WHAT'S INSIDE

A Wedding to Remember
It was a day of meaning and beauty for the bride, the groom, and all in attendance.
By Janice Rothschild Blumberg
Page 14

Scanning History
The Breman Museum’s Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History is now digitizing documents and will start putting them online by the end of the year.
By Jeremy Katz
Page 18

At Home in Jerusalem
Twenty places in the U.S. call themselves Jerusalem.
By David Geffen
Page 7

30 Years of Lending a Hand
Since its opening in 1984, the Shearith Israel Women’s Shelter has helped more than 1,000 women beat homelessness and restart their lives.
By Leon Socol
Page 16

New Name, Expanded Vision
The American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Region, has changed its name to conexx: America Israel Business Connector.
Page 6

Les Mis
The MJCCA presents the epic musical drama Les Misérables, August 7-17.
Page 24
Don’t let zealousness blind your view

BY Marvin Botnick

Carnac the Magnificent, the “mystic from the East,” was a fictional character played by Johnny Carson on television’s “Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.” The introduction of Carnac by Ed McMahon would declare to all that Carnac, in his “borderline divineness and mystical way, will ascertain the answers having never before been seen the question.” Carnac would hold a sealed envelope up to his forehead that contained a question, and then, prior to opening the envelope and reading the question, he would give the answer to the question inside the sealed envelope.

It seems that there are many who don’t consider the Carnac costume to play that part when there are problems involving the existence and actions of Israel. Without identifying the problem that is contained in the envelope, the answer to the question always seems to be Israel.

There is a saying that “If the facts don’t fit the theory, change the facts.” Some attribute this to Albert Einstein; however, this sourcing is in question. In a discussion on this website brightdrops.com, the comment is made that “Most ‘facts’ are just other people’s opinions. . . .” The observation goes on to say that “Many times facts lead to strongly held beliefs that we have that change the way (we act and ultimately the way we think) and the lives we lead. What if these beliefs are based on facts that aren’t really facts?” The epitome of such a mindset is the following statement made by Rep. Earl Longdrege (R-IN), a Nixon partisan, in connection with the Watergate hearings: “Don’t confuse me with the facts. I’ve got a closed mind.”

So how did we get to the present situation?

Embodied in Resolution 181 of the U.N. General Assembly approved on November 29, 1947, which created the state of Israel, was the provision for the creation of the Palestinian state they now desire, but with more land than the area for which they are now negotiating. The reaction by the Arab Higher Committee to the U.N.’s approved partitioning and creation of the State of Palestine and the State of Israel is contained in the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine’s Statement of 6 February 1948 to the United Nations Palestine Commission. Section 8 of this response states:

“...The United Nations has no jurisdiction to order or recommend the partition of Palestine. There is nothing in the Charter to warrant such authority, consequently the recommendation of partition is ultra vires and therefore null and void.”

What followed the legal establishment of Israel by the nations of the world was an attack on this nascent nation by its surrounding Arab countries with the intent to destroy it and its populace. It was the first of a number of unsuccessful attempts to conquer, destroy, and dismantle Israel.

Now, once again, Israel has been forced to take defensive military action against its antagonists, who have chosen to attack Israel’s civilian population. As has been the case for decades, Israel has been forced to defend itself against attacks by surrounding forces that deny its very existence.

If there is a genuine desire for peace, why would the Middle East countries supply Hamas with 10,000 missiles, none of which are for defensive purposes? Why would Hamas not agree to the cease-fire mediated by Egypt that Israel accepted? Who is supplying the money and support to Hamas? As in the past, is the military action being supported by other neighboring countries to take the spotlight off of their activities?

Not only is Israel having to militarily fight for its right to exist, more and more there is a move to discredit it in the eyes of the world. “Casuistry” is a wonderfully descriptive word in the English language that is defined as “specious or excessively subtle reasoning intended to rationalize or lead.” The public relation campaign being waged against Israel is a perfect example of the meaning of this word. Unfortunately, there appears to be more of these efforts that tend to complicate rather mitigate the problem.

Some organizations and groups around the world have taken as their mission to delegitimize the state of Israel. There are some amongst us who choose to portray Israel as an immoral nation acting in an illegal fashion. Some have a vested interest that might influence their actions, some have a negative perspective of the people of Israel, and some are influenced by others without investigating for themselves.

In 2004 at the 216th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Israel/Palestinian Mission Network (IPMN) was formed “for the purpose of creating currents of wider and deeper Presbyterian involvement with Palestinian partners, aimed at demonstrating solidarity and changing the conditions that erode the humanity of Palestinians living in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.” In January of this year, IPMN published “Zionism Unsettled: A Congregational Study Guide,” which included a companion study guide and was sold through the church’s online store.

At the 221st General Assembly in June of this year, a vote was called and passed authorizing the sale of the stockholdings in three corporations that were doing business with Israeli operations in the West Bank.

I did purchase the publication from the online bookstore of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and was dismayed over the

See ZEALOUSNESS, page 5

About The Cover

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GOVERNOR DEAL CELEBRATES ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY. Governor and Mrs. Nathan Deal attended a celebration of Israel’s 66th anniversary as a nation, at The Temple, prior to leading a trade delegation to Israel that included some of the state’s top business leaders. In his remarks, the governor noted proudly that Georgia is the eighth largest trade partner with Israel in the United States.

Israel’s Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern United States Opher Aviran warmly welcomed the governor and first lady to the event, which included Attorney General Sam Olens and his wife, Lisa Olens; State Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black, State Commissioner of Public Health Brenda Fitzgerald, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vernon Keenan, and many other state leaders.

The Temple’s Rabbi Peter Berg called Governor Deal “the single greatest friend Israel has in the State of Georgia,” and said the upcoming trip “means the world to everyone in the room here.”

STEVE SELIG HONORED AT GALA DINNER. This fall, our lifelong friend Steve will be awarded the 2014 Four Pillar Award, by The Council for Quality Growth, one of the most prestigious honors one can achieve.

Former recipients include the likes of The Home Depot co-founder and Falcons owner Arthur Blank, Senator Johnny Isakson, Mayor Shirley Franklin, and architect John Portman — “a Who’s Who of people I’ve looked up to and learned from,” Steve says modestly.

At the event, an equally distinguished panel of community leaders, including Doug Hertz, Vince Dooley, Mike Leven, and Larry Gellerstedt, will pay tribute to Steve’s many accomplishments and contributions to our city. Other city leaders involved in honoring Steve are co-chairs Mayor Kasim Reed, Bernie Marcus, and Steve Koonin.

Steve heads up the real estate and parking empire known as Selig Enterprises, and, with his equally dedicated wife, Linda, is a generous philanthropist and major supporter of many of our community’s most important institutions. But he would probably say that their greatest accomplishment is their five kids and 14 grandchildren.

Amazingly, we were not asked to speak at the affair, but if we had been, we could have told some great tales about growing up with Steve. But I guess we’ll have to settle for stories of his civic and business accomplishments, which are far too numerous to list here.

The event will be held Thursday, October 2, 6:00 p.m., at the Georgia World Congress Center, Georgia Ballroom. For more information and tickets, visit councilforqualitygrowth.org, or call 770-813-3370.

DR. SPANIER RETIRES AFTER 14,000 BABIES. Talk about a guy who delivers. The delightful Harriet Spanier tells us exclusively that an era has passed in Atlanta—her gynecologist husband of 60 years, Jack, is retiring. “After delivering 14,000 babies and practicing 59 years (54 years doing OB-GYN),” says Harriet, “Jack performed his last delivery on May 23, 2014: A beautiful little girl named Carolina. How fitting a name, as his career started in Charleston, South Carolina.”

Dr. Spanier moved to Atlanta from Charleston, in 1958, after serving as a medical officer for the United States Marines. Dr. Spanier’s list of honors is too lengthy for us to print here, but he was one of the founding members of Northside Hospital, where he served as chairman and a member of the Board of Trustees.

Harriet and Jack are the parents of Beth, Amy, and Jonathan; grandparents of Michael and Rachel Winston; and great grandparents of Victoria Anne Winston.

HOLLYWOOD FILM EXEC VISITS ATLANTA. Hollywood production exec Marc Wolloff, son of fiery redhead Bloomingdale’s retail associate Bonnie Wolloff, just surprised his mom with a visit to Atlanta, where he talked to the Georgia Film Board about doing more shows from here.

Marc is vice president of production for FremantleMedia, which produces such hit shows as “American Idol,” “The X Factor,” “America’s Got Talent,” “Let’s Make a Deal,” “The Price is Right,” and other popular shows.

Bonnie and her late husband, Bill, lived in Atlanta the early seventies, when Marc was just a baby. As Bonnie observes, “Who knew, when he tried out for the movie Jaws, at four years old, that he would be returning 39 years later with twenty years’ experience in the production industry?”

Marc, who has been nominated for an Emmy for his work on “The Jeff Corwin Experience” on Animal Planet, was in town to start production for this season’s “Family Feud,” with Steve Harvey, which reportedly brings in more money than any other reality show in the country.

Show business seems to run in the Wolloff family DNA. Bonnie’s adorable 11-year-old granddaughter, Brooke, has a just-released animated series, called “Tumble Leaf,” on Amazon TV, iPad,

See HAPPENING, page 4
HAPPY FATHER’S DAY. The renowned Gene Asher spent the day with daughters Laurie and Susan. Gene, founder of The Jewish Georgian and a combat Marine veteran of the Korean War, recently celebrated his 86th birthday. Semper Fi, Gene.

And Barry’s bro, Jerry, is also on a roll of sorts. Three weekend shows in a row at his Side Door nightclub raised thousands of dollars for Jewish Family & Career Services, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and The ALS Association, which fights Lou Gehrig’s disease. Plus, Jerry is always helping groups that rescue and protect animals.

DANA MOSES SHEPARD HONORED BY NEW ORLEANS. Atlanta native Dana Moses Shepard is being honored for her contributions to the betterment of New Orleans, as part of the city’s Young Leadership Council.

Dana is the wife of Louis Shepard and the daughter of our renowned aunt, Ritu Moses, and the late Graham Moses.

Watching Dana grow in Atlanta, we always knew, with her brilliance and scintillating personality, she was destined for great things.

JOSH HARRIS’ COMEDY ALBUM. In mid-May, Atlanta’s hottest young comic star, Josh Harris, launched his grassroots Kickstarter campaign, to raise money to fund an album of his hilarious comedy songs.

Within just a few days, his campaign passed $11,000 in donations. It was ranked the #1 Kickstarter music campaign in Georgia and #13 in the country!

Josh says his “dream is to do this comedy music album and then start making music videos of the songs.”

He describes his music as having “a beat you can dance to and not one dirty word... As a fan of putting clean, but always a little twisted, comedy storytelling to music, these mini-comedies could become pitch platforms to launch films and even sitcoms, with the unique voice of a half-Southern Jew who can sing, dance, write, direct, and now produce his own brand of clean funny.”

Josh adds, “I’m getting a lot of help from my mentor, Jerry Farber, who has encouraged me every step of the way and helped me build a network of fans who believe in what we’re doing.”

Josh started out writing promotional copy at The Cartoon Network and made it to the semifinals on Bill Bellamy’s “Who’s Got Jokes?” and NBC’s “Stand-Up for Diversity.”

Unlike many successful artists, Josh doesn’t give much credit to any one school he attended, “because I’ve been to so many,” he says. “But the good news is none of them sends me letters asking for money, because they know comedians don’t have any.... But I’ve promised to donate to each of them a Josh Harris timeout chair, for any student who gets in trouble and just needs time to daydream.”

Josh appears regularly at comedy clubs around Atlanta, mostly at Jerry Farber’s Side Door, in the Landmark Diner, at Roswell Road and Blackland in Buckhead. To follow Josh or support his project, visit www.funnyjosh.com.

HELPING DISABLED ISRAELIS. We have written many times about The Israel Sports Center for the Disabled and its courageous leader Moshe Rashkes. Now in his 50th year of helping rehabilitate disabled Israelis through sports, such as swimming and wheelchair basketball, Moshe has been honored by the Israeli human rights and public interest group Tnout Ometz, with a lifetime achievement award for his dedicated work.

A recent article by Amos Aricha, the renowned Israeli playwright, artist, and author, calls Moshe “the ideal Israeli,” praising the “accomplishments of this warrior, writer, and dominant leader in the disabled sports movement.”

Moshe was born in Bialystok, Poland, and came to what was then Palestine, in 1931, when he was three years old; at 14, he volunteered for the Jewish self-defense force, the Haganah.

In Israel’s fight for independence, in 1948, Moshe took part in the defense of Tel Aviv and reconnaissance missions. Later, with the Palmach, he escorted convoys to Jerusalem and served as a commander with the famous Etzion Brigade.

Moshe was seriously wounded in the battle known as Operation Maccabi, the day before the declaration of Israel’s independence and was severely wounded. Surgeons were barely able to save his life, and one of his arms was shattered beyond repair, causing him to endure severe pain throughout his life. He is one of the founding members of the Israel Sport Center for the Disabled.

As Aricha observes in his article, Moshe’s “trait of acceptance and never complaining has characterized him at all the crossroads of his life and career. Instead, he remained focused on those around him.”

Moshe regularly heads a delegation of world champion disabled Israeli athletes to Atlanta, so if you’d like to meet him in person and get involved in supporting the ISCD, get in touch with them to learn of their schedule. You can see them on YouTube at youtube.com/watch?v=BAQyYhr9qJA; find them on Facebook at facebook.com/spivakcenter; or visit fiscd.org.

BARRY FARBER. New York talk show star Barry Farber, the dean of talk radio and best known as the older bro of Atlanta comic Jerry Farber, has been invited into the National Radio Hall of Fame, a terrific honor. His syndicated radio program is heard on the Internet all over the United States and the world. His latest book is Cocktails with Motolov, about meeting and talking with Stalin’s infamous foreign minister.
Zealousness

From page 2

presentation. I do not question the right to take a differing view of a situation, but to me, this was not an attempt to present a fair and equitable picture of events. Peter Smith in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette of June 21, 2014, wrote, “Advocates for divestment said Presbyterians need to take action to break the longstanding occupation. Their historic mission work among Arab Christians has partly fueled their affinity for the plight of Palestinians.”

Passages such as the following found on page 52 of “Zionism Unsettled” were inflammatory, unfounded, abusive, and offensive and did nothing but inflame a tense situation.

“The Israeli government has continuously promoted ethnic cleansing since the founding of the Jewish state. Laws rather than guns are now used to promote the exodus of Palestinians.”

Subsequently, the sale of this publication was removed from the church’s website. The following is an excerpt from an article of the June 27, 2014, issue of The New York Times by Laurie Goodstein about the church’s revocation.

“After months of outrage over a publication that critics say denigrates Israel, the Presbyterian Church (USA) announced Friday that it would no longer selling the study guide ‘Zionism Unsettled’ on the church’s website.”

“The study guide was prepared by a Presbyterian advocacy group, the Israel/Palestine Mission Network, as a resource for discussions in churches, and it contains essays that cast the theology and history of Zionism as inherently racist and unjust. Many American Jewish organizations, and Presbyterians as well, denounced the study guide soon after it was issued in January.”

“Last week at its general assembly in Detroit, the church passed a measure declaring that ‘Zionism Unsettled’ did not represent official church policy, but the guide remained for sale on the church’s website.”

While we applaud and thank the Presbyterian Church (USA) for this action on its part, which is very meaningful and important, unfortunately, the addition of this color to the palette that is being used to paint a misrepresentative picture of Israel and foster further hatred cannot be erased.

We have a commandment in Judaism, lashon hara, which forbids gossip and derogatory speech against another. The following story is from the website Judaism 101, and is a Chasidic tale about the danger of that improper speech.

“A man went about the community telling malicious lies about the rabbit. Later, he realized the wrong he had done, and began to feel remorse. He went to the rabbit and begged his forgiveness, saying he would do anything he could to make amends.

“The rabbit told the man, ‘Take a feather pillow, cut it open, and scatter the feathers to the winds.’ The man thought this was a strange request, but it was a simple enough task, and he did it gladly. When he returned to tell the rabbit that he had done it, the rabbit said, ‘Now, go and gather the feathers. Because you can no more make amends for the damage your words have done than you can recollect the feathers.’

“Speech has been compared to an arrow: once the words are released, like an arrow, they cannot be recalled, the harm they do cannot be stopped, and the harm they do cannot always be predicted, for words like arrows often go astray.”

Statement on “Zionism Unsettled”

By Katharine Henderson
President, Auburn Theological Seminary

“Zionism Unsettled,” a publication by the Israel/Palestine Mission Network, an advocacy group created by the Presbyterian Church (USA), is not a congregational study guide as it claims to be, but rather an ideologically driven document such as this one cannot conceivably promote solutions that all parties in this conflict urgently need. Moreover, it is written at a particularly unfortunate moment as world leaders struggle to engage in new efforts to work toward resolution of the practical problems that face everyone in the region and make actual reconciliation between the parties extremely difficult.

