non-profit organization focused on both research and patient support for inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). For more than 50 years, the Foundation has been inspiring and engaging patients and caregivers in the country’s largest IBD community and helping to dramatically accelerate the pace of research by breaking down traditional barriers to patients, data, funding, and collaborations. The foundation also provides extensive educational resources for patients and their families, medical professionals, and the public.

Known collectively as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis affects nearly one in 100 people. They are painful, medically incurable diseases that attack the digestive system.

For more information, visit crohnscolitisfoundation.org/torchgala2020, or contact Shannon Pritt at sprimm@crohnscolitisfoundation.org or call 404-982-0616.
What will your genes reveal about you in 2020?

BY Risa Abittan

With New Year’s resolutions in full force, it’s time to reflect on your goals and help secure a healthy future for you and your family. Don’t worry; this one is easy.

You may be surprised to learn that each of us carries errors, or mutations, in disease-causing genes. Despite these mutations, we are typically healthy carriers of these diseases and do not have symptoms. This is because most of these disorders are inherited in an autosomal-recessive fashion, meaning that it takes two mutations, one from each of our parents, to cause the disease. When two people carry the same recessive disease, each of their children is at 25% risk for the condition. Presence of mutations running in families is often only discovered when a child is born to a carrier couple and has a serious genetic condition.

Prospective parents interested in ensuring the health of their future children can pursue genetic screening ahead of time to determine their carrier status. JScreen, a not-for-profit education and carrier-screening program based out of Emory University School of Medicine’s Department of Human Genetics, offers at-home testing and genetic counseling for individuals who wish to take action. The JScreen panel includes more than 200 genetic conditions that are common in Ashkenazi, Mizrahi, and Sephardi Jewish communities, and in the general population. Tay-Sachs disease and Gaucher disease, for example, are carried by one in 30 and one in 16 Ashkenazi Jews, respectively. One in 15 individuals of Syrian and Iranian descent are carriers for inclusion body myopathy, while one in 11 Ashkenazi and one in 10 Sephardic individuals carry a mutation for familial Mediterranean fever.

When both parents are carriers for the same recessive disease, there are ways to maximize their chances of having a healthy baby. Some parents choose to conceive naturally and determine if the fetus is affected via prenatal diagnosis, which is done as early as 11 weeks’ gestation. Other couples may choose to undergo in vitro fertilization with pre-implantation genetic testing to screen embryos for the condition prior to implantation into the uterus and minimize their chances for an affected pregnancy. Sperm and egg donations from non-carriers and adoption are options as well.

Visit JScreen.org for more information about reproductive carrier screening.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN HEALTH? Genetic testing is also available to determine whether you are at increased risk of developing specific types of cancer during your lifetime. While most cancers are not hereditary, some result from inherited mutations in genes that normally protect our cells from damage. These mutations are usually inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion, whereby one affected copy of the gene is enough to result in the increased cancer susceptibility. With dominant inheritance, every male or female child of a carrier parent has a 50% chance of inheriting the predisposition. Mutations in two of these cancer-related genes, BRCA1 and BRCA2, are highly prevalent in the Ashkenazi Jewish population, with a frequency of one in 40, compared with one in 500 in the general population.

Ashkenazi Jews are at increased risk for BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations even if they do not have a personal or close family history of related cancers. Mutations in these genes confer significantly increased risks for developing breast, ovarian, pancreatic, and prostate cancer. Knowing your risk can be life-saving, in that there are things you can do to reduce your risk for developing cancer.

The Atlanta PEACH BRCA study is currently enrolling men and women age 25 and older, who have at least one Ashkenazi Jewish grandparent and do not have a personal or close family history of breast, ovarian, pancreatic, or metastatic prostate cancer. At-home BRCA testing and genetic counseling are provided at no cost to eligible participants. To learn more and to see if you qualify, visit JScreen.org/BRCA.

This is the year to take action. JScreen is here to help you.

— Risa Abittan is a master’s student in Long Island University Post’s Genetic Counseling Program. She is passionate about increasing the awareness and knowledge of genetic risks within the Jewish community as well as promoting informed decision-making in regard to one’s health.

Thought you’d like to know

By Jonathan Barach

CHANGE THE CULTURE. Jewish Women’s Fund of Atlanta (JWFA) is hosting a Change the Culture Summit, on February 24, to address sexual harassment, sexism, and gender discrimination in Jewish workplaces and communal spaces. This complimentary half-day program, at The Selig Center, will include two national experts who will provide invaluable information and training to achieve the goals of safety, respect, and equity in the workplace. Visit jwfatlanta.org/events/ for registration and program details.

ANNE AND EMMETT. The Augusta Junior Players will present Anne and Emmett on Tuesday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heritage Academy, 333 Greene Street in Augusta, Georgia. The performance will be followed by a discussion and talkback featuring Monique Williams, local news personality, and Ron Small, founder and principal of the Holocaust Education Film Foundation. Proceeds will benefit the Augusta Jewish Museum and the Lacy Craft Laney Museum of Black History. Visit augustajewishmuseum.org or call 706-426-1542 to purchase tickets. General admission/$20. Seniors, students, military/$10. Patron/$50, includes preferred seating.

