

# THE Jewish Georgian

Volume 25, Number 5

Atlanta, Georgia

July-August 2013

FREE

## Summer Fun In Atlanta

### PROJECT MAH JONGG



Mah Jongg mania continues at  
The Breman Museum  
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*Legally Blonde: The Musical*,  
a Company J production,  
opens at the  
Marcus Jewish  
Community Center  
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Robbie Friedmann's mother died a few days after his birth, but he came to know her through a small bundle of letters.

By Robbie Friedmann  
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### Sustained by Faith

What looked like an irrational act was instead a demonstration of faith that ensured survival in the face of despair.

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### Keeping Us Safe

Sixteen public safety officials from Georgia received specialized training in Israel, thanks to the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange.

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Shai Robkin is the new executive director of the American Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Region.

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The CSI Women's Shelter offers housing, counseling, and other services to break the cycle of homelessness.

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### A Milestone for TDSA

This spring, Torah Day School of Atlanta graduated its first child of an alumnus.

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In the treatment of type 1 Gaucher disease

## It's All About the Details

Talk to your doctor about VPRIV.  
For more information,  
go to [vpriv.com](http://vpriv.com).



VPRIV is available by prescription only.

### INDICATION

VPRIV is a hydrolytic lysosomal glucocerebrosidase-specific enzyme indicated for long-term enzyme replacement therapy (ERT) for pediatric and adult patients with type 1 Gaucher disease.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

The most serious side effects seen in patients in clinical trials with VPRIV were allergic reactions. Patients who have experienced allergic reactions to VPRIV or to other enzyme replacement therapy should proceed with caution.

The most common side effects observed in clinical trials in patients treated with VPRIV were infusion-related and included: headache, dizziness, low blood pressure, high blood pressure, nausea, weakness/fatigue, and fever. Generally, infusion-related reactions were mild and, in newly treated patients, occurred mostly during the first 6 months of treatment and tended to occur less frequently with time.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of the full Prescribing Information  
on reverse side for additional Important Safety Information.



**VPRIV**  
velaglucerase alfa  
for injection  
It all comes together.



**VPRIV® (velaglucerase alfa for injection)****Rx Only**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** Consult the Full Prescribing Information for complete product information.

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

VPRIV is a hydrolytic lysosomal glucocerebrosidase-specific enzyme indicated for long-term enzyme replacement therapy (ERT) for pediatric and adult patients with type 1 Gaucher disease.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The recommended dose is 60 Units/kg administered every other week as a 60-minute intravenous infusion.

Patients currently being treated with imiglucerase for type 1 Gaucher disease may be switched to VPRIV. Patients previously treated on a stable dose of imiglucerase are recommended to begin treatment with VPRIV at that same dose when they switch from imiglucerase to VPRIV.

Dosage adjustments can be made based on achievement and maintenance of each patient's therapeutic goals. Clinical studies have evaluated doses ranging from 15 Units/kg to 60 Units/kg every other week.

VPRIV should be administered under the supervision of a healthcare professional.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

None.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS****Hypersensitivity Reactions**

Hypersensitivity reactions have been reported in patients in clinical studies with VPRIV (see ADVERSE REACTIONS). As with any intravenous protein product, hypersensitivity reactions are possible, therefore appropriate medical support should be readily available when VPRIV is administered. If a severe reaction occurs, current medical standards for emergency treatment are to be followed.

Treatment with VPRIV should be approached with caution in patients who have exhibited symptoms of hypersensitivity to the active ingredient or excipients in the drug product or to other enzyme replacement therapy.

**Infusion-related Reactions**

Infusion-related reactions were the most commonly observed adverse reactions in patients treated with VPRIV in clinical studies. The most commonly observed symptoms of infusion-related reactions were: headache, dizziness, hypotension, hypertension, nausea, fatigue/asthenia, and pyrexia. Generally the infusion-related reactions were mild and, in treatment-naïve patients, onset occurred mostly during the first 6 months of treatment and tended to occur less frequently with time.

The management of infusion-related reactions should be based on the severity of the reaction, e.g., slowing the infusion rate, treatment with medications such as antihistamines, antipyretics and/or corticosteroids, and/or stopping and resuming treatment with increased infusion time.

Pre-treatment with antihistamines and/or corticosteroids may prevent subsequent reactions in these cases where symptomatic treatment was required. Patients were not routinely pre-medicated prior to infusion of VPRIV during clinical studies.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS****Clinical Studies Experience**

The data described below reflect exposure of 94 patients with type 1 Gaucher disease who received VPRIV at doses ranging from 15 Units/kg to 60 Units/kg every other week in 5 clinical studies. Fifty-four (54) patients were naïve to ERT and received VPRIV for 9 months and 40 patients switched from imiglucerase to VPRIV treatment and received VPRIV for 12 months (see CLINICAL STUDIES). Patients were between 4 and 71 years old at time of first treatment with VPRIV, and included 46 male and 48 female patients.

The most serious adverse reactions in patients treated with VPRIV were hypersensitivity reactions (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

The most commonly reported adverse reactions (occurring in ≥10% of patients) that were considered related to VPRIV are shown in Table 2. The most common adverse reactions were infusion-related reactions.

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

**Table 2: Adverse Reactions Observed in ≥10% of Patients with Type 1 Gaucher Disease Treated with VPRIV (Naïve to ERT (N = 54), Switched from imiglucerase to VPRIV (N = 40))** Number of Patients (%)—Nervous system disorders: Headache 19 (35.2%), Dizziness 12 (22.2%), 3 (7.5%); Gastrointestinal disorders: Abdominal pain 10 (18.5%), 6 (15%), Nausea 3 (5.6%), 4 (10%); Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders: Back pain 9 (16.7%), Joint pain (knee) 8 (14.8%), 3 (7.5%); Infections and infestations: Upper respiratory tract infection 17 (31.5%), 12 (30%); Investigations: Activated partial thromboplastin time prolonged 6 (11.1%), 2 (5%); General disorders and administration site conditions: Infusion-related reaction\* 28 (51.9%), 9 (22.5%), Pyrexia 12 (22.2%), 5 (12.5%), Asthenia/Fatigue 7 (13%), 5 (12.5%). \*Denotes any event considered related to and occurring within up to 24 hours of VPRIV infusion.

Less common adverse reactions affecting more than one patient (>3% in the treatment-naïve group and >2% in the patients switched from imiglucerase to VPRIV treatment) were bone pain, tachycardia, rash, urticaria, flushing, hypertension, and hypotension.

**Pediatric Patients**

All adult adverse reactions to VPRIV are considered relevant to pediatric patients (ages 4 to 17 years). Adverse reactions more commonly seen in pediatric patients compared to adult patients include (>10% difference): upper respiratory tract infection, rash, aPTT prolonged, and pyrexia.

**Immunogenicity**

As with all therapeutic proteins, there is a potential for immunogenicity. In clinical studies, 1 of 54 treatment-naïve patients treated with VPRIV developed IgG class antibodies to VPRIV. In this patient, the antibodies were determined to be neutralizing in an in vitro assay. No infusion-related reactions were reported for this patient. It is unknown if the presence of IgG antibodies to VPRIV is associated with a higher risk of infusion reactions. Patients with an immune response to other enzyme replacement therapies who are switching to VPRIV should continue to be monitored for antibodies.

Immunogenicity assay results are highly dependent on the sensitivity and specificity of the assay. Additionally, the observed incidence of antibody positivity in an assay may be influenced by several factors, including assay methodology, sample handling, timing of sample collection, concomitant medications, and underlying disease. For these reasons, comparison of the incidence of antibodies to VPRIV with the incidence of antibodies to other products may be misleading.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS**

No drug-drug interaction studies have been conducted.

**USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS****Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category B**

Reproduction studies with velaglucerase alfa have been performed in pregnant rats at intravenous doses up to 17 mg/kg/day (102 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day, about 1.8 times the recommended human dose of 60 Units/kg/day or 1.5 mg/kg/day or 55.5 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day based on the body surface area). Reproduction studies have been performed in pregnant rabbits at intravenous doses up to 20 mg/kg/day (240 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day, about 4.3 times the recommended human dose of 60 Units/kg/day based on the body surface area). These studies did not reveal any evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to velaglucerase alfa.

A pre- and postnatal development study in rats showed no evidence of any adverse effect on pre- and postnatal development at doses up to 17 mg/kg (102 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day, about 1.8 times the recommended human dose of 60 Units/kg/day based on the body surface area). There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, VPRIV should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

**Nursing Mothers:** There are no data from studies in lactating women. It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when VPRIV is administered to a nursing woman.

**Pediatric Use:** The safety and effectiveness of VPRIV have been established in patients between 4 and 17 years of age. Use of VPRIV in this age group is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of VPRIV in adults and pediatric (20 of 94 (21%)) patients. The safety and efficacy profiles were similar between pediatric and adult patients (see ADVERSE REACTIONS and CLINICAL STUDIES). The safety of VPRIV has not been established in pediatric patients younger than 4 years of age.

**Geriatric Use:** During clinical studies 4 patients aged 65 or older were treated with VPRIV. Clinical studies of VPRIV did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be approached cautiously, considering potential comorbid conditions.

**OVERDOSAGE**

There is no experience with overdose of VPRIV.

VPRIV is manufactured by:

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February 2010 40-0510 Rev. 1 US/VEL-00233

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velaglucerase alfa  
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# Midwifery of a nation

July is the month in which we celebrate the formation of the United States of America as a free and independent country. The birthing process and delivery of the newborn nation was a difficult, chaotically challenging time. But the gangly, slightly uncoordinated creation with large eyes looking to the future has matured into a towering beacon for others to follow.

And Jews were among those who served as midwives to the birthing. While small in numbers and percentage of the population, Jews were counted among those who actively support, both in service and financial support, this grand effort to establish our nation.

Some, like Francis Salvador of South Carolina, the first identified Jew to be elected to an American colonial legislature and the only Jew to serve in a revolutionary colonial congress, was the first Jew to die for the cause of American liberty. In 1777, Mordecai Sheftall of Savannah was appointed as deputy commissary general to the Continental troops in South Carolina and Georgia as well as commissary general of Georgia troops. He was later commissioned as a colonel by Major General Robert Howe, making him the highest-ranking Jewish officer on the American



**BY Marvin Botnick**

side.

In 1802, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point graduated its first class consisting of 2 cadets, one of whom, Simon M. Levy, was Jewish. And it is reported that Haym Solomon, a Polish immigrant, was possibly the prime financier of the American War of Independence. He was recognized with a stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service hailing him as a "Financial Hero of the American Revolution."

Since the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE and the disbursement of the Jews, the Jewish people had been a people without a country. According to the *Jewish Virtual Library*, "The first country to emancipate the Jews was the United States." Is it any wonder that we have proudly committed ourselves to the service and support of this great nation? To us, those famous words of The Declaration of Independence, "... that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," has a greater meaning than just "Rights"; to us it has also meant "Opportunity."

Is it any wonder that after centuries of

denial of human dignity, protection, equal participation, and opportunity that a Jew would pen from her inner soul the immortal words of the *New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus that appears at the base of the Statue of Liberty?

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride  
from land to land;*

*Here at our sea-washed,  
sunset gates shall stand*

*A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glows world-wide welcome;*

*her mild eyes command*

*The air-bridged harbor*

*that twin cities frame.*

*"Keep ancient lands,  
your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips.*

*"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning  
to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.*

*Send these, the homeless,*

*tempest-tost to me,*

*I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

All of this is not to say that we have not faced bigotry and hatred, and that there have not been certain restriction in educational, societal, and commercial areas. But the psyche and intent that foster the nation's formation, as is verbalized in our founding documents, has continually moved our country towards the vision of those large eyes ever looking forward and upward.

The 4th of July is the day on which we celebrate the equality and privileges we share with all Americans as our friends and neighbors without any differentiation. We are proud citizens who rejoice in our heritage as Jews, a heritage that led John Adams, the second president of the United States, to write the following in a letter to F.A. Van der Kemp dated February 16, 1808:

"I will insist the Hebrews have [contributed] more to civilize men than any other nation. If I was an atheist and believed in blind eternal fate, I should still believe that fate had ordained the Jews to be the most essential instrument for civilizing the nations ....

"They are the most glorious nation that ever inhabited this Earth. The Romans and their empire were but a bubble in comparison to the Jews. They have given religion to three-quarters of the globe and have influenced the affairs of mankind more and more happily than any other nation, ancient or modern."

We are proud citizens who have fought and died to defend this country. We have had Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, we have had leaders in all fields of education and business, we have made ground-breaking contributions to the field of medicine and science, we have served as elected officials, and we have made substantial financial contributions to charitable endeavors of all types.

John D. Rockefeller said it best: "Every right implies a responsibility; Every opportunity, an obligation. Every possession, a duty."

Amen!

## THE Jewish Georgian

The Jewish Georgian is published bimonthly by Eisenbot, Ltd. It is written for Atlantans and Georgians by Atlantans and Georgians.

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## Virtuous friendships

One of the great things about Facebook is reconnecting with childhood friends who have moved away. That's exactly what happened recently when Allison Glass Bassen, who grew up in Atlanta but followed her dreams to Manhattan, came back to promote her first novel, *Virtue*.

With the help of social networking, Allison was able to track down friends from Riverwood High School, The Temple, and the University of Georgia, turning her book debut into a reunion going back to elementary school. The book signing was hosted at Steve's Live Music, in Sandy Springs, by her close friends Heleen Grossman, Peggy Marbach, and Ron Kirschner.

When asked why she decided to write a novel, Allison replied, "My friends and family have been telling me to write for years. The challenge was coming up with the story. *Virtue* was inspired by scandalous newspaper headlines. A governor got caught with an escort. That had me scratching my head. Why would a powerful man risk his career? And what about the escort?" Published in April, *Virtue* is garnering



**Mitchell Bassen (from left), Lisa Halpern, Heleen Grossman, Allison Glass Bassen, Peggy Marbach, and Ron Kirschner**

reviews agreeing that Allison has cleverly created a suspenseful story, with characters that are easy to connect with, making it a page turner impossible to put down. *Virtue* is the perfect balance of Southern charm and New York edginess.

Fans of Allison can be sure there are more stories to come. Her second novel, *My Father's Affair*, inspired by a true story, is

scheduled to be published this summer. Her love of writing, "gets me out of bed every morning." She adds, humorously, "Okay, breakfast, lunch, and dinner are equally motivating. If I'm not writing, I'm reading. There is nothing better than a great read."

*Virtue* is published by Word of Mouth and is available in paperback or Kindle editions at Amazon.com.



# What's HAPPENING

CECIL ALEXANDER. As a child growing up in Atlanta, on a hot July day, Cecil Alexander sold soft drinks from his red



**Cecil Alexander**

wagon to thirsty construction workers near the corner of Highland and Ponce de Leon avenues.

Seven decades ago, he was a Marine Corps aviator, flying fighter bombers in the Pacific, dive-bombing Japanese ships, aircraft, and military facilities, for which he was twice honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Today, 95-year-old Cecil is one of our greatest and most accomplished and respected citizens—a civil rights hero, accomplished architect, community leader, designer of the former Georgia state flag—and now, author.

Cecil has just written an autobiography, *Crossing the Line*, with journalist Randy Southerland. Available on Amazon.com, it is eloquently described and reviewed by Janice Rothschild Blumberg in this issue.

Cecil's life story is an amazing and inspiring account of life in early America and Old Atlanta. His ancestors, some of whom he shares with my mother's family, fought for America during the Revolutionary War and for their homeland, the Confederacy, during the Civil War.

As an architect, Cecil has designed some of Atlanta's best known buildings, including the Coca-Cola Company World Headquarters, the Bell South Building, and Fulton County Stadium in Atlanta.



**Cecil and Helen Alexander (photo: Stephen H. Moore)**

Cecil is married to Helen Eisemann Alexander, mother of four children and grandmother of eight. His first wife, Hermione Weil, whom he married in



**BY Reg Regenstein**

1943, was killed in 1983, in a tragic automobile accident that also gravely injured Cecil. He and Hermi had three children, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Cecil is best known and admired for his outstanding work on behalf of civil rights since the 1960s, which prompted former *Atlanta Constitution* editor Eugene Patterson rightly to say of him: "The courage that propelled Cecil Alexander through 62 missions flying Marine dive bombers over the Pacific is built into Atlanta's bricks now. His demanding decency laid moral sills under modern Atlanta as well as the tall buildings he designed. He risked his living in the 1950s and 60s to defy the popular little men whose racism tried to block his vision of an upright Atlanta.... Some men hesitated in that time when Atlanta had to decide whether to be great. Cecil Alexander stood up, and said follow me."

Cecil's book is a great work about one of the truly great men of our times, and how, with the help of his wisdom and vision, Atlanta became the great city it is today.



**Cecil Alexander's *Crossing the Line***

FOLKFEST 2013 COMING SOON. Mark your calendars, the 20th annual FolkFest is

coming up, featuring hundreds of artists, dealers, and galleries from all over the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. Plus, you'll run into tons of people you know.

FolkFest, founded and run by Amy and Steve Slotin, mainly offers folk and self-taught art—new and antique—and Southern folk pottery. It will be held August 16-18, at The North Atlanta Trade Center, in Norcross, off Interstate 85 North, at Indian Trail Road (exit 101).

Some 12,000 people attend the annual weekend-long event, which has made Atlanta a center of folk art appreciation. It is called "the biggest and best collection of folk art assembled under one roof," with prices for all budgets, from \$1 to \$50,000.

Friday evening, from 5:00-10:00 p.m., is the meet-the-artists opening night party. Hope to see you there.

For more info, check [www.slotinfoalka.com](http://www.slotinfoalka.com), or call 770-532-1115.



**Amy and Steve Slotin**

ANDREA APPEL: HELPING PEOPLE AND ANIMALS. There's something about dogs that seems to calm people down, to provide unconditional love and companionship that stabilizes even the most hard-to-reach people.

We can speak from long experience, having had several wonderful dogs over the years, all of which we prefer to many of the people we have known.

The lovely and dedicated Andrea Appel is working with a very effective group that utilizes the human-canine bond to help both people and animals.

Operating out of the Fulton County Jail, Canine CellMates is a "jail dogs program." Andrea tells us that it "works to rehabilitate inmates housed at Fulton County Jail and homeless dogs from Fulton County Animal Services through a Good Behavior Incentive program. We want to give the inmate a productive new sense of hope and newly trained skills to care for and train shelter dogs and give the dogs the skills they need in order to become adopted into and spend the rest of their lives in loving and caring homes."

It is a collaborative effort between Fulton County Animal Services, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office and Fulton County Jail, and Canine CellMates.

In Gwinnett County, a similar program, Operation Second Chance ([www.jaildogs.org](http://www.jaildogs.org)), has been a tremendous success.

Besides helping inmate handlers learn a sense of responsibility, these and other such programs across the country save lots of dogs that otherwise would be euthanized, placing them in loving homes (including the

homes of veterans who need companions), making them available for adoption, and training them as service dogs.

Studies show that these programs also greatly reduce the incidence of violent behavior in prison as well as recidivism rates, creating "a huge ripple effect in the community."



**Fulton County commissioner Rob Pitts and Andrea Appel**

MAUREEN AND MARK GOLDMAN'S NEW VENTURE. Maureen and Mark Goldman have started an online store called Catherine's Table ([www.catherinestable.com](http://www.catherinestable.com)), which sells beautiful, unique, handcrafted tabletop goods and accessories — all made in America — with several of the featured artists hailing from Atlanta and nearby cities like Athens.

Maureen and Mark proudly emphasize that "We support American artists and small businesses in the U.S., because they are the engine of economic growth in our country. It's empowering to know that we can all make such a difference with our purchases."

And a portion of all sales is donated to



**Mark and Maureen Goldman**

Meals on Wheels Association of America.

As Maureen and Mark told us exclusively, "Catherine's Table grew from an interest in comforting people and wanting to turn that feeling into an enterprise.

"We've been on a treasure hunt, searching all over America for handcrafted tabletop goods that look and feel soulful and fun. We found a group of 26 artisans and purveyors who make beautiful things that are made to be used. These are the artisans who represent many of our best American craft traditions; men and women who craft tabletop goods with clay, glass,

*See HAPPENING, page 6*

## Happening

From page 5

slate, metal, cloth, and lots of love.

"Once you experience finely crafted, handmade goods, there's no turning back. They are beautiful, comforting, and totally unique. They are gifts that can't be duplicated.... We live with nearly every piece, getting to know how it works best at the table."

**GOLDBERG'S OPENS LOCATION AT AIRPORT.** If you didn't think there were enough Goldberg's delis scattered across Atlanta, you'll be glad to hear that airport concessionaire Paradies Shops has just opened



Gregg Paradies

Cafe, on Concourse E, at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

Now you've got somewhere great to dine while you're waiting for your flight or your luggage to be found. And you can read *The New York Times* or a book while you're dining, since Paradies has also opened a New York Times Bookstore right nearby.

President and CEO Gregg Paradies says that "Goldberg's reputation for great food has been synonymous with Atlanta for over 40 years," and he should know, since we have seen him and his family dining at one of the Buckhead locations many times.



Adeline Gilson

**HAPPY 96TH BIRTHDAY, ADELINE.** The irrepressible and amazing Adeline Gilson just turned 96, celebrating with her granddaughter Marni Seidel and family members, who

flew in from Wilmington, Delaware. Marni tells us that Adeline is still as beautiful, smart, and alert as ever—"with a better memory than I have, and tons of friends who love her."

**FIGHTING BULLYING WITH AVIVA'S MUSIC.** Aviva (she goes by her first name only) is an amazing entertainer. A talented and beautiful singer and musician who plays several instruments—keyboard, piano, trumpet, drums, guitar—Aviva performs all over the country with her band, The Flying Penguins, featuring Simon, Isaac, Andre, and Jenny. Besides Atlanta, they have done gigs this year in Charleston; New York; Washington, D.C.; North Carolina; and even Maine.

Aviva teaches music here and also works on building sustainable earthen structures, such as benches, playhouses, and ovens, made from sand, clay, and straw. You can learn more about her music at [www.avivaandtheflyingpenguins.com](http://www.avivaandtheflyingpenguins.com).

She and fellow musician Yoeshi Roberts recently hosted a great musical event at Jerry Farber's Side Door, in Buckhead's Landmark Diner, designed to raise consciousness about healing from and overcoming bullying. Featured were selections from her album *Key of You*, offering over 10 songs about "empowering ourselves and shining our own light."

Yoeshi has made an anti-bullying video, "Always Respect," with the theme that "kindness is cool." It is available at [www.Acousticcouragement.com](http://www.Acousticcouragement.com).



Yoeshi Roberts (from left), Andre, and Aviva build an earthen structure.

**אנו עומדים יחדיו**  
**We stand with Israel**  
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## Matisyahu highlights Davis 20th Anniversary Alumni Reunion

Thirteen years ago, in the year 2000, the first class of Davis Academy 8th-grade graduates donned caps and gowns. There were 21 students in that first graduating class, many of whom were among the very first students when the school started in 1992.

Throughout the entire 2012-2013 school year, The Davis Academy, Atlanta's Reform Jewish Day School, has been celebrating its 20th anniversary by honoring and thanking its founders and supporters, its students, and families. As a most cherished group of constituents, Davis Academy alumni were invited back "home" for a reunion with one another and their former teachers, in one of the closing events of this joyous and celebratory year.

It was a fantastic turnout for the event, which took place Thursday evening, May 30. Hundreds of Davis graduates were in attendance. Hugs and laughter were the order of the evening. Students and teachers caught up with each other, and all reminisced about their years together at Davis.



Alumni arriving at the event are greeted by Alumni Association parent volunteers.

The highlight of the evening was an exclusive acoustic concert by Matisyahu, the Grammy-nominated Jewish-American reggae and alternative rock artist, who performed for nearly an hour and a half for alumni and faculty at The Davis Academy Middle School.