This document purports to be about love, but it actually expresses demonization, distortion and imbalance. Sadly, its sweeping allegations, blanket condemnations and troubling omissions are not likely to foster productive conversations, but rather to prevent them. It creates walls not just between Presbyterians and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians, but also within the Presbyterian body itself.

The Presbyterian Church has in the past wisely recognized our prophetic role in repairing breaches, not exacerbating them. I pray that church leaders will pursue proactive measures to mitigate the damage of this publication by reassuring those who are alarmed by this document that it does not reflect or represent the viewpoints of a vast majority of Presbyterians. On a local level, I hope that Presbyterians will reach out to Jewish colleagues and rabbis to learn about their understandings of Zionism, as well as to Arab Americans, Israelis, Palestinians and Palestinian Americans as well as both Muslims and Christians to supplement a narrow and partisan discourse with a broader range of voices. And for those of us who believe in the power of prayer and a God who can make a way out of no way, now would be the time to pray for all those, both in the U.S. and the Middle East, who seek a just and lasting peace.

Auburn Theological Seminary is the second oldest seminary affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). Located in New York, it was founded in 1818.

Atlanta Jewish Academy created in merger of GHA and YA

The merger of Greenfield Hebrew Academy (GHA) and Yeshiva Atlanta (YA), many months in the planning, is now complete. The new school has a new name, Atlanta Jewish Academy (AJA), with one mission and one board. The mission was developed in a collaborative fashion by the former boards of both schools along with several parents from both institutions.

Atlanta Jewish Academy is a college preparatory, co-educational, preschool through twelfth grade, independent Jewish day school, guided by modern orthodox values and principles. Embodying the ideals of community, tradition, individual development, and educational innovation, Atlanta Jewish Academy develops the whole person for college and life. This is done by fostering a love of Torah, Israel, and all Jewish people through an excellent secular and Judaic education within an inclusive, nurturing community.

AJA anticipates and is planning for significant new educational opportunities and synergies in the future and reports that the school’s combined enrollment has increased for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year.

The new head of school, Rabbi Pinchos Hecht, is enthusiastic about the opportunities offered by a school that spans from preschool through twelfth grade. “This new paradigm allows us to use all the tremendous resources of both institutions to create a contemporary, relevant, meaningful education, with excellence in both Judaic and general studies.”
Notes from an old dinosaur

BY Balfoura “Bo” Levine

I must admit it—I am a dinosaur! My camera still has film in it, this article was written on my trusty IBM Selectric III typewriter, I don’t comprehend ‘puters, and have no idea what to do with the cell phone that my children gave me to use whenever I drive. (They say that, in case of the “God forbids,” I can dial 911).

I enjoy using the treadmill in our exercise room here at the Renaissance, and the boredom is alleviated by my little boombox that I plug in, as I’m hopefully burning a few calories. I have a bunch of cassettes (yes, I still use those that I’ve accumulated over the years) and listen to golden oldies to kill time.

Yesterday, I heard the nasal tones of Willie Nelson singing “Blue Skies.” Wow, that took me back to my childhood in China, where my father had bought a gramophone, and “Blue Skies” was among the tunes on those big old 78 record platters. That company making those old phonographs, as we call them now, was RCA Victor, with the logo of a dog, listening to “His Master’s Voice.” It did not run on electricity; we had to wind it up every few minutes. But it was pure magic for this six-year-old. There was even more magic a year or two later, when my father brought home a box, plugged a wire into probably the only outlet in the entire house, and — voilà! — a man’s voice came out, saying something about the day’s news. Papa was ecstatic, I’m sure, but the magic was all mine. I do have some CDs and play all those wonderful tunes we call golden oldies, and I listen to them on another player in my apartment. Of course, they are outdated, too, what with smartphones, iPods, and all the other whatchamacallits on the market now; that every teenager uses to tweet, twiddle, or take pictures, be on Facebook or whatever else the young folks do to, with and for, these days.

I told you I was a dinosaur. Believe me, I can’t even name some of the modern marvels around me. Perhaps in my next life; but, by that time, all the above stuff will be obsolete. And then what? I’m too old and tired to even think about it. In fact, a little nap would feel just right now.

In the meantime, God Bless America.

This is reprinted from the July-August 2012 issue of The Jewish Georgian.
Twenty locales in 10 U.S. states named Jerusalem

BY David Geffen

Did you ever hear that, in 1895, “Jerusalem oranges” were shipped to Chicago for Christmas-Chanukah? According to a major story in the Chicago World newspaper:

“A shipment from [Jerusalem] to the Chicago wholesale fruit market has arrived. These oranges are competing with the California market for the holiday trade.... As the top of the first case was removed and the golden fruit came in view, a south water [wholesale district] wag was heard softly singing ‘Jerusalem the golden.’”

Americans in the Colonial period, being fervent Bible students, frequently saw what they were doing as a repetition of what had happened in ancient days. Moreover, they felt biblical place names should reappear in American geography. It is amazing when you study a map of the United States and see what the early Americans have bequeathed to the world: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Salem, Carmel, and many more, even the town of Ai.

What is referred to as the “New Jerusalem” concept was initially formulated by Ezekiel, in Chapter 48:35. This became a part of the theological construct of the faiths rooted in the Bible.

When the Puritans colonized New England in the 17th century, this ideal was a motivating factor. The Puritans, inspired by passages about the New Jerusalem in the various parts of the Bible, interpreted it to be a symbol of the new world. Those early settlers saw themselves as the builders of New Jerusalem on earth.

Moshe Davis, who is considered creator of America-Holy Land studies, took the relationship of biblical names and the United States one step further when he stated, “We can see a manifestation of spiritual folklore in the map of America itself.”

To understand this more fully, he suggested homing in on this concept in the following fashion: “If one’s child could be called by a biblical name, why not one’s home, one’s town and city?”

He stressed that, along America’s expanding frontier, there are to be found hundreds of place names of biblical origin. Sixty years ago, he and his wife, Lottie, created a map of the U.S. featuring many locales with biblical names.

The map was so widely cited and well received that it was the subject of a fascinating TV show on the nationwide “Landmarks of America” series. In one scene, a lonely hobo, trying to hitchhike somewhere in America, appears on the TV screen. A car stops briefly and then drives away. We hear the man calling out, “But I only wanted to go to Jerusalem.”

He turns to the camera and speaks.

“There’s at least one Jerusalem in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Rhode Island, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, Utah, Michigan, Maryland, and New York. In fact, if you send a letter to a party named Smith or Brown in Jerusalem... you’d better put the state down, because there are 11 states that call a village or a town or a city by that name.”

The naming of places as Jerusalem began in America in 1867, when a new tract of land, in what became New York State, was called Jerusalem by the settlers who were most desirous of using this name for communities being founded. When Davis and his wife did their initial research six decades ago, they located only four American Jerusalems.

In a footnote to an article, Davis wrote.

“Jerusalem, as a name, appeared less than Carmel, Salem, even Galilee on the map, because some settlers felt it, Jerusalem, was just too holy.” However, as the years passed into the 21st century, closer study revealed twenty Jerusalems. Looking at some of them will help us see how significant the name of the key city in Eretz Yisrael was.

My first face-to-face meeting with such a locality occurred in the early 1970s. My wife’s brother, Dr. Sidney Feld, of Bethesda, Maryland, was then a doctoral student in marine economics at the University of Rhode Island. He rented a little house in Narragansett, Rhode Island, for himself and his wife, Carol. One summer, around American Independence Day, Rita, I, and our three children visited them. U.S. naval ships could be boarded on July fourth at the base in Newport, Rhode Island.

After enjoying the ship visitations, we drove to the famous Newport Touro Synagogue, the oldest in the U.S., constructed in the 1780s. We were speaking to a guide there, who asked where we were from. I said we were staying in Narragansett for about a week. “Have you been to the Jerusalem community in Narragansett?” We were taken aback, but he insisted there was a Jerusalem there.

On our return to our vacation home, we decided to find the site. Bright and early, we were off to a local information office in Narragansett. The person in charge took out a big map of the town and showed us near the fishing docks, not only a Jerusalem, but also a Galilee. We drove to the area, where signs for both locales were quite visible.

I have always suggested in talks that the famous 18th century shaliach from the Holy Land, Haim Yitzhak Carigal, who spoke on Shavuot in the Newport synagogue in 1773, bequeathed the name Jerusalem to Rhode Island. The actual story is a bit different.

In the 19th century, the fishermen of Narragansett decided that they wanted a biblical linkage for the area where they plied their trade. So, naturally, Galilee was the name chosen. In 1902, a fisherman from Nova Scotia, Canada, sailed into Narragansett Bay and shouted out, “Where am I?” A local worker replied, “You are in Galilee.” Then, the Canadian pointed to another side of the bay and said, “What’s that?” Quickly, the answer came back, “If this side is Galilee, that must be Jerusalem.”

Since then, the name has been on the state map.

Jerusalem, Utah, is linked to a disciple of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon church. Professor Davis located a document in the Mormon archives in Salt Lake City, Utah, dated March 30, 1836, and signed by Joshua Sexias, of a noted American Sephardic family. “The certificate attests to the fact that Joseph Smith successfully completed a course of Hebrew under Sexias’ guidance.”

The Atlanta connection with Israel’s new president

By David Geffen

With its election on June 10, Israel chose the Hon. Reuven Rivlin as its next president. Rivlin, whose family has lived in Jerusalem since 1842, is a member of the Likud party and was elected to the Knesset in 1977, serving as the speaker of the Knesset for two terms. A very loved member of the Israeli political scene, for him Jerusalem is the center not only of Israel but also of the Jewish people.

And for Jewish Georgians, Rivlin’s election brings a connection to Israel’s officialdom. You see, the leading aide of the newly elected president is attorney Harel Tubi, who is married to Sharone Wilensky, a great-granddaughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Tobias Geffen. As many of the leaders of this paper know, the Geffens were residents of Atlanta, and, for six decades of the 20th century, Rabbi Geffen was a spiritual leader in the Atlanta Jewish community and the voice of Orthodox Jewry in the South. The Geffen connection with Jerusalem began when Rabbi authored 13 articles, from 1910-1914, in the monthly HaMaaseh published in Jerusalem.

One of the Geffens’ eight children was Bessie Geffen Wilensky of New Orleans. She was a leader in the South of the Young Judea organization, which sent hundreds of American-Jewish youth to the study center in Jerusalem. It is no surprise, therefore, that her son Dr. David Wilensky was a student at Hebrew University, and, as it happens, the Six-Day War that occurred in 1967 took place during his studies there. He and his wife, Sheila, made aliya in 1977, and their fourth child, Sharone, who married Harel Tubi ten years ago, was born in Jerusalem. They have three children.

Atlanta Jewry has been linked closely to Eretz Yisrael since 1896, when a Jerusalem author received assistance from the community to publish his book in Hebrew in Jerusalem. Today, Professor David Macarav, at 95, is the oldest Atlanta Jew living in Israel, in Jerusalem of course. He and his wife, Fieda, made aliya in 1947 and fought in the Israel’s War of Independence.

Harel Tubi, father: Hon. Reuven Rivlin, Israel’s newly elected president, holding Yonatan Tubi at his Brit Milah; and Dr. David Wilensky, grandfather

The Tubi family: Sharone, Harel, and their children

As Smith developed the Mormon faith in the 1820s, he led his followers to Kirtland, Ohio, where they built a temple. He could not understand all of the divine revelations for this construction, because he knew no Hebrew. Smith hired Sexias, the son of Gershon Mendes Sexias, the reverend of the Shearith Israel Congregation, in New York. Joshua Sexias was a fine Hebraist, taught at various colleges and was at Oberlin College, in Ohio, when Smith turned to him.

“My soul delights in reading the word 

See JERUSALEM, page 25
See one of the world’s most popular musicals at the MJCCA

MJCCA Arts & Culture presents Les Misérables, August 7-17, at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta’s Morris & Rae Frank Theatre, 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody.

One of the world’s greatest musicals, Les Misérables is the winner of over 100 international awards and has become a global success on stage and screen, sweeping audiences through an epic tale of broken dreams, passion, and redemption, against the backdrop of a nation seething with revolution.

The production will be produced by MJCCA’s Director of Arts & Culture Brian Kimmell and directed by Levi Kaplan. This program is recommended for ages 14+.

Les Misérables features Michael Barathel (Jean Valjean), Lucas Morgan (Javert), Kelly Tansey (Fantine), Sarah Valleroy (Eponine), Kyle Wilkerson (Thenardier), Nicole Falco (Madame Thenardier), Daniel Harper (Marius), Jo-Jo Stein (Cosette), Eric Rich (Enjolras), Jake Holleman (Foreman), Sarah Daniels (Courfeyrac), Brett Leverette (Bamatabois), Chase McGrath (Grantaire), Marco Schittone (Gavroche), Avi Spector (Joly), Will Domenico (Combeferre), Tyree Jones (Bishop of Digne), and Elena Dollinger (Young Eponine).

Showtimes are August 7, 13, and 14, 8:00 p.m.; and August 10 and 17, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tickets are $15-29. For information, call 678-812-4002, or visit atlantajcc.org/boxoffice.

MJCCA News

MJCCA SUPPORTS SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY-WIDE. The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta recently awarded the MJCCA a Grants to Green Campus Assessment, to “green” its buildings, site, activities, and surrounding environment. The grant will be performed by Southface Energy Institute, which will identify high-impact opportunities for reducing operating costs and environmental impact. The MJCCA will implement Southface’s recommendations in an effort to support and maintain environmental sustainability.

Since 2008, the Grants to Green initiative has helped nonprofit organizations in the 23-county metro Atlanta region assess facilities; identify and implement energy, water, and resource-efficiency upgrades; and adopt best management practices for sustainability. To date, 144 local nonprofit organizations have received Grants to Green Assessment and/or Implementation Grants. Collectively, these nonprofits have saved over $1 million a year in utilities, including energy, water, and maintenance costs.

The Grants to Green Campus initiative will further the MJCCA’s commitment to transform how the agency operates and delivers services, establishing the MJCCA as a strong environmental steward and leader in the community, as well as furthering its strategic plan for long-term financial sustainability.

The MJCCA’s recent efforts to support environmental sustainability include: recycling 3-5 tons monthly, including electronic equipment; installing more energy-efficient lighting fixtures in its main building and parking lot; offering three community gardens for its preschools and summer day camp; ensuring new computers/monitors meet ENERGY STAR standards; utilizing lighting timers; adhering to a pool cover for after hours, which creates a thermal blanket to keep the pool heated and reduce energy; installing a misting system that collects and utilizes rainwater to cool the rooftop HVAC units; and planting 100 trees and 5,000 daffodils in recent months to further “green” the campus.

After the assessment is completed, the MJCCA’s Governance Board will determine which recommendations to implement and ensure that adequate funding is secured,” said Gail Luxenberg, CEO of the MJCCA. “The Community Foundation’s generous support of the MJCCA will enable our agency to decrease unnecessary waste and expenses, enabling us to focus more resources on programs and services for our community members.”

HARRY MAZIAR CLASSIC. The MJCCA BB&T Harry Maziar Classic took place June 2, at the Atlanta Country Club, in Marietta. Each year, the tournament honors an outstanding member of the community. The 2014 honoree was Doug Hertz, president and CEO of United Distributors, in appreciation of his dedication to Atlanta’s vibrant Jewish community.

This year’s tournament, which had a record 140 participants, raised $300,000 through sponsorships, contributions, and auction items. Proceeds help the MJCCA provide more than $500,000 a year in scholarships and financial aid. The MJCCA currently has the highest user rates in its history and serves more than 55,000 people every year through its innovative programs and vital services, including preschools, sports leagues, summer camps, programming for people with special needs, and more. This year, sponsors could invite their guests to the inaugural women’s wellness brunch on Sunday, August 3, 4:00–5:30 p.m., at the MJCCA, where they will get the chance to ask questions and experience the program firsthand.

A contemporary celebration of the ancient New Moon holiday, Rosh HaShanah builds girls’ self-esteem, leadership skills, and Jewish identity. The program works on an intimate model, bringing together small groups of girls for monthly celebrations. Each gathering will focus on specific life lessons that draw on core Jewish values and practices to explore such issues as body image, friendship, family, assertiveness, and social action. Activities include arts and crafts, creative writing, role-playing, and small group discussion.

The program fee is $185/MJCCA members and $240/community. For more information, contact Laura Ross, MJCCA Teen Department, at 678-812-3971 or laura.ross@atlantajcc.org. Register at atlantajcc.org/teens.

YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE. More than 400 people attended a Yom HaShoah Commemoration at the Besser Holocaust Memorial Garden, located on the campus of the MJCCA.