YOUNG WOMEN IN STEM. On March 22, 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m., Atlanta Jewish Academy (AJA) will host Young Women in STEM, in partnership with the Jewish Women’s Fund of Atlanta, JumpsparkATL, and The Weber School. The keynote speaker is physicist, TV host, and STEM advocate Dr. Debbie Berebichez, the first Mexican woman to graduate from Stanford University with a Ph.D. in physics. The aim of this event, which will include mini-classes, interactive presentations, career booths, and networking opportunities, is to create programs to provide young women, grades eight through 12, with information on STEM fields. Visit aja.fyi/ywStemEvent to register.
CONCERT SERIES CELEBRATES LOVE, LEONARD COHEN, AND MOMS. The Bremen Museum’s seventh annual Molly Blank Concert Series will kick off February 16 with an exciting lineup of performances.

The series once again will feature outstanding Jewish contributions to music in The Bremen’s own auditorium.

“We are really excited about this year’s series,” said Leslie Gordon, executive director of The Bremen. “Our partners and staff searched the world for great entertainment, and we won’t let people down. Everyone can expect to enjoy music, reminiscence, and to swing to the music performed by some of the most talented musicians in America.”

The season opens with “Let’s Fall in Love,” featuring the Joe Alterman Trio and special guest Lena Seikaly. Billed as a “sweet afternoon filled with music and romance,” the roughly 90-minute show will include love-themed songs from the Great American Songbook. Expect to hear unique renditions of tunes from legends such as Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, and Ella Fitzgerald. of the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival, which is partnering with The Bremen in presenting the show.

“Let’s Fall in Love” marks the Atlanta debut for Seikaly, a Palestinian singer from Washington. She and Alterman met several years ago, when they were paired for a concert in Maryland.

“Lena is one of my favorite singers to work with,” said Alterman. “She has a rare talent and is really special. She’s an incredible singer who really knows how to tell a story.”

The Washington Post calls Seikaly “one of the local jazz scene’s most promising performers” and “one of the brightest voices in jazz.” She performs frequently as a soloist alongside the city’s top orchestras and choirs, has performed with her own trio at the Kennedy Center and other acclaimed venues, and has taught and led workshops at several prestigious performing arts schools. The classically trained operatic mezzo-soprano studied at the University of Maryland School of Music.

Rounding out the Joe Alterman Trio will be bassist Robby Handley and drummer Justin Charesek, both based in Atlanta. “Robby and Justin are fabulous,” said Alterman. “They’re two of my favorite people and musicians.”

To learn more about Alterman, visit joealtermanmusic.com. To learn about Seikaly, visit lenaseikaly.com.

The series continues on Sunday, April 26 with Perla Batalla in the House of Cohen.

Batalla, a Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter from Los Angeles, sang back-up for Leonard Cohen. One of the most fascinating and enigmatic — if not the most successful — singer-songwriters of the late 1960s, Cohen retained an audience across six decades of music making and poetry. Batalla will share special songs and personal anecdotes from her time and travels on the road with her mentor, who passed away in November 2016.

According to NoHoArtsDistrict.com, “Perla Batalla is a gloriously rich mixture of backgrounds, and she brings them with her to the stage with her gorgeous voice full of love, life, mournfulness, and joy. It’s a heady combination and one that works to perfection with Cohen’s particular gifts.”

Batalla has toured the world with her tribute to the legend, whom she credits for helping to launch her career. Comfortable speaking both English and Spanish, she has earned critical acclaim for her “unique voice” and “culture-merging compositions.” Batalla has recorded seven albums, been featured in films and television, and performed in some of the world’s most celebrated venues.

To learn more about Batalla, visit perla.com.

Finally, The Bremen will celebrate Mother’s Day on Sunday, May 10 with “On the Sunny Side of the Street: The Songs of Dorothy Fields.” A lyricist and author, Fields became one of the few women songwriters in the 1920s and 1930s to create multiple standards in musical theater. As a lyricist, Fields wrote with Jerome Kern. As a librettist, she wrote the book for Annie Get Your Gun and collaborated with Irving Berlin. During her career, she worked closely with many more Broadway greats, including Fred Astaire, Oscar Hammerstein II, Ethel Merman, Cole Porter, Bill “Boojangles” Robinson, Richard Rodgers, and Gwen Verdon.

“Unlike many peers, Fields managed to stay relevant late into her career, through the 1960s, writing Sweet Charity along with Neil Simon and Cy Coleman, and Bob Fosse directing the show,” said Adam Koplan, a New York City and Atlanta-based writer/director and the founding artistic director of The Flying Carpet Theatre Company. “When the Songwriters’ Hall of Fame began its induction ceremonies in 1971, it included some of the most well-known names in American music: Duke Ellington, Ira Gershwin, and Alan Jay Lerner. The only woman in the group was Dorothy Fields.”

Koplan, who has directed numerous productions in Atlanta, including several at The Bremen over the years, is writing, directing, and co-producing the show with Atlanta Audible. If not for Fields, he said, we wouldn’t have some of the best-known songs in American theater.

The concert will blend songs as well as amusing and poignant anecdotes, painting a picture of Fields’ genius and trailblazing accomplishments. The cast and band, featuring seven accomplished local musicians and musical-theater veterans, will play classic tunes from her song list, such as “On the Sunny Side of the Street,” “The Way You Look Tonight,” “You Can’t Get a Man With A Gun,” “Big Spender,” and “If My Friends Could See Me Now.”