Grammy-nominated artist Matisyahu put on a fantastic acoustic performance for Davis graduates.

At one time, it was fairly easy to keep up with Davis Academy's young alumni, most of whom were in high school or in their early college years. But with this year's graduation of 71 8th-graders, Davis graduates number more than 700, and the age span runs from high school to young adults. On the occasion of its 20th anniversary—and to meet the challenge of staying connected with its alumni—The Davis Academy Alumni Association was launched this year. Davis alumni can also stay in touch with one another electronically, via social media and the Davis website, and the school is able to keep former students apprised of all Davis news and future alumni events.

In addition, the first issue of *The Davis Academy Alumni Journeys Magazine* showcased the activities and accomplishments of Davis grads. From alum who are working or studying abroad to those who are being recognized for academic or civic accomplishments to grads who are excelling in the arts or sports to those who are involved in Jewish life—it was an exciting compilation of vignettes, showing a broad range of interests and achievements.



The Class of 2009 met for a College Send-Off bash. Each student wore the jersey of the college he or she will attend.



Students from the Class of 2005 reunite.

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770.643.1997



## Breman Home news

JENICE HOLTZ CUNNINGHAM NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BERMAN COMMONS. The William Breman Jewish Home has named Jenice Holtz Cunningham as the executive director



Jenice Holtz Cunningham

of The Home's newest community, Berman Commons. The announcement was made soon after the Dunwoody City Council approved two land waivers that cleared the way for the project to

move forward on schedule.

Berman Commons will be a kosher assisted living and memory care community, located adjacent to the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA). The project, widely anticipated by the community since 2008, will break ground this fall. The 90-unit building is slated to open in December 2014. All residents of Berman Commons will be able to take advantage of member programs at the MJCCA, in addition to the services and activities available at Berman Commons.

Although she has been with The Home's Zaban Tower independent living community since February, Cunningham most recently served as executive director of another assisted living facility in the area.

"Like all communities affiliated with The Home, Berman Commons will be a place where residents and families feel well cared for and cherished," said Cunningham. "I am thrilled to be part of this exciting project."

The Home's CEO, Harley Tabak, expressed his confidence in Cunningham. "We are delighted to have Jenice on board."

She has firsthand knowledge of how to run a successful kosher community and is well respected by both families and her peers."

Tabak also suggested that, for families seeking care for aging loved ones and unable to wait until Berman Commons is finished, The Home offers several options, including The Cohen Home, an assisted living community in Johns Creek, and The One Group, a private homecare agency. The Berman Commons Information Center will open later this summer, inside the main entrance of the MJCCA.

The Home has created an interest list for those wanting updates. Interested families should visit [www.wbjh.org](http://www.wbjh.org) for more information.

**AUXILIARY SPRING LUNCHEON.** The Auxiliary, the volunteer and fundraising arm of The William Breman Jewish Home, hosted its annual Spring Luncheon, April 29, at The InterContinental Hotel, in Buckhead, with more than 267 people in attendance. In addition to recognizing the hard work of several special volunteers, the event marked the beginning of an exciting new year for the organization, with the announcement of incoming board members.

Dedicated Auxiliary members Brooke Blasberg, Jodie Jackson, and Andi Morse were honored as Volunteers of the Year. As vice presidents of membership, they not only recruited over 100 new members but also hosted the successful inaugural new membership event in the fall.

Also recognized were Mara Berman, Carol Rubin, and Alison Schneider as Auxiliaries Extraordinaire. Being an Auxiliary Extraordinaire represents an exceptional level of commitment and volunteerism. For 10 months, they toiled to produce The Home's Directory, which raised funds to bolster the myriad programs for residents of The Home and its communities.

"I was truly touched to be honored," said Berman. "The Auxiliary is made up of an amazing group of women who work tire-



Auxiliaries Extraordinaire (from left) Mara Berman, Alison Schneider, and Carol Rubin

lessly and with tremendous enthusiasm. I would encourage anyone interested to get involved to be part of this wonderful organization."

Rubin added, "The Home has cared for three of my family members—my grandfather, who was a resident in the original Home on 14th Street, plus my mother and aunt. My family will always treasure and appreciate the caring shown to each one. If I can give back in any small way, it is my privilege to do so."

To make the luncheon even more exciting, the Auxiliary offered a fun shopping experience. Vendors sold everything from jewelry to giftware to clothing. It was a win-win for all involved, as the vendors shared a percentage of their sales with The Auxiliary in support of The Home. Also, a



Auxiliary Volunteers of the Year (from left) Andi Morse, Jodie Jackson, and Brooke Blasberg

few lucky attendees walked away with great door prizes and extraordinary raffle items, including jewelry from both Judith Ripka and Tassels, and a Las Vegas vacation trip from Las Vegas Sands Corporation.

Founded in 1986, The Auxiliary of The William Breman Jewish Home has a long and rich history that demonstrates the power of volunteerism. The Auxiliary contributes valuable volunteer and financial resources and plays an essential role in furthering the mission of The Home and its communities. To learn more about The Auxiliary of The Home, visit [www.wbjh.org](http://www.wbjh.org), e-mail [auxiliaryinfo@wbjhome.org](mailto:auxiliaryinfo@wbjhome.org), or call 404-751-2267.—Cherie Aviv, 2013 Auxiliary President-Elect

## 2013 Marvin C. Goldstein Project Understanding Retreat

There has been a unique relationship between the Black and Jewish communities for many years. The idea for Project Understanding came from the combined experiences of the Atlanta Black-Jewish Coalition and the strongly expressed desire on the part of ACCESS, the young adult division of the American Jewish Committee, to create an opportunity for young Black and Jewish adults to share experiences and develop relationships.

Since 1989, Project Understanding has provided this opportunity by creating a

forum for young leaders in both communities to share with and learn from one another. Through a 24-hour retreat format, August 24-25, participants will interact honestly about issues that affect each of their respective communities, as well as those that affect both.


The ideal participant in Project Understanding is a young professional between the ages of 25-39.

For more information, contact Lindsay Hirsch, 404-233-5501, ext. 208 or [hirschl@ajc.org](mailto:hirschl@ajc.org).

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## Public safety officials received training from Israeli counterterrorism experts

Sixteen senior officials from Georgia- and Tennessee-based public safety organizations have returned from Israel after an intensive two weeks of immersion in the latest public safety training, led by Israeli police experienced in counterterrorism measures.

Officers and executives from six police departments, two sheriff's offices, three school systems, and agencies that include the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Atlanta Department of Corrections, Georgia Department of Public Safety, Georgia P.O.S.T., and Georgia Public Safety Training Center were sent, through the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE), to receive peer-to-peer training in counterterrorism, emergency management, and other public safety and homeland security strategies and tactics. The delegation also viewed a large-scale multi-agency emergency preparedness drill.

"Law enforcement professionals who train in Israel as part of GILEE represent the firm proactive leadership training underway within our law enforcement community," says FBI Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Giuliano. "They gain experience and an expanded perspective on many varied issues, security and terrorism-related, from security experts and their agencies that have been dealing with those issues for many years. We are the better for this training and for having these well-trained leaders."

Since 1992, GILEE has built a critical network of more than 900 law enforcement executives—more than half of them working in Georgia—linked by their mutual experiences in more than 250 such training exchanges. Additionally, more than 18,000 public and private leaders in law enforcement and public safety have attended GILEE's special briefings on topics such as cyber-terrorism.

"These delegates have spent two



"Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates..."—Deuteronomy 16:18.

Delegates (from left): Ken A. Vance Jr., executive director, Georgia P.O.S.T.; Tsafirir Moisa, superintendent, Israel Police; Rod D. Ellis, chief, Glynn County Schools Police Department; Christopher E. Hosey, inspector, Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Robert J. Bryson Jr., chief, Tybee Island Police Department; Patrick L. Labat Sr., chief, Atlanta Department of Corrections; Michael J. Beller, captain, Chamblee Police Department; Judith A. Canup, major, East Point Police Department; Earnest N. Finley Jr., deputy chief, Atlanta Police Department; Carlos F. Ortiz, division director, Georgia Police Academy; Alfonso Williams, director of School Safety & Security, Richmond County Board of Education; Yochanan Danino, commissioner, Israel Police; W. Wayne Rikard, chief, Gwinnett County Schools Police Department; Scott R. Berry, sheriff, Oconee County Sheriff's Office; Jimmy C. Carter, chief deputy, Fulton County Sheriff's Office; Brandon P. Sellers, chief, Alma Police Department; Luis M. Solis, assistant chief, Braselton Police Department; T. J. Jordan, special agent in charge, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; Russell D. Powell, deputy commissioner, Georgia Department of Public Safety; and Robert Friedmann, GILEE founding director and professor emeritus of Criminal Justice, Georgia State University (photo: Israel Police)

intense weeks with one another, forming an immediate and important bond that they will rely on when they come back to Georgia and resume their duties," says Jack Killorin, who directs the federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program in North Georgia. He was with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives when he participated in GILEE's eighth trip to Israel in 2000. "GILEE is a signature program, a singular personal and professional experience that will stay with its graduates forever."

GILEE is a research unit of Georgia

State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. It was founded as a joint program between GSU and Georgia's law enforcement community prior to Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Games by Robert Friedmann, professor emeritus of criminal justice. The program improves public safety in Georgia and the world by enhancing inter-agency cooperation and educational training among law enforcement communities, with Israel a principal partner in this exchange.

"Our delegates have learned how to focus public safety efforts on counterterror-

ism and fighting traditional crime, while balancing the two. They've had a first-hand encounter with how to be resilient," says Friedmann. "They will go on to serve in key public safety leadership positions around the globe, where they can implement this know-how to better serve their citizens."

"The 529 Georgia law enforcement professionals who have participated in our 21 years of training join thousands more who have attended our briefings and programs. They keep Georgia safe."

## Yeshiva Atlanta named a Blue Star School

Yeshiva Atlanta has earned the prestigious designation of Blue Star School for its students' performance on the Financial Literacy Certification Test administered by Working In Support of Education (W!SE).

YA students achieved a 100% pass rate and an average score over 80%. Students passing the test earned W!SE's coveted Financial Literacy Certification. The test and certification are recognized by departments of education in several states.

Yeshiva Atlanta is one of a select number of high schools nationally to be named a Blue Star School. To earn this designation, a school must achieve a 75% passing rate on the test and have either a

majority of students on a given grade level take the test or have the students who took it achieve an average score of 80% or higher.

Mr. Al Wolmer taught the YA students who took the W!SE test. Because of YA's participation in the program, Mr. Wolmer had access to training, educational resources, pre-tests, and online practice tests.

However, according to Dr. Paul Oberman, YA's head of school, there was more involved than training and resources. "Al did a fabulous job of preparing our students for this test, but give credit to our students. They did the work, mastered the material, and did superbly well on the test," he said.

As a Blue Star School, Yeshiva Atlanta will receive a banner in recognition of its students' achievement and will be honored at W!SE's Annual Money POWER Conference for Financial Literacy, which will take place in November.

The W!SE Program is sponsored by leading U.S. institutions, including The McGraw-Hill Companies, The Allstate Foundation, Citi Foundation, The JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Bloomberg, Wells Fargo Foundation, GE Capital Retail Bank, The NYSE Euronext Foundation, Inc., The Utah Division of Securities, M&T Charitable Foundation, the New York City Council, kasina, and Signature Bank.



Al Wolmer



# A cache of letters introduces a son to the mother he never knew



BY **Robbie Friedmann**

It took me 12 years to write *28 Letters: The Short Life of Renée (Baba) Friedmann On Not So Calm Waters*, and I am not slow.

It took me time to think if I even should put it in a book format. It took me time to research, it took me time to verify, and it took me time to consider if this is a story anyone might be interested in. It took me time to reaffirm that I indeed wanted to share a personal story.

After all, there are numerous stories about the Holocaust; there are numerous stories about families; there are numerous biographies and numerous personal accounts. Yet, we who are part of the People of the Book have a special sentiment about the written word. It is not just a story that a book tells. It is a statement, it is a testament, it is truth (if non-fiction), it is a tribute, it is memorialization, it is a historical document, it is a human story, and it is all of the above.

The book begins, in one sense, when my aunt passed away in Israel in late 1999. During the *shiva*, my uncle handed me a small parcel and said, "These belong to you."

These were 28 letters that my mother wrote to her sister between 1941 and 1947. My mother wrote those letters from Hungary, Sweden, and Romania to her sister, who made *Aliyah* to Palestine. Her sister was my aunt whose passing we were mourning at the tip of the Sea of Galilee, and she treasured the letters until her last day.

But if the book begins there, the story begins much earlier, as the letters proved to be much more than some personal notes between two sisters. Other than a few photos of a woman I have never known, I had nothing else from my mother, except the life she gave me. She passed away when I was six days old, due to complications she encountered while she gave birth to me. Yet this not-so-unusual fact was hidden from me until I was 31 years old.

Apparently, educators and rabbis of the time believed that it was better not to reveal such facts, as they might strain family relations if a child found out that a parent was a stepparent and not a biological one. It is easy to judge with the advantage of time and gained perspective that such practice was erroneous and damag-

ing. Yet it was impossible to turn back the clock.

After being told the dry facts about her death at my birth, there was not much else added, and I did not know much about her, as my father kept silent, and my aunt was rather sparing in her description. Admittedly, I did not press for more information, partly because I gathered that I got all there was to get, and I had no other sources I could turn to. It did not change my attitude

April 1947, just seven months prior to the UN Partition Resolution.

From 1941 to 1944, her letters came from Kolozsvár, Hungary (as that Transylvanian territory came under Hungarian control). My mother was deported to Auschwitz, survived, and spent time as a refugee recuperating in Sweden for several months. In one of her letters, she describes meeting Ms.

Wallenberg (the aunt of Raoul Wallenberg) and how impressed she was with her.

From Sweden, my mother returned to Cluj (the area came again under Romanian control), where for a little over a year, she and my father tried to pick up the pieces and start a new life under the Communist regime.

I found the letters to be measured, understated, non-dramatic, factual, open, sincere, and parsimoniously descriptive. If her letters are read out of context, they still retain a personal significance, but in context, they become rather powerful.

She never mentioned the term Holocaust, but in one letter, she chastised her sister for apparently referring to the Holocaust as an "interesting episode." She

wrote: "I do not want to assign an excessive weight to the events, but what I have experienced cannot in any way be defined as an 'interesting episode.'"

On relatives planning to get married she wrote: "Eriká is semi-officially engaged to a local mechanical engineer Gábor Hertz. They love each other very much, and if he will obtain a formal death certificate for his first wife they will get married soon." What makes this line captivating is that his first wife did not die from illness or an accident. She was murdered in Auschwitz. How does one obtain such a death certificate?

In Stockholm, she marveled at the beauty the city had to offer, saying that "I am glad they did not take aesthetic pleasure away from us."

Prior to returning home from Sweden she wrote: "I am so full of painful memories and at any rate I have no desire to live in a place from where I was deported."

And after arriving home, the extent of the loss hit her hard: "It is such a painful feeling with every step I make, when I meet with old acquaintances, and they greet me politely, but I sense their tormented look and bitter word, even if it is not uttered immediately, that the wife or

husband did not return."

When she found out that their father was murdered in Auschwitz, she wrote: "if I think about it, he could not have endured the hellish life of the camp, and therefore I must say that it was better that they did this immediately upon his arrival." Through various sources, including Yad Vashem testimonials, I realized that at least 40 members of my family were murdered by the Nazis.

In many letters, she repeatedly mentioned her desire to join her sister in Palestine and urged her to assist with the immigration process: "As for our plans to immigrate, we count only on your handling, as from this end there is nothing we can do, and we only wish to leave if it is legal." At least once, she literally used the term *Aliyah*.

In October 1946, she cheerfully informed her sister about her pregnancy: "I know you will be overjoyed being aunt to the child that I will give birth to. It is very early, about two months." It was a rewarding moment to find out that she was pregnant with me.

In her last letter, April 1947, she expressed apprehension and hope concerning the upcoming UN Security Council Resolution (November 29, 1947): "We are awaiting the UN decision, which as expected will be crucial for us, and hopefully in a positive way." Exactly a month later, she passed away at the age of 35.

The few vignettes from my mother's letters reflect her personal story, my connection to her, and the storm that engulfed the Jewish community in Europe in that time in history that left so many powerless. She never made it to Israel, despite her yearning to join her sister there.

*28 Letters: The Short Life of Renée (Baba) Friedmann On Not So Calm Waters* is a tribute to my mother, and it intends to share her legacy with my family now and for generations to come. But beyond that, it holds a universal value, as it is a story about how people who lived through the horrors of the deportation, the Holocaust, the infliction of Communism, and the tyranny of the British Mandate in Palestine coped with the challenge of living beyond surviving. It is also a testament to the victory of humanity and the human spirit over evil. My mother's understated and cogent writing is therefore even more powerful, yet non-dramatic, ably shedding light on an experience no human being should endure.

The book is in English, Hungarian, and Hebrew and includes original letters, documents, and photos. It is available in hard copy at [blurb.com/bookstore/detail/3253895](http://blurb.com/bookstore/detail/3253895) or as an eBook at [store.blurb.com/ebooks/334936-28-letters](http://store.blurb.com/ebooks/334936-28-letters).

Robbie Friedmann is professor emeritus of Criminal Justice and director of the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange, at Georgia State University.



# Women's shelter offers more than a 'hot and a cot'



**BY Leon Socol**

In 1983, Rabbi Marc Wilson of Atlanta's Congregation Shearith Israel (CSI) was seeking a project that would involve his synagogue more actively in Atlanta's community life. He hit on the idea of starting a night shelter exclusively for homeless women. There were other shelters operating in Atlanta offering refuge to homeless men and homeless couples, but there was no shelter just for women.

To get started, Rabbi Wilson contacted some CSI congregants and invited them to be on a committee to visit existing shelters and learn about their operations. Each committee member was assigned to spend the night at two shelters and report back to the group about all aspects of the existing shelters. The volunteers reported their findings and the pros and cons about the type of shelter CSI should create. The committee reached a consensus and wrote the original rules for the CSI shelter.

The original assets of the shelter were prospective volunteers and rooms in the basement of the synagogue. It was an endeavor that literally started from scratch, with no funding, furnishings, or profession-

al staff. There were many who willingly gave of their time and expertise, but most agree that Frank and Helen Spiegel were the guiding couple over most of the 29 years of the shelter's history. There were others, too many to name. They made the shelter more than just "a hot and a cot" operation.



**Helen and Frank Spiegel, pioneer leaders of the original CSI Women's Night Shelter**

Financial support came through fundraising, alliances with other charitable organizations such as the Atlanta Food Bank, and the efforts of skillful grant writers. Initial help came from a \$15,000 donation given by the Jimmy Buffett Foundation. The shelter residents were from various religious faiths, all of which were respected. The volunteers were dedicated to providing support and care to help the

women get back into the mainstream of life.

Annette Eason took on the responsibility of stocking the shelter with food and other supplies. She was helped by other volunteers, some of them members of churches and other organizations. The shelter serves a hot supper and a hot breakfast every day it is open.

Helen Spiegel said that the initial challenge of the shelter was to recruit volunteers and enlist the support of other synagogues and the Jewish Federation. Helen spoke to many groups to garner their support, and those that responded became repeat contributors.

The goal of the shelter was to help women build marketable skills and prepare for independence. Helen wanted every woman who left the shelter to find independent living, which depended on finding suitable work.

The staff realized that operating the shelter from November to March each year did not give the women the time they needed to meet these goals. So two years ago, it introduced the Shelter Challenge Program, which provides year-long support (April-March). From April through September, the shelter hosts a weekly dinner/support group, at which the women can obtain MARTA passes, social service referrals, and a linkage to community volunteer jobs to help them learn new skills, develop social networks, and be in positive environments, while they gain experience filling community needs. (These volunteer opportunities also provide an additional tool for assessing their job readiness.) From October to March, there are quarterly meetings for social service referrals and linkage to volunteer jobs at the shelter and other nonprofits.

In the second year of the Challenge Program, computer skills and resume needs are assessed and more opportunities for individual coaching offered. There has also been a focus on personal appearance: the shelter partners with New Life Community Center and Dress for Success to assist residents with clothing and grooming for interviews, to help them compete on an equal basis with other job seekers.

Executive Director Sallie Weddell has been with the shelter for four years. Sallie has an undergraduate degree in psychology and a master's in counseling. She's worked in much larger organizations, but was attracted to the shelter because of the excel-

lence of the volunteers and the professionalism and compassion of everyone associated with it. She noted that there were detailed guides and instructions for all functions of the shelter, ensuring that everything flowed smoothly and efficiently. One of Sallie's big accomplishments has been in setting up the shelter as a separate 501 (c) (3) corporation, in order to qualify for more grants and financial support.

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the shelter was open 137 nights and served 19 women clients. Of this group, five moved to more stable housing; four moved in with family or friends; three moved into a rooming house or extended stay motel; one had an extended stay motel paid with a voucher; and six returned to emergency shelters. Their ages ranged from 21 to 59. Eight of the clients had physical or mental issues.

Candice Gulden, a long-time volunteer, said, "It is exciting to now have a year-round program that we can offer to women. I find it personally gratifying to work for an organization like the shelter, that is always working to expand its services and to better meet the needs of its clients."

Shelter client Melba Jones is a middle-aged woman who lost her office job and eventually her home as a result of the recession. Melba came to the shelter during the past fiscal year and was attending a school to become a court reporter. She completed her course and now works part-time at the school she attended, where she takes additional courses to increase her skills. She is still seeking full-time work and is in a program called "Every Woman Works," offered by Mary Hall Freedom House. She feels fortunate to have had assistance from the CSI Women's Shelter and is presently living in an apartment she shares with another woman. She says it's nice to be off the streets and to be able to continue her work and the studies that she hopes will give her a permanent job.



**Melba Jones, a shelter client, practices on one of the laptop computers to keep her skills sharp.**



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## A perspective on Atlanta Jewry—the years preceding the Leo Frank tragedy, Part II



BY Dr. David Geffen

Part I of this story appeared in the May-June issue of The Jewish Georgian.

Rabbi David Marx was very important for the budding Atlanta Jewish community. He spoke the King's English, infused with Biblical terms, and enjoyed access to many



Rabbi David Marx

of the leaders of Atlanta through their pastors, with whom he spent much time.

Marx also helped the young people of The Temple realize that they had a Jewish heritage that they should preserve. How successful he was can only be discerned through a statistical analysis 100 years later. Eli Evans, in *The Provincials*, saw Marx as a great leader. When Leo Frank was lynched, Marx was stunned.

Rabbi Tobias Geffen had an agenda when he arrived, even though his English was weak. Atlanta had to be Kovno, the Lithuanian town where he grew up. So he



Rabbi Tobias and Sarah Geffen

started a school with his own children and the children of members. In this so-called "treif-land," he and his wife, my bubbe and zaddie, had three more children, making eight in all. He checked the knives of all the *shochtim* regularly, something that became known throughout the South. He visited the prisoners in the Atlanta Penitentiary and offered them spiritual comfort. Geffen was most concerned with men who deserted their wives. Acting like a detective, he caught some of them and made them write a *get* for their wives. He knew his "stuff," so he began to write. His first thirteen articles appeared in *HaMaasef*, a Jerusalem-based halachic journal for which rabbis worldwide wrote. His eleventh article reached America by boat, just as the Leo Frank trial began.

Marx and Geffen faced off for almost 20 years. Marx could not live with this vestige of the old world of Yiddishkeit, so whenever a member of The Temple married a member of Shearith Israel, Marx instructed my grandfather that he could not wear his "cap." Only in 1931, at the dedication of the new structure of The Temple, did Marx write, asking Geffen to participate and adding, "You can wear your cap."

