Song and Sorrow
Harmony, Barry Manilow’s new musical, is based on the true story of a vocal ensemble in 1930s Germany.

By Brian Katzowitz
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21 Years of GILEE
The Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange, founded to meet security needs during the Olympics, remains relevant today.

By Robbie Friedmann
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Even More Friends
Friends of the IDF Georgia Region is expanding throughout the Southeast.

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A Survivor’s Story
Through a remarkable set of circumstances, George Topas survived the horrors of the Holocaust and found peace and success in the U.S.

By Leah Braunstein Levy
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How to Handle a Bully
Josh Perling, a 2nd-degree black belt at Karate Atlanta, organized a bullying prevention seminar for his schoolmates at Sandy Springs Middle School.

Page 45

The Slany-Savannah Connection
In researching a Torah scroll from Slany, Czech Republic, on permanent loan to Congregation Mickve Israel, congregants are discovering surprising links.

By Jane Kahn
Page 46
In the treatment of type 1 Gaucher disease

It’s All About the Details

Talk to your doctor about VPRIV. For more information, go to vpriv.com.

VPRIV is available by prescription only.

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

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

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

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

Please see Brief Summary of the full Prescribing Information on reverse side for additional Important Safety Information.
VP19® (velaglucerase alfa for injection) Rx Only

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

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

VP19 is a recombinant human lysosomal acid alpha-glucosidase specified enzyme indicated for the treatment of Fabry (F) Fabry and adult patients with type 1 Gaucher disease.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The recommended dose is 60 Units/kg administered every other week as a 60-minute intravenous infusion. Patients currently being treated with imiglucerase for type 1 Gaucher disease may be switched to VP19. Patients previously treated on a stable dose of imiglucerase are recommended to begin treatment with VP19 at that same dose when they switch from imiglucerase to VP19.

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

VP19 should be administered under the supervision of a healthcare professional.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

None.

WARNINGs AND PRECAUTIONS

Hypersensitivity Reactions

Hypersensitivity reactions have been reported in patients in clinical studies with VP19 (see ADVERSE REACTIONS). As with any intravenous protein product, hypersensitivity reactions are possible; therefore, appropriate medical support should be readily available when VP19 is administered. If a severe reaction occurs, current medical standards for emergency treatment should be followed.

Treatment with VP19 should be approached with caution in patients who have exhibited symptoms of hypersensitivity to the active ingredient or excipients in the drug product or to other enzyme replacement therapy.

Infusion-related Reactions

Infusion-related reactions were the most commonly observed adverse reactions in patients treated with VP19 in clinical studies. The most commonly observed symptoms of infusion-related reactions were headache, dizziness, hypertension, rash, fatigue, asthenia, and pyrexia. Generally, infusion-related reactions were mild and, in treatment-naive patients, onset occurred mostly during the first 6 months of treatment and tended to occur less frequently with time. The management of infusion-related reactions should be based on the severity of the reaction, e.g., slow the infusion rate, treatment with medications such as antihistamines, antipyretics and/or corticosteroids, and/or stopping and resuming treatment with increased infusion time.

Pre-treatment with antihistamines and/or corticosteroids may prevent subsequent reactions in those cases where symptomatic treatment was required. Patients were not routinely pre-medicated prior to infusion of VP19 during clinical studies.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Clinical Studies Experience

The data described below reflect exposure of 54 patients with type 1 Gaucher disease who received VP19 at doses ranging from 15 Units/kg to 60 Units/kg every other week in 5 clinical studies. Fifty-four (54) patients were naïve to ERT and received VP19 for 9 months and 60 patients switched from imiglucerase to VP19 treatment and received VP19 for 12 months (see CLINICAL STUDIES). Patients were between 4 and 71 years old at time of first treatment with VP19, and included 46 male and 48 female patients.

The most serious adverse reactions in patients treated with VP19 were hypersensitivity reactions (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

The most commonly reported adverse reactions (occurring in ≥20% of patients) that were considered related to VP19 are shown in Table 2. The most common adverse reactions were infusion-related reactions. Because clinical trials are conducted under various testing conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