Dorothy Fields, circa 1939 (photo: Lucas-Pritchard and Lucas-Monroe, Museum of the City of New York)

Each concert in the Molly Blank Concert Series will be preceded by a reception with refreshments and will be followed by a meet-and-greet session with the performers. The receptions will start at 4:00 p.m., with the performances at 5:00 p.m.

The Molly Blank Concert Series is made possible by the Molly Blank Fund of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

Visit thebremen.org/Events/2019-Molly-Blank-Concert-Series or call 678-222-3700 for tickets and information.

SURVIVORS TELL THEIR STORIES. The Bremen Museum, Weinberg Center for Holocaust Education, and community partner Eternal Life-Hemshesh present BEARING WITNESS: Remarkable Stories from The Holocaust, an ongoing series of talks by Holocaust survivors and their children.

Now in its 12th year, this program presents Holocaust testimony by survivors who are also Atlanta residents. “Their words rise above hatred and retribution to speak about the strength and will that enabled them to survive,” said Leslie Gordon, executive director of The William Bremen Jewish Heritage Museum.

“This really is what Bearing Witness is about — the resilience survivors used to transcend their experiences. These survivors are your neighbors. You will be surprised to hear their stories.”

Ms. Gordon continued, “We want to make sure the present generation has the opportunity to hear these remarkable people. It’s one thing to read about the Holocaust in a book or see a movie. It’s a completely different experience to hear someone tell you ‘this happened to me.’”

The stories are mesmerizing, and access to these speakers becomes rarer by the day.”

The Bremen’s Bearing Witness program has been building a loyal audience. Each year, attendance increases, attracting a broader audience representing people of all backgrounds. A barrier for many to hear first-hand testimony from the Holocaust has been the price of admission, but a generous grant from The Rich Foundation now allows everyone to hear these stories first-hand at no cost. Everyone is invited to take advantage of this free offering, because it is vitally important to share the stories as the witness generation is rapidly diminishing.

The next program will feature Henry (Hank) Lewin, February 9, at 2:00 p.m. Hank tells the story of his parents, Nora and Joel Lewin, who were married in Kovno, Lithuania. They endured separation and several concentration camps to survive the Holocaust. On March 15, Alfred Schneider, Ph.D., presents his unforgettable story of resilience. Even though school was illegal in Romania for Jews in 1941, Alfred and two friends started their own course of studies and were later tutored by teachers within the ghetto. His academic prowess, ability to learn multiple languages, and musical talents proved pivotal to his survival.

Each program includes a free, guided
Kosher Affairs

BY Roberta Scher

In winter, I usually have soup in the freezer and warming comfort meals on the menu. I am sharing some of my favorites in this column. But, before we get to recipes, let’s explore some food-related updates.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPICY PEACH

Congrats to The Spicy Peach, Atlanta’s boutique kosher grocer. The store has doubled in size. Wow! Go browse the newly spacious aisles and check out all of the new products.

KOSHERFEST

Once again, I helped coordinate the annual kosher media dinner in New York prior to Kosherfest. This year, the event was held at ETC Steakhouse in Teaneck, New Jersey. Chef Seth Warshaw presented a three-course French-inspired menu, including a fabulous beef cheek appetizer with mushroom gnocchi and a house-aged rib steak. The restaurant menu changes seasonally, but if these two dishes are available, I highly recommend them. As part of dessert, Buzz Pop Cocktails introduced its newly kosher certified (OU) adult push pop — a cocktail in a pop, made from fruit sorbet and a full shot of liquor. I sampled the blueberry mojo Buzz Pop, a puree of fresh blueberries, pomegranates, and tequila. The company is seeking franchisees.

A highlight of the dinner was a wine pairing curated by Gabe Geller, Kedem’s director of public relations and advertising. Favorites included the sparkling Herzog Lineage Moments, Tabor Cabernet Sauvignon Limited Edition 2014, and a memorable Domaine de Panquelaine Sancerre 2018.

The full wine pairing list presented by Kedem: Herzog Lineage Moments NV; Domaine de Panquelaine Sancerre 2018; Hagafen Dry Riesling 2018; Pacifica Riesling 2017; Shiloh Chardonnay 2017; Herzog Special Reserve Cabernet; Sauvignon Lake County 2016; Tabor Cabernet Sauvignon Limited Edition 2014; Château Rollan de By Médoc 2015; and Herzog Late Harvest Chenin Blanc 2018.

While in the New Jersey area to attend Kosherfest, our friend and gracious host Simone Wilker took us on a tour of the nearby kosher retailers. My favorite stop was Evergreen, in Monsey. (Yes, the same Evergreen, near nearby kosher retailers. My favorite stop was Evergreen, in Monsey. (Yes, the same Evergreen, in Monsey.) Evergreen supermarket is a Disneyworld for kosher shoppers, including aisles and aisles of prepared take-out options, fresh and custom-cut meats, fish, and grocery departments. Although I could not easily transport all of the fabulous foods, I did bring home one of my favorite finds — disposable cutting boards in a roll.