When the Leo Frank incident began in 1913, Atlanta had between 8,000-10,000 Jews. The next two and a half years were hell. The Jews in the city remembered the tragedy for a long time. We all know who committed the murder, but a pardon for Leo Frank was not issued until 1986. This is sadly unlike the noted President Wagner, of Emory University, who officially and openly apologized for his school's anti-Semitism.

The history of the Atlanta Jewish community is very rich, but the early records of Gate City Jewry are minimal. However, over 30 years ago, Steven Hertzberg's book on Jewish Atlanta proved one point very clearly—Atlanta's general newspapers are filled with information about Atlanta Jews and their institutions. Professor Mark Bauman, in the over three decades of tireless research and writing, has opened up many other sources that no one knew existed. Books have been written in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish; numerous articles about Atlanta and the South have appeared in publications all over the world. As my grandfather wrote in the introduction to one of his books, "We have been in the *negev* (south) for over twenty years and we discover a new aspect of Yiddishkeit every day."

I was born in Atlanta seventy-four years ago, and I have only lived in the city briefly in the last half a century. In Jerusalem, I am lucky that I continue to learn more and more about the Atlanta Jewish community and also work at writing about it. In our family, we continue to feel that the decision of our bubbe and zaddie to move south in 1910 was the right one. I know all of you readers feel the same way.

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## An act of faith—a key to survival



**BY Howard Margol**

World War II in Europe ended on May 8, 1945, and, for my twin brother, Hilbert, and me, our days of combat in France and Germany were over. On that date, we were together in the same unit of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, south of Munich, Germany, near the Austrian border. We then went on occupation duty in Austria.

In June 1945, the division was ordered to transport several thousand Jews from a concentration camp to Bad Gastein and Bad Hofgastein, Austria. Before the war, they were at the heart of one of the finest resort areas in Europe. Underground deposits of hot mineral water were piped into the hotels for bathing purposes. The mineral water was alleged to cure various ailments, so that was one reason this resort area was very popular.

When our division chaplain, Rabbi Eli Bohnen, from Providence, Rhode Island, heard about the plan, he was against taking this group of Jews from a concentration camp and putting them in the fancy hotels with all of their posh surroundings. He was concerned that the sudden change from

years in a concentration camp would be too much for them to deal with. His pleas to General Mark Clark to change the orders were to no avail. General Clark said the orders came from Washington and would be carried out as planned.

I do not remember the exact location where our Army convoy of over 200 vehicles picked up the several thousand Jewish survivors. I do remember going through the remains of the city of Frankfurt. The entire city had been destroyed, except for two church spires that stood tall against the skyline, in stark contrast to the destruction around them. I was riding in one of the trucks as an armed guard for the driver.

We had been driving all day when, suddenly, yelling and screaming was heard throughout the entire convoy of Army vehicles. All of the drivers stopped so we could investigate the problem. All of the Jews got out of the trucks and sat down on the side of the road. They refused to ride any farther.

The leaders of the group of Jews explained that it was late Friday, the sun was almost down, and the Sabbath would start. They refused to ride on Shabbos. I, together with several other Jewish soldiers, explained that we were Jewish and fully understood about Shabbos. After what these Jews had been through in the concentration camps, they deserved to spend the night in fancy hotels, with hot food, hot baths, and clean clothing. In another 25 or 30 minutes

we would have them at the hotels.

They absolutely refused to get back in the trucks, and all of the Jews sat down on the side of the road. The Army set up field kitchens to prepare hot food and brought out blankets, and the Jews coped as best they could. All Friday night and all day Saturday, the Jews stayed on the side of the road. After the sun went down on Saturday, they returned to the trucks, and we brought them to the hotels.

It took them a day or two to get used to their new surroundings, but after that, things went well. They enjoyed the nice rooms, hot baths, good food, and the fact that they were waited on by Austrian civilians. Rabbi Bohnen established classes for those who wanted to learn English, made arrangements for some to go to Italy if they wanted to try and get to Palestine, and took care of other details.

For years, the Jews in that group of survivors were not allowed to practice their Judaism. However, regardless of their suffering and circumstances, they held on to their faith in their minds. That day, in Austria, was their first opportunity to practice their faith. That is why they refused to ride on Shabbos, and they spent the night on the side of the road instead of in comfortable hotel rooms. I have no doubt that holding on to their faith in their minds was a major reason for their survival. It gave them something to hold on to, to look forward to,



**Howard Margol at a captured German airbase in Furth, Germany**

and a way to survive against all odds.

I think it was also their way of showing that they won, and Hitler lost.

## School board member Julia Bernath is a leader in education



**BY Carolyn Gold**

*This article is part of an ongoing series on women who are community leaders.*

In view of the bad publicity some local school boards have received lately, it is a pleasure to recognize one member, a woman, who deserves applause. Julia Bernath has served on the Fulton County School Board since January 2000 and has received numerous honors for her service.

Julia is past president of her local board and of the Georgia School Board Association. She is vice chair of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and serves on a number of statewide committees dealing with education.

Julia is a product of local schools, having grown up in Atlanta in what was her grandfather's house on Penn Avenue. She attended Spring Street Elementary School and Grady High School. At Grady, she met her future husband, Terry Bernath, when they were 8th-graders. He had gone to Morningside School. They were high

school sweethearts, as they started dating in their senior year.

Julia was president of both her junior and senior classes and went on to graduate magna cum laude in journalism at the University of Georgia. She and Terry married in 1975.

Julia says she learned in high school that "you have to have the courage to try to become involved." So after marrying and becoming a parent (she and Terry have three children) she started volunteering in her children's pre-school, elementary school, PTA, and on committees formed by the board of education for lay people.

As an involved parent, Julia was encouraged to run for a position on the board of education. In 1999, she was appointed to a position that would begin in January 2000. The then-president of the Fulton County School Board said to her, "Welcome to pleasure and pain."

Julia has now been elected and re-elected four times. She is in her 14th year on the board, which is composed of seven women. It has been an all-woman board now for eight years.

The Fulton County school system includes close to 100 schools with 92,000 students. Julia counted off the names of the 17 high schools, which are in four clusters: northeast, northwest, central, and south. The clusters are not contiguous; the district is bisected by the Atlanta Public Schools.

Fulton County was the first school system to be district certified by SACS. In those districts not certified, students are not eligible for Hope Scholarships. Julia

says the Fulton County board's success is due to three reasons: they try "to not have disagreements in public," "not to surprise each other," and "to support the will of the board."

The board's job is to select a superintendent, set the millage rate and approve the

budget, and develop and approve policy on which the schools operate. They do not hire anyone else and they can't fire teachers or coaches, no matter what angry parents may wish.

Julia and Terry live in Sandy Springs, and their three children graduated from Fulton County schools. They now have two grandchildren. Julia is working full time to help educate the children in her district.

These are the goals that she lists for the future for Fulton County schools:

- improve the graduation rate so that in 5 years, 90% of students will graduate on time;
- raise college readiness so that 85% of students are eligible for state colleges and universities;
- ensure career readiness so that 100% of students are work-ready certified.

Julia Bernath wants the community to know that "everyone benefits by having a quality public school. It takes community involvement. It takes volunteers, donations, and community support to keep quality schools."

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**Julia Bernath**



## YOU NEED TO KNOW...

*During the last 65 years, meter for meter, person for person, no other nation has done more for the betterment of the health, economic, and technological advancement of the world population than Israel. It is a story, although critically important, that is not heralded and largely remains unknown. We plan to present some of these unbelievable accomplishments in an attempt to disseminate the heart and soul of what and who Israel really is.*

**NEW METHOD FOR CLOSING HUMAN INCISIONS WITH COLD PLASMA.** Advancements in deliverables normally are functions of improvements in techniques and understanding. Explorations and new methods normally are the result of inquisitive minds seeking new and better ways of addressing known situations in order to achieve fast, more accurate, and better results.

Such is a new product from IonMed Ltd. located in Yokneam Illit, Israel. Founded in 2009 by brothers Amnon and Ronen Lam, they have built on the experience that Amnon had gained as a medic in the military and at the Israeli facilities of Tower Semiconductor and Intel. His work-

ing with cold plasma at Tower and his experience as a medic led him to the idea of the potential for the use of cold plasma in the medical field.

The product of this concept is the equipment and protocol to weld close incisions using cold plasma incorporated with a special albumin (protein). The process is fast and reduces the chances of infection by completely sealing the area. In addition, scarring is reduced, and the procedure requires minimal training.

The web site of Misgav Venture Accelerator, an Israeli business incubator, of which IonMed is a member, carries the following description by IonMed of its product.

"Plasma has been shown to enable tissue welding, tissue disinfection, to promote hemostasis and enhance healing of chronic wounds, all of which represent vast clinical needs and market opportunities. Yet, to date adoption of plasma into surgery has been curtailed due to the high temperature profile of thermal plasma (>80°C), which causes damage to adjacent tissues. To overcome this challenge and tap the large potential of plasma in surgery, IonMed is bringing to market a proprietary cold plasma surgical

system. Our differentiated technology, which is covered by six pending patents that capture our innovations in plasma energy deposition, enables practical implementation of surgical cold plasma (<40°C)."

The next step is to begin trials in Europe and the U.S. to obtain approval of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration.

**HELPING PATIENTS ACCEPT FOREIGN TISSUE IN BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS.** One of the inherent problems in bone marrow transplants is the development of a disease caused by the immune system of the donor tissue attacking the patient's own organs. This graft-versus-host disease is referred to as GvHD. To protect against this, it is necessary to administer an immune suppressant drug to the recipient of the transplant for the remainder of his or her life.

According to an article in *Israel21c*, "between 30 to 70 percent of all [bone marrow transplant] patients develop a disease caused by the immune system in the donor tissue." The article goes on to report that a product developed by Enlivex Therapeutics LTD. of Jerusalem, ApoCell, has been used in 13 clinical tests on humans, and in each of these cases the patient was taken out of stages 3 and 4 of the disease resulting from GvHD. Patients in those stages usually have fatal outcomes. The same source reports that GvHD results even when the match is the

highest possible, but, with a non-match, there is almost a certainty of this complication.

The treatment is administered prior to the transplant, and it is the goal to stop or reduce the disease. While the sample has been too small to authenticate the effectiveness, the Israeli study showed that "none of those treated with effective doses of ApoCell reached stages 3 or 4, as opposed to 50% of the matched historical control group."

Dr. Dror Mevorach, head of Internal B Department at Hadassah Medical Center, Director of the Rheumatology Research Centre, former Acting Director at the Hadassah, established Enlivex in October 2005. Dr. Mevorach is a world-renowned expert on cell apoptosis, a treatment that results in the death of cells that is required to permit new cells to eliminate and replace cells whose DNA has been damaged sufficiently to the point where cancerous change is liable to occur.

Enlivex is now one of the seven biotech portfolio companies that operate under the umbrella of Hadasit Bio-Holdings Ltd, a unique, publicly held investment vehicle that provides investment opportunities in biotech companies based on research and inventions developed by Hadassah.

The company is now in the phase of preparing to begin multi-national phase IIB clinical trials.

## TSDA graduates first child of an alum

A momentous occasion occurred at this year's Torah Day School of Atlanta 8th-grade graduation ceremony. The room should have fallen to a quiet hush, followed by pyrotechnics shooting flashes of sparkling color into the air.

However, because of the nature of TSDA's students and parents, as the name Moshe Yitzchak Estreicher was called, only the quiet applause of proud parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends could be heard. School historians celebrated by noting that TSDA had just graduated the first child of an alumna.

Moshe Yitzy is a born-and-bred Atlantan; his parents, Rabbi Naphtali and Mrs. Rivkah Estreicher, are also Atlanta raised. Additionally, both sets of grandparents reside in Atlanta and are highly valued and well-known educators in the

Jewish day school scene.

Grandmother and former TSDA teacher Mrs. Ruby Grossblatt was amazed when it was brought to her attention that Moshe Yitzy was the first child of an alum to graduate. "Time just goes by so fast. I taught at TSDA for nine years in its early days. There were only four teachers at the school when my daughter Rivkah attended."

As Mrs. Grossblatt expounded upon the history of the school, one could tell that for her, it seemed as if it were just yesterday. Mrs. Grossblatt and her husband, Gerry, of blessed memory, were true builders of and investors in Torah Day School, not only by sending their daughter to a brand new school, but supporting and strengthening the school in a myriad of ways. They were also honored for their extraordinary service at TSDA's Dinner of Honor in 2004.

Grandparents Rabbi Daniel and Mrs. Bluma Estreicher are no less noteworthy. Rabbi E, as he is affectionately known, is famous among the Yeshiva Atlanta crowd, and Morah Bluma has possibly taught every child in the Toco Hills neighborhood at Congregation Beth Jacob's preschool. The Estreichers were honored in the past as well, as TSDA's Grandparents of the Year.

Torah Day School's continuity and strength in tradition is something of

which to be proud. When alumni return to their hometowns to raise their families and choose to send their children to the school they attended, it speaks volumes about the quality of education, as well as the warmth and



**Rabbi Einzig,  
TSDA's new head  
of school**

nurturing emanating from that given institution and its staff. When Rabbi Einzig, TSDA's new head of school, heard about Moshe Yitzy, he commented, "It's wonderful to be a part of a school where the second generation of children are graduating. What that says to me is that the alumni feel that Torah Day School is a good school, and they want their kids to be a part of it."

There are several other alumni who send their children to Torah Day School, and it is always such a pleasure for some of the more senior teachers and administrators. Mrs. Leslie Morris, TSDA's admissions director, former parent and board member, remembers some of the alum parents from when they were students here. "It's just such a treat to see

the students return. I love seeing my children's friends come into school with their children. I feel like a pseudo grandmother to many of them." Mrs. Morris has been working at the school for over 16 years.

With her signature laugh, Mrs. Susan Krohn, who has been a teacher at TSDA since its inception in 1985, commented that seeing these alum kids return "makes me feel really old. Our alums also come back to TSDA as teachers. Clearly, their memories of their school experience is positive and sweet enough that they want to come 'home' and be involved."

Torah Day School is still in its youth as schools go. The oldest graduates are barely past their thirties, many still with young children and just growing careers. TSDA's graduates have entered the fields of law, education, medicine, dentistry, writing, science, and much more.

Torah Day School of Atlanta is proud of all of its graduates, past and present, but this year, a silent cheer was sounded at this extraordinary milestone event.



**Moshe Yitzchak Estreicher with his parents, Rabbi Naphtali and Rivkah Estreicher**

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security • peace • solidarity

# Thought You'd Like To Know

By Jonathan Barach

**CAMP GAN ISRAEL.** Chabad of Cobb offers several camp options this summer. Camp Gan Izzy for boys and girls (rising K-5th graders), Boys' Sports Camp (rising 3rd-5th graders), and Kiddie Camp (2-4 years) are June 24-July 26. Girls' Cooking Camp, for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, is July 15-26. The camps include activities in indoor air-conditioned facilities and on five acres of outdoor fields and playgrounds, plus field trips every week. Visit [www.cgicobb.org](http://www.cgicobb.org) or call 770-565-4412 for more information.

**EDGEWISE.** The Edgewise weekly speaker series addresses topics ranging from politics and religion to Hollywood to history. Adults of all ages are invited. On June 27, Dr. Robert Friedmann will focus on community policing, terrorism, and crime analysis. On July 25, Dr. Milton Tabor will speak on "Unions: Necessity or Obsolete in Today's Economy?" Programs are 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, at MJCCA—Zaban Park. Admission is free for members, \$5/Silver Sneakers and non-members. For more information, contact Lilly Mahana, [lilly.mahana@atlantajcc.org](mailto:lilly.mahana@atlantajcc.org) or 678-812-4064.

**DIVE INTO SHABBAT.** The community is invited to celebrate Shabbat at the MJCCA—Zaban Park's Outdoor Pool and Splash Park, July 12, 26, and August 9, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Bring a picnic, or purchase kosher food at Goodfriend's Outdoor Grill. The open swim is followed by Shabbat songs and blessings with Rabbi Glusman. Enjoy free ice pops, challah, and grape juice. Admission is free. In case of threatening weather, call the weather hotline at 678-812-4011 on the afternoon of the event. For more information on this or Dive Into Shabbat Intown, August 23, contact Rabbi Glusman at [rabbi.glusman@atlantajcc.org](mailto:rabbi.glusman@atlantajcc.org) or 678-812-4161.

**SAT BOOT CAMP.** Summer SAT Boot Camp Is July 19-August 2, at MJCCA

Zaban Park. Prepare for the October 2013 SATs with Applerouth Tutoring Services. The course will include 24 hours of small-group instruction, three mock tests, and cutting-edge educational materials. The fee is \$499/MJCCA and BBOY members and \$515/non-members. The price includes three proctored, fully analyzed mock tests and special fall review session, October 2, 6:30-9:30 p.m. For more information, contact Stacie Graff, [stacie.graff@atlantajcc.org](mailto:stacie.graff@atlantajcc.org) or 678-812-3972.

**TEEN COMMUNITY SERVICE.** Teens can earn community service hours this summer with the MJCCA. On July 19, 10:00 a.m.-noon, sort and box books at Books for Africa. On August 4, 1:00-4:00 p.m., sort and package medical supplies at MedShare International. On August 22, 7:30-8:30 p.m., enjoy bingo and other fun with the residents of Hammond Glen Senior Community. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Amy Helman-Darley, [amy.helman-darley@atlantajcc.org](mailto:amy.helman-darley@atlantajcc.org) or 678-812-3978.

**DRIVER'S ED.** Learn to drive at MJCCA—Zaban Park, July 22-26 or July 29-August 2. Each student will attend 30 hours of classroom training, which includes the State-required Alcohol and Drug Awareness training, and complete six hours of private individual behind-the-wheel training. Graduates are eligible for up to 10% reduction in insurance premiums and parents are eligible for a \$150 Georgia Income Tax Credit. All students must be at least fifteen years of age by the end of the class. The fee is \$465/MJCCA and BBOY members and \$495/non-members. For more information, contact Stacie Graff, [stacie.graff@atlantajcc.org](mailto:stacie.graff@atlantajcc.org) or 678-812-3972.

**WAITING FOR GODOT.** Fulham and Clapham will present "Waiting for Godot" by Samuel Beckett, at two venues: Greenfield Hebrew Academy, July 25 and 28, and Fabrefaction Theater Company, August 8-11. All shows are at 7:30 p.m.; tickets are \$5 at the door, cash or credit.

Tickets reservations can be sent to [fulhamandclapham@gmail.com](mailto:fulhamandclapham@gmail.com). For details, visit [www.fulhamandclapham.tumblr.com](http://www.fulhamandclapham.tumblr.com).

**WELCOME TO BETH SHALOM.** Congregation Beth Shalom will host several casual prospective member events this summer. Join Rabbi Zimmerman and fellow musicians for music, camaraderie, and ruach. On July 26, a 5:30 p.m. wine and hors d'oeuvres reception will be followed by a Rockin' Shabbat service, at 6:15 p.m. On August 9, a 6:15 p.m. Rockin' Kaballat Shabbat service will be followed by a barbecue dinner, at 7:00 p.m. August 10, a prospective and new member Shabbat service, at 9:30 a.m., will be followed by Kiddush lunch. For more information or to RSVP, call 770-399-5300, or e-mail [office@bshalom.net](mailto:office@bshalom.net).

**EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF ALZHEIMER'S.** On July 31, 6:30 p.m., Gary S. Figiel, MD, renowned geriatric psychiatrist and president of Southeastern Healthcare Group, will speak on the topic of "Early Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease & Long-term Management to Maintain Quality of Life," at The Carlton, Atlanta's only Kosher Assisted Living & Memory Care Community. Dr. Figiel has spent over twenty years treating geriatric patients, with particular attention to early diagnosis and management of memory disorders. His talk will be followed by Q & A. Refreshments will be served. This event is free of charge. RSVP to [shelley@insigniaseniorliving.com](mailto:shelley@insigniaseniorliving.com).

**DOUBLES PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT.** Beat the heat with an indoor tournament at the MJCCA—Zaban Park, August 4, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. This tournament is perfect for players of all ages and skill levels. Advanced registration required. The fee is \$15/members, \$25/non-members, and includes tournament entry, one-day MJCCA facilities pass, drinks, snacks, and prizes for winners. For more information, contact Lilly Mahana, [lilly.mahana@atlantajcc.org](mailto:lilly.mahana@atlantajcc.org) or 678-812-4064.

**GROUP SUPPORT.** The Atlanta Tinnitus Support Group invites you to join them on Saturday, August 17, 10:30 a.m., for their next meeting. Guest speaker, Melissa Wikoff, Au.D, doctor of audiology at Atlanta Hearing Associates, will share what she has learned from attending the recent tinnitus conference held in Valencia, Spain. The meeting will take place at the Dunwoody Library in the meeting room, 5339 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody. Enjoy mingling from 10-10:30 a.m. This event is free of charge. For more information contact Erica at [elcatl@aol.com](mailto:elcatl@aol.com).

**ACCELERATING SOUTHEAST.** "Accelerating Southeast—Israel Growth:

Investments, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Partnerships," August 20, is a half-day's networking and seminar on business between Israel and the Southeast, designed specifically for professional service organizations, whether pursuing business, or looking to increase their effectiveness with clients. Discover why and how bi-lateral business between the U.S. and Israel is mutually beneficial through the exploration of innovation, investment, legal considerations, business culture, trade, and mergers and acquisitions. Luncheon Keynote Speaker is Shai Robkin, incoming president, American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Region. For details, visit [aiccse.org/events/aicc-professional-seminar](http://aiccse.org/events/aicc-professional-seminar).

**CALLING ALL NASHVILLEANS.** There will be a reunion of Atlanta Jewish community members from Nashville, at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, 5342 Tilly Mill Road, on August 21, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Come meet with old friends for a fun evening of food and conversation. If interested, contact Sid Stein at 770-232-4887 or Fred Glusman at [fredglus@comcast.net](mailto:fredglus@comcast.net).

**CAMP BARNEY TURNS 50.** The Camp Barney Medintz 50th Anniversary Celebration is August 23-25, at Camp Barney Medintz, in Cleveland, Georgia. It's time to rehearse your Sabbath Concert skit, replace those flashlight batteries, and pack up your duffel bag. Celebrate 50 years of great summers, friendships, and memories at Our Summer Place. Visit [campbarney.org](http://campbarney.org) for more details, or contact Bonnie Brodsky, [bonnie.brodsky@atlantajcc.org](mailto:bonnie.brodsky@atlantajcc.org) or 678-812-4151.

**LIMMUDFEST.** Limmudfest is Limmud Atlanta + Southeast's multi-day retreat over Labor Day Weekend, August 30-September 2, at Camp Ramah Darom, in Clayton. This year, LimmudFest will focus on preparation for Rosh Hashanah, with sessions that will include music, text study, dance, Jewish ritual, Israel, social justice, parenting, arts, environmentalism, comedy, food, and outdoor activities. For the first time, LimmudFest will have a Young Adult Development (YAD) program, catering to Jews ages 22 to 30, and a special program called Limmud L'Am for adults with developmental disabilities. For details, visit [limmudse.org](http://limmudse.org).

**NIBBLE AND NOSHFEET 2013.** Nibble and Noshfest features a taste of Jewish and other ethnic foods sold in sample-size portions, community vendors selling their wares, and a huge children's activities area. Admission is two canned goods, which will be donated to Must Ministries. The event is September 1, 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., and September 2, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., in the parking lot of Temple Kol Emeth, 1415 Old Canton Road, Marietta. Improv Night at Noshfest presents "Improv On The Rocks With Just a Twist of Jewish," September 1, 7:30 p.m.; tickets are \$15 per person. For more information, visit [www.noshfest.com](http://www.noshfest.com).





## JSU NEWS

**A DIFFERENT BACCALAUREATE.** Jewish Student Union Founder and Executive Director Rabbi Chaim Neiditch was the guest speaker at the Chattahoochee High School graduation baccalaureate ceremony. The ceremony, which was attended by the graduating class, parents, and faculty, represented a major step in recognizing the integral role JSU plays in public schools.