The program included the lighting of
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of the Six Torches, in memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust; a special musical presentation; and remarks from Jim Barfield, author of *Boxcars*, who drew on his ancestry to tell the story of two young people during World War II.

Guests enjoyed the engaging dialogue between Jennifer Weiner and WABE’s Mara Davis held in an “in conversation with” format, as well as the insightful audience questions. Highlights also included a wine reception before the program and a book signing with cookies and coffee following the program. Special thanks to Jezebel, the event’s media sponsor.

**ALL FALL DOWN.** On June 26, a Page From the Book Festival of the MJCCA, in partnership with the AJC Decatur Book Festival, presented New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Weiner. She discussed her newest novel, *All Fall Down*, a book that exposes the secret world of women who appear to have it all; women who are smart, successful…and addicted.
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Before Baby: How to prep for pregnancy

Can you hear that? There’s a storm on the horizon—a very good and happy one. Soon, the rolling thunder of baby announcements will drench your social media feeds and flood your mailbox with the joyful news that another friend or loved one is hearing the pitter-patter of little feet. With more babies born in September than any other month of the year, baby season is ramping up.

If the influx of birth announcements happens to spark your or a loved one’s interest in adding to your family, there are a few things future moms and dads can do to prepare for pregnancy. (Future grandparents can join these conversations as well.)

These tips for pre-prenatal health can help ensure that when the time comes to start trying for that new addition, couples can feel confident they are in great health, leading to a happy pregnancy and a healthy child.

FOLIC ACID. Sometimes referred to as folate or vitamin B9, folic acid is found in leafy greens, like kale, fortified breakfast cereals, peanuts, and even orange juice. Folic acid helps prevent birth defects relating to the brain and the spine, most notably spina bifida.

Because the problem leading to spina bifida happens in the first few weeks of pregnancy, often before a woman even knows she is pregnant, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urges women to start taking 400 mcg of folic acid every day, well before they begin trying. Studies have also found folic acid may help prevent some heart defects and even cleft palates.

GET “JSCREENED.” Eighty percent of babies born with a genetic disease have no known family history of that condition. Also, one out of every four Ashkenazi Jews is a Jewish genetic disease carrier. One of the most convenient and easiest ways for future moms and dads to screen themselves against over 80 different genetic diseases, including the 19+ Jewish genetic diseases, is with JScreen (www.jscreen.org).

Based out of Emory University, JScreen is a national program that offers saliva-based genetic testing. Saliva is collected from the comfort of one’s own home and then sent to the lab for processing. If a person or couple’s risk is elevated, a certified genetic counselor from Emory University will contact them to discuss their results. If you or someone you know is considering getting pregnant now or in the future, go to www.jscreen.org to learn more and order a screening kit. You can even give the gift of screening to a friend or loved one, by purchasing a JScreen gift card at jscreen.org/gift.

ACT LIKE YOU’RE ALREADY PREGNANT. Don’t do anything you wouldn’t do while pregnant, and make sure your partner follows suit. This means being mindful of one’s seafood intake, to avoid ingesting too much mercury. This also means that those who smoke or consume alcohol on a regular basis will need to rethink those habits. Smoking and consuming alcohol can both adversely affect fertility, lowering sperm count and motility in men and egg production in women. If you have diabetes, talk to your doctor about getting your blood sugar under control before you get pregnant. High blood sugar is known to increase the risk of birth defects.

As always, please talk with your doctor about the most appropriate practices for you. The best chance of having a healthy baby is to be the healthiest you can be. By making a few lifestyle tweaks, communicating openly with your doctor, and gaining vital knowledge about your genes, you might very well find yourself “singing in the rain” when the baby announcement storm makes landfall next year.

Adult polyglucosan body disease: what people of Ashkenazi Jewish descent need to know

BY Gregory Weiss

Do you know someone with urinary issues and peripheral neuropathy (foot or leg numbness)? It’s possible he or she has adult polyglucosan body disease (APBD).

APBD is a genetic disorder that results in the low activity of an important enzyme, glycogen branching enzyme (GBE1), which is used to make glycogen.

Glycogen is the reserve “fuel” that is stored in your cells. Stored glycogen normally takes over when your normal fuel, glucose, runs low. Glycogen is made by your body from glucose, but your cells must have a special enzyme called GBE1 to make it correctly. Without enough GBE1, APBD patients develop malformed glycogen.

What is so bad about malformed glycogen?

First, when there is low activity of the branching enzyme, newly formed glycogen is manufactured incorrectly into long strands called polyglucosan bodies. These polyglucosan bodies cannot be used for fuel, so they build up inside nerve cells. This damage causes to these nerves. The damage often results in numbness and eventually weakness in the muscles controlled by these nerves. Hence, this disorder has become known as “adult polyglucosan body disease.”

Second, since a lot of the glycogen was built incorrectly and cannot be used as normal fuel, the cells needing this fuel run low on energy much faster than normal. As a result, patients with APBD often report serious fatigue at certain times of the day.

How does low glycogen branching enzyme activity affect APBD patients long-term?

Onset of symptoms may occur as early as age 35. Generally, however, most people are diagnosed in their 50s or 60s. The typical APBD patient will initially experience numbness in his or her extremities, often in the toes and feet. In addition, he or she may often develop urinary frequency that far exceeds the norm. Over a period of years, the numbness will progress to a loss of muscle control and eventually to an inability to walk. The urinary frequency will often progress to a near complete loss of urinary control. Damage to other parts of the body varies from person to person. The end stage of APBD follows a similar pattern to other debilitating degenerative diseases, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and multiple sclerosis. It has been documented that APBD patients have a reduced life expectancy.

How common is APBD?

A recent study by Dr. Marvin Natowicz, of the Cleveland Clinic, found roughly 1 in 35 Ashkenazi Jews carries the mutation that causes APBD. However, APBD is not a well-known disease, even in the medical community. Many APBD patients are misdiagnosed, with many undergoing inappropriate treatments and surgeries.

For this reason, we are working hard to get the word out about APBD and help people obtain the correct diagnosis. In addition, there are a number of research projects underway around the world, which will provide more information about APBD and ultimately lead to a cure. The key to success is a continued strong focus on research and spreading awareness of APBD.

Is there a test for APBD?

Yes. A health care provider can take a blood sample and send it for analysis, or you can collect a saliva sample using an at-home test kit and mail it in for analysis.

For more information and directions for the blood test or at-home saliva test kit, visit www.apbdrf.org.

Gregory Weiss, a patient himself, founded the Adult Polyglucosan Body Disease Research Foundation (APBDRF) in 2005 and serves as president and chairman of the board. The Foundation is dedicated to increasing public awareness and understanding of APBD, especially in the at-risk Ashkenazi Jewish Community and the general medical community, which still remains largely unaware of the disease.
A wedding in Jerusalem

BY Janice Rothschild Blumberg

It was a wedding like no other. The former Meredith Edge Loveman and General Robert Magnus, United States Marine Corps, Retired, spoke their vows beneath a chuppah of lush greenery, white roses, and dahlias, set against an incomparable backdrop: the Mount of Olives. The real Mount of Olives. With the Dead Sea faintly visible on the horizon to our right.

A soft breeze embraced us, lulling those of us from America into a dreamlike reverie, as we waited for the ceremony to begin. Aware that some of Israel’s top military brass, as well as government leaders and diplomats, would be there, we looked around, hoping to identify them. I recognized Moshe Arad, who had been a young press attaché at the Washington embassy and a friend of my late husband, David Blumberg, before becoming Israel’s ambassador to the United States and Great Britain. I wondered if he would remember me.

Most fascinating of the notables were two surviving heroes of Israel’s War of Independence, Harold “Smoky” Simon and Lou Lenart, both in their nineties.

Simon, after serving as a Lancaster navigator-bombardier as a South African in the Royal Air Force during World War II, came to Israel with his wife, Myra, in 1948, and flew 24 operations, soon being promoted to chief of Air Operations for the Israel Air Force.

Lenart, after serving as a Corsair pilot in the United States Marine Corps during World War II, also volunteered to defend the new state; he is one of the surviving pilots who created what is now the Israel Air Force. He led the nation’s entire corps of four planes and four pilots (including the late Ezer Weizman, Israel’s former president and defense minister) on its first combat flight. Their surprise attack against an Egyptian force of 10,000, already advanced as far as Ashdod, is credited with having saved Tel Aviv.

Both Simon and Lenart participated in the marriage ceremony as escorts for the bride and groom. Other notables filled such roles as symbolic holders of the chuppah, readers of the seven blessings, and announcer, identifying them and explaining the significance of each part of the service for the many guests who were not Jewish. Rivka Arad, wife of the ambassador, was matron of honor. Youngest and most impressive of the attendants was Eric Frazier, one of two wounded-warrior ring bearers, a retired U.S. Marine in his early thirties. A member of the U.S. Biathlon Development Team, he also hand-cycled from San Francisco to Virginia Beach in the 63-day Sea-to-Shining-Sea ride. Eric whizzed up to the bema on wheels, receiving an emotional burst of applause from admiring onlookers as he returned to his place. Hardly a dry eye in sight.

Emotional highs continued. After reading aloud their ketubah, the bride and groom, each with his and her own glass, stumped on them together. Then, four U.S. Marines in dress uniform lined the aisle, to begin the sword ceremony so dear to Marine tradition. First, after sounding ritual orders, they formed a canopy with their swords for the newlyweds. Then they halted the newlyweds’ progress with crossed swords and welcomed the bride to the Marine Corps family. The bride, bare-shouldered in a fabulous off-white gown by Israeli designer Pnina Tornai, and the groom, in Marine Corps uniform, one side aglow with medals, then marched through the sword arch and proceeded triumphantly to the ensuing celebration. The klezmer band, having intoned “Jerusalem of Gold” as the bride and groom approached their chuppah, now ushered them out with the stirring rhythm of the Marine Corps Hymn.

At dinner following the ceremony, Jewish tradition mingled with regional sentiment. Dancing began with the hora, then proceeded with a variety of music, much of it reminiscent of the seventies and eighties, fondly remembered by the bridal couple and many of their guests. A few of us even recognized renditions of “Georgia On My Mind” and “Sweet Georgia Brown,” played in tribute to the bride, a multi-generational Georgian. Toasts were offered by friends from Israel, from America, and even from across the river in Jordan.

The unusual ceremony, performed by an Israel Army brigadier commander rather than a rabbi, incorporated all of the elements necessary for a Jewish wedding. The legal requirements had already been fulfilled by Rabbi Alvin Sugarman, who married the Magnuses at The Temple in Atlanta, several weeks earlier. They live in Brunswick, where Meredith has been active in the community and vice president of Temple Beth Tefilloh. Bob, who served as the 30th assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, retired in 2008, after 38 years of active duty. He is currently chairman of the board, Elbit Systems of America; a director on the boards of AugustaWestland NA, EnerSys, and Fairway Group Holdings; and chairman of the editorial board for the journal Common Defense Quarterly, in addition to serving as consultant and advisor to several other corporations and non-profits.

This was surely the “live out your dream” wedding for the happy couple, but Bob and Meredith Magnus made it far more than that, not only for their friends who attended, but possibly even for Israel and beyond. For those of us who came from abroad—most of whom were not Jewish and would probably never have visited Israel otherwise—they provided two full days of fascinating sightseeing, taking us to places either unknown or off limits to ordinary tourists. They showed us Masada and the Dead Sea, but their focus was on Israel’s extraordinary breakthroughs combining scientific knowledge of bird migration with ecology and agriculture, of special benefit to the air forces of Israel and neighboring nations. Our overly qualified “tour guide” for both days was Professor Yossi Leshem, of Tel Aviv University, founder and director of Israel’s International Center for the Study of Bird Migration.

This other aspect of the Magnuses’ Jerusalem wedding is also a love story, one especially suited to The Jewish Georgian’s next issue, when the approach of High Holy Days suggests reflection and awe. So stay tuned. There’s lots more to come about the good things that are happening among Israelis, partnering with their colleagues in Jordan and the Palestinian territories.
HADASSAH RECEIVES GRANT FROM MDRT FOUNDATION. As part of its Worldwide Grant Program, the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation (MDRT) awarded a $25,000 grant to Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America. MDRT is an international, independent association comprising nearly 36,000 of the world’s leading life insurance and financial services professionals, from more than 78 countries.

The grant will support the palliative care program of the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Department of the Hadassah Medical Organization, so that children dying from various forms of cancer may enjoy the best quality of life possible during this most precious time. Hadassah believes in providing all patients with quality care, regardless of nationality, religion, or creed.

Representing the MDRT Foundation, 40-year MDRT member and Knight of the Foundation Bill Loventhal, CPF, CLU, presented the grant at the Greater Atlanta Hadassah board meeting on April 30. Loventhal is a financial advisor at Northwestern Mutual and a Hadassah Associate. Sue Rothstein, president of GAH, accepted the award on behalf of Hadassah.

CHESED STUDENT AWARDS. Twenty-two Atlanta-area Jewish teens were honored on Sunday, May 4, at Greater Atlanta Hadassah’s 23rd Annual Marian F. Perl Ling Hadassah Chesed Student Awards Program, held at Congregation Or Hadash.

The Chesed Awards have been given annually, since 1992, to one student from each of the Atlanta-area Jewish day schools and synagogue religious schools. Students in grades 7-12 are eligible to receive the award, and each school chooses its own recipient. Nominees are chosen based on criteria that are of paramount importance to the Hadassah organization and its members: love for Israel, concern for Jews and Jewish culture and heritage, concern for fellow human beings as exemplified through manner and deed, and acceptable academic standing.

Recipients of the 2014 Marian F. Perl Ling Hadassah Chesed Student Awards are: Ahavath Achim Synagogue—Sarah Spielberger; Congregation Beth Shalom—Daniel Ackermans; Congregation B’nai Torah—Lexi Newman; Congregation Dor Tamid—Talia Capozzoli; Congregation Eitz Chaim—David Medof; Congregation Gesher L’Torah—Andrew Gottlieb; Congregation Or Hadash—Nicole Berne; Congregation Or VeShalom—Yarely Perez; Congregation Shearith Israel—Elias Mansbach; Greenfield Hebrew Academy—Jael Azani; Tamima High School—Shira Shkarofsky; Temple Beth Tikvah—Jessica Shiffman; Temple Emanu-El—Lauren Palgon; Temple Kehillat Chaim—Ian Phillips; Temple Kol Emeth—Jamie Lief; Temple Sinai—Ruby Freeman; The Davis Academy—Abbie Frankel; The Epstein School—Juliana Zitron; The Temple—Abigail Bocinec; The Weber School—Ethan Fialkow; Torah Day School—Maayan Schoen; and Yeshiva Atlanta High School—Noam Gul.

EVERY BEAT COUNTS. Greater Atlanta Hadassah’s Metulla Group held its “Every Beat Counts” spring luncheon and fashion show on May 4, at the Country Club of the South. Every Beat Counts: Hadassah’s Heart Health Program educates women about risks, prevention, and detection of heart disease, the #1 cause of death among women in the U.S. and worldwide. Dr Marlene Blaise, cardiologist, presented a discussion on women’s heart health. In keeping with the theme, lunch was heart healthy and delicious. Attendees were entertained by an exciting fashion show presented by Karen’s Fine Apparel, with upbeat music and magnificent spring fashions worn by Metulla models. Proceeds of the silent auction will benefit Hadassah’s good causes.

AN IMAGINARY TRIP TO ISRAEL. On May 4, in observance of Yom Ha’atzmaut, Greater Atlanta Hadassah’s Training Wheels group took a trip to Israel without having to leave Atlanta! Using their imaginations, they traveled to several places, sightseeing and creating their own souvenirs along the way. Their plane landed in Tel Aviv, where they toured the city and made Israeli flags and magnets to help them mark the beginning of their trip. In Jerusalem, they wrote notes to put into The Kotel. They moved on to Safed, where they joined other artists to make picture frames that looked like pieces of the wall. They ended their journey in Eilat, where they put on their sunglasses for a trip to the beach and a picnic.

Training Wheels/Al Galgalim, a Jewish family education program created by Hadassah, lets parents and children ages 3-5 become partners in discovering the joys of being Jewish.

Greater Atlanta Hadassah leadership at the Chesed Student Awards: (from left) Liz Zucker, organizational vice president; Linda Weinroth, Chesed Awards presenter; Phyllis M. Cohen, past GAH president and Chesed Awards program creator; Eileen Cohn, Chesed Awards program chair; Sue Rothstein, GAH president; and Diane Fisher, GAH communications team leader and immediate past president.

Event Co-chairs Randi Mazer (left) and Linda Lieberman

Fashion show models Michele Merbaum, Metulla president (left), presents certificate of appreciation to Dr. Marlene Blaise.