MORE KOSHER NEWS

Yum, Yum, Yum — Tate’s Cookies. Several years ago, Oprah chose Tate’s Bake Shop chocolate chip cookies as one of her favorite things. The company has recently become OU Dairy kosher certified. Finally, I enjoyed a tasting! These cookies are crunchy, thin, buttery, and oh so delicious. I bought mine at Publix, along with a package of the equally scrumptious white chocolate macadamia flavor.

My friend Sharon Matten (Koshereveryday.com) has just published her first cookbook — Shabbos under Pressure. The book is friendly, conversational, and filled with easy-to-understand information about how to use multi-cookers. The book’s creation was very personal for Sharon. It took two years to write it, and her mother helped as a taster and recipe contributor. Sadly, Sharon lost her mother last year, before the book was published. The 70 recipes and tips shared in Shabbos under Pressure work for every brand of electric pressure cooker. There are full color photos for each recipe and very clear instructions. Sharon lives in Chicago and writes for various newspapers and publications; her specialty is gluten-free kosher cooking.

By the way, if you have not yet purchased a multi-cooker, I highly recommend this appliance. I like the Instant Pot brand and the new Mealthy cooker. I have the six-quart size of each.

See RECIPES, page 34

Kosher Korner

BY Rabbi Reuven Stein

When trying to keep kosher, nothing is more frustrating than buying an item with a “kosher” symbol and finding out that the product is not kosher.

There are more than 1,000 kosher symbols on various products, and some of these symbols are no guarantee that the product is kosher.

When keeping kosher, one should purchase only products that have been certified via reliable orthodox supervision.

The following symbols are some of the most common reliable kosher symbols. There are many more reliable kosher symbols that are not listed here.

If you’re not sure about whether or not a particular symbol is reliable, check with the Atlanta Kashruth Commission, at 404-634-4063.

Rabbi Reuven Stein is director of supervision for the Atlanta Kashruth Commission, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting kashruth through education, research, and supervision.
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### ATLANTA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
**FEBRUARY 10—27**

#### MON. FEB. 17 • PRESIDENTS DAY

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# Film Festival Schedule

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<td>Born in Jerusalem and Still Alive 4:20 PM</td>
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<td>The Mamboniks 1:00 PM</td>
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**Atlanta Jewish Film Festival**

**February 10–27**

**20 Years of Storytelling**
## ATLANTA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

**February 10-27**

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### GUEST SPEAKERS & POST-FILM DISCUSSIONS

- **FOLLOW #AJFF2020**
- ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER & INSTAGRAM @ATLJEWISHFILM

AJFF enriches your experience with guest speakers before and after select screenings. A variety of filmmakers, critics, and other experts engage with the audience during introductions and post-film Q&A sessions.

As they’re confirmed, highlights about guest speakers and post-film Q&As will be posted at AJFF.org, and in some cases, announced on our social media channels.

You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram @ATLJewishFilm.
HIGH TEA WITH ANAT SULTON-DADON. Hadassah Greater Atlanta (HGA) held its 4th Annual Chai Tea in December at the Wyndham Hotel at Powers Ferry, with featured speaker Anat Sultan-Dadon, Israel’s consul general to the Southeastern United States. This year’s theme was Chanukah, and the event featured a “high tea” style luncheon, tea, and elegant desserts.

HGA President Michele Weiner-Merbaum welcomed attendees and introduced the first speaker, Dr. Rachel Schonberger, who was recently elected as a Hadassah national vice president.

Dr. Schonberger spoke about Hadassah Medication Organization’s (HMO) participation in the development of a drug to combat sepsis due to a compromised immune system. The drug boosts helpful parts of the immune system, while inhibiting the harmful, inflammatory part. All who received treatment with this drug recovered. It is hoped that the drug will be approved and made available worldwide, including the United States. Dr. Schonberger emphasized that HMO research benefits not only Israel, but has positive global benefits as well.

Featured speaker Anat Sultan-Dadon joined the Israeli diplomatic corps in 2004 and assumed her role as consul general in Atlanta in 2019. She talked about the significant role Hadassah plays in Israel. She said that not only is Israel known as the “start-up nation,” but it is also known as the “impact nation” for what it does technically and medically around the world. She stressed how Hadassah helps Israel to lead the way, sharing that Hadassah has a significant role Hadassah plays in Israel.

Sultan-Dadon also discussed the elections in Israel, as well as issues with Iran, its nuclear threat, and its backing of terror organizations throughout the Middle East. She allowed that the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement has had an ideological, but not a huge tangible, effect on Israel — and that it goes hand-in-hand with antisemitism and antizionism. She stressed that the consulate makes a strong effort to educate the public about BDS and its ramifications.

For more information about Hadassah and Hadassah in Atlanta, visit hadassah.org/atlanta.

and board, at the Mo Mo Ya Japanese Restaurant in Buckhead.

Sheila Dalmat, Hadassah Greater Atlanta’s immediate past president, discharged the 2019 Ketura Board members with thanks for their service and installed the 2020 Board.

The theme of the installation was the Chagall Windows at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. Each incoming leader was given a photo of one of the windows to inspire her in her new role. Helene Jacoby, Ketura’s immediate past president, presented outgoing president Maxine Schein with a donation from the board in her honor, to benefit the Hadassah-sponsored Meir Shefayah Youth Village, in Israel, as a token of appreciation for her leadership.