The baccalaureate ceremony, which usually has overt Christian themes, this year had a different theme. Rabbi Neiditch addressed the graduates on the topics of setting life goals, believing in themselves, and the importance of treasuring family, especially parents and siblings.

Rabbi Neiditch also spoke about his



**Rabbi Chaim Neiditch speaks at the Chattahoochee High School graduation baccalaureate ceremony.**

recent trip to Poland, in which he visited concentration camps with Holocaust survivors and JSU teen leaders. The survivors left a lasting impression on Rabbi Neiditch and taught him powerful life lessons, which he shared with all in attendance.

**SWIM WITH THE SHARKS.** Over the past few years, the JSU has succeeded in connecting over 1,300 Jewish teens and hundreds of families to the Jewish community. Recently, the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta's Protél leadership program recognized the efforts of Rabbi Neiditch, JSU's founder and executive director, as well as JSU's successes, when it invited him to participate, along with five other representatives of Jewish non-profits, in a special Shark Tank fundraising competition. The competition was held on June 6, at



**Rabbi Neiditch at the Shark Tank competition**

the Selig Center, in front of an audience of over 300 people. The event was also live streamed.

The participants pitched their programs to an award-winning panel of "sharks": The Home Depot Co-Founder Bernie Marcus, Spanx CEO Laurie Ann Goldman, and Definition 6 Founder and CEO Michael Kogon. These panelists decided which presenter/organization was most deserving of winning the event's proceeds.

JSU will use the Shark Tank proceeds to fund a new club at Roswell High School, as well as continue providing free programming to the other JSU clubs across Greater Atlanta.

As Rabbi Neiditch made clear during his presentation, there's still plenty of work left to be done by JSU, with thousands more unaffiliated Jewish teens just waiting for someone to light the spark that will rekindle the Jewish faith within them.

To learn more about JSU, view a video of Rabbi Neiditch's Shark Tank presentation, or support the organization, visit [www.JewishStudentUnion.com](http://www.JewishStudentUnion.com).

**CARING FOR THE SICK.** Over 300 teens at a dozen JSU Public School Clubs took part in the important mitzvah of bikur cholim (caring for those who are sick). The teens gathered together to make decorative pillowcases for children requiring long-term care at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

As the teens hand-decorated the pillowcases, Rabbi Chaim Neiditch led discussions on why bad things happen to good people. During these discussion, many students shared personal stories about dealing with sick family members. Nonetheless, the overall mood was positive, as participants

were overjoyed to use their talents to help bring smiles to the faces of children struggling with illnesses.



**Ashley Siegel, Meredith Siegel, Rebecca Friedman, and Sarah Goldstein display their decorated pillowcases at Dunwoody High School JSU.**



**Amber Michaeli, Erin Singleton, and Sydney Benjamin show off their "Get Well Soon" pillowcase at Chattahoochee High School JSU.**

## AICC selects new president

Atlanta native Shai Robkin has been selected to succeed Tom Glaser as president of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Region. Robkin will assume the position on August 1, and Glaser will stay on in a consulting capacity to ensure a smooth transition through September, when he will begin his retirement after almost 22 years of service to AICC.

"Our Executive Committee followed a very rigorous process and made an excellent selection. We believe Shai will be an outstanding professional leader for AICC, building on the solid foundation and leading the chamber to the next level of excellence," said Lorin Coles, former board chairman and Chairman Joel Neuman, who assumed leadership of the board on July 1.

Robkin brings a unique background and skill set to the position. A dual U.S. and Israel citizen, he has extensive Israel and Southeast business experience. Educated in Atlanta, he earned his BA degree in economics with a focus on international trade from the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill and an MBA with an emphasis

in marketing from Georgia State University.

He began his business career in Israel, with Bank Hapoalim. Two years later, he and his wife opened Israel's first combination bookstore/coffee shop, in downtown Jerusalem. Subsequently, they returned to Atlanta to handle family obligations, taking the proceeds from the sale of their Israel business to purchase Vernon Library Supplies. In 2004, Robkin established a separate division, ITG, devoted exclusively to library technology, which he sold in 2011 to One Equity Partners. The company was rolled up with British and Swiss companies to form Bibliotheca, a global library technology company. For the past two years, Robkin served as a managing director and then consultant to Bibliotheca.

Robkin has been an active community leader. In Jerusalem, he was a founding member and president for two years of

Moreshet Avraham, a Conservative synagogue. He served as commissioner of the Israel Softball League and was instrumental in getting softball included as a recognized sport in the Maccabiah Games.

The Robkins remain members of their Jerusalem synagogue and are also members of two Atlanta synagogues. Robkin served on the board of Congregation Beth Shalom and on AICC's board. He has also served on the boards of the Greenfield Hebrew Academy and The Weber School, which honored him and his wife, Judy, at its annual dinner in 2007.

Robkin served in the standing Army of the Israel Defense Force in 1978-79 and was a reservist until 1984. He is a fluent speaker and writer of Hebrew. The Robkins own an apartment in Jerusalem and visit the country yearly, maintaining close relationships with many Israeli friends and family.

In 1990, Robkin formed a musical

ensemble, PAZ, which continues to this day to perform popular Israeli music for community organizations in Atlanta and throughout the South. His passion for Israeli music led him to host "Boker Tov Atlanta" ("Good Morning Atlanta"), a radio show on AM1160, from 2006-07.

The American-Israel Chamber of Commerce is a bi-national business association with the mission of increasing economic development by fostering understanding, cooperation, and business relationships between Israel and the Southeast. Since its founding in 1992, AICC has been involved in over \$1 billion in completed transactions. The Southeast is now home to more than 75 Israeli companies for their U.S. or regional headquarters.



**Shai Robkin**



# BREMAN MUSEUM NEWS

**SAVING STORIES OF SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORY.** As the new archivist for the Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Family Archives at The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, I have spent my first several weeks exploring the various resources housed in the museum's collection. I was both surprised and delighted to discover the wealth of material contained in the Esther and Herbert Taylor Oral History Collection.

Consisting of nearly a thousand oral histories from prominent and influential



**Jeremy Katz, new archivist for the Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Family Archives**

Jews from across Georgia—and more recently Alabama—this collection houses the stories of Jewish life in the South. Whether it's understanding how Jews made their way to Georgia and Alabama; the relationship between German Jews and Russian Jews in social and cultural life; or how Jews reacted to events such as the trial and lynching of Leo Frank; the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot; and the Civil Rights Movement, the collective memory of the Jewish community of Georgia and Alabama is held in this remarkable collection.

One interesting oral history from this effort comes from Walter Dannenberg, who recounts racial integration in Macon, Georgia. He says, "We worked it out very peacefully and we didn't say anything, but the 'white-black' signs disappeared on the water fountains...on restrooms.... Just disappeared—don't know what happened to them...after two or three weeks everybody got used to the fact, everybody came and went like they wanted to. I don't think most people noticed even that it happened."



**Postcard from the Dannenberg Company in Macon, Georgia, found in Mss 133, The Dannenberg Company Records, Cuba Family Archives, Breman Jewish Heritage Museum**

Although desegregation did not go as smoothly in other parts of the South, this oral history paints a detailed picture of how the town of Macon reacted to the change.

Generous support from the Aleksander and Halina Szlam Family and the Jerry and Dulcy Rosenberg Family allowed the Archives to interview Holocaust survivors as part of The Legacy Project, "New Lives: Coming to America." One of these survivors was Murray Lynn, who survived Auschwitz and immigrated to America after the war.

During the interview, he describes how he survived the trials of the infamous death camp. He says "I think in part it's our culture. We had to fight as Jews all the time to live and survive. In part, it has to do also with genetics. In part, it has to do maybe with environment. I did not want to die. I didn't know how long I could survive. I didn't know how long I could bear this inhuman treatment and abuses and starvation. But I said, 'I am not going to yield. I'm not going to allow Hitler to be triumphant.' I decided that I'm going to fight this to the very end. I said, 'If the time comes when my body triumphs over my mind, then I say I will have no choice but to yield.' But my mind triumphed over my body, and as you know, as a psychologist, the mind controls the body...This was the biggest difference, I think, between those of us who survived and those of us who didn't."



**Murray Lynn (right) in Ireland following the war, 1949, from the Cuba Family Archives visual arts collection, MLF 411.01**

Mr. Lynn overcame extreme odds to eventually become a respected psychologist in Atlanta. His story is just one of numerous tales of survival during the Holocaust that can be discovered in the collection.

Generous support from the Elliott and Judith Cohen Family, in 2006, allowed us to interview members of the Russian Jewish immigrant community in Atlanta. One such interview was conducted with Irina Nikishin, who immigrated to Atlanta from Russia in 1978.

During the interview, Irina recounts the culture shock she experienced during her first trip to the grocery store. She said "In Russia, we didn't have the same kind of grocery stores...coming to Kroger was a

major shock to me...I wanted to buy some bath rugs for the bathroom, and when I saw the assortment and the colors and the textures...they thought something was wrong with me...but I couldn't make a decision because of the availability of things that were there.... I couldn't choose what kind of cheese I wanted to buy. I couldn't know what was all the packaging. Even though I read English, it doesn't matter. It's the variety. It's the items that are there. It's an overwhelming experience. It's great to have this experience, but it's overwhelming. It takes some learning tools to cope with that."



**Soviet Jews arriving in Atlanta, 1979 (photo: Cuba Family Archives)**

Irina's experience at the grocery store is part of a narrative that generations of immigrants have told. We live in a country built by immigrants, and yet we often take for granted the opulence that work has awarded us.

These stories are a vital part of the collective history of the Jewish community in Georgia and Alabama. It is of the utmost importance to collect, preserve, and make these stories available to the public. Ongoing support of the program allows the archives to conduct new interviews each year, transfer the audio to playable formats, catalogue the interviews, and transcribe them.

If you would like to support the Taylor Oral History Collection, believe someone in your community should be interviewed, or would like to research the collection, contact Jeremy Katz at 404-870-1862 or jrkatz@thebreman.org. You may also browse the collection at [www.thebreman.org](http://www.thebreman.org).

—By Jeremy Katz, ed. Sandra Berman

**GAME ON.** "Project Mah Jongg" explores the fascinating history of the game and its impact on Jewish American cultural identity.

The exhibition serves as historical treatment of the topic, a placeholder for memory, a generator of whimsy, and a stage set for the game's continuation. The envi-

ronment conveys how mah jongg is much more than a game: it is a carrier of fantasy, identity, memory, and meaning.

This wildly popular exhibition, which runs through October of this year, explores the traditions, history, and meaning of the game of mah jongg in Jewish-American life from the 1920s to today.



**Ladies play a floating game of mah jongg, 1924 (photo: courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division)**

The game of mah jongg is explored in dynamic formats throughout the exhibition, including 20th-century popular objects and a visitor-activated soundscape that features clacking tiles, exclamations from games by Jewish-American and Chinese-American players, reminiscences, and vintage music. Large-scale graphics by Isaac Mizrahi, Maira Kalman, Bruce McCall, and Christoph Niemann illustrate mah jongg as ongoing muse for contemporary artists. A game table at the core of the exhibition invites visitors to engage in the continuing tradition.



**Playing mah jongg in the Catskills, circa 1960 (photo: Collection of Harvey Abrams)**

There are numerous activities related to the exhibition.

On July 21, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., The Breman invites families to enjoy a fun afternoon with PJ Library, to explore the exhibition, play board games in the gallery, and make a mah jongg-inspired craft. PJ Library families can bring a book and receive a discount. Admission is \$6 (\$4 with discount) for kids 7 and up, \$4 (\$2 with discount) for kids 3 to 6, free for kids 2 and under, and free for parents and grandparents. For more information and to RSVP, contact Ghila, 678-222-3724 or [gsanders@thebreman.org](mailto:gsanders@thebreman.org), or Lisa, 678-222-3721 or [llebovitz@jfga.org](mailto:llebovitz@jfga.org).

The Mah Jongg Open Game Day and Special Tour is August 14, 10:30 a.m.-5:00



p.m. At this fundraiser, participants can play their favorite game, win prizes, and enjoy great food. The entry fee is \$36/members, \$50/non-members. Reservations are required.

The Mah Jongg Bootcamp, July 23, 1:00-5:00 p.m., is a 4-hour crash course conducted by Mah Jongg Central coach Michele Frizzell, designed to give students the ability to play after just one lesson. The class is limited to eight students; depending on demand, additional dates will be added. The entry fee is \$36/members, \$50/non-members. Reservations are required.

Mah Jongg players are invited to spend an afternoon at the museum. There is a room set up with card tables, and there are several food options. This program is free with

admission; for groups, there is a charge of \$4/person. Reservations are required.

Unless otherwise indication, contact Ghila at gsanders@thebreman.org or 678-222-3724 for information on these activities.

"Project Mah Jongg" was curated and is circulated by the Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, New York. "Project Mah Jongg" is made possible through the generosity of the National Mah Jongg League. Additional support is provided by Sylvia Hassenfeld and 2wice Arts Foundation.

"Project Mah Jongg" has been made possible in Atlanta through a generous gift from Marilyn Ginsberg Eckstein.

For more information on the exhibition, visit thebreman.org.



**HARDCORE MAH JONGGERS.** Eight Temple Sinai members got together during a recent storm and played mah jongg by candlelight. (Photo courtesy of Bonnie Aronin)

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## Capital campaign geared to helping teens and adults living with developmental disabilities

enAble of Georgia, Inc. (formerly known as RRA), has launched a community-wide Capital Campaign, with a goal of raising \$750,000 to maintain and expand the organization's existing space in north Fulton County and update more than a dozen personal care group homes located throughout Atlanta.

Funds will also be used to introduce a variety of new initiatives for teens and adults with special needs, such as day camps, after-school activities, and classes in subjects such as creative movement,



**Dr. Harry Stern**

garden, art, and drama. An in-house medical suite and industrial teaching kitchen are also planned. "Like the world's finest organizations, enAble provides five-star services that differ from most, in that we provide support designed to span entire adult lifetimes. This is critical for families who might otherwise have nowhere to turn when it comes to taking care of their children or relatives with developmental disabilities. In many cases, our relationship with these families extends decades," says Dr. Harry Stern, CEO of enAble. "After more than 30 years, we are ready to grow in new directions and expand the level and scope of the services we offer to these families, so that their lives can flourish physically, intellectually, and socially."

Currently, enAble serves more than 100 individuals with mild/moderate to severe/profound developmental disabilities, including autism and Down syn-



drome. Established in 1979 as the North Fulton County Group Home Association by a group of parents seeking a place in their own community and greater independence for their children, enAble is now the area's premier residential and day services provider for adults with developmental disabilities. The agency's first two group homes opened in 1982, and a third in 1987. Currently, enAble operates 16 such group homes throughout the region.

All services provided by enAble focus on helping individuals live as independently as possible and become contributing members of their own communities. The agency partners with families, therapists, and educators to design a Person Centered Plan (PCP) for each person they serve, to assist with their goal planning, and to provide the supports needed in helping them to lead a fulfilled life.

Group homes consist of no more than five individuals, grouped according to need and ability, and are located in residential neighborhoods across Atlanta. Trained professionals provide 24-hour support to coach and mentor in all areas of daily living activities such as personal grooming, health and wellness, communication and socialization, and home management skills.

"I've achieved a lot of goals since coming to enAble," says Melissa Crawley, who has been supported by the organization for 15 years. "I used to live in one of the group homes, but now I'm in my own apartment with support from enAble staff. I've learned to cook and am doing well at my job as an office assistant. I've come a

long way from where I used to be, and there's a lot more I want to do."

The organization offers a wide array of day services for people with developmental disabilities, designed as a stepping-stone into the workplace or world of volunteer opportunities. To better prepare these individuals, enAble provides educational classes and specialized workshops that teach skills in home management, communications, health and wellness, socialization, advocacy, rights, self-preservation, and community living. enAble employs two full-time job coaches who assist with outreach and education and oversee each individual's transition to the workplace.

"The sense of accomplishment that these individuals feel when they achieve what most of us take for granted is immeasurable," says Amy Vergith, support manager of Day and Employment Services. "We show them how to learn to live with the possibilities rather than focusing on their disabilities. We inspire

them to dream big and open their eyes to things they never even knew existed, and then we give them the tools to make those dreams a reality."

enAble also operates a fleet of 21 wheelchair-lift and passenger vans to transport those served to and from their program services, medical and dental appointments, jobs, and volunteer assignments, worship services, and recreational activities.

"The funds raised will quite literally enable us to ensure that the individuals we serve continue to live life to the fullest extent possible, within their own communities," says Campaign Committee chair, Lynne Buchanan. "What we offer is so comprehensive and so vital to these families, we owe it to them to expand our support so that we can enhance their lives and give their loved ones the tools they need to live healthy, happy, fulfilled lives."

enAble of Georgia, Inc. is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Its Community Living Alternative (CLA) and Community Living Support (CLS) Services are licensed by the State of Georgia. enAble is an IRS approved, 501 (c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization; all donations are tax deductible. More information is available at [www.enable-gea.org](http://www.enable-gea.org).

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# Schwartz on Sports



BY **Jerry Schwartz**

ALTA COCKER VI. I left my house at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 21, heading for the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta and the Alta Cocker VI softball game. The temperature was 47 degrees, and I thought I'd better take along a warm jacket.

It definitely wasn't softball weather. But by the time I got there, warmed up, and was ready to play, it was a perfect day for a morning of softball with guys I played with every spring/summer Sunday from 1971-1992.

Approximately 65 guys showed up to play, with about 30 or so who were cheerleaders or on the injured reserved. We were divided into six teams and would play three two-inning games on three of the MJCCA's ball fields.

Once again, Gene Benator did an excellent job of coordinating, organizing, and promoting the game. We should call him the "Top Cop." Marcus Katz, for the sixth year, bankrolled the cost for the umpires and great deli spread after the game. The MJCCA staff provided the setting, lined off the fields, and even had CEO Gail Luxenberg address and greet us.



The two guys who made Alta Cocker VI possible are Marcus Katz (left) and Gene Benator.

Gene started off the day by asking us to remember those former teammates who had died during the year. We observed a moment of silence for Donald "Moose" Miller, Ted Aspes, Donnie Diamond, and Randy Feinberg.

Brian Wertheim showed everyone a large picture of a softball championship team he played on in the '80s and asked us to sign the back. I warmed up with Roy Swartzberg and Marty Ellin, and we got a chance to welcome a lot of other guys who were throwing a softball for the first time since last year. They say that throwing, catching, and hitting a softball is like riding a bike. You don't forget how, but

it still takes some practice to remember.



Guys waiting for games to begin

I had a chance to talk to a number of guys who were sitting this game out. Howard Wertheimer wouldn't be at shortstop this year due to a broken hand resulting from pickup basketball. Wayne Aronson was still on the DL and rehabbing, but was recording the day's events with his video camera.

Tom Harvey and I got to talking about our military days, back in the mid-'60s. It's amazing what subjects come up when you start reminiscing. I estimated that I'd be able to recognize about 75% of those in attendance, and I was pretty close.

Marcus Katz volunteered me to make the lineup for our Sandeks team. It's tough to determine who is going to play where, when almost everyone on your team is an infielder. Thankfully, Bobby Ezor, Paul Jaffe, and Marc "Banks" Weinstein volunteered to play the outfield, and they played all three games without one error. Pretty impressive. Howard Robbins played great first base, as did Alan Shectman at second and Marty Ellin at third. Alan Wolkin reluctantly agreed to catch all three games and played solid ball. He even held the ball at home plate, tagging out I.J. Rosenberg. We even got Todd Maziar to play third base in his street clothes. The best part of the day was that no one got injured. At the end of the game, Gene picked up the same number of unused ice packs as he put out at the beginning.



Someone said, "Play Ball!"

There was a delicious deli buffet for everyone. I sat at the really old-timers table, along with George Weiss, Bill Klineman, Marty Rubin, Willie Green, Freddie Benamy, Gabby Balser, Herb Stein, and Gary Jackson.

Bill Klineman told me that when he first moved to Atlanta in the late '70s, he played on a championship team with Freddie Benamy as the captain and pitcher, Bobby Ezor at third, and me at shortstop. He was remarkably able to remember everyone on the team.

I talked with my former Northlake neighbors, Ronnie and Marguerite Merlin. Ronnie and I were teammates in the City League for a

number of years.

Bob Perlstein drove in from Asheville to play in the game with his son, Josh. Bob grew up in New York, and when he was a youngster, his dad told him it was time to choose a team to root for, and he chose the Pittsburgh Pirates. I grew up near Pittsburgh and was a Pirates fan, but I thought it was an unusual choice for Bob to root for them, since they were pretty bad back then.

After a great lunch and conversation, everyone headed home. As I was leaving, I noticed a few youngsters playing ball on one field, and I thought, here are the MJCCA softball players of the future. I hope they'll have the same kind of good memories that I have.

MOVIES AND THE JEWISH GEORGIAN SPORTS SCENE. I started a new feature in the March-April column, in which I included some of the movies my wife and I had seen over the last five years and tied them into the Jewish Georgian sports scene. I had also planned on including more movies in future columns.

I saw Roger Gelder at the Alta Cocker VI game, and he said he enjoyed the feature. One positive comment was good enough for me. So, Roger and "SOS" readers, hope you enjoy the additional movies.

- *The Hunger Games*: It's not about a futuristic world, but more like how you're feeling when you skip dinner and are waiting for the 9:00 p.m. basketball game to start.

- *Doubt*: It has nothing to do with Philip Seymour Hoffman as a priest, but is more about what a guy feels in his last time at bat after going 0-4 against the league's best pitcher.

- *Whatever Works*: It has nothing to do with Larry David changing his life. Instead, it's about a guy trying to figure out the best way to guard a player who is six inches taller than he.

- *700 Sundays*: It's not Billy Crystal's one man show, but the guy who has never missed a Sunday morning double header in 25 years.

- *Iron Man 3*: It's not Robert Downey, Jr. saving the president. Instead, it's about the guy who plays the entire basketball game for his team and then subs for the next two games.

- *Unknown*: Liam Neeson doesn't lose his memory in Berlin. Instead, it's about what to expect the first time a guy goes from playing tennis to Pickleball.

- *The Dilemma*: Vince Vaughn and Kevin James are not working on a deal with Chrysler. They're two guys figuring out how they still can get in 18 holes of golf before the Sunday morning bar mitzvah brunch.

- *In Time*: It's not about Justin Timberlake figuring out how to live longer, but how a basketball player gets off a winning shot at the buzzer.

- *The Ides of March*: It's not George Clooney and dirty politics. It's what happens when you try to start a softball league on March 15.

- *Mission Impossible*: Tom Cruise is not on the basketball court. This is what it's called when five guys who can't shoot play five guys who can.

I hope you enjoyed this edition's column. Until next time, drive for the bucket and score.

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# THE Jewish Georgian

## GHA and YA Create Atlanta's First K-12 Jewish Day School

Although summer may be in full swing, many families were reminded that the start of the school year is right around the corner with the announcement on July 8 that the Katherine and Jacob Greenfield Hebrew Academy (GHA) and Yeshiva Atlanta (YA) are planning to partner to create a new K-12 college preparatory day school.

In a statement released by the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, they shared, "We are passionate and excited about creating the first-of-its kind K-12 Jewish day school in Atlanta. It will give our children top-tier academic excellence and college prep, hand-in-hand with an outstanding Jewish education and a love for Israel. Similar K-12 Jewish day school models



have been implemented successfully across the country, and we will engage with these institutions to learn best practices as plans move forward."

Federation's announcement noted that "the process has been many months in the making. It's led by informed community leaders. This exciting opportunity for our community is still a work in progress – the final vote following due diligence being 75



days away – with many questions still to be answered."