Anita Otero (from left), Ruth Berg, Livie Sklar, Judith Bracker, Sheila Hertz, Nancy Schwartz, Connie Mintz, Jeli Edelman, Barbara Lang, Judy Price, and Jennifer Hackman

Alice’s picture frame reminded some of the Training Wheels participants of The Kotel.

Andrew’s puzzle speaks for itself.

Micah is proud of his Israeli flag.

THE JOY OF SONG. The Mount Scopus group of Greater Atlanta Hadassah welcomed Rabbi Karim Inger, May 20, at the Clubhouse at Huntington Condominiums, in
It was bitterly cold in Atlanta in the winter of 1983. That’s when Rabbi Marc Wilson, of Congregation Shearith Israel, decided something had to be done to help get Atlanta’s homeless women off the streets. He gathered a small, dedicated, group to help form the CSI shelter.

On June 8, that group of founders—namely Helen and Frank Spiegel, Jane and Herb Axelrod, Annette Easton, and Sara and Marshall Duke—were honored at a gala concert at the synagogue, marking the shelter’s 30th anniversary. The Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra performed free of charge, so the public could enjoy a free concert.

Helen Spiegel spoke about the history of the shelter, including her husband Frank’s involvement in its development. Frank celebrated his birthday at the Gala with a huge cake.

Early on, the CSI Women’s Shelter was sometimes referred to as a “hot and a cot,” but as the years passed, it has provided much more than just a hot meal and a bed. The shelter’s guests, as the homeless women are called, now have shower and laundry facilities, comfortable furniture, television, and a warm, homey atmosphere. Recently, the guests have been able to become computer literate, thanks to the donation of several computers.

The women’s shelter is housed in the basement of Congregation Shearith Israel. It is the only homeless shelter in the United States that is so located.

Each year, the ACSO plays a free concert at CSI, but this year was special because it marked the 30th anniversary of the shelter’s opening. The musical program was special, too; in addition to compositions by Tchaikovsky and Bizet, it featured the world premiere of the compositions “Elegy for Anna Lee” and “Psalm 23,” by Atlanta composer and poet Dan Veach, who is also a member of the orchestra. The concert was skillfully led by the orchestra’s longtime artistic director and conductor, Juan R. Ramirez.

David Benner, a member of the shelter’s Board of Directors, paid a special tribute to Annette Easton, for her countless contributions. He announced that a special plaque bearing testimony to her service was being installed in the shelter’s hospitality room.

Beautiful music, delicious food, and a tribute to wonderful volunteers. What more could you want on a gorgeous Sunday afternoon?
Davis Academy Mechina program marks 10 years

This year’s Davis Academy graduation, on May 29, celebrated the accomplishments of the 72 eighth-grade students of the Class of 2014. But there was another very special milestone this year.

While many of those students came to Davis as kindergartners, six began in the inaugural class of Davis Academy’s now highly regarded Mechina: Kindergarten Prep program, which just completed its tenth year.

The Davis Academy Mechina: Kindergarten Prep program is a full-day program for four-year olds (who turn five by December 31). Children are fully integrated into the larger school with an age-appropriate curriculum, including all academic subjects, Jewish studies, fine arts, technology, and physical education.

In honor of the Mechina program’s ten-year anniversary and the graduating students who began in its class, The Davis Academy created The Emet Society. The Hebrew word emet means truth. It begins with the Hebrew letter alpha and ends with the letter tav, symbolically encompassing the entire Hebrew alphabet (and the Davis Academy journey) from beginning to end. Meaning is also found in the fact that the middle letter, mem, symbolizes menschlichkeit, the values at the center of Davis Academy’s core mission.

The first members of The Emet Society are the six students—Dima Arkhipov, Zachary Cohen, Eli Katz, Aaron Rice, Maqueline Weiss, and Isaac Weissman—who were in the first Mechina class, and, upon their Davis graduation, hold the distinction of being the first students to complete ten years at The Davis Academy. On another sweet note, the teacher who began the program ten years ago, Amy Shapiro, continues to teach the Mechina class.

Maqueline Weiss’s parents, Cheryl and Michael, expressed their appreciation for the Mechina program.

“We did not expect that being part of the Mechina program would become such a milestone in our daughter’s life,” said Michael Weiss. “The bonds formed among this group of students, along with their love of their school and heritage, was evident at graduation, when tears of pride, joy, and even tears of the unknown road ahead flowed. As the very first ones to complete this special program at Davis, this group of students came full circle. They learned together, and, over the years, the group grew closer and closer, fostering a unique journey. Now, even though they’re leaving Davis and moving across the community to new high schools, they take with them this special bond of friendship and knowledge, knowing that they went the extra mile, and it will last them a lifetime.”

Added Cheryl Weiss, “Giving her the extra year in the Mechina program allowed Maqueline the time to grow and mature into the lovely young lady she has become. We believe the Jewish community will be the beneficiary of her years at Davis.”

Hadassah

From page 15

Tucker for “The Mystical Power of Music and the Joy of Song.” Rabbi Ingber, who played his guitar and banjo during this fun-filled evening, established the Atlanta Outreach Kehilla, an organization dedicated to bringing a unique, exciting, welcoming approach to Judaism to metro Atlanta residents.

A TOUR OF TOCO. On Sunday, June 9, the Mount Scopus Group of Greater Atlanta Hadassah held its third annual “Tour of Toco Hill.” Members and friends saw a variety of home, condos, and designer remodeled homes. The funds raised from this event support women’s health and research at the two Hadassah Hospitals in Jerusalem, Israel.

Susan Berkowitz (left) and Suzy Tibor of the Mt. Scopus Group with Rabbi Ingber

We stand with Israel

security • peace • solidarity
Rabbi Jeremy Simons joins ISJL team

Jeremy Simons, recently ordained as a rabbi at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, in Los Angeles, has accepted a position with the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life.

While studying at HUC-JIR, Rabbi Simons served as a student rabbi for the Wood River Jewish Community, in Sun Valley, Idaho, and Temple Beth Israel, in Redding, California. He is passionate about social justice issues and has served as a speaking fellow with the American Jewish World Service and as a rabbinic intern with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. His love for travel and deep respect for the congregations that continue to thrive, even without a fulltime rabbi, led him to the ISJL position.

“T’m very excited to learn about these communities and their members and also to build upon the incredible work of Rabbi Marshal Klaven and his predecessors,” says Rabbi Simons. “When I moved to Nashville as a child, I remember the warm greeting my family received from our temple and have really missed that famous Southern hospitality. I can’t wait to get started!”

Simons attended The Ohio State University as an undergraduate, earning a bachelor of arts in political science and philosophy, magna cum laude. He also spent four years as a youth educator in West Newton and Framingham, Massachusetts, prior to attending rabbinic school. He is excited about working with community members of all ages and looks forward to bringing his commitment to Jewish life and learning to the ISJL team. His rabbinic territory will include Georgia.

Rabbi Simons plans to hit the ground running, bringing continuity and enthusiasm to the itinerant rabbinic program at the ISJL.

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life 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.

Alexander Family Papers are the first project of Cuba Family Archives’ new digital scanner

By Jeremy Katz

June marked a landmark event in the history of the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at The Breman Museum.

With the generous support of the Alexander family, the Archives purchased a Fujitsu 6770 document scanner to begin digitizing its thousands of manuscript collections. The scanner is able to scan up to 99 pages per minute through its sophisticated document feeder. Any documents that are too fragile to scan through the feeder can be digitized using the attached flatbed scanner, making it a powerful two-in-one machine.

The scanner is currently being used to digitize the Alexander Family Papers, housed in the Archives, which total roughly 15 linear feet. These papers include the significant work of Henry Alexander Sr., Henry Alexander Jr., and Cecil Alexander.

Henry Alexander Sr. was active in both the general and Jewish communities. As a lawyer, he was asked to help in the appeals process for the Leo M. Frank trial. He was a co-founder of the Atlanta Historical Society and president of the United Hebrew School. His papers consist of court transcripts, correspondence, and newspaper articles relating to the Leo Frank Case, general family correspondence, and Alexander family genealogical material. Cecil Alexander Jr. was a World War II veteran, a renowned architect, and an outspoken activist during the Civil Rights Movement. Cecil influenced the physical appearance, as well as the political, social, and racial structure, of Atlanta. His papers consist of correspondence, certificates, speeches, and newspaper articles.

The Archives’ goal is to make this material available online by the end of the year and many more collections available online soon thereafter. It is hoped that other families that have papers in the Archives will come forward to support the project as well.

Epstein School alumni shine

Five members of The Epstein School’s eighth-grade Class of 2010 are the top graduates at their respective high schools: Mallory Harris, valedictorian, STAR student, and UGA Fellow; Dunwoody High School; David Zarge, valedictorian; North Springs High School; Daniel Abravanel, valedictorian; The Weber School; Steven Burgess, salutatorian; North Springs High School; and Daniela Friedman, salutatorian; The Weber School.

These achievements illustrate that Epstein students are superbly prepared for life and academics in the high schools of their choice. Epstein’s innovative teaching techniques, paired with its language immersion curriculum, provide students with a rich academic foundation, individualized attention, and leadership skills.

Through 21st Century Learning, students develop skills that will help them succeed, not only in higher education but also in the job market of tomorrow.

“Having information is not nearly as important as knowing how to use it, and that’s something our students excel at doing,” explains Head of School Stan Beiner. “When our eighth-graders graduate, they leave with skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, independent learning, social thinking, innovation, collaboration, leadership, and bilingual communication, which will carry them for a lifetime.”

The Epstein School has also been identified as an Education Innovator and a Distinguished Alumni. Mallory Harris (from left), David Zarge, Daniel Abravanel, Steven Burgess, and Daniela Friedman

Blue Ribbon School, by the United States Department of Education. Over the past five years, more than half the seventh-graders tested qualified for the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) for academically gifted and talented youth. This year, 17 seventh-graders scored high enough on the ACT test to receive State Level recognition and/or be eligible to participate in TIP’s Center for Summer Studies or Academy for Summer Studies, and two qualified for Grand Level recognition.
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QUESTIONS?
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For more Drive info & to pre-register for a JScreen saliva kit, visit: www.jscreen.org/reg/giftofchai
(Walk-ins welcome)
What does peace mean to you?

Within Judaism, the word shalom (peace) reaches beyond a simple state of being or even the end of a conflict: it is the ultimate completeness of the world. Shalom is the purpose of the Hebrew Scriptures and that of Tikkan Olam, our acts to repair the world. In Judaism, peace, or a perfect wholeness, is not something to wait or hope for, but something to work toward.

Rabbi Simeon ben Gamaliel (10 BCE - 70 CE) said: “The world rests on three things: On justice, on truth, on peace.” Said Rabbi Mona: “But these are one and the same: For if there is justice, there is truth, and if there is truth, there is peace.” — Babylonian Talmud, Derech Eretz; Zutta Perek HaShalom

The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum is the epicenter for exploring the meaning of peace this summer. “PEACE: What does it mean to you?” is an interactive exhibition that runs through October 5. Of interest to all ages, it features a number of elements that include “A Peace of My Mind” by photographer John Noltner, interactive activities, yoga classes with instructor Eleanor Lipton, and photography workshops by Joel Silverman.

A PEACE OF MY MIND. Photographer John Noltner explores the meaning of peace through photographs of ordinary yet diverse individuals that foster public dialogue about issues related to conflict resolution, civic responsibility, and peace. With black and white portraits and oral histories, over fifty subjects describe what peace means to them, how they work toward it in their lives, and some of the obstacles they encountered. Visitors of all ages are encouraged to explore the portraits and participate in activities that help them answer the question...What does peace mean to you? For some it might mean the end of war. For others it is healing broken lives and communities. For many it starts with a piece of music, or a prayer. Peace is a universal desire, but it remains elusive. Everyone who uses Twitter

See PEACE, page 23

Touch a truck, touch a heart

 Greater Atlanta Hadassah announces a fun-filled and community heart-health education event for the entire family. The event is our first ever Touch A Truck Family Festival to benefit heart health, and will take place on Sunday, September 7, at Centennial High School from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. There will be an hour set aside for special-needs children to explore without horns, sirens, and flashing lights from 11:00 a.m. to noon. A severe-weather date is scheduled to take place on Sunday, September 14.

Touch A Truck is an educational hands-on family event for kids of all ages. Children will have the opportunity to climb aboard a fire truck, police car, big rig or bulldozer, to explore, ask questions, and interact with vehicles of all types — public service, crime fighting, emergency, utility, construction, landscaping, transportation, delivery, in a safe, supervised environment. They will meet the people who build, protect, and serve the metro Atlanta community.

Family-friendly entertainment includes crafts, activities, appearances by local mascots, kid-friendly food vendors, demonstrations for healthy living, and public safety information.

September 7th is also National Grandparents Day, giving every generation of the family the opportunity to explore, play, and learn together.

Admission is $5 per person, with a maximum of $15 per family for tickets purchased in advance online at http://www.hadassah.org/touchatruck or $20 at the event. Children under 2 are free. Food will be available for purchase at the festival. Parking is available at Centennial High School with additional parking at Kohl’s across from Centennial High School.

The festival will be focusing on heart health for the entire family and raising funds for Hadassah’s heart-health programs in Israel and the United States as part of Hadassah’s Every Beat Counts: Hadassah’s Heart Health Program™. Visit www.hadassah.org/touchatruck for more details.

Clark Howard headlines JELF fundraiser

On Wednesday, August 13, The Jewish Educational Loan Fund will present a JELF Special Event with Clark Howard. Proceeds will support JELF’s interest-free loan program.

Every day across America, Clark Howard’s voice is heard on more than 150 stations, advising consumers how to save more, spend less, and avoid getting ripped off. It’s more than just a motto for Clark; it’s a way of life. As a successful entrepreneur, radio host, TV personality, best-selling author, and newspaper columnist, the Atlanta-based multimedia magnate is dedicated to helping Americans of all means get ahead in life.

This Special Event, at Maggiano’s Buckhead, 3368 Peachtree Road NE, begins with a 5:30 p.m. reception and continues with the program at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets are $54 per person ($18 tax deductible) and $36 per person under 35. Host a table for $375 and receive eight tickets for the price of seven, program recognition, and reserved priority for hosts and guests.

The Jewish Educational Loan Fund (JELF) grants interest-free loans to Jewish students in need of final dollars to attend post-secondary educational institutions, including colleges, graduate schools, and professional and vocational schools. JELF loans bridge the gap between financial aid received and the total amount a student needs for school. Beneficiaries are preparing for their first career or pursuing a new career.

JELF serves the five-state region of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. JELF maintains a 99% repayment rate, ensuring that as loans are repaid, more loans are made. Since 1961, JELF has loaned over $8.5 million to over 3,500 students.

Event tickets are available at jelf.org/clarkhoward or by calling 770-396-3080. For more information, contact Melissa Kerbel at mkerbel@jelf.org or 770-396-3080.
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Water in the desert signifies life

BY Ezra Ravins

Years ago, who would have thought that the science fiction of Buck Rogers’ space travel would become reality? Now, not only do we have people traveling in space, but we also know it cannot exist. 

No country is more aware of this than Israel. From the time of Abraham some 3,500 years ago to now, he, together with his son Isaac, were taking a stance in front of the Philistines on the issue of wells, this conflict has continued even up to the present time. 

As someone who has spent most of his adult life involved in the agriculture economy in the desert environment of Israel’s Arava Valley, I personally can attest to the critical inter-relationship of water, food, and life. And when I arrived in the U.S. and began meeting the people of the Southeast, I found that, while the degree of challenge in providing water is different, there are many similarities. 

One of the first questions I was asked when I came to Atlanta last year from Israel was, what is the average yearly rainfall in the Arava Desert? The answer: one to two inches. To put that in perspective, in Atlanta in 2007, which was classified as a drought year, the rainfall was 31.85 inches. Although this resulted in bans on watering lawns and washing cars, as well as other restrictions, it was still was 30 inches more rain than is typical in the Arava Desert.

In the 1980s, Israel experienced a severe water crisis as a result of increased demand from a growing population and agricultural sector, as well as climate change. The water levels in the Sea of Galilee fell, and the Jordan River stopped flowing into the Dead Sea.

In response, Israel implemented various programs to cut back on water use and began construction projects to change the water flow. Jewish National Fund (JNF) was a key partner in these efforts and helped to build 270 reservoirs across the country. Israel built 135 waste treatment facilities to direct water for agriculture. The country recycles 77% of its wastewater, ranking it number one in the world in this effort. Spain ranks a distant second at 17%; the U.S. is at about 3%.

JNF’s founding in 1901, water remains one of its key priorities. JNF Parsons Water Fund to development to seek solutions to the problem of salinity. JNF understands the tremendous importance of this area for the future State of Israel and established the JNF Parsons Water Fund to deal with future water challenges.

While the immediate water crises in the Southeast U.S. that existed just a few years ago has been eased and restriction on water usage has been lifted, you will remember the lifestyle changes that took place and the water battles between state and local governments. Israel’s challenge not only still exists but also is growing.