“Matza and Tortillas: Jews South of the Border” was the subject of the talk by Hazel Gold, former chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Emory University.

Visit hadassah.org/atlanta for more information about Hadassah and the Ketura Group.

Ketura 2020 board (front, from left) Maxine Schein, Suzy Wilner, Betsy Lessans, Dale Millman, Joan Solomon, Fran Redisch, Katie Kloder, and Susan Adair; and (back) Gerry Taratoot, Bernice Hellman, Sandy Bailey, Peri Rosner, Leora Wollner, and Arlene Glass. Not pictured: Rosalie Agrow and Carol Schneider

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METULLA GROUP INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS. Metulla group held its 2020 installation in December, at Ten Bistro.

Elva Rosner gave a brief overview of current events in Israel and then installed the new officers. They are: Linda Lieberman and Terry Nordin, co-presidents; Gail Saloff, treasurer; Karen Miller, Sandye Charlap Geller, and Lana Krebs, co-vice presidents membership; Sharyn Lazarnick, vice president fundraising; Susan Linkwald and Barbara Lang, co-vice presidents programming; Livia Sklar and Marsha Fish, co-vice presidents education; Judy Roseman, vice president advocacy; Sharyn Lane, recording secretary; and Nancy Schwartz, corresponding secretary.

We stand with Israel security • peace • solidarity

Michele Weiner-Merbaum (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to Consul General Sultan-Dadon.

Robin Guy (left) and her mom, Elva Rosner, say, “Chai, y’all!”

Ketura’s Eclectic Installation. Israel, Mexico, and Japan were well represented at the Hadassah Greater Atlanta Ketura Group’s 2020 installation of officers

Helene Jacoby and Maxine Schein

Chai Tea organizers (from left, front) Elva Rosner, Terri Nordin, Judy Lebow, Linda Hakarem, and Judy Bart; and (back) Susan Linkwald, Nancy Fried, Marci Abrams, and Michele Weiner-Merbaum

Sheila Dalmat displays Trees for Israel and a Hadassah certificate of appreciation from Maxine Schein for performing the Ketura Installation.

Hazel Gold accepts Hadassah certificate of appreciation from Helene Jacoby.

Metulla officers (front, from left) Gail Saloff, Linda Lieberman, Terry Nordin, Sandye Charlap Geller, and Nancy Schwartz; and (back) Sharyn Lazarnick, Karen Miller, Susan Linkwald, Barbara Lang, Judy Roseman, Marsha Fish, Sharyn Lane, and Michelle Weiner Merbaum
Cold Weather Recipes

Mom’s Chicken Cacciatore

By Sharon Muten
Excerpted from Shabbos Under Pressure (Feldheim Publishers)

1 tablespoon canola oil
1 large sweet onion (like Vidalia), cut in half and thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 pound white button mushrooms, sliced
2 cups flour (can be gluten free)
1 tablespoon onion powder
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 1/2 teaspoons paprika
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
2 small (3-pound) chickens, cut into eighths (skin removed, optional)
16 ounces tomato sauce
6 ounces tomato paste
1 cup added water

Set the electric pressure cooker (EPC) to sauté/brown mode. Add the canola oil, the sliced onion, and minced garlic. Sauté until the onions are slightly caramelized, stirring occasionally with a heat-resistant spatula.

Add the mushrooms, and continue cooking until the mushrooms are soft. Turn off the EPC.

Remove the vegetables from the EPC pot and place in a medium bowl. Set aside.

Place the flour in a large casserole dish. Add the onion powder, garlic powder, paprika, freshly ground black pepper, and salt. Stir to blend.

Add one cup of water to the EPC pot. Scrape the bottom of the pot with a heat-resistant spatula to remove any additional browned bits that may be stuck to the bottom.

Place a rack in the EPC pot.

Dredge each piece of chicken in the flour until completely coated, and set on the rack in the EPC pot. Repeat with the remaining pieces, stacking them evenly.

Cover the chicken with the tomato sauce. Top with the mushrooms and onions.

Vegetarian No Chicken Soup

This is a freezer staple — I make it often and freeze it in portions. I use it to make real chicken soup, Asian noodle soup, and egg drop soup, and sometimes I just add more vegetables.

2 teaspoons olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
1 rib celery, chopped
1 turnip, chunked
1 carrot, chopped
1 cup peeled, chopped sweet potatoes
1 cup peeled, chopped parsnips
1 (1-inch) piece fresh ginger, peeled and minced
2 cloves garlic, minced
8 cups water or packaged low-sodium vegetable broth
2 bay leaves
1 cup fresh parsley
1/2 cup minced fresh dill
Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper

Place parsley and bay leaves in a disposable or silicon cooking bag, cheesecloth, or soup sock.

Heat oil in a large, heavy pot over medium-high heat. Add onion, celery, carrot, turnip, sweet potato, parsnips, ginger, and garlic; cook, stirring, until lightly browned, about 2 minutes.

Add water or broth and the bagged leaf and parsley. Reduce heat, cover, and let simmer until vegetables are tender, about 45 minutes.

Add dill and season with salt and pepper.

Keep warm until ready to serve.

Optional: Add 1 teaspoon of salt, or more to taste.

Serve with crusty crusty bouquet or alphabet crackers.