Some frequently asked questions were addressed in the announcement regarding details of the new endeavor. Committees are currently in place to search for a new head of school, who will work with a single governing board of trustees for the still yet to be named new K-12 school. A building and grounds committee is busy exploring

location options, including the possibility for a one-campus facility at the current GHA location.

Both schools bring a rich history of accomplishments into the partnership. GHA, founded in 1953, was the first Jewish day school in the country to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and has twice been honored as a National School of Excellence by the Council for American Private Education. GHA has also won the highly respected Jerusalem Prize for exemplary achievement in Zionist and Torah Education, administered by the World Zionist Organization.

Yeshiva Atlanta, founded in 1971 is

See JEWISH DAY SCHOOL, page 27

## Cecil Alexander's new book provides insights on one man's life and the life of his city

By Janice Rothschild Blumberg

*Crossing the Line*

*Part One: The Awakening of a*

*Good Ol' Boy*

*Part Two: The War Years*

By Cecil Alexander

W & C Publishing

If you love Atlanta, you'll love *Crossing the Line*. Cecil Alexander's salient insights on his own life and the life of his city. Although he graciously acknowledges assistance from journalist Randy Southerland, anyone privileged to know Cecil will easily detect his own dry wit and gravely Southern drawl in every line.

You'll enjoy the book for a host of other reasons, even if you don't know Cecil personally. How about civil rights, baseball, architecture, business, politics, Yale, flight training, dive bombing, wartime marriage, the Marines, or Atlanta



Boys' High in the 1930s? The award-winning architect also gives details about designing some of the city's most notable buildings, including his former home, the famous Round House on Mt. Paran Road, unique in the 1950s. It was so impressive that *Life* magazine featured it in a cover story.

The most enlightening aspect of *Crossing the Line*, in the opinion of this Jewish Georgian, is what it tells us about ourselves. In describing his personal "awakening," this patriot and civic leader, whose Southern heritage began when an ancestor migrated to South Carolina, in 1760, reminds us of our own naively rose-colored view of the world in which we grew up, prior to World War II. Shielded to some extent by our parents, as he was, we unquestioningly accepted not only the insidious marginalization of African Americans, but our own less noticeable marginalization as Jews. The book reminds us of both the good and the bad that permeated our environment in those "good ol'" days, when neighborhood children could sell soft drinks, as young Cecil

See ALEXANDER, page 27

## After six years, JNF's Ronnie Porat goes back to Israel with a Southern accent

By Marvin Botnick

Most of us have developed our understanding of historical developments as well as current events from written and narrated reports. What is missing is the opportunity to meld into this base the face of an individual or individuals, which bonds this information into a personal relationship. If this personal touch is not that important, why then do politicians not just rely on written communications, rather than spending personal time with their electorate?

Most countries do this through their diplomatic corps, but generally this is directed towards official acts, formal interviews, and press releases. Interactions on a personal and informal basis are not as common. Israel and its support organizations have broadened this exposure through the use of *shlichim*, or emissaries. While they primarily are representatives of a particular organization, they also represent the totality of Israel.

Since 2007, the Jewish National Fund's Southeast region has had Israeli Lt. Col. (Res.) Ronnie Porat assigned to its office as a *schliach*. For these last six years, Porat has crisscrossed the region, going to both large and small communities to be a face and not pamphlet for JNF in particular, but for Israel in general. He

loves to travel by car, so that he can make

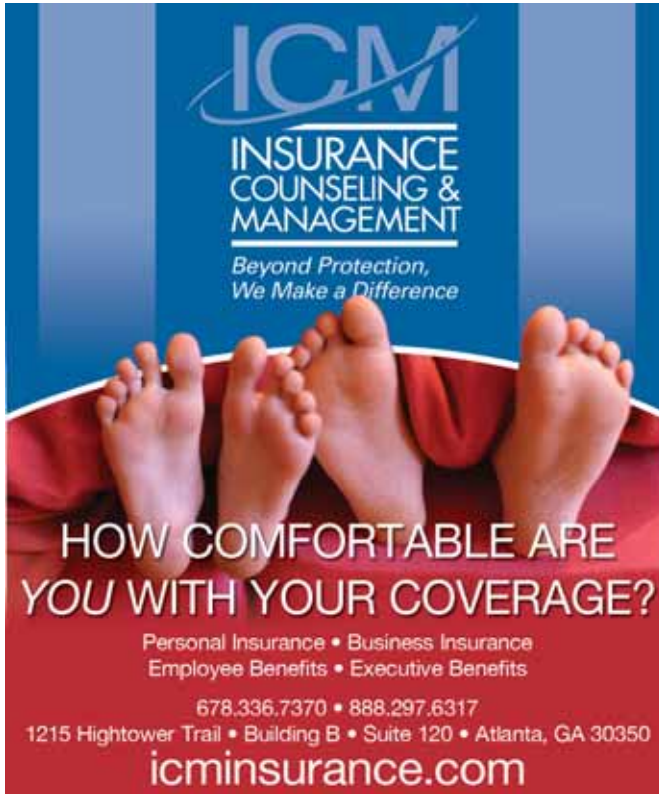


Lt. Col. (Res.) Ronnie Porat

many stops along the way. This enables him to visit towns with less than 100 Jewish families, which seldom, if ever, have an Israeli representative in their community.

In the six years that he has been doing this, he has covered tens of thousands of miles and developed numerous personal relationships. Ronnie is definitely a people person. He is the son of a Holocaust survivor and a true and devoted child of Israel. He is anxious to meet people from all different groups, not just Jews, and has spent many hours with non-Jewish supporters of Israel. He truly understands that he is an emissary to all, and he is proud to include in the circle of friends that he has made

See PORAT, page 27



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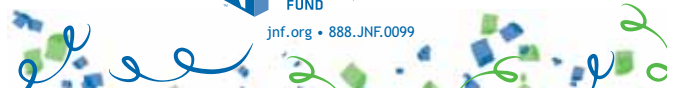
During his time working for JNF in the Southeast from 2008 to 2013, Ronnie Porat has traveled thousands of miles throughout the region to bring a taste of Israel to the South. He has led trips to Israel, spoken in synagogues and for community groups and has hosted Israeli dignitaries in his home. Ronnie's wife Tuti and his three children Shira, Omri and Noa have joined him in his mission to represent the best of Israel.

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RSVP by August 20. Visit [jnf.org/ronnieporat](http://jnf.org/ronnieporat) and include your personal message to Ronnie. For more information or to RSVP, contact Beth Gluck, Southeast Regional Director at 404.236.8990 x851 or [bgluck@jnf.org](mailto:bgluck@jnf.org).

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## Jewish Day School

From page 25

Atlanta's oldest co-educational Jewish high school. The school embraces the ideals of Ahavat Yisrael (the love of all Jews) and the significance of Medinat Yisrael (the State of Israel). YA was recently named a Blue Star School by Working In Support of Education (WISE).

In a letter to Yeshiva Atlanta families, Nancy Weismann, board president, shared that "both schools have spent many hours discussing differences and embracing shared values in the two schools' missions, and we are confident that in the ensuing months, we will be able, as a combined entity, to offer our students academic excellence in a positive Jewish environment that is absolutely consistent with our existing mission statement and high standards of excellence. Judy Stolovitz, President of GHA's Board shared her excitement saying, "Imagine what an extraordinary community school we will create when we combine our dreams and resources."

According to Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) Executive Director Jeff Jackson, he sees many positives in schools that offer a K-12 option. It just makes sense economically and educationally. It provides better long-term financial stability to the school, with increased

philanthropic giving through 12 years of loyalty to the school. It provides the opportunity for a consistent and streamlined educational mission. It can offer the convenience of families keeping their kids together in one school, and there are greater opportunities for interaction between older and younger students.

GHA and YA are already known for their outstanding faculty, innovative programs like STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and Early Childhood Development, awards from the Council for American Private Education, WISE and MIT, and acceptances to top universities around the world. The schools also feature Strategic Learning and M'silot programs. Combining the schools allows for the expansion of the academic, fine arts, athletic, and Judaic programs, as well as financial opportunities for our community's students. It also brings the new school to a critical mass that makes innovative and distinctive programming possible.

Michael Horowitz, CEO/president of Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, is confident that, "the warmth, caring, joy, and excitement that are ever-present in the halls of both GHA and YA will grow even stronger as our community works together to ensure a strong future for our children and these beloved institutions."

## Imagine a world without hate



BY Marice Katz

At one of the film screenings I attended during this year's Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, I ran into Bill Nigut, director of the Southeast Region of the Anti-Defamation League, also known as the ADL. He told me this is the 100th anniversary of the Anti-Defamation League. I thought, gosh, I have got to tell the world about that. (And what better way than through *The Jewish Georgian*?)

You see, this is such a valuable organization, it needs to be lauded for the wonderful work it does. I usually have it on my contribution list.

A couple of weeks ago, when I made a donation, I received a beautiful letter in return. I used a line from that letter for the title of this article. And I quote from

the same letter the following: "For 100 years, the Anti-Defamation League has been a force for change, a champion of our nation's values, and a shield against hate and extremism."

If you would like to receive this beautiful letter, Bill says (with a hearty laugh), "Any contribution will be welcomed."

Bill told me that Atlanta and Georgia were very important to the founding of ADL. As a matter of fact, the Leo Frank lynching was the event that propelled the ADL to international prominence.

There is going to be a centennial dinner in November honoring Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat for his remarkable service to Jewish people around the world. And a civil rights conference in October will explore a very important topic of today, which you will do well to hear.

Though I, personally, have never been exposed to much anti-Semitism, it is the scourge of the world. All I can say is, "Hooray for the ADL."

## Alexander

From page 25

did, from a toy wagon at the corner of Highland and Ponce de Leon avenues.

Totally revealing, the author even recounts losing the love of his life, his wife of 40 years, in a tragic accident in which he himself was horribly injured, and his subsequent good fortune finding renewed happiness with an equally remarkable woman who had been their close friend. It's a love story from many angles.

More than that, *Crossing the Line* is an honest, probing portrait of an ideal Southerner who, while culturally assimilated by multiple generations of forebears in the American South, maintains his Judaism both in identity and public demonstration of Jewish values. Although he doesn't mention this in his book, those of us familiar with Atlanta Jewish history recall that

he followed four generations of his family as a trustee of The Temple, and that one of his great-grandmothers conducted a religious school for Jewish children here in the 1850s, a decade before Atlanta's first Jewish congregation was organized.

Deeply imbued with his Jewish heritage, Cecil Alexander represents a significant but seldom recognized segment of American Jewry, assimilated outwardly while quietly devoted to the basic tenets that define Judaism. His memoir also bespeaks a vast knowledge of history, literature, and arts, the fruits of an inquisitive mind sharpened by a fine education. He writes with an architect's eye for detail, an aviator's adherence to precision, and a whimsical touch to life's lighter moments.

*Crossing the Line* isn't without faults, notably that of cursory copy editing. That is a minor distraction, however, in an otherwise outstanding work. It's a rollicking good read, and it's available on Amazon.

## Porat

From page 25

any and all people who are friends of Israel.

While he understood the broad parameters of the job he undertook when he came here, he has refined those responsibilities and chartered the methods by which to implement them. In his time here, working with JNF Southeastern Regional Director Beth Gluck and the rest of the staff and lay personnel, fundraising efforts have experienced amazing growth. Hand in hand with this has come an increased interest in the vital programs and projects of JNF.

And now his tour here is coming to an end, and he and his wife, Tuti, a business consultant to Israeli nonprofit cultural organizations, are going to return to Israel and to their three children. Daughter Shira, the eldest, worked as the executive assistant to the ambassador of Israel, in Washington, D.C., from 2005-08, and now interns in Teva Pharmaceutical's Legal Department, in Israel. Son Omri, a former Golan Brigade LRRP fighter, studies at IDC. Noa, the youngest, a Weber Jewish Community High School graduate, was recently inducted as an officer in the Israeli Air Force.

"After six years devoted to JNF, it will be sad to say goodbye to Ronnie," said Beth Gluck. "Our region is honoring Ronnie with a plaque on the Wall of Honor at Ammunition Hill, in Jerusalem, as a tribute to his service to Israel and to JNF. The Wall of Honor at Ammunition Hill recognizes the heroism and courage of Jewish soldiers who, throughout history, have fought to defend their countries. Ronnie served in the Israel Defense Forces and as an Israeli diplomat overseas, and a plaque on Ammunition Hill is a very fitting tribute."

"I cannot imagine JNF without

Ronnie," said Lauren Mescon, a former JNF president currently serving as vice chair of the Central Arava Committee and a JNF Makor member. "He is so committed and so passionate and so down to earth, it is easy to forget all the great things he has done for the State of Israel, not to mention JNF. I had the good fortune to travel with Ronnie on a mission from the Southeast. It was a phenomenal trip, and one highlight was when he brought his father to share his experiences from surviving the Holocaust with us. Ronnie comes from amazing stock, and his perseverance and advocacy for Israel certainly shows everyone that we, the Jewish people, will prevail in the future."

Todd Starr, former JNF Atlanta president and current board member adds, "I have had the honor of working with Ronnie on a daily basis since he arrived in Atlanta. We have traveled the Southeast region of the United States together, meeting new donors and spreading the word about JNF's mission. In addition, we have traveled to Israel to see multiple JNF projects as a team. Ronnie has become a close friend of mine and part of my family. I will miss his passionate JNF voice in support of Israel, the stellar way he educates others about JNF work, and as a my dear friend."

Thank you, Ronnie, for all that you have done. We hope you will take with you the warm feeling of your family here. And remember, you will have to come back for your favorite Southern delicacy—cheese grits.

In Ronnie's honor, friends are invited to contribute to JNF's investment in the Negev town of Yerucham, a part of JNF's vision for the area that is close to his heart. Friends interested in honoring Ronnie should contact SE Director Beth Gluck at 404-236-8990 or BGluck@JNF.org.

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# A letter to my uncle



**BY Marvin Botnick**

*This article was first published in the July-August 2002 issue of The Jewish Georgian.*

A birthday is very special. It is a time when we stop to remember a particular birth and celebrate what that occurrence has added to our lives. While the birth itself is a thing of marvel, the character and being of what develops from that birth can be equally majestic.

July is the birth month of Feter Shmuel, and I cannot let it pass this year

without acknowledging it. You see, he adopted my parents, and, because of this, I am now a natural family member. In my parents' home, he was held in awe and recognized with thanksgiving. As with many others, he gave them his protection, and he afforded them an opportunity to live in honor and raise their families without the fear of persecution, degradation, or deprivation.



When my parents died, I saved their adoption papers, which meant so much to them and now to me. I have shown these to my children, and I know that they will revere them as I have. This year, as in the past, I will proudly display Feter Shmuel's colors when I place the United States flag outside of my house on July 4, Uncle Sam's 226th birthday. The following is my birthday greeting.

Dear Uncle,

Thank you for opening your house to my parents when they were seeking shelter and opportunity from the persecution of the czar. Through wars, bigotry, conflict, and economic hard times, you remained steadfast in your ideals of freedom and equality. There were times when some of your children tried to subvert your purpose, but you never wavered.

Sometimes, I forget how lucky I am to be part of your family, but this is always short-lived. The news from around the world is a constant reminder of the good fortune we have to be citizens of this wonderful country. You have afforded my family the chance to get an education, earn a good living, travel with impunity, worship in freedom, participate in governing, and speak openly and freely. But you also have made it clear that results from these opportunities depend on our willingness to maximize these benefits by our own work and efforts.

There are those from within and from the outside who object to what this great country has produced. We are not without our problems and shortcomings; however, these generally are a result of actions of individuals. You have provided the environment and tools for a respect for human rights, and you have bravely and courageously spoken out for justice and freedom. You have suffered from the slings and arrows of others who react in jealousy for what you represent, but who take every opportunity to come to your shores.

On the world stage, you are still a youngster. Even so, you have matured quickly and have sought to share your bounties with those not as fortunate. There were times when your rule of law was sorely tried, but you persevered. May you continue to do so.

I know these are trying times for you, but I know that the majority of your citizens appreciate and applaud your courage. It is easy to seek approval and worry later about what is right. You have tried not to do this, and we are all the better off for it. It is important that this concept always be brightly emblazoned when we consider alternatives, and we must make sure that we support you in these actions.

And so, as we celebrate your birthday, may you continue to pursue justice for all. May the concept of hatred, avarice, and a desire for unfair advantages never supplant the rule of law and your humane character.

From my parents, Happy Birthday, Feter Shmuel. From me, Happy Birthday, Uncle Sam. I am proud to be a member of your family, and I will try to uphold the concepts that have made you unique and so wonderful.

**אנו עומדים יחדיו**  
**We stand with Israel**  
**security • peace • solidarity**

## My life and times

By Jerry Farber

This is my second column for the *JG*, and I am really excited and grateful to be doing this again. Apparently, not as many readers and advertisers complained as we had feared, so here I am again. I'd like to thank our publisher, Marvin Botnick, for this honor.

Last issue, I talked about growing up in North Carolina, and this time, I'd like to tell you about living in Atlanta.

I've been in Atlanta going on fifty years now. My first job was playing the piano at the legendary Coach & Six Restaurant, owned by Beverly and Hank Soloff. I got paid \$125 a week, plus tips, plus all the onion rolls I wanted.

Then I was hired to play at the Lark and Dove, in Sandy Springs, for three weeks, which turned into twelve years. One day, Mendel Romm came in and offered to partner with me in a nightclub in Buckhead, on Pharr Road, which many of you may remember. Today, it's gone but not forgotten—and I'm forgotten but not gone.

But I do have my own nightclub again, Jerry Farber's Side Door, in the Landmark

Diner in Buckhead, on Roswell Road at Piedmont. We have comedy, music, improv, all kind of entertainment, even amateur "open mic" nite on Wednesdays, and the diner's great food. Come by and see us, and if you think doing comedy is so easy, try it yourself on Wednesday, and we'll see how many laughs you get.

Yes, I do bomb a lot. The other night, my act was so bad, the NSA stopped listening in halfway through. And my writer, Regenstein, always likes me to warn customers that I do a lot of adult humor—all my jokes are at least 21 years old.

But I am proud that videos of some of my early performances have recently been added to the nation's Strategic Entertainment Reserve.

One thing that worries me is that I

seem to be getting sort of hard of hearing. So are my golf buddies. The other day on the course, Barry Zipperman said to Marc

Antibe, "It's windy, isn't it?"

"No," he said, "it's Thursday."

"I'm thirsty, too," Seth Kirschenbaum chimed in. "Let's go have a drink."

But golf being so addictive, we played on, and soon a funeral procession drove by on the road next to the course.

The fourth member of our gangsome stopped what he

was doing, took off his hat, and stood with his head down respectfully while the funeral procession went by. Afterwards, I said to him, "That was very touching, I had no idea you were so thoughtful."

"Well," he replied, "not only was she a wonderful wife, today would have been our 40th anniversary."

I do love golf. Last week, I played eighteen holes at my favorite course. I was

four under par till I got to the windmill, and that and the clown's mouth ruined my whole day. Plus, they wouldn't give the ball back after the last hole.

I've always enjoyed sports. In college at UNC, I was a two-letter man. The first letter, from the Athletics department, told me I did not make the football team. The second letter asked me to bring back my equipment.

One of the things that I love about Atlanta is the friends I've made here. Despite my many failures, being 75 years old, I guess I'm here to stay. And I see that the average life expectancy for an American male is 76, so I've got to figure out what I wanna do with the last year of my life.

Looking back on my life here in Atlanta, I have to admit there are some things I'm not very proud of. Like the time I was broke and borrowed money from a dozen friends and gave each one as collateral a copy of the title to my BMW. Then the car blew up, and all my friends were stuck with the same worthless title.

In retrospect, I am filled with deep shame, grief, and embarrassment. I ask myself over and over, "How could I have ever done such a thing? How? How could I have ever bought a German car?"



**Jerry Farber**



# BUSINESS BITS

By Marsha Liebowitz

**AICC SELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP.** The American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Region, has elected its officers and board members for 2013-2014.



**Joel Neuman, 2013-14 Chairman of AICC**

Officers are: Joel Neuman, chairman; Benjamin Fink, chairman-elect; Jonathan Zucker, vice chairman; Tal Cohen, vice chairman; Jonathan Minnen, secretary; and Steve Horn, treasurer.

Shai Robkin will join the chamber as its new president and chief professional officer on August 1. Newly joining the Executive Committee is David Schulman. New Board of Directors members are Eric Gabbai, Bruce Kopkin, Ramesh Barasia, Yuri Eliezer, Morris Ellison, Paul Gianneschi, Carl Johnston, Darrie Schlesinger, Galit Levitin, Adam Feinberg, Itay Parness, and Yoav Zilber.

**ALEXANDER MAKES HALL OF FAME.** Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton partner Miles Alexander has been inducted into the IP Hall of Fame, which honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the global intellectual property system.



**Miles Alexander**

Alexander joined the firm in 1958, after teaching at Harvard Law School and serving two years as a U.S.A.F. Judge Advocate; he was admitted to partnership in 1963. In addition to his activities in all aspects of trademark and unfair competition practice, he counsels clients in other intellectual property fields and is a frequently selected party and court-appointed mediator in alternative dispute resolution matters.

**SETH BARON AT FIDF.** Seth Baron, of Kennesaw, has been appointed the new executive director of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces Georgia Region. Seth previously served as the Atlanta Area director for the American Israel Public Affairs

Committee (AIPAC). For the past 20 years, he has volunteered with Maccabi



**Seth Baron**

USA/Sports for Israel and currently serves as a vice president and on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The FIDF Georgia Region has traditionally focused on Metro Atlanta.

Under Baron's leadership, it will expand its activities to communities in Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Kentucky.

**PEARL STEPS DOWN.** Dr. Simcha Pearl will step down as head of school at the Doris and Alex Weber Jewish Community



**Dr. Simcha Pearl**

High School, at the end of the 2013-2014 academic year. Since becoming head of school in 2000, Dr. Pearl has focused on growing Weber's enrollment, strengthening its academic and Judaics programs, overseeing its move to a new and permanent campus, and stabilizing Weber's financial position. Under Dr. Pearl's leadership, Weber has evolved from a small Jewish day school of 19 students to a respected, values-based, college preparatory school of approximately 240 students, with 550 alumni.

**PARADIES AND 11ALIVE.** Atlanta-based concessionaire Paradies and local NBC affiliate 11Alive celebrated the opening of the first-ever airport 11Alive store, located in Terminal B of the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. City and airport officials, travelers, and fans enjoyed a lively grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the 617-square-foot corner store, on June 18. Miguel Southwell, deputy general manager, and Myrna White, director of marketing and stakeholder engagement, of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport; John Deushane, president and general manager of WXIA/11Alive; and Gregg Paradies, presi-

dent and CEO of Paradies, welcomed guests and offered remarks.

**RABBI EINZIG AT TDSA.** Rabbi Joshua Einzig has joined Torah Day School of



**Rabbi Joshua Einzig**

Atlanta as its head of school. Rabbi Einzig is the former head of school at Westchester Day School, Mamoroneck, New York, and the H.F. Epstein Hebrew Academy, in St. Louis, Missouri. Rabbi Einzig received *semicha* from Yeshiva University in Washington Heights, New York. He holds a BA in psychology from Yeshiva University and a masters of education in school psychology from City University of New York. Rabbi Einzig has demonstrated a strong commitment to faculty development, thorough knowledge of classroom education, and curriculum development experience.

**MIT HONORS WOLMER.** Al Wolmer, head of the Math Department at Yeshiva Atlanta, has been honored with a 2013 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Inspirational Teacher Award. MIT students nominate the high school teachers who inspired them; Mr. Wolmer was nominated by Noam Buckman, YA Class of 2011. Mr. Wolmer, who has been a member of the Yeshiva Atlanta faculty for the past eleven years, announced his retirement to start a consulting practice. His focus will be improving the teaching (and learning) of AP Calculus and the effective use of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard in the high school math classroom.