The JNF Parson Water Fund is critical to addressing this problem. As it has been since JNF’s founding in 1901, water remains one of the key elements in the bringing to fruition the vision of Israel.
DIAGNOSING AUTISM. Studies indicate that autism has become more prevalent in recent years. Indeed, it is among the fastest-growing—if not the single fastest growing—developmental disabilities in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now estimates that one in 68 children—and one in 42 boys—has autism spectrum disorder.

The Autism Society of America defines Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others. Children and adults with ASD typically show difficulties in verbal and nonverbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities.

Most signs of ASD become apparent between the 2-6 years of age, but some actually appear as young as 12 months. New research promises to detect its possibility in early infancy, said Peggy Kelly, JF&CS’ director of Clinical Services, citing information from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. A recent report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* suggests autism might even start in the womb.

“There are some behaviors that might—and I emphasize might—indicate a child has ASD,” she said. “If you don’t see your child babble, oo, or make gestures by 12 months, for instance, or if he or she does not say single words by 16 months or two-word phrases on his or her own by 24 months—you might want to have an evaluation.”

As children get older, other signs become more obvious, she said. “Here are just a few examples of things you might notice: A lack of or delay in spoken language or repetitiveness in language and/or motor behaviors. Little or no eye contact, a lack of interest in peer relationships, the absence of spontaneous or make-believe play, or a persistent fixation on objects—any of these signs merit further investigation by a pediatrician or specialist.”

None of this is cause for alarm, she cautioned, even if your child does get a diagnosis. ASD is treatable, and the right kind of help early on will improve the likelihood of positive results.

For more than 20 years, JF&CS has served adults with ASD through the Developmental Disabilities Services—Tools for Independence division. Recently, Tools for Families began serving children as young as 18 months suspected of having ASD or developmental delay. Autism Spectrum Testing Services, which falls under the Autism Support Services umbrella, addresses a gap in services in the community as well as the long wait time currently experienced in the market.

JF&CS’ evaluations include, when appropriate, a classroom observation. Particularly in preschool children, this is often the environment in which symptoms of ASD become more pronounced and interfere with developmental tasks, such as adjusting to a new setting, engaging in reciprocal interactions, following classroom directions, and developing friendships.

“We believe early identification and diagnosis allows for opportunities for early intervention and access to other resources,” said Kelly. “We really focus our program on observing and understanding the young child and his or her environments.”

To have your child evaluated for possible ASD, e-mail testing@jfcs-atlanta.org, or call 770-677-9319.

In addition to young children, JF&CS has begun addressing another population for whom services had been lacking in the community: adults between 17 and 30 years old with high-functioning ASD. A program of Developmental Disabilities Services—Tools for Independence, Young Adult Autism Services focuses on clinical and vocational support and social inclusion. For more information, e-mail autism@jfcs-atlanta.org or call 770-677-9436.

HELPING MORE DENTAL PATIENTS. If you have ever needed a tooth crowned, you know the procedure. You go to the dentist and get a mouth full of goo. The impression goes to a lab, where it takes a few weeks. You go back to the dentist, and the crown gets fitted. Maybe it needs to be refitted. The whole thing can take many weeks and multiple visits.

It’s still not free, but I’m hopeful others will come through with funds for the rest of the supplies,” said Chafe, who, in addition to volunteering at the clinic, has made it his mission to provide funds to offset the costs to operate the technology. He hopes others will follow suit.

“There are so many people who need crowns. While we won’t be able to use it for every patient, it will go a long way in helping many,” said Chafe.

If you need a dental implant, consider having your 3D x-ray taken at BMDC. This is an out-of-pocket expense anywhere you go and a way you can support the clinic. You can take the image back to your dentist on a CD. Call 404-977-9675 for more details.

FIGHTING ADOLESCENT ADDICTION. If anyone understands how easy it is for addiction to begin in adolescence—or younger—it’s Erica Katz, coordinator for H.A.M.S.A. (Helping Atlantans Manage Substance Abuse), a program of the Counseling Services—Tools for Life division of Jewish Family & Career Services.

Erica Katz

Erica took her first drink in middle school and her last one at 20. After a long road to recovery, she has been sober for more than seven years. One of her goals is to prevent others from going down the same path.

M acquaintance, a friend and a former teacher who taught at Sona Springs, after learning how to use it, which took some time, he was sold. "It wasn’t just the technology. It’s that patients don’t have to come back to the dentist. I saw the value not so much in economic terms, but in the time value for patients.”

After seeing how well it worked, Chafe felt it would be a boon to the clinic. So he contacted Sirona’s institutional division, which donates CEREC machines to dental schools. The problem was the company saw BMDC more as a charity dental provider than a teaching institution. But last summer, Lutheran Medical Center’s Advanced Education in General Dentistry brought four full-time residents to BMDC, and that clinched the deal. Sirona came back with an offer: two CEREC machines—one each worth about $100,000.

Following that, Kirshner and Chafe were able to secure the donation of some of the initial supplies the machine requires. While the machine absorbs the lab costs, there will be ongoing supply costs.

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M prevention education in middle and high school is a huge priority for H.A.M.S.A.” Erica said. “Schools recognize it’s important to engage kids in conversations about alcohol and drugs and making healthy choices.”

At the start of the 2013-14 school year, Erica began bringing her interactive prevention program, Community of Concern, to local Jewish schools: The Davis Academy, The Epstein School, Greenfield Hebrew Academy, The Weber School, and Yeshiva Atlanta. She and her team also have met with both parents and students at Congregation Etz Chaim, Temple Sinai, The Temple, Congregation Kol Emeth, Congregation Dor Tamid, and Temple Beth Tikvah.

Community of Concern is built on the concepts of Prime for Life, an evidence-based motivational prevention, intervention, and pretreatment program often used in classrooms across the country. (The state of Georgia requires DUI offenders to participate in the program as well.) It employs a variety of tools like Microsoft PowerPoint, storytelling, humor, interactive activities, interviews, and video. A question-and-answer session allows audiences to engage the presenters and learn how to get help and support.

Erica and her team conducted 27 presentations this school year. Other private and public schools refer students to her in response to incidents at school.

With stories abound lately about kids dying—and some dying from—drugs, parents are grateful for the presentations and awareness they raise.

“Thank you for arranging this absolutely fantastically eye-opening program for parents,” said one mom. “It was the most powerful alcohol and drug awareness program I have ever attended. If it changes the course of one teen’s (or adult’s) life, it has done a successful job. [The] program should be attended by all our children and all their parents.”

“Last night was so powerful for my husband and me,” said another. “We realized we are in the mix with all the parents who think ‘our child is a good kid, good grades, scholarship for college, active in youth group, a Girl Scout, she doesn’t go to parties, she follows the rules, etc. It’s no big deal if she’s smoking pot once in awhile.’ Well, last night turned our world on its axis, and we realized we are taking a different approach. We realized we need to take preventive measures now so we don’t have to look back and wonder what happened. We know it is not probable, but it is possible for a problem to develop.

Thank you for this powerful program.”

For Ronit Walker, who has a 15-year-old daughter and two sons, 13 and 11, “It was the most powerful anti-drug program I have ever attended. I completely identified with Rachel, the recovering addict who spoke to us. She attended Jewish day schools, and her life experiences mirrored my family’s. She could have been my daughter. Her mother was also kind enough to share her experiences. They made me realize that addiction is everywhere and very close to home.”

For more information about Community of Concern or H.A.M.S.A., or if you would like to see the program at your school, call 770-677-9318, or e-mail hamsa@jfcs-atlanta.org.

See JF&CS, page 25
of the Lord in the original,” Joseph Smith wrote in a diary he kept during the course. In the certificate Sexias presented Smith, he emphasized, “(Smith) has been indefatigable in acquiring the principles of the sacred language of the Old Testament scriptures in their original tongue.”

With this knowledge of the Bible in Hebrew, it was natural that Smith and his followers adopted biblical names for many of the places they established. The best known for most travelers is the magnificent Zion National Park. There are fourteen sites in Utah bearing biblical names.

In the 1870s, Mark Christensen, a Smith religious adherent, founded a small settlement in Sanpete County, Utah, and named it Jerusalem. As a Mormon, he fathered many children with various wives. Many of his descendants departed long ago.

Moving to many other states. However, while taping interviews with residents of Jerusalem, Utah, a recent visitor was told by a descendant of the founder that citizens of the small community, despite its many economic issues, feel it is blessed by God, and they are very proud of the name Jerusalem.

Recently, when the Ten Commandments carved in Hebrew on the Wilmington, Delaware, courthouse were removed, as the building was being remodeled, an interesting find was made. On the back of the tablets it read, “These were fashioned from quarries near Jerusalem in the Holyland.”

In 1976, when the Hebrew University was planning a bicentennial exhibition, to mark the 200th birthday of the U.S., letters were sent to all the American Jerusalems. A letter to the mayor of Jerusalem, Arkansas, was returned, unopened. The postmaster wrote by hand, “no mayor here—returned to sender.” The letter bears the postmarks of Jerusalem, Israel, and Jerusalem, Arkansas.

GETTING THE RIGHT KIND OF CARE AT HOME. With an upcoming surgery scheduled, Howard Goldmacher and his wife, Iris, realized they were going to need some extra day-to-day help. So they called JF&CS’ Legacy Home Care and arranged for a caregiver to come a few times a week, four hours at a time.

They were matched with Okay Onuorah, who helped with household chores and driving to doctor appointments. Okay started with the Goldmachers several weeks before the surgery, so everyone could get used to the arrangement. But when Howard had to have an unexpected operation before his planned surgery, Okay’s care became even more vital. He upped his hours and started to care for the Goldmachers four times a week. The couple couldn’t be more grateful and even joke that they want to adopt him.

“Okay has been a lifesaver,” said Howard. “I don’t know what I would do without him.”

For more information about Legacy services, call 770-677-9353, or visit www.yfll.org/legacy.

NEW BOARD. JF&CS’ newest members of the Board of Directors are: Lindsay Borenstein, David Bronstein, Sheri Kornblum, Tara Kornblum, Rabbi Brad Levenberg, Bruce Lindemann, Justin Milrad, Missy Rivner, Abby Rosenthal, and Jeff Swygert.

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Back in the valley of the shadow

BY Dan Gordon
Captain (RES)
Israel Defense Forces

Shalom from an Israeli soldier in the war zone.

This current rain of rockets is carried out by a terrorist army, Hamas. Terrorist armies are equipped, trained, organized, and financed like armies, but their tactics are terror, directed not against military targets as much as against civilian populations. That is what ISIS and Hezbollah are. That is what Hamas is as well.

First, there are a few myths being propagated by many in the press that need to be cleared up. The Fourth Estate has projected Hamas as the duly elected ruler of Gaza that is resisting Israeli occupation; that Hamas is as well. Much as against civilian populations. That is fact. When Israel didn’t respond to that provocation, Hamas’s chairman called out to his terrorist cells to kidnap Israeli civilians, and one responded by doing just that and then murdering them in cold blood. And still Israel did not respond by attacking Gaza. Then a group of deviant, murderous Israeli thugs kidnapped, mercilessly tortured, and killed a Palestinian teen. But there are heartless murderers in every society. Israel immediately denounced the murderers and within days caught the murderers. They will be tried and punished to the fullest extent of the law. Hamas, on the other hand, hides behind its women and children as Human shields.

Finally, Hamas wants this war. When it murderedously conquered Gaza from its brethren PLO, it was faced with a problem: now it had to govern. It had to collect garbage and create an economy that would provide jobs. Through incompetence and corruption it failed at both. There is forty-percent unemployment in Gaza. Hamas cannot afford to pay its own terrorist army. For the first time there have been demonstrations against its rule, and it feared being toppled from within because it had produced only rockets, suicide bombers, poverty, and misery. On the other hand, new, more radical groups like Islamic Jihad, ISIS, and Al Qaida threatened to topple its control because it was not radical enough. So it would rather

Greater Atlanta Hadassah is excited to announce our first ever “Touch-A-Truck Family Festival to Benefit Heart Health” to be held at Centennial High School in Roswell, Georgia on Sunday, September 7, 2014 from 1:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. (Severe Weather Date: Sunday, September 14, 2014). This is a FUN raising, FUND raising, and community Heart Health Education event! In preparation for this event, the organization is seeking sponsors and participants:

- We are always on the lookout for a great mix of “things that go.” Do you have a unique truck or vehicle that you would like to showcase at Touch-A-Truck?
- Touch-A-Truck offers sponsors and vendors an excellent opportunity to interact with parents, children, volunteers, and the metro Atlanta community-at-large.
- Our “vehicle extravaganza” will be an incredible family-friendly festival with a Kids Zone area as well as performers “roving” the event. We are looking for puppeteers, clowns, sports mascots, magicians, jugglers, singers, face painters, crafters, a book vendor, bounce trucks and more.
- We are looking for a variety of yummy foods for our 3,000 guests, including our smallest guests — kids. We have room for 5-7 food trucks and provide a captive audience to dine on your culinary creations.
- We have room for a limited number of exhibitors who will share information about important heart issues such as heart health, physical activity, nutrition, safety, and more.

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See VALLEY, page 27
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014. Everyone is fine, and the rocket was shot down. But 10 minutes ago I experienced my first shelter run in the 23 years I’ve been coming to Israel.

One second I was watching television in the apartment, and the next second the sirens are going off. We had just 90 seconds to get down to our shelter. It’s always been an understood reality when being here in the past, but never has it hit so close to home for me until today.

The fear was real and the adrenaline was pumping through my veins. It didn’t last long, but I pray and hope that no more rockets are fired and that Tel Aviv won’t hear any more sirens. Please keep Israel, all the soldiers and reserves, in your thoughts! I stand strong with Israel!!

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014. What a way to be awakened. Under city-wide sirens alarming Tel Aviv that we are in a red alert. As I was running down to the shelters at 8:00 a.m., for now three days, my younger brother and sister were walking to preschool. I heard four loud BOOMS up above and four to five missiles being intercepted by the Israeli Iron-Dome system. I can’t even imagine the outcome that would have taken place without such a defense mechanism.

The damage would have been unforgivable.

Hamas needs to either man up or shut up!!

In the south of Israel, families and kids are sleeping in shelters because they are under constant attack in civilian zones. They only have 15 seconds to get to safety from the attacking rockets. Hamas needs to quit hiding behind civilians, hospitals, and homes. Stop showing false pictures and videos as propaganda to the world, and cease firing.

The world gets on Israel’s case despite our efforts to be surgical in our retaliation. Civilians end up getting hurt in Gaza, but, honestly, what other army, beside the Israel Defense Force, IDF, calls to warn the people in the target houses to tell them to evacuate an hour prior to an attack?

After all this, we are the ones still willing to shake hands and make peace, even with people who continue to commit war crimes!

“The truth is that if Israel were to put down its arms, there would be no more Israel. If Hamas were to put down their arms, there would be no more war.”
—Benjamin Netanyahu

I stand strong with the state of Israel!!

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2014 — ROCKETS OVER TEL AVIV. I was awakened again to the sounds of sirens blaring outside my window. It’s as if they were my alarm clock for the fourth straight day. This time my experience was different and a lot more real. This time one of the rocket interceptions was a direct hit right overhead, over our building. The explosion was enormous. The people in the shelter screamed out at the sound of it. The boom was much louder and closer than any of the previous times. Some of us even thought it something on the ground nearby.

After hearing a few more booms (intercepted rockets) off in the distance, it was finally safe to leave the shelter. You’re supposed to wait five to ten minutes before leaving in case of falling debris. As I went outside to street level, I looked up, and I couldn’t believe what met my eyes!!

Directly above me were the white trails left behind by the rockets. The smoke streaks left in the sky were right there. I actually caught some of it on video. It took me a second to comprehend what I was looking at, and that the interception cloud was right above my building.

Each red alert has gotten closer and closer. I almost have to remind myself that this isn’t a normal thing. It has now become somewhat routine each additional time we are called to the shelter. After four days you begin to become more relaxed and think nothing has or will hit near you. This time was a reminder of how real and serious the situation is.

I think about all the Israelis who live here and deal with this on a regular basis. On one hand, they are constantly living under stress, but on the other hand they are so used to the feeling that they continue to go about their daily lives as usual, just like you and me.

The mentality of the people living in Israel is as follows: Hamas will have won ONLY if we allow them to implement fear into our lives. You will see a lot of Israelis making light of the situation and laughing. I think this is only a psychological defense. What else can you do? What would you do?

If people now don’t believe the IDF has a legitimate reason to send ground troops in, then they are either terribly misinformed or out of their mind.

I realize that it isn’t fair when the news only shows one side of the story. Typically it is not in Israel’s favor, which is the exact reason I keep posting my first-hand experience, from the inside looking out.