Creamy Mushroom Soup

Pressure cooker and crockpot friendly

I adapted this recipe from one I found on AllRecipes.com. It is rich, creamy, and comforting on a cold day. The original recipe is dairy, containing butter and heavy cream, which of course is superhe. This version is parve, made with olive oil and coconut cream.

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 1/2 pounds mushrooms, sliced (button, portobello, shiitake)
1 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
4 cups vegetable broth
1/2 cup sherry
1 teaspoon salt, or more to taste
1/2 teaspoon pepper, if desired
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
6 ounces tomato paste
1 packet (1 oz.) chili seasoning mix, such as Simply Organic brand
1/2 cup sour cream
1/4 cup unsweetened coconut cream (I usually buy mine at Trader Joe’s)

Super Chili by Barry

This recipe is a specialty of my brother-in-law, Barry Scher. Since retiring as vice president of Giant Foods (where he started as a bag boy) and following a successful 40-year career, Barry has taken up several hobbies. One of them is cooking. Barry is my husband’s twin brother, but no, Allan does not cook.

Four bell peppers (two green, one red, one yellow), chopped
Two carrots, chopped or sliced thinly
One or two large sweet onions, chopped
One can kidney beans (14.5-16 oz. can), rinsed well and drained (we prefer organic)
One can diced tomatoes or 1/2 cup chopped fresh tomatoes
One small can tomato sauce (8 oz.) with the liquid
One pound ground turkey or ground beef
1 teaspoon each cumin and oregano
1 packet (1 oz.) chili seasoning mix, such as Simply Organic brand
4 tablespoons of olive oil, divided
Optional for serving: 8 oz. package of parve cheddar “cheese,” such as Daiya brand

Warm 2 tablespoons of oil in a large, deep fry pan. Brown ground meat. Remove meat and juices from pan, and set aside. Warm 2 more tablespoons of oil in the pan and sauté vegetables. Return meat and the veggies, then add the sauce. Stir until thickened, 2-3 minutes. Turn pressure cooker off. Season soup with additional salt and pepper, as desired.

Serve with sour cream in a small serving bowl; put parve shredded cheese or parve sour cream in another bowl, and serve. Don’t forget the hot sauce.

If making ahead, reheat uncovered in a 300 degree oven or on 50% power in the microwave.

To prepare in an Instant Pot, sauté the meat and the veggies, then add the sauce and spices. Cook on manual pressure for 8 minutes, and do a quick release.

Remove cover and let sit for about 5 minutes more.

Optional on the side: chop the 2nd onion and place in a small serving bowl; put parve shredded cheese or parve sour cream in another bowl, and serve. Don’t forget the hot sauce.

Kosher Affairs Recipes continued from page 28

The Jewish Georgian

January-February 2020
ImpactIsrael names Robert Arogeti new board chair

Robert Arogeti has assumed the role of board chair of ImpactIsrael, effective January 1. Arogeti was unanimously elected at ImpactIsrael’s biennial Board of Directors meeting on November 19, 2019, in New York City; he will serve a three-year term.

ImpactIsrael (formerly Friends of Yemin Orde) is the philanthropic partner of Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives, both located in Israel. The Village is home, school, and safe haven for 430 at-risk youth from around the world. Village Way Educational Initiatives expands the Village Way educational methodology, first modeled at Yemin Orde, to 55 partner youth villages, therapeutic residential communities, and high schools with high populations of at-risk youth, including schools in Arab communities. Today, the Village Way methodology has impacted 22,000 youth and 2,500 educators in Israel.

Arogeti served a three-year term as ImpactIsrael’s national campaign chair from 2017 to 2019. He succeeds George W. Blank, whose three-year tenure, 2017-2019, included the creation of a comprehensive five-year strategic plan, establishment of a new soccer/sports field at Yemin Orde Youth Village, two highly successful fundraising galas in New York, and the national brand launch of ImpactIsrael.

Robert Arogeti (photo courtesy Robert Arogeti/ImpactIsrael)

more supporters and expand our transformative Village Way educational methodology to thousands more at-risk youth in Israel.”

ImpactIsrael Executive Director Karen Sallerson said Arogeti’s business acumen and his decades of advocacy on behalf of Israel and Yemin Orde will have a positive impact on the organization’s national fundraising efforts. “I look forward to working closely with Robert to continue to position our organization as a philanthropic leader in expanding our transformational educational methodology, the Village Way, throughout Israel,” Sallerson said. “I am tremendously grateful to George Blank for his visionary leadership, his dedication, and generous contributions to ImpactIsrael.”

Arogeti is deeply committed to Atlanta’s Jewish community and has previously served in many volunteer leadership positions, among them board chair, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta; chair, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta Campaign for Community Needs; board member and treasurer, Weber High School of Atlanta, Emory University Hillel, and Jewish Family Services of Atlanta; founder and treasurer, American Israel Chamber of Commerce; and member and regional chair, UJC National Young Leadership Cabinet.

In the wider Atlanta community, Arogeti also serves as a volunteer leader in many business and education advocacy organizations. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Professionally, Arogeti serves as partner emeritus of Aprio, LLP, a top 100 accounting firm. For the last 20 years, his practice has focused on individual and family tax and financial issues. He has worked in the areas of estate planning, estate administration, wealth transfer, and charitable planning, in addition to overall income tax planning that affects individual and fiduciary clients.