**Paul Oberman and Al Wolmer**

**PARADIES HONORED.** In recognition of

its longstanding dedication to the promotion and participation of minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises in airport contracting, Atlanta-based Paradies has received its second Airport Minority Advisory Council Corporate Partner Award. The award recognizes companies and organizations that consistently contribute to the growth and development of Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and whose workforce and business activities reflect a strong and consistent commitment to diversity with its overall workforce. Paradies has more than 50 joint-venture partnerships with certified ACDBE individuals and companies and continuously strives to introduce women and minority-owned businesses to airport concessions.

**AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE OPENS TOCO HILL LOCATION.** Atlanta Hearing Associates has opened its fourth Georgia



**Melissa Wikoff, AuD**



**Rita Chaiken, AuD**

location, at 1991 N. Williamsburg Drive, Atlanta. Audiologists Drs. Melissa Wikoff and Rita Chaiken specialize in hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), and hearing aids. They are bringing Lyric extended-wear hearing devices to the area and also offer custom hearing protection, swim/sleep plugs, musician's earplugs and monitors, assistive listening devices, and telephone/television connectivity. Other offices are in Dunwoody, Lake Oconee, and Lake Sinclair (Milledgeville). For more information, call 404-935-0240.



# Class Notes

By Belle Klavonsky



**DAVIS ACADEMY DAY.** Sandy Springs Mayor Eva Galambos (left) honored The Davis Academy for 20 years of educational excellence, at a city council meeting, on June 4. Student government reps David Antonino, Jared Solovei, Jacob Lewis, Joelle Friedman, and Joelle Zelony and Head of School Amy Shafron represented the school to receive the honor.



**NOETIC MATH WINNERS.** Once again, Davis students are flying high in math competitions. Out of 62 Davis participants in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades who competed in the Noetic Learning Math Contest, 45 qualified for national recognition. The following students' high scores earned them National Honor Roll status: 3rd grade—Ezra Mahle (team winner) and Hannah Tourial; 4th grade—Matthew Aronin, Derek Coffsky, Jordy Elster, Will Hopkins (team winner), Tyler McMahon, Darren Rosing, and Casey Shoulberg; 5th grade—Evan Altwarg (team winner), Micah Kornblum, Jonah Medoff, and Adam Rubinger. Pictured: Davis Academy's Noetic Math Honor Roll students



**CARNIVAL.** The Davis Academy concluded its yearlong 20th-anniversary celebra-

tion with a fun family carnival on Sunday, June 3. For this year-end bash, the Davis PTO transformed the parking lot into a fun zone, complete with rides and games, including a dunk tank. Here Alexa Hoppenfeld, Carrie Marx, and Jaclyn Marx enjoy a Ferris wheel ride.



**CAMP JENNY.** Each year, Davis Academy 5th-graders work to help ensure that inner-city kids have a great experience at Camp Jenny, which takes place during Memorial Day weekend, at URJ Camp Coleman. During the year, the students collect items such as backpacks for the kids, then travel to Camp Coleman to help prepare gift bags (shown here) for the guest campers when they arrive.



**MACY'S KIDS.** Five Davis 7th-graders earned the chance to spend a day at Macy's Perimeter, assisting managers and getting a behind-the-scenes look at the retail industry. It all started with a persuasive essay assignment, given by 7th-grade language arts teacher David Rifkin, who arranged the experience. The students wrote about why they wanted the opportunity to work at Macy's. As part of the process, the finalists had to interview with a Macy's representative. Jordan Shoulberg, Valerie Light, Zachary Cohen, Rachel Murray, and Maquie Weiss reported that they learned a lot on their workday, Sunday, May 19.



**FRIENDS IN PEACE.** The 8th-grade trip to Israel is always a highlight for Davis Academy students. This year's trip included iconic places such as The Kotel and Masada, archaeological digs, and more. Toward the end, the group of 71 also visited a special community of Jewish and Arab Israelis, where they enjoyed activities with the school children. The Davis students left a gift of the school's new music CD and promises to stay in touch.



**INVENTION FAIR.** At their annual Invention Fair, Epstein School 4th-graders displayed creative, problem-solving devices they developed, while demonstrating their ingenuity and science knowledge. Noam Friedman's iPillow allows young iPad and iPhone users, who are often on the go and traveling in their parents' cars, the ability to multitask in comfort. Inspired by a 6th-month hospitalization when he was in 3rd grade, Nolan Goldklang designed the I.V. Pole Accessories Kit, which allows mobility and access to conveniences such as snacks, glasses, and electronic devices. Pictured: (top) iPillow by Noam Friedman; (bottom) I.V. Pole Accessories Kit by Nolan Goldklang

**ALUMNUS HONORED.** Alex Duner (pictured), Class of 2009, was inducted into The Epstein School Hall of Fame. Alex is a 2013 National Merit Finalist and also earned Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting. For his Eagle Scout project, Alex raised money and built a pergola for The Epstein School's Educational

Science and Biblical Garden. Alex exceeding his fundraising goal by \$500, which he donated to the school for garden maintenance. Alex graduated from Woodward Academy, where he was a finalist in the 2012 Heart of Texas Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament, and will attend Northwestern University.



**TENNIS CHAMPS.** Three years ago, The Epstein School began a girls tennis team. In just a few short years, 1st-year Head Coach Jason Smith has helped to bring the Lady Eagles up to an extraordinary level of performance. Last year, they made it to the finals. This year, they brought home the 2013 Metro Atlanta Athletic Conference Girls Tennis Team Championship title. Pictured: (front, from left) Sarah Peljovich, Sabrina Kaplan, Sari Leven, Arly Yagoda, Sophie Yagoda, Robyn Salzberg, Jade Nowitz, and Lilly Blumenthal; (back) Coach Jason Smith and Athletics Director James Battaglia



**FAREWELL, GRADUATES.** The Epstein School bid a fond farewell to its 8th-grade students, who are now entering the high school chapter of their lives. Pictured: Girls from The Epstein School class of 2013 are (top photo, from left) Becky Arbiv, Jenny Judenberg, Rebecca Horn, Darelle David, Maddie Dorfman, Kyra Bronfman, and Ayelet Bernstein. Boys from The Epstein School class of 2013 (bottom photo) are Noah Weinstein, Benny Soran, Noah Lampert, Yoel Alperin, Roei Levi, Jake Estroff, Jeremy Rubin and Josh Lewkowicz.

**FELICIDADES!** Weber School world language students garnered national recognition for their excellent performance on the 2013 National Spanish Examinations, earning eight gold, seven silver, and 14 bronze medals, along with 26 honorable mentions. In addition to national ranking, 11 students





attained recognition at the state level. Sophomores Rachel Skinner and Zaq Brenner (pictured) placed first in the state. Other state winners include Eden Axler, Jessica Bachner, Rachel Jones, Talia Katz, Samantha Leff, Zachery Neil, Michelle Nelkin, Ilan Palte, Brooke Pardue, and Zoey Weissman. The National Spanish Examinations are administered each year in grades 6 through 12.

**STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS.** During student council elections, Weber candidates spoke to the entire school, delivering thoughtful speeches that tackled a wide range of issues. Elected for the coming school year are: Dylan Shaban, president; David Martin, VP Finance; Adina Karpuj and Adam Stoumen, VP Communications; Jake Shapiro and Miriam Areta, VP Programming; Emily Karsch and Ilan Bagel, 12th-grade representatives; Zoe Weissman and Emma Popowski, 11th-grade representatives; and Greg Fish and Max Harris, 10th-grade representatives. Ninth-grade representatives are elected during the first month of the school year.



**COGNITIVE DISSONANCE.** Weber parent and attorney Robert Caplan (pictured) spoke to Michelle Brown's English elective class, Law in Literature and Film. After studying works of fiction involving crime and punishment, students heard from Mr. Caplan, whose career began with two brutal criminal trials. He had students examine their own attitudes about crime, the criminal justice system, prejudice, and other issues and discussed two death penalty cases he handled. Students gained insight into the idea of "cognitive dissonance"—how we can hold two conflicting ideas in our heads about a topic, when we want those ideas to be in harmony.

**SIYUM HASHANA.** The Greenfield Hebrew Academy held its Siyum HaShana, on May 31. Students and teachers alike were honored for their achievements over the years. The program also featured student performances that displayed a remarkable degree of accomplishment. Several graduating students received Achievement Awards, and a scholarship was awarded to one 7th-grade student. Pictured: (from left)



Jillian Gerson, Linda Gross Scholarship; Benjamin Siegel, Ephraim Frankel Award; Dan Jutan, Head of School Award; Zoe Bagel, Hadassah Chesed Award; Linsey Cohen, Keter Shem Tov Award; and Isabella Cantor, Ephraim Frankel Award.



**CHAGIGAT CHUMASH.** On May 17, GHA's 2nd-grade students held their Chagigat Chumash, for an audience of nearly 150 friends and family members. Organized by Morah Judith Swartz and Morah Cheryl Kunis, the presentation took place entirely in Hebrew. The students demonstrated their knowledge of the five books of the Torah with posters, songs, recitations, and dance—and were accompanied by a student rhythm section featuring drums and tambourines. The lively, moving presentation ended with the whole group—teachers and administrators included—joining in a spontaneous and unscripted dancing circle. Here, students sing for their audience of parents and friends.



**ALUMNI ICE CREAM SOCIAL.** GHA held an ice-cream social for alumni who graduated from high school this year. Twenty graduates chatted with their former teachers, shared their plans for the future and reminisced about their time at GHA. The alumni shared their future plans, which will scatter them all over the United States and Israel. Each accepted a gift of a portable tool kit and umbrella, to represent the tools for life they received at GHA. Pictured: (top, from left) Danielle Grinzaid, Tammy Elmalem, Danielle Goldstein, Jamie Heidt, and Sasha Aaron; (bottom) Hannah Siegel, Gavriella Mendel, and Leslie Apseloff

**GOODBYE RABBI BUCKMAN.** GHA bade a fond farewell to Head of School



Rabbi Lee Buckman and Mrs. Rachel Buckman, Judaics teacher. Rabbi Buckman will become headmaster of North America's largest Jewish high school, Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. GHA threw an ice cream social in their honor, and students, teachers, and friends wished them *Tzeitchem l'shalom* and the best of luck in their new home. The faculty made a scrapbook for Rabbi Buckman. Pictured here is the cover, a photo of a mural designed by art teachers Mrs. Devi Knapp and Mrs. Anita Stein and assembled by the students.



**GOLF TOURNAMENT.** The 9th Annual Sidney Feldman Legacy Golf Tournament, held May 6, at the Druid Hills Golf Club, was GHA's most successful in the history of the tournament. This year's Player of Honor was Emanuel (Manny) Fialkow, a well-known philanthropist who has worked on projects to benefit Ahavath Achim Synagogue and the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta. He served on the Board of Directors of Jewish National Fund and GHA and is a major financial contributor to organizations that assist society's less fortunate. Pictured: (from left) Tournament Chair Dr. Gavin Cohen, bag-piper Dennis Duncan, and Emanuel Fialkow



**GRADUATION.** GHA celebrated commencement exercises for the class of 2013, on June 5, with 31 graduates receiving their diplomas this year. The graduates took the stage for a presentation that incorporated student poetry, music, and the spoken word. In their presentation, they addressed GHA's past, present, and future and shared their memories of their senior trip to Israel. Here, the new graduates toss their caps in the air to celebrate.



**WINNERS.** Torah Day School of Atlanta had a school-wide *Yedios Klalios* (Jewish facts) contest among the various grades. Pictured are the winners from the 3rd-5th-grade girls.



**YOUNG SCHOLARS.** TDSA 7th-grade boys held their annual Torah Fair. Each student learned the laws of *tefillin*, as well as studied a Torah scholar of their choice as shown here.



**TEA PARTY.** Second-grade girls participated in etiquette classes taught by Mrs. Kaye Green, which were followed by a mother-daughter tea party.



**FUN WITH MANNERS.** Mrs. Kaye Green taught an etiquette class to TDSA's 2nd-grade boys. Their culminating activity was a father-son breakfast.



**MAKING PARENTS PROUD.** TDSA 7th-grade girls invited their parents to their

See CLASSNOTES, page 32

## Epstein School and the greater community

Two and a half years ago, tragedy stuck the Poulos family, who live in the neighborhood near The Epstein School. Andee Poulos, then a young 14 year-old girl attending Holy Innocents' Episcopal School, had an AVM (Arteriovenous Malformation) in her cerebellum that ruptured for reasons unknown.

As a result, Andee was left unable to walk, talk, or eat and in need of serious medical attention for an extended period of time. It was evident that this was going to put an incredible strain on the family, both financially and emotionally.

Epstein's Head of School Stan Beiner knew the father, John Poulos, from previous community/neighborhood interactions and became aware of the family's plight through Epstein parents, who were friends of the Poulos family.

As part of its long history of giving back to the community, reaching out to those in need, and instilling the character and values that help develop young students into caring citizens, the school reached out to the family and offered prayers, emotional support, monetary donations, and meals delivered to their home, prepared by Epstein's Food Services Manager, Jane Escalera. Through fundraisers, the school collected \$1,200, which was donated to the Poulos family.

Andee was accepted into the Shepherd



Stan Beiner with Andee Poulos and her father, John



Andee Poulos

Center's Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program and has been working hard at her rehabilitation. Over the last year and a half, she has been determined to maximize her recovery and someday walk through the halls of The Epstein School. She wanted to meet and thank the students, faculty, and staff that came to her aid and that of her family in its time of need.

On May 20, 2013, Andee succeeded, walking into the school's chapel along with her father to speak to students who were inspired by her story. Andee spoke to the students and faculty in attendance, thanking them for their prayers and support. She also said how she is not angry about her situa-

tion. Andee then encouraged the students to keep the faith and never, ever give up.

Stan Beiner presented Andee with a book that is inscribed in her honor. The book is, fittingly, *The Little Engine That Could*, and the inscription reads, "This is a story about what can happen when you believe in yourself and push yourself to do things nobody believed possible. Thank you for being a role model to us."

In addition to her miraculous recovery, Andee is very excited and looks forward to returning to school in the fall. The Poulos family has developed a warm relationship with the school based upon faith, family, and community.

## Classnotes

### From page 31

Navi Museum, which included a mini archeological dig. Here a 7th-grade girl with her artifact discovery.



PERFORMING FOR THEIR PEERS. A 3rd-grade girls Ivrit class at TDSA performed a play for the other girls in grades one through three. Pictured are the stars of the show.



ON THEIR WAY. TDSA 8th-grade graduation took place on June 12, at Congregation Beth Jacob. Pictured here are the 8th-grade girls (top) and boys (bottom)

**RIISING STOCK OF YA STUDENTS.** Yeshiva Atlanta seniors Jake Belinky and Ethan Arbiser, along with junior Ezra Weener, finished second in Yeshiva University's Sixth Annual Sy Syms School of Business Stock Market Challenge. Students receive \$500,000 in a virtual brokerage account. They use this virtual cash to manage a portfolio for the duration of the class. This portfolio includes stocks, options, futures, bonds, mutual funds, currencies, and other securities from over 20 global exchanges. The YA team achieved a remarkable 3.03% gain, equaling a total of \$1,303,123.40 and, in doing so, won \$500 in cash for themselves.



## Bess Bayme Cotton, a woman of achievement

By Ruben Stanley

Leaving the familiar and undertaking a new venture, whether it is a house, a city, a job, or a life partnership, brings with it uneasiness and trepidation. As a person looks ahead to a changing lifestyle, the challenges often look insurmountable; as a person looks back at these changes, they seem somewhat insignificant.

That was the feeling that Bess Bayme Cotton had those many years ago, while she was packing up her young family and its belongings to move from her hometown. "At the age of 24, following my late husband who had previously arrive in Macon," she recalls, "I left my beloved hometown of Charleston, S.C., and arrived here [in Macon] on a hot summer day (110 in the shade) with all my worldly possessions: my two-year-old daughter Bonnie, a drop-leaf table, and two chairs—no friends, no family, no money."

This separation from her parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins in Charleston was difficult. She said, "I think I cried for Charleston for almost twenty years. One week out of each month, I took my children and boarded the Greyhound bus headed back home."

Much has happened in the ensuing years. She was widowed in 1969. Although inexperienced in operating a business, she

was left to take over the total responsibility of the family's store, Kaybee of Macon. Slowly, the pieces came back together with a lot of support from her family. The first years were difficult and frustrating, but she did not give up. The addition of her son, Scott, who joined her in the business, and the subsequent addition of Arnold Cotton—an experienced businessman to whom she has now been married for thirty-four years—solidified the foundation upon which a successful, thriving business has been built.

And as she had thrown herself totally into the business, so did she commit herself to the other aspects of being a part of Macon. The business grew, her family immersed itself in the social and communal activities, and she morphed from the cocoon of her earlier years devoted to Charleston to a grown, matured citizen of Macon, her adopted home. Now, when she talks about this, she says, "Charleston has become the place I love to visit; Macon is my absolute home."

In 2009, the Career Women's Network of Macon selected Cotton to be the recipient of its annual Women of Achievement award, which recognizes "women for their achievements and contributions to the advancement of women, their communities, and their professions."



Bess Cotton (left), with her Women of Achievement award, and Nancy Brown Cornett, a past award recipient

Thus it was that Bess Slotchiver, of Charleston, married Alvin Bayme, and, at the age of 24, moved to Macon to start a life and career. No one could know how the hand would play out, but she took each detour with a determination to make it work and to be a proud and devoted citizen of her new hometown. She raised her children, was active in her synagogue, was instrumental in building a successful business, and participated in the communal life of Macon.

She was, in fact, a true member of the Women of Achievement.



# Kosher Affairs



**BY Roberta Scher**

Summer is here, the long hot Atlanta summer, and it's the time of year when things really heat up. I do my best to keep my kitchen cool—serving seasonal salads, cold soups, pasta dishes, garden veggies, fruit, and, of course, lots of ice cream and chocolate for dessert. We invite you to send your favorite summer recipes to us.

I recently had the pleasure of attending a Toco Hills NORC 1st Monday Social. Not only was it an opportunity to learn about the NORC chapter, but also, the event was supported by Whole Foods Briarcliff. (Disclosure: This store is a favorite client of mine—and is always eager to serve the kosher community.)

At the event, I also had a chance to taste and enjoy a very creative food presentation by Atlanta area personal chef Sarah Faygie Berkowitz. Chef Berkowitz presented healthful, delicious recipes, along with helpful cooking tips. I have included two of her recipes in this column. She is quite a multi-tasker—a web content developer, SEO writer, and editor of a local holistic magazine. When she's not blogging at PrincessFig.com, Sarah Faygie enjoys helping friends with in-home catering for special occasions. So if you would like to enjoy the services of a personal chef (who wouldn't?) for some special occasion baking or light catering in your home, contact her at atlantakosherchef@gmail.com.



**Chef Sarah Faygie Berkowitz (left) and Carole Feinberg at NORC luncheon**



**Wraps**

Now about the Toco Hills NORC. I learned so much about this important program and want to share some of this with you. NORC, an acronym for Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, is a national initiative with three programs in the Atlanta area; the others are the East Point NORC and the Meyer Balser NORC, which is based at the William Breman Jewish Home. NORC's primary mission is to support seniors with "aging in place" programs, so that they can remain in their homes and continue to be active members of their respective communities. The Toco Hills NORC, the first program to be organized in Georgia, will celebrate its 10th year in December. Toco Hills has a community of older adults who have decided to remain in their homes for as long as possible. Some have lived in the area for their entire lives.

This program is a non-sectarian project of Jewish Family & Career Services and the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. Since many of the Toco Hills members are Jewish, when food and meals are offered, they are kosher. A multitude of activities and events are presented, such as 1st Monday Social, Marvelous Mondays, musical concerts, cooking classes, nutrition and wellness lectures, line dancing, walking groups, exercise classes, escorted trips, and more. Events are planned according to the interests and requests of members. The annual membership fee is \$50/single, \$75/couple.

The NORC groups promote health and wellness by finding ways to link older adults and services and by creating opportunities for socialization and learning. The list of NORC membership benefits is quite extensive, but two in particular focus on members' ability to maintain their independence and quality of life: (1) Social Ride Share, which enables members who hire drivers (for things such as errands, grocery shopping, visiting friends, and going to medical appointments) to be reimbursed with gift cards; and (2) Medical Vouchers, which enables members to receive gift card

reimbursements for personally paid dental, vision, or hearing services.

The program coordinator of the Toco Hills NORC is M. Queen Bailey-Brooks. For more information visit [toco hillsnorc.org](http://toco hillsnorc.org), or contact Queen at [qbrooks@jfcg-atlanta.org](mailto:qbrooks@jfcg-atlanta.org) or 404-633-3033. To find out which NORC program serves your neighborhood, contact JFGA at 404-873-1661.

## AROUND ATLANTA

We are delighted to share news that, by press time, Atlanta will likely have two new kosher food businesses. Dolce, a new kosher bakery, is opening adjacent to Judaica Corner, at Briarcliff and LaVista. Pita Grill, a trendy, casual Mediterranean-style restaurant, is slated for the Roswell-Wieuca shopping center, off Roswell Road, in Sandy Springs.

Peter Swerdlow, of Griller's Pride, has reached an agreement with The Kosher Express, an online purveyor of quality kosher meats. He will service their customers nationwide and expand his supply of all-natural meats, including bison.

My next column will focus on the Jewish New Year. We would love to receive some favorite holiday recipes from our readers. Do share your recipes for heirloom or contemporary dishes. Send to: [kosheraffairs@gmail.com](mailto:kosheraffairs@gmail.com).



What's cooking? E-mail [kosheraffairs@gmail.com](mailto:kosheraffairs@gmail.com). This column is meant to provide the reader with current trends and developments in the kosher marketplace. Since standards of kashruth certification vary, check with the AKC or your local kashruth authority to confirm reliability.

See KOSHER AFFAIRS RECIPES, page 34

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## Recipes from Kosher Affairs

*Enjoy---*

*Continued from page 33*

### Mexican Tortilla Wraps

Adapted from a recipe by Chef Sarah Faygie Berkowitz

Multi-grain or whole-wheat tortillas  
Salsa  
Canned beans, any kind  
Shredded lettuce  
Corn  
Chopped green pepper, onion, chilies

Sprinkle shredded lettuce on tortillas. Cover tortilla evenly with salsa, beans, corn, pepper, onion, and chilies.

Roll up tightly, cut on diagonal and secure with toothpick.

---

### Berry Jam

Adapted from a recipe by Chef Sarah Faygie Berkowitz

This is an easy recipe to put up while spending time in the kitchen on other dishes. It just needs a stir every few minutes and *voila*—delicious jam. This is great on vanilla ice cream, yogurt, cheesecake, and in a sandwich with nut butter.

1 bag frozen berries  
1/2 cup sugar  
Juice of one lemon

Pour berries, sugar, and lemon juice into a fry pan. Bring to boil, reduce to simmer. Scrape sides of pan with spatula every 5-20 minutes. Allow to simmer for an hour or more, until jam thickens.

Mash large berries against the side of pan with spatula. Allow to cool; pour into jar or container; refrigerate.

---

### Rainbow Natural Foods' Chinese Sesame Noodles

Adapted from "From the Menu of," as printed in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Serves 6

1/3 cup tamari soy sauce  
1/4 cup freshly ground peanut butter  
1/4 cup red wine vinegar  
3 tablespoons toasted sesame oil  
1 1/2 tablespoons hot chili oil  
1 1/2 tablespoons honey  
2 teaspoons granulated garlic  
2 teaspoons ginger  
1 1/4 pounds egg noodles  
1 cup frozen peas, thawed  
1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions  
1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted

water to a boil.

While water is coming to a boil, make dressing in a medium bowl by whisking together the soy sauce, peanut butter, vinegar, sesame oil, hot chili oil, honey, garlic and ginger. Set aside.