I hope that more people will understand the honest facts despite what news media is reporting or failing to report. Israel needs to have the world behind its decision to defend itself. We need to have the green light to allow the army to do what they need to do!! Everybody’s support has really meant and spoken volumes to me! הופך again and thank you!!

Peace – Shalom

I stand strong with Israel!!

Finally, it has been a peaceful day in Tel Aviv. It’s been somewhat relaxing with the absence of sirens thus far. As I went to the pool with my family and saw the many families who also were in the water, it felt as if nothing was going on in this country. It’s an amazing site to witness. One would be puzzled at the sight, but this is how we stay winning and beat terrorism. I am sure people still had it on their minds, but you would never know it.

Maybe our prayers have been answered. Maybe it’s just the irony that today is Shabbat, and just by chance the situation has quieted in a few regions. One thing is for certain: We have not heard the last siren. A few times while at the pool hanging out, several of us thought we heard red-alert sirens, but they had not sounded.

Although it was quiet in Tel Aviv, southern Israel has not had the same leisure. Today, 72 plus rockets, of the 700 since the start, have been fired from Gaza Strip.

Earlier this morning, two Israelis were injured after a Hamas rocket slammed into a home. This occurred as the two were running to a shelter in the town of Netivot. The plus side of the Iron Dome protecting us is now leading us to a unique set of circumstances. Due to its 90% success rate to date, voices in the international media are now speaking to the uneven number of casualties. As great as the Iron Dome has proved to be, from a propaganda perspective, it is now shifting the sentiment to Israel’s enemy.

When compared to Hamas, Israel has a lot fewer casualties. Hamas continues hiding behind women and children, committing war crimes, and encouraging the population to act as human shields in mosques, hospitals, and homes. Israel even has acquired video evidence of a rocket leaving a mosque. We then sent a warning missile followed by a missile that leveled the building. The world needs to remember that without the Iron Dome, Israel would have had hundreds of injuries and casualties. It’s unreal to think that such a success story is creating a problem at the same time.

It is now 8:00 p.m., and we are waiting for my dad’s friends to come over for dinner. On the news Hamas just announced they have stronger missiles that will reach Tel Aviv at 9:00 p.m. tonight. Our guest called within one minute and cancelled. This is the psychological warfare that Hamas is trying to implement.

Most of the injuries are not physical but instead are psychological. Think about it, if you were living here, how long would it take for you to forget what you experienced? The stress the situation is bringing into Israel will be felt for years to come by all ages.

We are now waiting as Israel is still debating sending in ground troops. It troops are sent in, one thing is certain: Israel will have many casualties. At this point we will have to wait and see what happens.

I stand strong with Israel!!

Peace - Shalom
Whose war is it now?

By Dan Gordon

Israel Defense Forces

If there was ever any doubt before, there is none now.

This is Hamas’ war. They wanted it. They got it. They own it.

And they own all the consequences that will befall their own people whose lives and well-being, whose property and livelihoods they have so callously exploited.

Why? For two reasons:

1. To maintain their own power, and
2. To follow the directives of their Iranian puppet masters.

The first and foremost reason they wanted this war was, and is, to maintain their own power; to maintain the slantreghold they have on the hapless people of Gaza. Following their bloodyhirst coup against their fellow Palestinians, they faced what seems to have been an unexpected problem. Now that they had indeed “occupied” Gaza, they had to rule it. That means mundane things like providing electricity and water, processing raw sewage, collecting garbage, and providing the conditions, which would create, if not economic growth, at least prevent Gaza from falling into abject misery and poverty.

At all of these things, they have utterly and completely failed.

There is over forty percent unemployment. Indeed, they have failed so miserably that within the last few months they were not able even to pay the salaries of their own soldiers and bureaucrats.

Thus, for the first time they were actually beginning to face demonstrations against their completely corrupt and incompetent regime, which they feared could become the first cracks in the dikes holding back a flood of discontent that could sweep them from power. At the same time, they were being pressured from newer breeds of terrorists like ISIS, Al Quida, and Islamic Jihad, who perceived them as too tame toward Israel. Thus, their calculation was that a limited war against Israel, even one they knew they would lose, would be to their advantage. It would rally the populace around the flag, focus it’s anger at Israel instead of the Gazans’ own rulers, and prove their terrorist street cred to their competitors.

In order to hype a conflict for which their own population showed absolutely no appetite, they promised “surprises” for the Zionist enemy, if not actual military victory. They dug tunnels under Israel’s borders and intended to use them to infiltrate with their most elite commandos, who would then kill and kidnap as many Israeli CIVILIANS as possible.

Instead, Israel discovered the tunnel and used it against them. We used it to allow our own commandos to attack and wipe out the entire force, which Hamas had hoped and promised would provide their own version of “Shock and Awe.” When they infiltrated a terrorist cell onto Zigim beach near Ashkelon, Israeli forces discovered and destroyed them.

They have to date launched over 1,300 short, medium-, and long-range missiles against Israel, promising to devastation the Israeli civilian population against whom their rockets were aimed. They promised to “Open the Gates of Hell” on the Zionist enemy.

Instead, thanks to its Iron Dome missile-defense system, a civil defense operation second to none in the world, and a civilian population which has displayed the grace and courage under fire reminiscent of London under the Blitz, yesterday Israel suffered its first and only fatality; a civilian, father of three who had gone out to deliver food to the soldiers. Just a nice man, doing a good deed. That is, thus far, “Hamas’ Divine Victory.”

The only misery they have managed to inflict has been that which they have visited against their own people.

There is the second reason Hamas decided to go to war against Israel. Their Iranian puppet masters told them to. In that way, Iran, engaged in supposed nuclear negotiations with the West, could now say, “How can we make concessions to any kind when the Zionist enemy is committing genocide in Gaza?” That, after all, is the tune to which Iran has taught its Hezbollah and Hamas puppets to dance, a terrorist two-step, if you will, to commit acts of terror against Israel’s civilian population while hiding behind your own civilian population; launch your rockets from schoolyards, mosques, hospital courtyards, and crowded neighborhoods, and then, when Israel, having no other choice but to strike those rocket launchers, attacks them, accuse Israel of genocide. That way you can both be a terrorist and claim the mantle of victimhood.

One can’t blame them for doing it, because to a degree it works. There are too only many apologists and enablers in the West for whom this perversion of Genocide, that is, the murder of one’s own people, is anathema. You can still be a Xian and kidnap as many Israeli CIVILIANS as you like, and it’s not murder, because to a degree it works.

That Hamas started this war is beyond doubt. They began by launching rockets into southern Israel in clear violation of the 2012 cease-fire agreement, which was the result of the last war they started with Israel.

But Israel didn’t respond, saying instead “calm would be better than calm.”

Then Khaled Mashal, Chairman of the Hamas political bureau — not its military wing mind you, but the supposedly more moderate, political wing — issued a public call for Hamas cells in the West Bank to kidnap Israelis. One of those cells answered the call. They kidnapped three Israeli schoolboys on their way home from school and then murdered them in cold blood, laughing and singing as they did so, “We got three! We got three.”

And still Israel did not attack Gaza. Instead, it carried out a police action in the West Bank, trying to put Hamas out of operation there before they could turn the West Bank into another Hamas state only a few miles from Tel Aviv.

Of course, there were those who then pointed to the horrific torture and murder of a Palestinian teenager by a demented group of Israeli murderous thugs as a sure sign that there was a moral equivalence in this struggle. “The Palestinians killed three Jews; the Jews killed a Palestinian teen.” What’s more, a handful of Israeli police brutally beat the Palestinian/American teenaged cousin of the murdered boy.

There is no denying that every society has cold-blooded murderous thugs. But look at the difference in the actions of Hamas and Israel. Hamas did nothing to try to identify and arrest the murderers of the three Israeli students; Israel, in stark contrast, identified and arrested the thugs that perpetrated the nastily actions on the Palestinians.

But let’s say you just don’t buy that. Let’s say you simply believe the Zionist racist society was indeed committing genocide in Gaza. Yesterday, Egypt, a Moslem Arab state, offered up a cease-fire proposal, which Israel accepted unconditionally. It was to have gone into affect at 9:00 a.m. this morning. There was a chance to end the bloodshed, end the suffering, not just of the Israeli people but especially that of the Palestinian people in Gaza, about whom so many in the world have rightly expressed so much concern. There was a chance to cut the supposed cycle of violence.

Hamas gave its answer within an hour. They launched a barrage of rockets at Israel’s most populous city, Tel Aviv. Had it not been for the Iron Dome intercepting all of them, there would have been thousands, not hundreds, of casualties. Since then another hundred rockets have rained down on Israel.

I had the dubious honor of having had Iron Dome keep me above ground once again.

This morning there was a chance for a cycle of peace.

Hamas has answered that with war. Now there can be no doubt as to the legitimacy of what Israel must do. And what, all in all, is Israel’s goals in this conflict?

Not peace. We know that won’t happen as long as Hamas’s charter says “We look forward to the fulfillment of the promise that the time will come when the Muslims will rise up and kill the Jews until the rocks and the trees cry out, ‘O Muslim, there is a Jew hid behind me, Come and kill him.’” That’s their charter. Their’s “We the People.”

No, we’re not so naive as to believe that this will be the war to end all wars, and that peace will descend upon our beleaguered nation. Our goal, our hope, our prayer is just for a few more years of quiet in which to raise our children and grandchildren. Until the next time, we have to fight simply for the right to live in the Jewish state.

But make no mistake. From now on, this is Hamas’s war. Only those who prefer to see the sheep’s clothing, rather than acknowledge the wolf within, will see it for anything else.

Dan Gordon is an award-winning screenwriter of such motion pictures as The Hurricane, starring Denzel Washington, and Wyatt Earp, starring Kevin Costner. His plays have been performed on Broadway and in London’s West End. He serves in the Israel Defense Forces as a captain (reserves), assigned to the Military Spokesperson’s Unit.
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Kosher Affairs

BY Roberta Scher

Once again, we are enjoying—or shall I say enduring—the long, hot Atlanta summer. No complaints here—I love all four seasons in Atlanta! However, by the time this column goes to press, I will be leaving Hotlanta and heading North, on my way to the annual Fancy Food Show, a summer highlight for me.

Since 1955, the Fancy Food Shows (winter in San Francisco, summer in New York City) have been North America’s largest specialty food and beverage marketplaces, presenting over 260,000 innovative products. What a fabulous foodie experience.

Over the past 10 years, I have watched the kosher selection at these shows grow and grow and grow. This year, I was pleased to discover that several of the products chosen as finalists for the show’s coveted sofi Awards (Specialty Outstanding Food Innovation) are certified kosher. The award is considered the specialty food industry’s most prestigious honor. The 2014 competition attracted 2,737 entries.

How wonderful for kosher eaters that so many prestigious, quality brands have chosen to go kosher. These brands recognize and embrace the business benefits and expanding market for products with kosher certification. I have had the pleasure of trying some of these products, and, of course, I will let you know if any of the kosher certified brands take home the gold statuette. A final round of judging for these awards will be held at the Summer Fancy Food Show.

By category, the 2014 kosher-certified sofi finalists include:

Classic: Lotus Foods Forbidden Rice

Forbidden rice is an ancient grain, eaten by the emperors of China and thought to give increased health and longevity. It is a medium-grain heirloom rice, treasured for its roasted nutty taste, soft texture, and deep purple color. It is kosher certified by the Scroll K. For more information, visit www.lotusfoods.com.

Oil: Ascolano Extra Virgin Olive Oil by Lucero Olive Oil

Not your average olive oil, this exquisite, internationally acclaimed, award-winning olive oil is the result of three generations of farming and producing olives in Northern California. Certified Kof-K kosher, it is 100% Ascolano extra virgin olive oil, cold pressed, unfiltered, and naturally grown in Corning, California. Visit www.LuceroOliveOil.com.

Pasta, Rice or Grain: Spaghettini Matt Monograno USDA Certified Organic Product: Rigatoni Kamut Monograno

Kudos to Pasticcio Felicetti of Italy for obtaining OU certification of their exceptional pastas, which have earned the company a double nomination this year. I contend that pasta should be treated like fine wine, chocolate, and coffee. Pastas from Felicetti of Italy have been recognized in two sofi categories. Both are organic and exceptional in texture and taste. The Spaghettini is a traditional long pasta and lovely to serve topped with classic Italian sauces. The rigatoni is a short pasta, perfect for cheesy or sauced casserole. Visit www.felicetti.it/en.

Snack Food: Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Macaroons by Hail Merry

These gluten-free and vegan macaroons, certified Star-K parve, are crafted with organic fair-trade chocolates, almond flour, and organic maple syrup from a family farm in Vermont. They are great at room temperature or mixed into ice cream. They won Best of Show at Natural Foods Expo West 2014. Visit www.hailmerry.com/our-story.

Snack Food: Coconut Snack Bars by Simple Squares

This company’s motto is “See how delicious simple can taste.” Simple Squares produces what it calls “unfired fare,” with simple ingredients. The nominated organic coconut snack bars contain cashews, almonds, honey, unsweetened coconut, vanilla, and sea salt. They are raw and paleo-friendly, protein rich, low in sodium and sugar, and a good source of fiber. They have no wheat, gluten, dairy, corn, soy, or refined sugars. The are Apple K kosher certified. And yes, they taste great! Visit shop.simplesquares.com/coconut.

As an admitted foodie, I am feeling motivated and excited by all of the kosher food choices, some of which have finally come to Atlanta and are available at the new kosher market, The Spicy Peach. If you haven’t yet been there, I suggest that you visit.

Happy 5th Anniversary, Fuego Mundo. Congratulations for bringing top-notch Latin dining to Atlanta, and thank you for making that dining kosher. Each time I visit, I enjoy the food, the atmosphere, and, yes, those wonderful red sangrias.

I still have a kosher restaurant wish list for Atlanta, but more about that in another column.
Summer Gazpacho
Adapted from a recipe by Alton Brown, The Food Network

1 1/2 pounds vine-ripened tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped* Tomato juice 1 cup cucumber, peeled, seeded, and chopped 1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper 1/2 cup chopped red onion 1 small jalapeno, seeded, and minced 1 medium garlic clove, minced 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil 1 lime, juiced 2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce 1/2 teaspoon toasted, ground cumin (or, if you prefer, cilantro) 1 teaspoon kosher salt 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper 2 tablespoons fresh basil leaves, sliced chiffonade-style (cut into long, thin strips)

Place the tomatoes and juice into a large mixing bowl. Add the cucumber, bell pepper, red onion, jalapeno, garlic clove, olive oil, lime juice, balsamic vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, cumin, salt, and pepper, and stir to combine. Transfer 1 1/2 cups of the mixture to a blender, and puree for 15-20 seconds on high speed. Return the pureed mixture to the bowl, and stir to combine. Cover and chill for 2 hours and up to overnight. Serve with chiffonade of basil.

* How to peel and seed tomatoes: Fill a 6-quart pot halfway with water, set over high heat, and bring to a boil. Make an X with a paring knife on the bottom of each tomato. Drop the tomatoes into the boiling water for 15 seconds, remove, and transfer to an ice bath. Allow to cool until able to handle, approximately 1 minute. Remove, and pat dry. Peel, core and seed the tomatoes. When seeding the tomatoes, place the seeds and pulp into a fine mesh strainer set over a bowl, in order to catch the juice. Press as much of the juice through as possible, and then add enough bottled tomato juice to bring the total to 1 cup.

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No-Bake Dark Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie
Adapted from Mayim’s Vegan Table by Mayim Bialik with

Dr. Jay Gordon (Da Capo Press)

Three ingredients, one prepared pie crust; that’s it. It’s simple to make and tastes like a peanut butter cup. Top it with sliced bananas, decorate it with whipped cream, or just eat it straight out of the pie dish. Enjoy this fabulous, simple recipe. Serves 8.

2 cups vegan dark chocolate chips 1 1/2 cups creamy peanut butter 1 (13.5 ounce) can coconut milk Prepared vegan pie crust, preferably graham cracker

Melt the chocolate chips in a glass bowl in the microwave, stirring twice, about 3 minutes. Remove, and stir until the chocolate is completely melted. Stir in the peanut butter and coconut milk until combined. Pour into prepared crust and refrigerate until firm, about 2 hours.

Honey Dijon Chicken Breasts
Adapted from a recipe by Sunny Anderson, The Food Network

Serves 4.

2 tablespoons honey 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil, plus more for grill 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt Freshly ground black pepper, to taste 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts, butterflied 1 lime, cut into wedges

In a small bowl, combine the honey, mustard, 1 tablespoon of oil, salt, and pepper. Mix well, and put the mixture into a large plastic resealable bag. Add the chicken, seal the bag, and shake. Refrigerate at least 2 hours.

Remove the chicken from the bag, and arrange it on a well-oiled grill, pre-heated to medium. Cook until a nice crust forms on both sides, about 4 to 5 minutes per side. Let the chicken rest on a serving platter, covered with foil, for 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with lime wedges.