The Arogetis have three children and two grandchildren.

JFF-Atlanta hires its first director

As Jewish Fertility Foundation-Atlanta (JFF) expands its programs and vision nationally, Emily Zaghi, M.S., is joining the organization as its first director. Emily has served in a variety of roles within the non-profit sector. Her experience includes finance, accounting, development, and operations. Most recently, she worked as an asset management CPA at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Emily currently lives in Toco Hill with her husband and two daughters.

This new position is funded through a generous grant from The Marcus Foundation.

Emily will manage the day-to-day operations of the JFF-Atlanta office. Some of her responsibilities include fertility grants management, emotional support services, developing local community-based educational events, and accounting.

“I first heard about JFF a few years ago and was immediately inspired by the incredible organization and the many families whose lives it has changed,” says Emily. “Several of my siblings and close friends have struggled with fertility challenges, and I have experienced through them the emotional and financial strain this can cause. Words cannot describe how honored I feel to contribute to such a meaningful cause and important organization, and to serve as JFF-Atlanta’s first director.”
By Jerry Schwartz

Wrestling: It’s all in the family. My involvement with and knowledge of the sport of wrestling was limited growing up.

The only thing I really knew about wrestling came from watching it on television, as Hulk Hogan jumped off the top ring rope to level Andre The Giant, or Gorgeous George jumped out of the ring to hit Dusty Rhodes over the head with a chair. It was fun to watch and entertaining, but that was “rassling” and had little to do with the real sport of wrestling.

I also spent lots of time wrestling my friends in our backyard but knew little of the strategies or moves. It was all pretty basic and instinctive. And I did wrestle George Seckar after the first day of high school in a neighborhood yard with about 20 guys looking on. He was a Third Ward kid, and I was from the First Ward. I guess standing up to him was one of those “growing up” moments. We wrestled for about 10 minutes. Not one punch was thrown, and some older kids, who probably got bored watching us, broke up the “fight.” George and I remained classmates, friends, and teammates throughout high school.

Then at the University of Miami, I was a physical education major and had to take a wrestling class. Boy, was that a learning experience. I learned how exhausting and physically draining three two-minute rounds could be. There are no teammates to help, no place to rest, and it’s one-on-one.

So, I’ve always had a respect for those who participated. One thing I like about wrestling that you don’t see in other sports is the idea of weight divisions. A 115-pound competitor is not wrestling someone who is 175 pounds; everyone starts off, at least weight-wise, with a fair chance. Of course, that changes fast depending on skill, stamina, and desire.

I acquired firsthand knowledge as a spectator and fan when my own children got involved. Our daughters, Mindy and Cathy, both dated boys who were excellent wrestlers on their high school teams. Cathy married Marc Backal, a state champ in New Jersey, who also had two wrestling brothers; their son, Jacob, was a top-notch wrestler in high school.

Our son, Michael, at about the age of eight, took a great interest in wrestling. He started a lifelong love affair with the sport as an outstanding high school wrestler and club wrestler at the University of Georgia and has had some experience in cage fighting (that’s another story) and other martial arts. He’s continued his involvement as an assistant coach at Forsyth Central and Roswell high schools. And to take this a step further, his children, Sophia (15) and Zach (12), are showing an interest, attending practices and working out. Sophia wrestled in a tournament with her middle school team and won a medal. Where this will go, who knows, but it’s been a great bonding experience for Michael and his children.

The way, Michael finished second and had a great experience, as well as coming out without any injuries — thank heavens!

Below are a few highlights from his interview.

Q: Why did you enter the tournament?
A: I entered mainly to give myself a goal — to go from 225 pounds to 185 pounds — and then I wanted to test myself. I haven’t wrestled 100% against anyone since my last cage fight, in 2002. I just wanted to see what it felt like to compete again in the sport I love.

Q: Were there some memorable experiences you could share?
A: The first was looking up between periods and seeing my son, Zach, watch me wrestle. That was really special to me. Another experience was the feeling you get in your gut when you know you’re up and about to wrestle. Unlike any other sport, it’s just you and your opponent on the mat; someone wins and someone loses. The finality of it is powerful to me.

That’s a good way to end this chapter of the wrestling story; but there’s more to come. I know Michael and others in the family will continue to remember the sport they loved and the lessons it taught.

Hope you enjoyed the column. Until next time, drive for the bucket and score.
Ilse Reiner to speak at April 19 Holocaust commemoration

By Lili Kshensky Baxter, Ph.D.

Ilse Reiner has an easy smile and a warmth that envelops you. Candid and thoughtful, she readily asks questions — about everything you do, your family, your work, your beliefs and observations. Although enormously proud of her children, Elaine and Richard, and still deeply in love with her late husband, Charlie, she speaks reluctantly of herself. That is partly because she has overcome so much and there are no words, even now, but more so because she is genuinely fascinated by you, by all people.

An orphan at an early age, Ilse is one of the few children to have survived Terezín, the Nazi concentration camp in Czechoslovakia, her home country. Of the 15,000 children sent to Terezín, only 132 survived the Holocaust. Alone and motherless, like the other imprisoned children, she survived typhus, a life-threatening disease caused by filth, lice, and vermin. Once well, she was sent to the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and then to a sub-camp where she was a slave laborer. Somehow, she survived it all, including a death march the final days of the war.