When water comes to a rolling boil, add the noodles and cook for 4 minutes. Drain noodles into a colander immediately and rinse with cold water. Cool the noodles completely, then allow to drain dry.

Move noodles to a large bowl. Whisk dressing and pour over noodles. Add peas, green onions and almonds and toss. Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to 3 days.

I suggest serving this warm or at room temperature.

---

### Gazpacho

Adapted from *The Barefoot Contessa Cookbook* by Ina Garten

4-6 servings

1 English cucumber, halved and seeded, but not peeled  
2 red bell peppers, cored and seeded  
4 plum tomatoes  
1 red onion  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
23 ounces tomato juice (3 cups)  
1/4 cup white wine vinegar  
1/4 cup good olive oil  
1/2 tablespoon kosher salt  
1 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper

Roughly chop the cucumbers, bell peppers, tomatoes, and red onions into 1-inch cubes. Put each vegetable separately into a food processor fitted with a steel blade, and pulse until coarsely chopped. Do not over-process!

After each vegetable is processed, combine all in a large bowl and add the garlic, tomato juice, vinegar, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Mix well, and chill before serving. The longer gazpacho sits, the more the flavors develop.



Bring a large pot of lightly salted





## Kosher Korner



BY **Rabbi Reuven Stein**

### KOSHER ALERTS

**VEGAN SYMBOL.** Many vegan products have a V with a circle. It can look very similar to the reliable kosher symbol Circle-V. These vegan products may not be kosher or supervised by the Circle-V. Be careful.

**QT.** At the current time, we don't recommend QT's frozen yogurts and soft serve ice creams.

**STARBUCKS.** The following four Starbucks products are not kosher: Caramel Macchiato, Frappuccino, Lemonade, and Smoothie.

**NEW KOSHER PRODUCT.** String cheese under the Polly-O label is now certified when bearing an OU-D. It can be found in the general cheese section at local supermarkets.

**FERRARA PAN CANDY.** In the past, products from this company such as Red Hots, Lemon Heads, Boston Baked Beans, and others were certified without a symbol. Please be aware that all Ferrara Pan products now require a UMK (K-Shield) symbol to be accepted as kosher.

**NONNI'S BISCOTTI.** The AKC does not recommend Nonni's Biscotti (Map-K symbol).

**IRENE'S BAKERY.** This company's challah rolls are not recommended.

### KOSHER NEWS

**DOLCE CATERING & BAKERY.** Moshe BenGigi's Dolce Catering & Bakery has opened at 3130 Raymond Drive Atlanta, 30340. The phone number is 770-451-3065.

**COSTCO BAKERY.** Brookhaven Costco's in-store bakery now has a kosher dairy bakery certified by the Circle-K. Only products bearing the Circle-K-D are approved.

**SARA LEE BREADS.** These new Sara Lee breads, all Kof-K Pareve, are available locally: Soft & Smooth Whole Grain White, Classic 100% Whole Wheat, and Classic Honey Wheat.

**HUY FONG FOODS.** The following products by Huy Fong Foods are now approved: Sriracha Hot Chili Sauce, Sambal Oelek, and Chili Garlic Sauce.

**TRADER JOE'S.** Trader Joe's Pizza Veggie Burgers with Tomato Basil & Mozzarella

Cheese are now approved by the AKC when bearing the AKC logo.

**MINUTE MAID AND SIMPLY BEVERAGES.** The OU has given its certification to Minute Maid Orange Juices and Simply Beverages. The following are OU-certified products:

Minute Maid Country Style Orange Juice, Heart Wise Orange Juice, Home Squeezed Style Orange Juice with Calcium & Vitamin D, Kids + Orange Juice, Original Orange Juice, Pulp Free Orange Juice, Low Acid Orange Juice, Original Orange Juice with Calcium & Vitamin D, Pure Squeezed Light Orange Juice Beverage No Pulp, Pure Squeezed Light Orange Juice Beverage Low Pulp with Calcium & Vitamin D, Pure Squeezed No Pulp 100% Orange Juice, Pure Squeezed Some Pulp 100% Orange Juice, and Pure Squeezed No Pulp 100% Orange Juice with Calcium & Vitamin D. Simply Orange Pulp Free, Pulp Free with Calcium & Vitamin D, Medium Pulp with Calcium & Vitamin D, High Pulp, and High Pulp with Mango, Pineapple, Banana, or Tangerine. Simply Lemonade, and Simply Lemonade with Raspberry, Mango, or Blueberry. Simply Limeade. Simply Apple. Simply Cranberry Cocktail. Simply Grapefruit.

**SEAGRAM'S.** Sparkling Seltzer Water in Original, Key Lime, Blackberry Raspberry, White Peach, and Orange Citrus are OU certified even without a symbol, as long as they are from North America.

**DUNCAN HINES.** Family Style Brownie Milk Chocolate mix bearing an OU is pareve.

Milk Chocolate Chunk Decadent Brownie Mix is OU-dairy when bearing the OU-D symbol, according to *Kashrus Monthly Magazine*. In the past, some Duncan Hines Milk Chocolate Brownie mixes have contained cream and milk and indicated an OU-D on 19.3-oz. boxes; the product now has a pareve formula and bears an OU on new 18-oz. packages.

**PILLSBURY.** Frostings that used to be OU-D have now changed to OU (pareve)—even those with names such as Milk Chocolate, Cream Cheese, and Butter Cream.

**KEDEM.** Sparkling Concord Grape Juice without an OU symbol, but certified by Rabbi Yosef Moshe Grunwald, the Tzelemer Rav, is acceptable.

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See *KOSHER KORNER*, page 42

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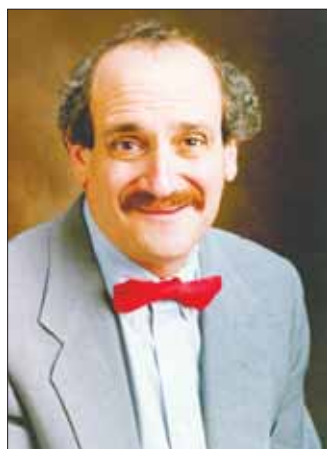
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# Dr. Neil Shulman, humanitarian extraordinaire



BY George Jordan

Dr. Neil Shulman is a man of many talents and has been involved in a variety of endeavors. He is an associate professor at Emory University School of Medicine and has been a consultant to the Georgia Department of Human Resources in establishing rural and inner-city community



Dr. Neil Shulman

health clinics, a co-investigator in NIH car-

diovascular clinical research grants, and medical director of Pine Knoll Nursing Home in Carrollton, Georgia. In addition, he is the author of over 50 scientific papers and numerous works of fiction and non-fiction. His 1979 book *What? Dead...Again?* was the basis for the movie *Doc Hollywood*, starring Michael J. Fox.

A recent book, *The Corporate Kid*, co-written with Susan Wrathall, was reviewed by Congressman John Lewis, who wrote, "This is a story for everyone, poor or rich, powerless or influential. It is a story for today, and it imparts lessons for tomorrow." Dr. Shulman recently spoke at The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library about this book to an overflow crowd.

Dr. Shulman is especially passionate about an event he started four years ago—The Global Health and Humanitarian Summit. At the April 2013 Summit, held at Emory University, approximately 200 exhibitors and speakers who have done humanitarian work participated.

The three-day event drew about 1,500 attendees. The exhibitors and speakers come from a wide range of fields, not just medicine. A participant could be someone who helps the poor and/or the elderly, or goes to Africa to help there, or teaches teenagers needed skills. People from all political parties, rich people, poor people,

Muslims, Jews, and Christians participated.

The goal of these summits is to help people achieve the basics of living and to promote peace for all people. The event is organized solely on a volunteer basis. Interest in establishing summits has been expressed by those at other major U.S., Chinese, and European universities.

Another Summit is being planned for April 2014, at Emory. It is free, and all are welcome to attend or participate in organizing the event. A documentary about the event can be viewed on YouTube under "Global Health and Humanitarian Summit." The current website is [www.ghhs2013.org](http://www.ghhs2013.org).

Neil co-authored *The Oslo Accords*, recently released on Kindle, with Ken Brigham, a Christian friend. It is about G-d intervening in Israel and Palestine. G-d puts a gene in the leader of Hamas, so that he loves all Jews. Another gene is put into the leader of the Knesset, so that he loves all the

Palestinians. There is concern that the two leaders have a disease, and the CDC discovers that they have an "empathy virus." The premise of the book is that if everyone could be injected with an "empathy virus," the world would be a better place.

To help assuage children's fears of going to the doctor, Dr. Shulman has writ-

ten books—including *What's in the Doctor's Bag*, in which medical instruments become lovable creatures—and done televised comedy routines.

His books, TV appearances, speaking engagements, and humanitarian efforts have brought him into contact with numerous celebrities, including Jane Fonda, Patch Adams, Michael J. Fox, and Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter. His book *Your Body's Red Light Warning Signals*, which contains input from about 125 doctors, has been translated and published in China, Korea, Vietnam, Croatia, and other counties.

Dr. Shulman grew up in a medical and humanitarian environment. His father was a dentist in Washington, D.C. At the time, the D.C. dental society would not admit him, so he started the Maimonides Dental Society, which allowed blacks and Jews to become members. Later on, he became president of the dental society that had previously turned him away. The society was now including Jews but still excluding blacks. Dr. Shulman's father fought this ruling, and eventually the dental society opened its membership to blacks. As president of this dental society, he was involved in fluoridating water and helping with volunteer dental services for low-income kids and seniors. Dr. Shulman's mother did volunteer work, and his grandmother was the founder and head of The Jewish Sheltering Home.

Dr. Shulman went to medical school at Emory and has been with the university for 45 years. He is a Decatur resident. He likes to volunteer and do comedy events to help raise money for charitable causes. He is known as the real Doc Hollywood, and he feels humor is great medicine.

Dr. Shulman's most recent film is *Who Nose?*, an independent film in which he plays an old man looking for a wife but is chased by a gold digger. (The movie can be seen on YouTube—search "Who Nose Neil.") In real life, the 68-year-old Shulman is married to the film's co-star, Zoe Haugo, who is 30 years his junior, and they have a 6-year-old son. He jokes that "my son is going out of diapers and I'm going into diapers."

Dr. Shulman expresses his philosophy in the following statement: "The people I know who are the happiest are those who are humanitarians—not the moneytarians, not the egoisers, not the bureaucratizers."



The Shulman family

## Former Atlantan Jonathan Lieberman is recognized for his entrepreneurial leadership

By Ruben Stanley

If you ask a person living in a town other than the one in which he or she was born where he or she is from, the answer will likely be, "I originally was from such and such place, but I have live in the present city of residence for so many years." Biographies also will usually site the city of birth.

So it is with Jonathan Lieberman, who was born and spent his very early years in Atlanta but whose family eventually moved to Florida, where he has spent most of his life and attended school. Jonathan's parents, David and Renee Lieberman, were among the founding members of Atlanta's Temple Sinai and have retained many relationships with the Atlanta community, and his sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Steve Citron and their children, have lived in Atlanta

for many, many years.

So I guess that he qualifies as a Jewish Georgian, and we can take pride in his selection as the recipient of the 2013



Jonathan Lieberman

where he wanted to be. For the last 20+ years, he has directed his entrepreneurial talents towards the technology field. As he

Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Technology Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Starting out as an attorney, Jonathan decided that the business world was

followed the rapidly changing technological landscape, he became increasingly aware of the advantages that cloud computing offered in reducing cost and complexity involved in information technology. In response to what he saw as a need for small-to-medium size businesses in the legal, financial, real estate, and healthcare markets for a fast, easy, and cost-efficient way to simplify their IT operations, last year he launched itopia, Inc.

In presenting the award, Barry E. Johnson, president and CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, said, "Jonathan has a solid track record of leadership in the technology industry in Miami.... We applaud his successful entrepreneurial efforts and technological innovation and are very pleased to recognize him as the 2013 Technology Entrepreneur of the Year."



## Penny postcards



**BY Shirley Kahn Friedman**

Not our post office—please, no. The reports are frightening, and I cannot imagine a civilized world without the ability to communicate with the written word.

I love the U.S. Postal Service. I love our post office and the people in it. They are remarkable...come rain or come shine. An e-mail or all these other things people send each other now...they sound like dog food or a snack, can't possibly take the place of a handwritten letter or even a typed one.

Three of the most important or treasured pieces of mail I have ever received were written on penny postcards—the brown sack-colored ones, plain, no colored pictures of the beach or the mountains. They were self-stamped with Jefferson's picture. Printed across the top was "U.S. Postal Service" and, at the bottom, "one cent," with a 1 on either side of Jefferson's name. There was never postage due, and some people could write a saga in that small space.

One of them came to me on December 12, 1940, my 17th birthday. I was a University of Georgia freshman, and the card was from one of my high school friends, a very special friend who was a

freshman at Valdosta. I knew her handwriting, and I could tell immediately that she had not written it. It said, "Dear Shirley, this is the first time that we have ever been apart on our birthdays, and I hope you have a happy one. I have been ill for several weeks and am in the hospital. The doctors can't find out what is wrong. Daddy is writing for me as I'm not able to. I miss you and am anxious to see you. Love, Anne."



I immediately sent her a telegram, because I wanted her to hear from me as soon as possible (a good point for the e-mailers in this case). I let her know that I was concerned, but not that I was distraught, and I wrote something that would recall something humorous to both of us. Three days later, after exams, I caught the bus and rode home to South Georgia. When I got there, I was so tired I fell into bed and didn't review all of my new college experiences, but I asked Mama about Anne. She told me that it was very serious and urged me to try to get some sleep.

The next morning, she came upstairs to my bed. She said that Anne had died the same day I came home, but she wouldn't tell me that night because she knew I need-

ed to rest and try to be a comfort to Anne's family.

The funeral was the day after that, and inwardly I was empty and dazed. An important part of my life had ended, and that didn't begin to describe the grief and tragic disappointment of this remarkable family. They had given to the world the brightest of the bright, the kindest of the kind, with integrity and quiet, sincere religious convictions. Her mother introduced me to all of those I didn't already know as Anne's best friend. She told me that Anne loved the telegram I sent her and said, "She's the same Shirley, college hasn't changed her at all." I still have that penny postcard and 17 years of youthful memories.

The second postcard was sent in 1944 to the ladies' club where I was living in New

York. It was from my Greek literature professor at UGA, Dr. Bocock. He was answering a note I sent him, telling him how much his classes meant to me. I felt that it was entirely proper, since he had already given me two A's, and I sincerely looked forward to sitting in his classroom while I was in school. It was as though his small room, in one of the very old small buildings, with a small group of students, was completely

removed from the campus. He was what we thought was elderly, and he created a classical atmosphere. He attended my senior voice recital, and I was very pleased. This is what his card said:

"Dear Miss Kahn, Thank you for your most thoughtful note. If I were to reply in kind, I would have to write poetry far beyond my means. Athens is quite the same, cloudy, bleak, and dreary. May your sweet voice never be less sweet. With kindest regards, W.H. Bocock."

The third card was from my soon-to-be husband. It was sent on August 27, 1949. We were married on the 31st. We had written to each other for a year. His letters were so beautiful. They seemed to have been composed in another time and well worth a three-cent stamp. But I also love this quick romantic offering that concluded our courtship written exchanges.

This was his poem:

"To S.V.K.—

I could not ask for life, for surging days of strife,  
For dull routine—  
Except that these bring joy, a bliss without alloy,  
When I can dream  
Of making you my wife.  
From M.L.F.

That's why I don't write poetry! See you Sunday!!"

All of these cards were pennies from heaven for me.

## Rabbi/Educator Matt Dreffin joins ISJL team

Rabbi Matthew Dreffin, who recently completed his studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Los Angeles, joined the staff of the



**Rabbi Matt Dreffin**

Goldring / Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL) on June 1.

While at HUC-JIR, Matt Dreffin pursued masters degrees in education and Hebrew letters. He was ordained as a rabbi in May. He interned and served as religious school associate director at Temple Judea, in Tarzana, California. His focus has long been on education, formal and informal, an interest that led him to the ISJL position.

"I found myself highly impressed by the work being accomplished at the ISJL," says Dreffin. "Even more impressive was the atmosphere of the staff—it truly felt like a

team that worked together toward a common mission."

Though he has spent the past several years in California, Dreffin, a Florida native, has Southern roots. He grew up going to URJ Camp Coleman, in Georgia, and attended Tulane University in New Orleans as an undergraduate, earning a bachelor of fine arts in studio art, with a concentration in hot glass sculpture. He also spent a summer as a chaplain at Princeton Baptist Medical Center, in Birmingham, Alabama. His wife, Erica, originally hails from Montgomery, Alabama. Both look forward to being nearer their families.

Dreffin will work primarily in the ISJL's education department, but will also serve in the rabbinic services department.

The ISJL is dedicated to providing educational and rabbinic services, preserving the rich history of the Southern Jewish experience, sharing Jewish cultural and artistic programs, collaborating with other nonprofits, and facilitating community engagement opportunities throughout a thirteen-state region.

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# Worthmore Jewelers named No.3 jewelry store in the U.S.

*Jewelers' Circular Keystone* (JCK), the jewelry industry's leading trade publication, recently ranked Worthmore Jewelers No.3 in their list of Top 50 jewelry retail stores in the United States. This is the third time Worthmore has been ranked in JCK's top 10. Worthmore has stores in Midtown Atlanta and Decatur.

"We are thrilled again!" said president and owner Harris Botnick. "To move up in the ranks to No.3 out of the 25,000 jewelry stores in America is very exciting. We work hard to provide the best jewelry designs and value, as well as a great shopping experience, so to be appreciated for our efforts is very gratifying."

The Retailer Awards, presented by JCK's Design Center in Las Vegas on June 2, were created to recognize jewelry retailers who surpass the standards of quality in their promotion, merchandising, and sale of designer jewelry. In previous years, Worthmore has been ranked No.7 and No.4.

Two weeks earlier, Worthmore also received praise from the national publication for American jewelry store owners, *InStore* magazine, which once again named it one of "America's Coolest Stores." The *InStore* website featured a promotional video which emphasized that Worthmore offers its customers not only high-quality products but also a high-quality experience.

Watch the full video at [tinyurl.com/nwjlok1](http://tinyurl.com/nwjlok1).



Geri and Harris Botnick at the *InStore* Jewelry show in Chicago 2013 after being named one of the coolest stores in America

These recent national recognitions take their place next to a long line of previous accolades for Worthmore; they have been named "Best of Atlanta" by *Creative Loafing*, *Fenuxe*, *The GA Voice*, *INSite*

*Magazine*, *Yelp*, and *CBS Local*.

Worthmore co-owner Geri Botnick said, "It's important to maintain the bar that we have set so high. When customers come walking in the door, they have a certain expectation, and our job is to meet or exceed that expectation."



Juliana Berry, (left to right) Katy Reichert, Peggy Rainbow, Geri Botnick, Joan Wasser, Beth Stutzman, Olya Girard, Harris Botnick, Glenn McElroy. Not shown: Michael Logan, Jonathan Paz, Leslie Hines, Joanie Ferguson, Anela Terzic, Lauren Barnes, Alex Velker

Patrons of Worthmore are also invited to attend the store's locally acclaimed parties, which often feature live music and always star their signature Rum-Punch drink. One of these parties was recently held in honor of the Decatur location's 5th anniversary, and another celebrating Worthmore's 20th anniversary is coming up this August. Botnick says the fun events are a way to give back to the communities who support them.

Worthmore Jewelers opened its first location in Midtown Atlanta in 1994 and opened a second location on the downtown Decatur Square in 2008. Having been named "Best of Atlanta" by several publications, "Best to Do Business With", and one of the Top Five Design Stores in the United States, Worthmore is continuously receiving national recognition. Worthmore specializes in unique fine jewelry, including wedding, commitment, and engagement rings, watches, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, silver, and custom work. It also has ever-rotating art exhibits featuring diverse sets of eclectic artwork. For more information, visit [WorthmoreJewelers.com](http://WorthmoreJewelers.com), "like" Worthmore Jewelers on Facebook, or follow @Worthmore on Twitter.

## JF&CS NEWS

**MANAGING SUBSTANCE ABUSE.** Starting this fall, H.A.M.S.A. (Helping Atlantans Manage Substance Abuse), a program of Jewish Family & Career Services, will sponsor programs with the Atlanta Rabbinical Association, Chabad of Cobb, Congregation Etz Chaim, the Meyer Balser NORC, and Temple Kehillat Chaim. The programs will educate rabbis and youth workers about alcoholism and addiction, teach

teenagers how to make healthy choices, provide seniors with alternatives to habit-forming sleep support, and look at the 12-step recovery program through a Jewish lens.

This fall, H.A.M.S.A. is offering a new program called Community of Concern, a partnership of parents, students, schools, and other organizations, working together to keep youth free from alcohol, tobacco, and other

drugs. The program focuses on prevention, education, intervention, staff training, and clinical services around substance abuse affecting adolescents. More than a dozen organizations have joined so far; enrollment in the program is open until the end of July.

Synagogues in metro Atlanta have expressed interest in hosting recovery groups. If you know of a peer support group looking for a place to meet or hold an event, contact [HAMSA@jfcs-atlanta.org](mailto:HAMSA@jfcs-atlanta.org).

Last fall, JF&CS sponsored its first Sober Shabbat, with 16 guests attending. More than two dozen participated in the last one; in all, 85 individuals have attended dinners. In April, the program grew to include Passover. Through JF&CS's holiday match-making initiative, recovering alcoholics and addicts and their loved ones were paired with homes or community Seder where they felt supported in their choice to abstain from alcohol. Plans are underway to "match-make" for the High Holidays as well.

Upcoming events and activities include:

- the September 5 Sober Shabbat, which will have a special program led by Rabbi Lou Feldstein to honor Shabbat Tshuvah. On September 19, Rabbi Josh Heller will host a dinner in Congregation B'nai Torah's sukkah.

- the first Communitywide Substance Abuse Awareness Shabbat.

This will take place during the first weekend of October, which is National Substance Abuse Awareness Month. JF&CS will partner with the Atlanta Rabbinical Association for this event.

- the H.A.M.S.A. Peer Support Group, which focuses on relapse prevention, coping skills, and lifestyle changes associated with successful abstinence. It meets on Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., at JF&CS, 4549 Chamblee Dunwoody Road.

- Recovery Yoga, which takes place every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., at JF&CS' Dunwoody office. This class is open to anyone impacted by substance abuse. The cost per class is \$5.

For information on these programs, contact Erica Katz at [HAMSA@jfcs-atlanta.org](mailto:HAMSA@jfcs-atlanta.org) or 770-677-9318.

**JF&CS PARTNER WINS AWARD.** Hire Dynamics has received the 2013 Corporate Award from the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services. This industry-leading staffing and professional recruitment organization has partnered with JF&CS since its job development program began in 2009. The company has helped connect JF&CS to other employers in the community and is a corporate sponsor for JF&CS's Community of Caring event, which kicks off the organization's Annual Campaign.

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# MISH MASH

By Erin O'Shinskey

**FDIF GALA.** The Atlanta Chapter of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces raised more than \$250,000 at its Annual Gala, which honored Norman Radow, May 7, at the Georgia Aquarium. Prominent participants included FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Yitzhak (Jerry) Gershon; FIDF Deputy National Director Col. (Ret.) Pinhas "Pinky" Zoaretz; Israel's Naval Attaché, Capt. Ronen Nimni; Gala Co-Chairs Ilene and Adrian Grant, Elaine and Alan Tanenbaum, and Abe Scheer; Host Committee Chair Felicia Voloschin; and Keynote Speaker, Head of the IDF Command and Staff College, Maj. Gen. Yoseph Baidatz.