To learn how to easily butterfly a chicken breast, watch this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycjQfP3Mp2k

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Guacamole Deviled Egg Salad FLTs
Adapted from a recipe by Rachael Ray, The Food Network

I often watch the bubbly Rachael Ray, always thinking how to re-make her recipes with kosher substitutions. This one was easy to adapt. We simply used Facon instead of bacon, and the BLT became the FLT. Otherwise, everything else is the same. This sandwich—or as Rachael calls it, a “sandmie”—is delish.

Serves 4.

This recipe can be served as an open faced sandwich, or as a dip alongside chips.

12 slices Jack’s Gourmet Facon* 1/2 red onion, finely chopped 1 standard green jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped 1 red jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped 1 large clove garlic, grated or finely chopped Salt Juice of 1 1/2 limes 2 large ripe Hass avocados, pitted and scooped from skins A small handful of cilantro, chopped 12 eggs, hard-boiled and peeled Cayenne pepper hot sauce (2-3 teaspoons), such as Frank’s Red Hot Romaine hearts, sliced Vine tomatoes, sliced 4 baguettes (8-10 inches each), split, if serving as a sandwich

Prepare the Facon according to package directions.

Place the chopped onion, chili peppers, and garlic in a bowl. Salt liberally, then douse with lime juice; let stand for 10 minutes. Add the avocados and cilantro and mash with a potato masher until fairly smooth. Peel and chop the egg whites and yolks and dress with hot sauce, salt and pepper. Add the eggs to the guacamole and combine to make the salad.

Serve on split baguettes with romaine and tomatoes.

As an alternative, you can serve the mash-up of egg salad and guacamole as a brunch dip, wrapped in a bowl and topped with chopped tomatoes, Facon, and sliced romaine hearts, alongside tortilla chips for dipping.

* Facon is kosher and available at The Spicy Peach or at jacksgourmet.com.

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Adapted from a recipe by Sunny Anderson, The Food Network

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Three ingredients, one prepared pie crust; marketed and sold as a sandwich—or as a dip alongside chips. This recipe can be served as an open faced sandwich, or as a dip alongside chips.

1 1/2 cups creamy peanut butter 2 cups vegan dark chocolate chips Prepared vegan pie crust, preferably graham cracker

Melt the chocolate chips in a glass bowl in the microwave, stirring twice, about 3 minutes. Remove, and stir until the chocolate is completely melted. Stir in the peanut butter and coconut milk until combined. Pour into prepared crust and refrigerate until firm, about 2 hours.

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Memories of Rich’s

BY Marice Katz

On Monday morning, May 12, a friend and I headed to The Breman Museum to see the “Return to Rich’s” exhibition. Rich’s was truly a beloved Atlanta institution. You can certainly understand our excitement as we shared our own recollections.

It was only about 10:30 a.m. when we arrived, and we were alone at first. We looked at and read everything we could. It was all so interesting.

A special feature was that you could use your cell phone to access recordings by someone you might know (e.g., Former Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell) talking about how Dick Rich used to make trips around the store and talk to customers or employees. Or you could hear about dining at the Magnolia Room.

There were wonderful artifacts throughout the exhibition, including a fine portrait of Mr. Rich. There were dresses spanning the decades and a section on Sol Kent, who started Fashionata, in 1945.

There were many reasons that Rich’s was so successful. It was the “store that married a city,” according to the title of a 1949 article in The Saturday Evening Post.

“They did not merely identify with the life of the city and the state, it was naturally and absolutely a true part of this life,” said Dick Rich. Rich’s “believed that their customers were first priority—that no transaction was complete until the customer was satisfied,” writes exhibition curator Dr. Catherine Lewis. The return policy at Rich’s was unique—you could bring back any item, no matter how long ago it was purchased, and it was replaced or your money was refunded.

When Mr. Rich died on May 1, 1975, an era in retail came to an end. The store merged with Federated the next year and, in 2005, became Macy’s.

The Breman Museum and its entire staff hit a homerun with this exhibition.
Kosher Korner

THE MEANING OF CHALLAH. Anyone who has ever passed by a Jewish bakery will be aware of the enchanting aroma of challah. Challah is bread that has its own form of supervision or no supervision. Challah is essential to Shabbos meals, as braided loaves of bread become sanctified to a higher purpose. Challah is the first morsel of food to enter a person’s mouth after Kiddush is made on Friday night or Shabbos day; it signifies the beginning of a meal.

The significance of challah in the Jewish world and much more about the holiness of shabbos was conveyed by the Jewish Student Union’s Executive Director Rabbi Chaim Neiditch to hundreds of teens, as he visited a dozen clubs at metro Atlanta high schools.

Rabbi Neiditch went on to teach the teens that the concept of challah originally came from the manna from Heaven that G-d provided to the Jews in the desert, after the Exodus. We’ve continued the tradition today to signify G-d’s continued sustaining of his Chosen People.

Participants also made their own challahs. Rolling, kneading, matting, shaping, and braiding the dough gave the teens an appreciation of the effort the goes into making challahs. The reward? The sweet smell of challahs baking and then, finally, the incomparable taste of challah at the Shabbos table.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF KOSHER CATERING

1. Never assume. Sometimes, an event from a Jewish organization may not be kosher.
2. “Kosher style” is usually not kosher.
3. Some kosher caterers have non-kosher divisions, or they may cater food in an institution that has its own form of supervision or no supervision.
4. Sometimes, meat and fish will be at the same buffet. They should not be eaten together.
5. Sometimes, dishes may contain cheeses, thus requiring a six-hour wait before meat can be eaten. (For example, ranch dressing or pizza may contain Parmesan.)
6. Restaurants that are exclusively Chalav Yisrael will cater non-Chalav Yisrael events or cater out of a synagogue kitchen that is not Chalav Yisrael.
7. Most flatbreads, cornbreads, mezonzos, rolls, and tortillas require washing and benching.
8. One of our restaurants makes a yucca “cheese” bread that is a shukrool bread and pareve.
9. If pareve foods, such as French fries or falafel balls, are fried in meat oil, they will be rendered fleischig.
10. If in doubt, ask for the mashgiach.

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.

JSU News

The following JSU teens participated in the Holocaust memorial service: Tal Oren, Riley Pinson, and Lee Setty, Alpharetta JSU; Chase Barron, Leigh Collier, Maddi Kahn, Morgan Kahn, Julia Lee, Samantha Horwitz, and Celia Senerman, Centennial JSU; Carly Clark and Sara Rountree, Chamblee JSU; Adam Estroff, Chattahoochee JSU; Samuel Trump, Dunwoody JSU; Isabella Cantor and Seth Gregson, Lakeside JSU; Allison Fine, Marshall Fine, Braden Greenbaum, and Ruby Zimmerman, Lassiter JSU; Gal Moskovitch, Northview JSU; David Goldfarb, Eden Kalfon, Noa Kalfon, and Gabby Naturman, Riverwood JSU.

The JSU teens received overwhelmingly positive feedback about their respectful and helpful participation and received free passes for their families to The Bremen Museum as a token of appreciation for their efforts.

Addressing the graduating seniors, parents, and faculty members in his speeches, Rabbi Neiditch touched on the importance of family, setting life goals, and believing in oneself. Parents in the audience were delighted to see the prominence given to the Jewish Student Union and to hear from the rabbi who meant so much to their children. However, no one was quite as exuberant as the teens, who had received Jewish pride and a deep sense of belonging alongside their high school diplomas.

Rabbi Neiditch is director of supervision for the Atlanta Kashruth Commission, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting kashruth through education, research, and supervision.
SUMMER FUN. Over the summer, The Davis Academy is home to several community day camps. One week, the Lower and Middle School buildings played host to The Hawks Basketball Camp. Amid the empty hallways and classrooms, it was nice to see familiar faces, as several Davis students were campers. Shown here with Harry the Hawk are Davis Academy students Isaac Goldman, Sam Mahle, Jared Berenthal, Andrew Altmann, Max London, Ryan Gold, and Eli Minsk, at the Middle School basketball camp.

DAVIS MATHLETES. During the spring Noetic Learning Math Contest, 80% of Davis Academy participating students received National Honorable Mention or higher. The students pictured had scores that earned them placement on the National Honor Roll: (front, from left) Mick Shrubstock, third grade; Jared Forman, fourth grade; and Caleb Mahle, third grade; (back) Tyler McMahon, fifth grade; Samuel Durbin, fourth grade; Will Hopkins, fifth grade; and Sydney Leahy, fourth grade.

GIVING BACK. The Davis Academy Mechina: Kindergarten Prep class had a year-long tzedakah project benefiting Amy’s Holiday Party, through Creating Connected Communities. The four- and five-year-olds made decorations and raised over $130 for the party, the most ever raised by any Davis Mechina class. Amy’s Holiday Party is held in December and provides a holiday experience for underprivileged children. Pictured: (front row) Remy Rosenberg, Hannah Rosenberg, Carly Coffey, Joey Mekyten, Matan Levi, Ryan Kasmen, Emma Hatton, Marisa Ragghianti, and Ashlyn Bens; and (back) Lucas Fineman, Ethan Lipman, Jake Tessler, Amy Zeide, Hallie Moore, and Jenna Cohen.

MACY’S INTERNSHIP. Outstanding essays and interviews earned Davis seventh-graders Abbi Goldberg, Joelle Zelony, Hannah York, Sophia Gurin, and Isabella McCullough (pictured) a unique opportunity to shadow Macy’s employees and learn about the retail industry from the inside, on Sunday, May 18. Mr. David Rifkin, seventh-grade language arts teacher, facilitated the project.

CAMP JENNY. The Davis Academy fifth grade spent this school year working on its tzedakah project benefiting Camp Jenny, a NFTY Mitzvah project that sends underprivileged elementary school students to Camp Coleman during Memorial Day weekend. Students raised money to support the annual Camp Jenny carnival, collected backpacks for the campers, and helped get camp ready the day before the campers arrived. Here, Bryan Kopkin, Lucas Jannett, and Eric Shindell help sort and distribute T-shirts for the campers.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS. Davis Academy fourth-graders had an unforgettable day at the Wahsega 4-H Center, which included wading through a stream to discover aquatic life, baking cornbread, panning for gold, making candles, and dissecting locusts. For many, the most exciting part of the day was a rigorous fitness program to demonstrate that they could survive in challenging situations. During the ecology program, students were excited to have caught a creek frog. Pictured: (clockwise from bottom left) Amalia Havis, Alexia Freedman, Lily Stark, Annalise Hardy, Alon Rogow, Sasha Wildstein, and Grayce Sheinis.

DIG IT. Students in TDSA’s seventh-grade Navi class created their very own archaeological dig, a creative way to share the rich and vast Jewish history lessons they have learned.

MORNING PRAYER. The seventh-grade boys in Rabbi Alterman’s TDSA class trekked up Stone Mountain for morning davening to simulate the Har Sinai experience.

ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOR. TDSA’s second-grade girls enjoyed a rich extracurricular unit on good manners, with professional etiquette teacher Mrs. Kaye Green. They learned how to greet guests and hosts, how to serve guests, how to take food from a buffet, and so much more. Their culminating activity was a special mother-daughter tea party.
TIME-SENSITIVE. Dr. Alan Feingold, TD’A’s K-5 science teacher, taught the second-grade boys how to make and read sundials. The boys were able to tell the time of the day, even taking Daylight Saving Time into consideration.

CHESED AWARD. The Epstein School’s Juliana Zitron has received the 2013-14 Hadassah Chesed Award. Chesed means act of kindness; the award is given each year to an eighth-grader who has demonstrated academic excellence, care and concern for his or her fellow man, an appreciation for his or her Jewish heritage, and a love for Israel.

GHA GRADUATION. Greenfield Hebrew Academy graduates took to the stage for a graduation presentation that incorporated words of Torah, music, and video. They addressed thoughts from Pirkei Avot (Ethics of Our Forefathers) for guidance on the road ahead of them and shared their memories of their senior trip to Israel. Pictured: (from right) Sammy Frankel, Nate Linsider, and Ben Ogden

WELCOME RABBI HECHT. Rabbi Pinchos Hecht has been named head of school of the newly combined Greenfield Hebrew Academy/Yeshiva Atlanta, known as Atlanta Jewish Academy. Rabbi Hecht will be instrumental in making sure the new school stays true to the principles that have helped shape Greenfield Hebrew Academy and Yeshiva Atlanta, while also making sure the new school produces the most unique and talented high school graduates in the country. Rabbi Hecht is focused on creating a community of caring that focuses on the needs of the children and their best interests.

A NIGHT AT THE ZOO. First-graders at GHA created and sold bookmarks to raise funds for their annual overnight trip to Zoo Atlanta, which took place at the end of the school year. Accompanied by parents and teachers, the students watched presentations and had the chance to meet some animals up close before they retired to their sleeping bags. In the morning, they enjoyed a private tour of the zoo. Here, Kayla Joel takes a ride on the zoo’s merry-go-round.

ITV CHIMES. To keep pace with a flood of new applications for the coming year, the newly formed Greenfield Elementary School of Atlanta Jewish Academy, is expanding its infant and toddler program, doubling the space for the K’far section of the Infant and Toddler Village (ITV). Children between the ages of 10-12 began lining up before 7:00 a.m. to sign up for their top choices for this year’s Faculty/Staff Summer Reading Program. Students are reading books selected by faculty and staff members in seminar discussions based on their selections. The program fosters lifelong reading; familiarizes students with a wide range of literary genres and universal themes transcending time and place; and challenges students to broaden their experience of what it means to be human.

THE RESULTS ARE IN. As they campaigned for an audience of nearly 150 friends and family members, students demonstrated their knowledge of the five books of the Torah with handmade models of sifrei Torah, songs, and recitations. Using cups as percussion instruments to perform Eretz Zavat Chatum w’D’vatsh, are Amber Lewis (from left), Netanel Gold, Mollee Glazer, Mikey Wilson, Alon Kochav, Leora Frank, and Jaeger Ouanoouou.

TDA GRADUATION. Meira Tisa, outgoing TDA valedictorian, taught the graduating seniors at North Springs High School. The HeschMUN conference addresses issues of their country the delegation represents, leading to resolutions in the various UN committees. The HeschMUN conference addresses issues of the Middle East; Weber represented the Republic of Yemen. The delegates were Talia Katz, Marissa Oves, Aviv Rau, Jeremy Shapiro, Bonnie Simonoff, Sarah Spielberger, and Meira Zibbit. Their advisor is Judaics teacher Marc Levinthal.

A MIGHTY FLAME FOLLOWETH A TINY SPARK. Humanities and Judaics teacher Barbara Rosenblit recently spoke at the Dante Society of America Annual Meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She shared the podium with her two Dante professors, Ron Herzman and William Stephe, and teacher, poet, and winner of the Traum Prize Terry Quinn. Barbara studied with them in Siena, Italy, in 2002 under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

DEEP READING. Weber students in grades 10-12 began lining up before 7:00 a.m. to sign up for their top choices for this year’s Faculty/Staff Summer Reading Program. Students are reading books selected by faculty and staff members in seminar discussions based on their selections. The program fosters lifelong reading; familiarizes students with a wide range of literary genres and universal themes transcending time and place; and challenges students to broaden their experience of what it means to be human.

POETS. Weber Hebrew teachers Ariella Livnat and Elite Shaier led their students in analyzing Hebrew poems and then had them compose poems to enter in RA VSAK’s fourth annual Hebrew Poetry Contest. In the High School Division, Native Hebrew Speaker, Idan Livnat won 1st place and Dotan Brown won an honorable mention; in the High School Division, Non-Native Hebrew Speaker, Ilan Palte and Rachel Jones won 1st and 2nd places, respectively, and Alan Ilyayev, Bonnie Simonoff, and Tova Beeber won honorable mentions. Their poems appear in the summer issue of RA VSAK’s journal of Jewish education, HaDidion, and on its website.

IN GOOD COMPANY. Weber English teacher Sam Bradford was published in Mikroskosmos, the literary journal of Wichita State University’s MFA program. For the journal’s 60th anniversary celebration, held in WSU’s Ulrich Museum of Art, Mr. Bradford read an excerpt from his story. Past contributors to Mikroskosmos include William Burroughs, Charles Plymell, William Stafford, Jeanine Hathaway, Tom Noyes and Justin Nicholes, among others.

THE RESULTS ARE IN. As they campaigned for positions on the Weber Student Council, candidates spoke to the entire school, delivering thoughtful speeches that tackled a wide range of issues. Members of the Student Council 2014-15 Executive Board are: Emma Popowski and Zoey Weissman, presidents; Jake Weiser and Ilan Palte, vice presidents, finance; Sara Murphy and Samantha Leff, vice presidents, communications; and Marissa Oves and Jeremy Shapiro, vice presidents, programming.
Jewish Home Communities News

SPRING LUNCHEON. The Auxiliary, a volunteer and fundraising arm of The William Breman Jewish Home, hosted its annual Spring (Auxiliary) Luncheon, May 19, at The InterContinental Hotel, in Buckhead, with over 250 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. Sue Saban and Cherie Aviv were installed as co-presidents.