Kind, funny, and thoughtful, Ilse must have been an easy child to like. When she tells her story, she centers on the people who befriended and helped her: from the family who hid her childhood diary and then took her in after the war; to the mischievous and resourceful girls of her orphanage and Terezín; to the older woman who dressed Ilse in a bonnet with ruffles, disguising her as a child and thereby protecting her from the raucous Russian soldiers who liberated her group of women.

She mesmerized my students when I taught “Women and the Holocaust” at Emory, back in 2003. Our guest speaker, Ilse enthralled them, not only by recounting the horrifying experiences endured by women during the Holocaust — which she spoke about with candor and tact — but even more so by captivating them with her joyful sense of life. For young people that age, it was an important lesson to ponder and ultimately to emulate.

Ilse seldom speaks these days, but she will make a rare public appearance on April 19, at Greenwood Cemetery, as the featured speaker for this year’s community-wide Yom HaShoah Commemoration. Her diary, Through the Eyes of a Child: Diary of an Eleven Year Old Jewish Girl, is available in English translation at The Breman Museum, Atlanta.

Ilse will be the featured speaker at the Holocaust Commemoration, April 19, 11:00 a.m. (rain or shine) at Greenwood Cemetery, Cascade Road, Atlanta. For more information, contact The Breman Museum, 678-222-3700.

Teens

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sessions. For example, during an hour focused on Israel’s birth and growth, the teens could learn about the different versions of what happened in 1948, examine Israel’s Declaration of Independence, or delve into the new state’s growing pains through challenges such as immigration. A period dedicated to culture and society offered sessions on poetry, dance, and religion. For a timely hour on political issues, some teens studied Israel’s electoral deadlock, some focused on the U.S.-Israel relationship, and others explored the intersection of Israeli music and culture.

“It’s our duty as teens to learn as much as possible, because we’re the next generation that is going to be dealing with these issues,” said Becca Powers, a high school senior from Shaker Heights, Ohio.

A November videoconference call involving institute participants was helpful in planning the program. “We got more of a chance to actually tell Rich and Steve what we wanted to learn,” said Carol Komorocel, a high school junior from Tampa, Florida, who also attended the October 2018 institute. “So this year they kind of tailored programs for us, and I feel like I learned even more than what I expected.”

In addition to CIE and ISMI staff, the weekend’s instructors included such local experts as JumpSpark Director Kelly Cohen and her predecessor, Hope Chermak, as well as @akiva Associate Director Tina Miller.

In one of the most popular parts of the weekend, several of Atlanta’s group of 10 Shinshinim — recent Israeli high school graduates working as Jewish agency emissaries for a year before their military service — met with their American peers to answer questions about life in Israel.

One Shinshin who works weekly with CIE, Sagi Shulman, led the whole group in a Knesset simulation that served as the culmination of the weekend. Teens portrayed fictional Knesset members with real Israeli experiences, from Russian and Ethiopian immigrants to Mizrahi Jews and Arab Muslims. The teens answered questions that helped them understand their characters, such as what song, food, or article of clothing would represent them, before grappling with Knesset issues. The topics for debate included access to the Temple Mount, Shabbat transportation, the status of settlements, and Arab quotas at Israeli universities.

Amid the additions and changes, the teen institute kept such popular features as Emory campus tours, Shabbat dinner and services at Emory Hillel, and “Chopped: Hummus,” in which teams learn about Israeli food and culture while making their own hummus from a basket of surprise ingredients. Discussions about planning and executing effective Israel programs will help the teens share what they learned in their home communities.

Although TILI is a non-partisan, non-profit, independent institution committed to using primary materials to teach students, educators, and the general public broadly about modern Israel, ISMI, a non-degree-conferring unit of Emory, is dedicated to enhancing knowledge of and scholarship on Israel and the Middle East on the university campus and beyond.

“Now look, I happen to know a little about leadership. I’ve had to work with a lot of nations, for that matter, at odds with each other. And I tell you this: you do not lead by hitting people over the head. Any dumb fool can do that, but it’s usually called ‘assault’ — not ‘leadership’. . . . I’ll tell you what leadership is. It’s persuasion — and conciliation — and education — and patience. It’s long, slow, tough work. That’s the only kind of leadership I know — or believe in — or will practice.”

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower quotation as reported in Jon Meacham’s book The Soul of America.
The Book Smugglers of the Vilna Ghetto: A Story of Spiritual Resistance

David E. Fishman

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 PM
Oxford Presentation Room
1390 Oxford Road, Atlanta GA 30322

This event is free and open to the public. Please join us for a reception following the lecture.

Please see js.emory.edu or call 404-727-6301 for more information. Co-sponsored by the Hightower Fund. Photo from the Archives of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York.
In the early hours of October 12, 1958, fifty sticks of dynamite exploded at the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation, Atlanta’s oldest synagogue, also known as “the Temple.” It suffered severe damage. No people were hurt or killed but the blast shook the city’s confidence and ruffled composure, causing many to reexamine Atlanta’s reputation as “The city too busy to hate.”

Pillar fragments from the explosion and 17 other artifacts tell fascinating stories representing over 170 years of Atlanta Jewish history exclusively at The Breman Museum.
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