Israel's Naval Attaché Capt. Ronen Nimni, 2013 Atlanta Gala Honoree Norman Radow, a Lt. Col. in the Israeli Navy, Lindy Shallcross, Sgt. Daniel Greenblum, FIDF National Director and CEO Maj. Gen. (Res.) Yitzhak (Jerry) Gershon (Photos: Edward Zeltser)



Maj. Gen. Yoseph Baidatz, head of the IDF Command and Staff College



Sgt. Daniel Greenblum, a Lt. Col. in the Israeli Navy, Guest Speaker Miriam Peretz, FIDF Atlanta Chairman Garry Sobel, Israel's Naval Attaché Capt. Ronen Nimni



**Former combat soldier and current FIDF IMPACT! scholarship recipient, Atlanta native Sarice Holley and her grandparents, Florence Richardson & William Staples**

**PSALMS PROJECT.** "Psalm 23: The Valley," the second of four winners of the "Psalms Project," was unveiled recently by G-dcast, a San Francisco-based nonprofit focused on Jewish literacy. The Psalms Project spotlights up-and-coming artists and brings Jewish text to life through novel storytelling and animation. The two-minute short film features a song written and performed by Bay Area-based musician and former Atlanta resident Ariel Root Wolpe, 24. Wolpe's song interprets Psalm 23, which famously opens with "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."



Ariel Root Wolpe

**FAREWELL COLLEEN.** It was a bitter-sweet afternoon recently when Colleen Weston was honored by her many friends, colleagues, and Hadassah volunteers at a farewell luncheon given by Greater Atlanta Hadassah. Colleen was celebrated for her many contributions to Hadassah and the Atlanta community over the years and wished G-dspeed as she prepared to start a new life adventure in California to be near her son and family. Colleen was considered



Colleen Weston (left) shares a moment at her farewell luncheon with close friend and Hadassah colleague Phyllis Cohen.

by many to be the heart and soul of the Greenfield Hebrew Academy, where she was employed for many years before her retirement.

**A LANDMARK CLASS.** Reform Jewish Congregation Ner Tamid, of West Cobb, recently held its first confirmation service. Confirmants completing their second year of confirmation and being confirmed this year are Josh Ehrlich, Alex Goldstein, Megan McMillan, and Jessica Ungar. Others in the class are Randi Epstein, Kendra Lerman, and Alyssa McMillan. All seven students participate in the service. The students' primary confirmation teacher this year was Mr. Reuven Milikovsky. Next year, the congregation will have two post b'nai mitzvah offerings: one for the combined 8th and 9th grades and one for the combined 10th-12th grades.



**Rabbi Thomas Liebshutz with confirmands Randi Epstein, Kendra Lerman, Megan McMillan, Josh Ehrlich, Jessica Ungar, and Alyssa McMillan. Not pictured: Alex Goldstein**

**THE REAL CLEOPATRA.** On May 9, The Ketura Group of Greater Atlanta Hadassah and guests met at the home of Sheila and Michael Dalmat, where Vicky Alvear Shecter, author of *Cleopatra's Moon*, discussed life in the time of Cleopatra. Contrary to the Hollywood image, Cleopatra was a highly intelligent, shrewd politician who raised armies and shaped history. She admired Jews, spoke Hebrew, and counted many rabbis as friends and part of her inner circle. Alexandrian Jews enjoyed rare freedom and independence during her rule. *Cleopatra's Moon* is the story of Cleopatra's daughter, Cleopatra Selene, who became a queen in North Africa.



**Dorothy Scherr, program vice president (from left); Annie Kohut, co-president; Vicky Shecter, author; Ellen Frank, program vice president; Sybil Ginsburg, co-president**



**Co-president Annie Kohut (right) presents Vicky Shecter a certificate of appreciation from Ketura.**

**SONIA'S PLAYGROUND.** Construction recently began for new playgrounds at The Temple's Weinberg Early Learning Center. The WELC hosts a summer day camp, Camp Minimac, which also uses the playground facilities. Sonia's Playground is named after the mother of Jay Schwartz, a fifth-generation Temple member, grandfather of current WELC students, and generous supporter of The Temple and WELC. Sonia's Playground includes a state-of-the-art splash pad, as well as all new innovative equipment such as climbers, swings, slides, sandboxes, playhouses, basketball, trike paths, and rubber and turf surfaces. Donations for completion of the playground can be made at [www.the-temple.org](http://www.the-temple.org).



**WELC students watch the playground construction**

**THE FIRST EAGLE SCOUT.** On April 21, at Congregation Geshet L'Torah, 17-year-old Joel Pollack became the first Eagle Scout from BSA Troop 1818, chartered in



Joel Pollack

2008 by the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta. State Senator Emanuel D. Jones, Rabbi Hirschy Minkowicz, Pollack's 1st-grade teacher Kelly Moras, Eagle Scout Dallin Baker, and parents Chuck and Alyson Pollack delivered speeches at the Court of Honor ceremony. Pollack's Eagle Scout Service Project was the construction

See MISHMASH, page 42

# MJCCA NEWS

**LEGALLY BLONDE.** Company J at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta closes its 2012-13 season with its Teen Summer Stock production of *Legally Blonde*, August 1-11. This production features two adorable rescue dogs, Jake and Epic, in the roles of Bruiser and Rufus.

College sweetheart and homecoming queen Elle Woods has everything a Malibu girl could want—rich parents, pink shoes, a purse dog—and she doesn't like to take no for an answer. So when her boyfriend, Warner, dumps her for someone serious, Elle puts down the credit card, hits the books, and heads for Harvard Law School. The flamboyant character surprises many along the way and discovers a newfound confidence, self-respect, and the triumph of productive brainpower over revenge. Based on the hit movie of the same name starring Reese Witherspoon, *Legally Blonde* is an award-winning Broadway sensation.

Brian Kimmel, Company J's producing artistic director explains, "*Legally Blonde* doesn't play it straight. It follows the campy, tongue-in-cheek paradigm of movies-turned-musical productions, like *Hairspray*. It doesn't take itself seriously. It just wants to have fun. Pink fun. I thought this would be the perfect, light production for this year's Teen Summer Stock, and I think the audience will really enjoy the feel-good simplicity of the show."

*Legally Blonde* features Kaitlin Reynell (Elle Woods), Jordan Rich (Emmett Forrest), Eric Rich (Professor Callahan), Thainara Carvalho (Vivienne), Jonathan Ludwowski (Warner Huntington III), Lucy Gross (Paulette), Nicole Webb (Brooke), Kameron Porter (Chad/Padamadan), Carson Cerney (Kyle/Dewey), Caroline Steed (Margot), Maital Gottfried (Enid), Marcellus McQueen (Aaron/Nikos), Jillian Gerson (Delta Nu/TV Reporter), Emma Bigler (Gaelen/DA Joyce Riley), Alyssa Rose (Pilar), Halle Busby (Kate/Chutney), Brian Brandt (Elle's Father/Winthrop), Katie Cathell (Serena), Shari Perkins (Elle's Mom/Leilani), and Sarah Lock (Dana/Delta Nu).

Also starring are Jake, a two-year-old Chihuahua/dachshund/terrier mix, as Bruiser, and Epic, a three-year-old border collie, as Rufus. Jake was rescued from a high-kill shelter in 2011, hours before he was set to be euthanized. Epic is a certified therapy dog who provides comfort to children who have been abused and neglected.

Tickets for *Legally Blonde* are \$10-\$20, with discounts for students, seniors, groups, and MJCCA members.

All productions will take place at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta's Morris and Rae Frank Theatre, 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Company J Box Office at 678-812-4002, or visit [www.atlantajcc.org/boxoffice](http://www.atlantajcc.org/boxoffice).



Lucy Gross as Paulette (left) and Kaitlin Reynell as Elle Woods (photos: Karen Rooker)



Kaitlin Reynell as Elle Woods (from left), Jake as Bruiser, Lucy Gross as Paulette



Kaitlin Reynell as Elle Woods and Jake as Bruiser

**HARRY MAZIAR CLASSIC.** The MJCCA honored Arthur Blank at its Harry Maziar Classic, an annual golf tournament, which took place May 20, at Hawks Ridge Golf Club. Mr. Blank was honored for his dedication and leadership in shaping Atlanta's vibrant Jewish community. The MJCCA had set its goal for 2013 at \$250,000, but exceeded it by raising \$310,000, which will be used to support the MJCCA's many vital programs and scholarship funds. Proceeds from the HMC enhance vital programs and services, such as Alzheimer's daycare services, programming for people with develop-

mental disabilities, preschools, sports leagues, summer camps, and much more.

Inspirational philanthropist Arthur Blank is the owner and chairman of the Atlanta Falcons. He is also the co-founder of The Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer, from which he retired as co-chairman in 2001.

The 2013 HMC was chaired by Ron Brill and Howard Halpern. The Host Committee included Michael Coles, Dan Gordon, Jim Grien, Lynne M. Halpern, Lenny Kapiloff, Josh Kamin, Mark Lichtenstein, Harry Maziar, Bob Paller, Derek Smith, and Dick Sullivan. MJCCA Development Chairs are Doug Kuniansky, Michael Dinerman, and Josh Rosenberg.

The Top Winning Teams were: Chad Burchfield, Adam Burnside, Shaun Camay, and Ben Wilson (1st place net score); Todd Bomchel, Bert Rosenthal, Jason Smith, and Dustin Walsey (2nd place net score); Stephen McDonnold, Derek Smith, Tanner Smith, and Ron Whited (3rd place net score); and Gus Cawley, Casey Hudson, Bob Jacobson, and Jim Ziegelbauer (4th place net score). Other winners were: Bert Rosenthal (putting contest), Tanner Smith (longest drive—male), and Emily White (longest drive—female).

Presenting Sponsors were The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and PGA TOUR Superstore; The Ron and Lisa Brill Family Charitable Trust; FOBes (Former Orange Blooded Executives—The Home Depot, Inc.); Douglas J. Hertz Family Foundation; Elaine and Ken Langone; Billi and Bernie Marcus—The Marcus Foundation, and Barbara and Ed Mendel.



First-Place Net Score: Chad Burchfield, Adam Burnside, Shaun Camay, and Ben Wilson



Arthur Blank swings

**LAUREN WEISBERGER.** On June 12, Lauren Weisberger spoke at the MJCCA about her new book *Revenge Wears Prada*. This Page From the Book Festival of the MJCCA event was attended by several hundred people.

Weisberger is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Devil Wears Prada*, which was published in forty languages and made into a major motion picture starring Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway. Her three other novels, *Everyone Worth Knowing*, *Last Night at Chateau Marmont*, and *Chasing Harry Winston*, were all *New York Times* bestsellers. A graduate of Cornell University, she lives in New York City with her husband and two children.



Book Festival of the MJCCA Co-Chair Wendy Beerman; Lauren Weisberger; Book Festival of the MJCCA Co-Chair Marci Bass (photos: Heidi Morton)



Arthur Blank, 2013 HMC Honoree, and Harry Maziar (photos: eagleshotz.com)



Ron Brill and Howard Halpern, 2013 HMC co-chair





**Jezebel Editor Kelsey Bjelland and Lauren Weisberger**



**Several hundred people heard Lauren speak and patiently waited to get their books signed.**

**PINK RICE.** Through September 30, the MJCCA is presenting a unique exhibition in its Katz Family Mainstreet Gallery entitled "Pink Rice: Recollections of Atlanta's Spanish Jewish Community." This exhibition features 15 oil-on-canvas paintings by Betty Franco Handmacher and includes abstracts as well as depictions of celebrations and life-cycle events and family portraits.

Handmacher explains, "My work relates to my ethnic background, a small community in Atlanta. I feel that it has universal appeal: the assimilation of a culture into the larger American culture. Some of the work expresses the celebratory aspects of our community. The abstract canvases express the feeling of disintegration, of an old culture slowly disappearing."

Betty Franco Handmacher's work reflects both the charm of a native Atlantan and the remarkable Sephardic Jewish community of which she is a part. She was born in what is now called the Midtown area of then small-town Atlanta. She played in Piedmont Park and walked to her family's store, the Roxy Delicatessen, at 10th Street and Peachtree. Her father, the late Jack David Franco, was among the first Sephardic families to settle in Atlanta, by way of the Island of Rhodes, then Montgomery, Alabama. Her mother, the late Catherine Benbenisty Franco, was also from the Island of Rhodes. Handmacher holds degrees in both fine arts and visual arts from Georgia State University. She has participated in many solo and group exhibitions, and her work can be found in several private collections.

Sephardic is a general term referring to the descendants of Jewish settlers who lived in the Iberian Peninsula until the Spanish Inquisition. The current contingent of Spanish Jews arrived in Atlanta as early

as 1906, having originally emigrated from Spain to the Ottoman Empire—namely, the Island of Rhodes, Izmir (Smyrna), Salonika, and Constantinople. Being traditionalists by nature, they retained their Spanish Jewish heritage and customs, spoke and wrote Ladino (Judezmo), and continued to sing the romantic folk ballads that traced their origin over a period of 500 years to their mother country, Spain. Pink rice, or Sephardic rice, is a traditional food for many in this community. Made pink by tomatoes, tomato sauce, and other ingredients, the rice is simmered until it is crisp and golden at the bottom of the pan. It is generally scraped and served on the side. Called *ehkaka*, it is considered a delicacy.

The Katz Family Mainstreet Gallery is located at the MJCCA, 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody. Hour are Monday-Thursday, 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; Friday, 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Sundays, 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Kim Goodfriend, MJCCA Arts & Culture director, 678-812-4071 or [kim.goodfriend@atlantajcc.org](mailto:kim.goodfriend@atlantajcc.org), or visit [www.atlantajcc.org](http://www.atlantajcc.org).



**Betty Franco Handmacher, Celebration, oil on canvas (photos courtesy of the artist)**



**Betty Franco Handmacher, The Scribe, oil on canvas**



**ATLANTA BALALAIKA SOCIETY ORCHESTRA.** On June 2, the Atlanta Balalaika Society Orchestra performed at the MJCCA. In addition to American-born musicians, the 30-member orchestra includes members born in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Latvia, and Sweden. The stringed instruments used by the orchestra include dombras, balalaikas, and percussion that were hand-carried from Russia. The orchestra, founded in 1981, is the premier Russian folk orchestra in the Southeast and one of the oldest in North America. The make-up of today's Atlanta Balalaika Society reflects the cultural richness of Atlanta's vibrant international community.



On June 9, Arts & Culture at the MJCCA welcomed The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Brooklyn, as they presented the Southeastern premiere of "Missionary in Manhattan," a hilarious new musical about three polygamist pop stars on the hunt for their husband in HOTlanta.

**IMPLICATIONS OF THE BOSTON BOMBING.** On June 3, 2013, the MJCCA presented "Middle Eastern Politics at Our Doorstep: The Implications of the Boston Bombing," presentations and a discussion with Todd Stein and Dr. Ken Stein. Successful terrorist attacks inside the United States over the last decade illustrate how local and regional politics in the Middle East increasingly threaten the safety of the American people here at home. This program also looked at how that growing insecurity and the present changes in regional politics have and will impact the formation of American foreign policy toward the region now and in the years ahead.

Dr. Ken Stein is professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern History and Political Science and Israel Studies, Emory University, and founder/president of the

Center for Israel Education.

Todd M. Stein heads the Government Affairs/Public Policy practice at Kitchens New Cleghorn, LLC and is a lecturer at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, at Georgia Tech, where he teaches "The Politics of National Security."

**SUNSHINE SCHOOL RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITIONS.** The MJCCA's award-winning East Cobb preschool, the Sunshine School, recently received recognition from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, for completing its rigorous re-accreditation process, and Bright From the Start, which deemed the school "Quality Rated," for participation in its early childhood quality improvement program. The Sunshine School was also selected as a model program to film lessons showing examples of implementing the GELDS (Georgia Early Learning Development Standards).

The Sunshine School, one of the MJCCA's two preschools, is located at Temple Kol Emeth, in Marietta. It has more than 60 years of expertise in early childhood learning and a nationally acclaimed, pluralistic, Jewish values curriculum, "An Ethical Start." The Sunshine School teachers are highly trained, loving, and experienced professionals who guide children ages 6 weeks-5 years through their exceptional program. Limited spaces for full- and half-day preschool camp and traditional preschool programs are available for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

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**We stand with Israel**  
**security • peace • solidarity**

## MishMash

From page 39

of a boardwalk at Dolvin Elementary School; the Johns Creek High School junior started Scouts in 2002, as a founding member of Cub Scout Pack 1818.

**SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS.** For his bar



Michael Morgan

mitzvah project, Michael Morgan, a rising 8th-grader at River Trail Middle School, reached out to a soldier through HeroBox. Michael was assigned Sgt. Gerald Hoskins, a Blackhawk mechanic from Idaho deployed to Afghanistan, and sent him care packages through HeroBox for six months. Hoskins was overwhelmed by Michael's project, and he even researched Judaism online to better understand what bar mitzvah means. Michael's bar mitzvah was in March, at Temple Dor Tamid, in Johns Creek. He is the son of Marci and Richard Morgan and the brother of Jack Morgan.

**BIKOR CHOLIM.** Jewish volunteers are needed for the very special mitzvah of visiting the sick. Spend time with Jewish patients as they rest and recover from surgery or illness. Jewish Family & Career Services' community chaplain will provide

on-site training at Emory Midtown and Budd Terrace, to help prepare volunteers for their role. Weekly or semimonthly visits are preferred. For more information, e-mail [volunteer@jfccs-atlanta.org](mailto:volunteer@jfccs-atlanta.org).

**VISITING ISRAEL.** A delegation of U.S. university presidents and chancellors, including Kennesaw State University President Dr. Daniel Papp, visited Israel June 30-July 6, to investigate opportunities for bilateral academic partnerships and collaboration through an educational seminar conducted by Project Interchange, an institute of American Jewish Committee. The delegation visited Tel Aviv University, the Technion, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; discussed topics including the key fields of neuroscience, environmental sustainability, biotech, diversity, and women's leadership; and learned about research initiatives and innovation at Israeli universities and the academia-to-industry technology transfer that contributes to Israel's reputation as a "start-up nation."

**PICKING VEGETABLES FOR NEEDY FAMILIES.** During their trip to Israel, Taglit Atlanta helped Leket Israel—The National Food Bank pick vegetables for the needy. The group gleaned 3,000 lbs. of radishes to help feed 600 Israeli families in need. To volunteer, contact [danelle@leket.org](mailto:danelle@leket.org).



Taglit Atlanta

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## Share my fantasy, y'all



**BY Balfoura Friend Levine**

Some weeks ago, the Powerball lottery winner took home "only" \$360 million or so of the \$600 million prize. Nice chunka change, y'all.

So I dreamed up my own fantasy of winning the jackpot, say a modest 100 mill.

Now here's the deal. I'm happy to pay taxes on the prize. America's been mighty good to me, so I'd settle to take home about \$60 million.

The first million goes to the University Of Georgia, my alma mater, where I spent three wonderfully happy years in the Grady School of Journalism, got an ABJ degree, and learned all about America in the bargain.

The second million goes to the Emory School of Medicine. I've been in the Emory Healthcare System for many years now, and they've taken excellent care of me. Some medical students at the school need financial assistance, and our country needs more good doctors. One million should provide a bunch of scholarships there.

Next comes a hefty gift to my synagogue, the Ahavath Achim Congregation, where my father, Jacob L. Friend, of blessed memory, was the Ba'al Koreh and Torah reader. I've been a longtime member of this schul; in fact, Rabbi Harry Epstein married Nate Levine and me in our lovely chapel, back in 1984.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Atlanta Ballet have brought so much joy and beauty to my life that they certainly deserve a big gift from me. We were too poor to afford music lessons when I was a child growing up in Shanghai, China, and although I wanted to be a ballerina, I could-

n't do that, either, because I was too sickly and frail for the rigors of dancing. (I was also very skinny and homely, with no personality...but that's another story, for another day.)

Next comes family. My three children could pay all their bills and have enough to fulfill their own fantasies with my gifts to them. My three grandchildren would benefit accordingly.

For myself—now that's a small problem. I just gave up driving, so I don't need or want a new car. Jewelry doesn't interest me. I'm perfectly happy and satisfied in my little "nest," a studio apartment at The Renaissance. Well, maybe I would scale up to a one-bedroom apartment and perhaps treat myself to a new queen bed with new appointments. Maybe a few new *schmattas*, to replace the old threads I keep dragging out of my closet each day. I know it all sounds pretty boring, but at 88, I've pretty much done that and been there, so cruises and trips no longer beckon to me, either.

Some of my favorite organizations, many of which I'm a life member—like Hadassah, ORT, B'nai B'rith, NCJW, the American Red Cross, and the American Cancer Society, as well as our very own MJCCA (where I've spent many happy hours)—will also benefit from my largesse.

The remaining millions will be used for help if I need it when I'm older, disabled, or whatever. Right now, I live independently, do my own laundry, make up my bed each day, and take care of my personal needs. I can't imagine having someone underfoot to do all those things for me.

As you read this piece, think about what you'd do with a prize fortune. You might be surprised, if you're a retiree, just how little you really need or want.

Oh, and by the way, be sure and buy a lottery ticket—at least you'll have that one-in-a-170-million chance to win the biggie! Someone, please also remind me to do the same!

In the meantime...God Bless America.

## Kosher Korner

From page 35

communities.

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AKC membership is \$45, Patron Membership is \$100, and Benefactor Membership is \$180. All donations are appreciated.

Donations and payments can be made via [www.kosheratlanta.org](http://www.kosheratlanta.org), or mail checks to the AKC, 1855 LaVista Road, Atlanta GA 30329.

*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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*Wishing All Our Friends & Customers  
A Healthy & Happy New Year*

### Rosh Hashanah 2013 Menu

#### SOUP

Matzo Ball • Chicken Noodle • Mushroom Barley • Kreplach  
Extra Matzo Balls and/or Kreplach

#### APPETIZERS

Chopped Chicken Liver  
Gefilte Fish • Chopped Herring

#### ENTREES

Bubbe's Roasted Chicken Quarters  
Brisket • Stuffed Cabbage Rolls  
Herb Roasted Turkey Breast

#### SIDE DISHES

Sweet Potato Soufflé • Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes  
Rice Pilaf • Roasted Vegetables  
Green Bean Almandine • Roasted Redskin Potatoes  
Sweet Noodle Kugel, Small (serves 4-6)  
Sweet Noodle Kugel, Large (serves 12-15)  
Spinach Mushroom Kugel, Small (serves 4-6)  
Spinach Mushroom Kugel, Large (serves 12-15)  
Squash Casserole, Small (serves 4-6)  
Squash Casserole, Large (serves 12-15)

#### DESSERT

Seasonal Fruit & Berries  
Honey Cake • Assorted Rugelach  
Cinnamon Raisin or Chocolate Babke

*To Guarantee Your Menu of Choice  
Please Place Your Order by Friday, August 30th*

### Break the Fast 2013 Menu

#### SOUP

Matzo Ball • Chicken Noodle • Mushroom Barley • Kreplach  
Extra Matzo Balls and/or Kreplach

#### APPETIZERS

Gefilte Fish • Deviled Eggs • Chopped Chicken Liver  
Chopped Herring • Baked Salmon Salad • Whitefish Salad  
Herring in Wine or Cream Sauce

#### SALADS

Relish Tray • Egg Salad • Tuna Salad • Creamy Pasta Salad  
Redskin Potato Salad • Cucumber-Tomato Marinade

#### SMOKED FISH

Nova • Salty Lox • Sable • Kipper Salmon • Whitefish  
Sturgeon • Stuffed Whitefish

#### DAIRY ENTREES

Potato Latkes with Sour Cream &/or Applesauce  
Blinitzes with Sour Cream  
Sweet Noodle Kugel, Small (serves 4-6)  
Sweet Noodle Kugel, Large (serves 12-15)

#### DESSERT

Seasonal Fruit & Berries • Honey Cake • Assorted Rugelach  
Cinnamon Raisin or Chocolate Babke

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