Nancy Baron and Nancy Lebovitz were named Volunteers of the Year for their dedication in providing the weekly Tea Time program to residents of The Home and patients at The Aviv Rehabilitation Center.

Billie Greenberg, Miriam Hirsch, Martha Jo Katz, and Ava Wilensky were recognized as Auxiliaries Extraordinaire for The Home’s November 2013 Gala. Hirsch, Katz, and Wilensky planned this extraordinary evening; as sponsorship chair, Greenberg helped facilitate the raising of gross proceeds over $700,000.

The Auxiliary luncheon also offered a fun shopping experience, with vendors selling jewelry, giftware, clothing, and other merchandise. Door prizes and raffle items included a gift certificate to Solomon Brothers, a glass sculpture from Frabel Glass Art Studio, and a Las Vegas vacation trip from Las Vegas Sands Corporation.

AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS HONORED. At the Partners in Senior Life 39th annual conference, held in May, The Auxiliary of The William Breman Jewish Home (The Home) saw two of its members, Phyllis Isenberg and Margie Stern, honored. The Home is a member of PSL, a national organization of professionals, lay leaders, and volunteers who represent agencies that provide senior care services.

Phyllis Isenberg received The Freda & Pearl Schwartz Eishef Chayal Fund—Woman of Valor Award. This award recognizes the hard work and dedication of a seasoned volunteer, over the age of 45, who has devoted more than five years of dedicated service to her Auxiliary organization.

Phyllis’ leadership with The Auxiliary of The Home is extensive. She served as president from 2001-2003 and continues to work behind the scenes, as well as develop young leadership. Phyllis is also on the national board for PSL and worked tirelessly as a change agent to help PSL transition to its new mission, values, and branding structure. Her leadership at PSL not only included revitalizing the board structure but also working with and mentoring other Auxiliary organizations.

Harley Tabak, The Home’s president and CEO, came to the conference to honor Phyllis, who was not aware she was getting this prestigious award. “I was so surprised, humbled, honored, and proud to accept this award,” she said.

In addition to her work with The Auxiliary and PSL, Phyllis is involved at The Home, is president of an Atlanta group home that provides housing for adults with developmental disabilities, and also teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Margie Stern received The Rose M. Richshafer Fund—Senior Mentor Award. This award is given to a volunteer who demonstrates excellence as a role model, advisor, and mentor to fellow Auxiliary members.

Margie, who has been involved with The Auxiliary since 1987, served as Auxiliary co-president from 2009-2011 and currently serves on the Board of The Home. During Margie’s tenure as co-president, she worked to refresh The Auxiliary and bring about new programs, including the Bell Ringer program. She engaged existing and new members to be active participants, developing new leaders for The Auxiliary.

Margie continues to be an active Auxiliary volunteer, whether it is being a manicurist on Wednesdays or designing invitations for signature events.

“I’m so proud to have been presented with this award,” said Margie, “I believe it is important to encourage our new and young members to become more involved and take on leadership roles. I am delighted that I can be a resource for them.”

In addition to her work with The Auxiliary and The Home, Margie is vice president of membership at The Breman Jewish Heritage & Holocaust Museum.
By Erin O‘Shinsky

FIDF GALA. On May 15, The Friends of the IDF Southeast Region hosted its 2014 Atlanta Gala Dinner, A Night to Honor the Soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces. Over 400 FIDF supporters gathered at the Georgia Aquarium and raised more than $450,000 for programs supporting the wellbeing of the men and women who serve in the IDF.

FIDF National Board Member and Chairman of the Southeast Region Garry Sobel and Lt. Avihai Rigbi, honoring fallen soldiers (Photos: Greg Mooney)

FIDF IMPACT! Scholarship recipient Karina Shatainulf and FIDF IMPACT! Scholarship donor Lindy Shallcross

ATLANTA JEWISH TEEN FOUNDATION. The Atlanta Jewish Teen Foundation is accepting applications from high school sophomores and juniors who want the chance to make the ultimate charitable decision: allocating $10,000 to the non-profit organization or program they choose. During 11 sessions, 20 teens will establish priorities, create a grant application for charities to compete, conduct interviews, and select a recipient. The program mirrors the process that the Federation undergoes each spring, to determine how Annual Campaign funds will be disbursed. Applications, due August 15, can be found at jewishatlanta.org/page.aspx?id=258281. For information, contact Jillian Wagenheim at jwagenheim@jfga.org or 404-870-1869.

FIDF National Board Member and Chairman of the Southeast Region Executive Director Seth Baron and his wife, Susan Baron

PROUD SCOUTS. Members of Cub Scout Pack 1818 are recognized for achieving their next rank at the Blue and Gold, held at Gesher L’Torah. Pictured (from left, front) are Drew Heller, Noah Diamon, Daniel Getzow, and Ben Beck, with their parents (back) Matt, Dyann, Barry, and Mark, respectively.

COB’S FIRST MIKVAH. On July 1, the Cobb County Jewish community made history at a groundbreaking ceremony for its first mikvah. There are many detailed laws that are critical to a mikvah’s construction, and the local community worked with world-renowned experts, who guided the plans and construction. In the modern era, mikvaos resemble elaborate, upscale spas, allowing the aesthetics to express the inner beauty and sanctity of this tradition. For information, visit www.chabadofcobb.com.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AT NER TAMID. Reform Jewish Congregation Ner Tamid conducts weekly Religious School classes, Pre-K through 12th grade, including Hebrew in the upper grades, confirmation, and b’ni mitzvah. Religious School begins August 17. For information, visit www.myneretamid.org, or call 678-264-8575. The congregation, a Union for Reform Judaism member, established in 2006, has held services and religious school in various West Cobb locations and just moved into its own space in the Kennesaw Mountain Business Park. Its Religious School follows the Institute of Southern Jewish Life curriculum.

Thought you’d like to know

By Jonathan Barach

PHOTOGRAPHY, YOGA, PEACE. “Peace: What Does It Mean to You?” a multimedia community art project, runs through October 5, at The Bremen Museum. Featuring “A Peace of My Mind,” a photography exhibition by John Noltner, the project fosters public dialogue about issues related to conflict resolution, civic responsibility, and peace. Profiles include Holocaust survivors, a homeless man, crime victims, and regular folks from all walks of life. There is a full schedule of related programming, including photography workshops with Joel Silverman and free yoga for members with Eleonora Lipton. For more information, visit thebremen.org.

A STOLEN LIFE. The Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris, France, is presenting its touring exhibition “Hélène Berr, A Stolen Life,” through August 10, at the Mairie and John Burke Memorial Library, Spring Hill College, in Mobile, Alabama. Berr was a young Jewish French woman whose promising future was brutally cut short by Vichy Government’s laws and the Nazis’ extermination plan; this exhibition is based on her journal. For more information, contact the library at 251-380-3870, or visit she.edu/calendar.

PJ LIBRARY SHABBAT STORY TIME. Enjoy a Shabbat-themed story time, every Friday through July 25, 9:45 a.m., at In the City Camp, at Emory University. Story time is best suited for children 5-8 years old; they do not have to be campers to attend. In the City Camp gives children the character-building experience of Jewish overnight camp in a day camp setting. For information, contact Lisa Lebovitz at 678-222-3722.

POOL PARTIES. Dive Into Shabbat is July 25, August 1, and August 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m., at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta. This free program includes Shabbat songs and blessings, with Rabbi Brian Glusman, at 6:00 p.m. On July 25, cast members from the MCCA’s Les Misérables production will perform. Bring a picnic, or purchase kosher pizza, drinks, and snacks from the outdoor grill; free ice pops, challah, and grape juice are provided. For details, contact Rabbi Glusman, 678-812-4161 or rabbiglusman@atlantajcc.org. In case of threatening weather, call the weather hotline, 678-812-4011, the afternoon of the event.

COMMUNAL SHABBAT SERVICE. The 6th Annual Reform Movement Shabbat is August 1, 6:30 p.m., at The Temple. This summer, the entire Atlanta Reform Jewish community will gather together for a communal Shabbat service honoring Rabbi Alvin Sugarman, rabbi emeritus, The Temple; Rabbi Phil Kranz, rabbi emeritus, Temple Sinai; and Rabbi Donald Tam, rabbi emeritus, Temple Beth Tikvah. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship together as one Reform family. For those saying Kaddish, a comprehensive yahrtzeit list from all the participating congregations will be read. An Oneg will follow. For information, visit http://www.the-temple.org/calendar.aspx.

TASTE OF JUDAISM. Taste of Judaism is a multi-session class, welcoming unaffiliated Jews, interfaith couples, and those of other religious backgrounds who are curious about Jewish tradition. The sessions, which explore Jewish spirituality, values, and community, are free and open to the public. The next
Schwartz on Sports

BY Jerry Schwartz

BERNIE MARINO TALKS BASEBALL AT MJCCA EDGewise. At the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, on April 24, Sid Stein introduced Edgewise speaker Bernie Marino as a “fanatic baseball fan.” After listening to Bernie speak about our National Pastime, I would agree. Everything was baseball, particularly Joe DiMaggio, the Yankees, the Braves 400 Fan Club, and the Baseball Hall of Fame.

We even started out the program by singing, “Take Me Out to the Ballgame,” ironically led by a Red Sox fan. I expected Kate Smith to come back from the dead to lead us in the singing of “God Bless America.”

Bernie had Braves hats and foam tomahawks for everyone, and I proudly wore my Braves 1966 National League Pennant Championship T-shirt. There were many others there dressed in baseball shirts and hats.

Two true baseball fans: Stan Sobel (left) and Ronnie Klee

I learned a lot about Joe DiMaggio—The Yankee Clipper, Joltin’ Joe, and husband of Marilyn Monroe. What an unusual marriage that was. Bernie took us through Joe’s life, from growing up in California to becoming a New York Yankee in 1936, to being inducted in The Hall of Fame in 1955, and beyond. For a quiet, stoic, modest, unsophisticated guy, he had quite a life of fame and fortune.

Of course, his record of getting at least one hit in 56 consecutive games may never be broken. If he could have reached 57, Heinz 57 would have given him a $10,000 promotion deal. He ended his career with the Yankees, in 1949, by saying, “I’d like to thank the good Lord for making me a Yankee.” He really brought home to the uniform.

Bernie’s talk included the Baseball Hall of Fame and the three Atlanta Braves who will be inducted this year: Bobby Cox, Tom Glavine, and Greg Maddux. Bernie has been a great supporter of the Braves since he moved to Atlanta in 1972; he served as president of the Braves 400 Fan Club.

Bernie concluded his presentation by giving us a baseball quiz. I’m proud to say I got eight out of ten right, but never realized that Hank Aaron had at one time in his major league career worn the number 5.

I was one of 28 men and women in attendance at this program and enjoyed getting to meet and hear that “fantastic baseball fan,” Bernie Marino.

BASKETBALL BUNCH AT LUNCH. The 6th Basketball Bunch at Lunch took place May 5, at Taco Mac, in The Prado. Those attending played in the ACC Men’s Basketball League sometime between the years 1965-1985. We had 32 ex-players attending, breaking our old record of 29; eight had never before been at a BBAL. Everyone had a good time and promised to bring more first timers to our next get-together.

The planning committee—Stan Sobel, Howie Frustick, Ray Taratoot, and I—came up with a few new ideas that were well received. Everyone had a nametag, to account for senior moments. Everyone introduced himself and shared one thing he remembered from the days in the league. This gave us another chance to connect with one another. We also had two tables full of memorabilia of that 20-year period, from the “Schwartz Archives.” Lots of memories were revived after looking at some of the pictures and reading the articles. I know that I always get enjoyment out of doing it, and I’m glad I’ve collected all this memorabilia over the years. Basketball at the ACC and the association with the game over the years has always been a big part of my life.

We also changed the seating arrangement so that guys weren’t stuck at one long table, but could get up and mingle.

Because of the time it took to order and eat, we didn’t get a chance to try our other new activity: the first BBAL Trivia Contest, for the years 1965-1985. I had 12 good questions ready and a few tiebreakers, just in case someone got them right. I’ll have to save that for the next get-together.

It was ironic, though, that several questions I was going to ask were answered in the introduction segment and while guys talked informally at their tables. I have to throw out all questions relating to the “special” rules the league had, like the fast-break rules and rules pertaining to the designated “A” players having to sit out four consecutive minutes. Also tossed out were questions related to Howie Frustick as the center’s big man, as well as George Wise playing from 1966 to 2011, until the age of 80. But don’t worry, I’ve got plenty more in the “Archives.” I’m anxious to crown the first BBAL Trivia Contest winner. But that will come next time.

If any “Schwartz on Sports” readers who played in the league between the years 1965-1985 would like to attend our next get-together, please contact me at drjsch7@comcast.net, and we’ll include you. We’re out to break our record again next time.

ALTA COCKER VII. Mother Nature didn’t like the fact that she wasn’t invited to attend the Alta Cocker VII softball game on April 20, even though Father Time was the guest of honor. So, she left the softball fields at the MJCCA a muddy quagmire. Because of the Men’s League play on Sundays, the game has not yet been rescheduled. If we play, you can be certain it will be covered in a future column.

Hope you enjoyed the column. Until next time, drive for the bucket and score.

Thought

From page 37

FAMILY FUN IN THE PARK. Shearith Israel Shelter will host its third annual Family Fun Day and Picnic on Sunday, August 10, 3:30-6:30 p.m., at Glenlake Park and Glenlake Pavilion in Decatur. Bring your food, lawn chairs, glove, bat, ball, and Super Soaker. Watermelon will be provided, and cold drinks will be available for $1. Voluntary contributions of up to $5 will be accepted to help defray costs. For more information, contact Yvette Smith at ysmith@shearithisrael.com or 404-873-1743.

A WEEKEND AT CAMP BARNEY. The first-ever Young Adult Weekend at Camp Barney (ages 21-35 years) is August 15-17, at Camp Barney Medintz. Sleep in a cabin, celebrate Shabbat, enjoy the lake and pool, and socialize with other Atlanta-area young adults. The cost is $199 and includes all meals and entertainment. For more information, contact Roray Shoshan at 678-812-4055 or rooray@atlantajcc.org.

U.S.-ISRAEL CONNECTIONS. conex: America Israel Business Connector presents its 18th Annual Professional and Business Seminar, “Enhancing U.S.-Israel Connections Through Innovation and Expertise,” August 21, 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at The Selig Center. Learn why Israel is a major force in this region’s economy and how to get involved in this mutually beneficial activity through innovation, investment, legal considerations, business culture, trade, and mergers and acquisitions. Keynote speakers are Yosef Abramowitz, president & co-founder EnergiaGlobal, and Kobi Rasner, president, Synergy Overseas.

Register at aicce.chambermaster.com/events/details/2013-professional-seminar-203, or contact Barry Swartz, 404-843-9426 or bsawzt@conex.org, for information.

DIVE INTO SHABBAT INTOWN. Join the MJCCA, Jewish Kids Groups, and PJ Library for an Intown Shabbat Pool Party and Picnic, August 22, 5:00-7:00 p.m. This free program takes place at Emory University’s Student Activity and Academic Center. Open swim begins at 5:00 p.m., followed by songs at 6:00 p.m. Bring a picnic dinner or enjoy free snacks and drinks courtesy of the MJCCA. For details, contact Rabbi Brian Glusman, 678-812-1461 or rabbi.glusman@atlantajcc.org. In case of threatening weather, call the weather hotline, 678-812-4011, of the afternoon of the event.

LIMMUDFEST. The 6th annual LimmudFest is August 29-September 1. This Labor Day weekend, hundreds of Southern Jews of all backgrounds, lifestyles, and ages will gather at Camp Ramah Darom for a weekend of Jewish learning, community, and celebration.

Participants can choose from a full schedule of workshops, discussions, speakers, musical performances, arts, text study, Jewish culture, and ritual, all planned by a diverse community of Limmud volunteers. Kids are welcome; this year, Atlanta’s In The City Camp will provide weekend-long programming and supervision. For more information or to register, visit Limmudfest.org.

HIGH HOLY DAYS AT NER TAMID. Reform Jewish Congregation Ner Tamid will hold High Holy Days Services at 1539 Old Hwy 41, Suite 220, Marietta, beginning September 24, with Erev Rosh Hashana, and ending October 4, with Yom Kippur and a community potluck Break Fast. Tickets are $90 per person (advance purchase only) for all services, which may be applied to membership. Childcare (ages 2-6) is available for a small fee for daytime services. For details and tickets, visit www.mynertamid.org. To learn more about Ner Tamid, attend an Open House, August 10, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, or call 678-264-8575.
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