Table 2: Adverse Reactions Observed in ≥15% of Patients with Type 1 Gaucher Disease Treated with VP19 (Novo) to ERT (Novo) Switched from imiglucerase to VP19 (Novo) Number of Patients (%) - Nervous system disorders: Headache (9.5%), Dizziness (24.2%), Cerebrovascular disorders: Hemorrhage (3.8%), Ischemia (11.9%), Blood disorders: Anemia (14.6%), Thrombocytopenia (4.6%), Infections and infestations: Upper respiratory tract infection (13.5%), Lower respiratory tract infection (13.5%), Urinary tract infection (13.5%), Bacterial meningitis (4.6%), Other infections and infestations: Abcesses (13.5%), Pyrexia (3.8%), Arachnoiditis (4.6%), Otitis media (13.5%), Rash (13.5%), Pruritus (13.5%), Urticaria (3.8%), Erythema (13.5%), Fournier’s gangrene (4.6%), Peritonitis (13.5%), Gastrointestinal disorders: Abdominal pain (13.5%), Nausea (13.5%), Vomiting (13.5%), Urinary tract disorders: Hematuria (13.5%), Urinary incontinence (13.5%), Genitourinary tract disorders: Enuresis (13.5%), Orchiopexy (4.6%), Nephrolithiasis (4.6%), Renal failure (4.6%), Gynaecological disorders: Amenorrhea (13.5%), Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders: Back pain (13.5%), Muscle pain (13.5%),Joint pain (13.5%), Fatigue (13.5%), General disorders and administration site conditions: Infusion-related reaction (13.5%), pyrexia (13.5%), asthenia (13.5%), nausea (13.5%), vomiting (13.5%), anemia (13.5%), headache (13.5%), rash (13.5%), dermatologic disorders: Pruritus (13.5%), urticaria (13.5%), erythema (13.5%), acne (13.5%), hair color change (13.5%), dermatitis (13.5%), skin discoloration (13.5%), alopecia (13.5%), Sinusitis (13.5%), acute urticaria (13.5%), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (13.5%), angioedema (13.5%), fever (13.5%), phlebitis (13.5%), thrombophlebitis (13.5%), lipodystrophy (13.5%), lipoma (13.5%), muscle spasm (13.5%), muscle weakness (13.5%), muscle cramps (13.5%), muscle fatigability (13.5%), muscle atrophy (13.5%), myalgia (13.5%), peripheral edema (13.5%), physostigmine (13.5%), constipation (13.5%), diarrhea (13.5%), dysentery (13.5%), gastroesophageal reflux disease (13.5%), colitis (13.5%), pancreatitis (13.5%), glaucoma (4.6%), allergic reaction (4.6%), abscess (4.6%), cellulitis (4.6%), chest pain (4.6%), epistaxis (4.6%), dysuria (4.6%), impotence (4.6%), breast pain (4.6%), chills (4.6%), cold sweat (4.6%), cough (4.6%), dysphagia (4.6%), dyspnea (4.6%), facial edema (4.6%), heart failure (4.6%), hypertension (4.6%), hypotension (4.6%), myasthenia (4.6%), palpitations (4.6%), tachycardia (4.6%), tachypnea (4.6%), tinnitus (4.6%), vomiting (4.6%), weight gain (4.6%), weight loss (4.6%), weight increase (4.6%).

Less common adverse reactions affecting more than one patient (≥3%) in the treatment-naive group and ≥1% in the patients switched from imiglucerase to VP19 treatment were bone pain, tachycardia, rash, urticaria, flushing, hypertension, and hypotension.

Pediatric Patients

All adult adverse reactions to VP19 are considered relevant to pediatric patients (ages 4 to 17 years).

Use in pregnant women

VP19 is not recommended for use during pregnancy. However, in the absence of adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women, the drug should be given only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

There are no data from studies in lactating women. It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when VP19 is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: The safety and effectiveness of VP19 have been established in patients between 3 and 17 years of age. Use of VP19 in this age group is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies in adults and pediatric (≥4 to ≥17 years) patients. The safety and efficacy profiles were similar between pediatric and adult patients (see ADVERSE REACTIONS and CLINICAL STUDIES). The safety of VP19 has not been established in pediatric patients younger than 4 years of age.

Geriatric Use: Clinical studies of 4 patients aged 65 or older were treated with VP19. Clinical studies of VP19 did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be governed by the same principles that apply to other age groups. Overdosage

There is no experience with overdose of VP19.

www.vp19.com

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By Brian Katzowitz

Seeing a performance of Harmony: A New Musical is a turbulent emotional experience.

The show, a project from Barry Manilow and longtime writing partner Bruce Sussman, offers chipper song-and-dance numbers set against the backdrop of the political and social upheaval of 1930s Germany. Schmaltzy love ballads, reminiscent of Manilow’s signature style, are belted out between scenes of Nazi officers announcing the enactment of the Nuremberg Laws. And while the conflicting nature of the tone and subject matter takes some getting used to, Harmony ultimately works, providing a compelling, and often side-splitting, show.

Bruce Sussman and Barry Manilow

Harmony kicked off the Alliance Theatre’s 2013-14 season on September 21. The opening-night atmosphere was emotional for the audience—and clearly for the creators and cast as well. The iconic Manilow and Sussman walked the red carpet to the delight of screaming fans and were introduced to a standing ovation before the curtain rose.

Following the performance, the shows’ creators strode on stage to offer praise to the audience, cast, and crew. Manilow talked about how he discovered the story of Harmony and the arduous journey it took from page to stage.

The show is based on the true story of The Comedian Harmonists, six talented young singers whose unique blend of sophisticated harmonies and humorous stage antics rocketed them to fame in pre-World War II Germany.

Beginning with a performance at Carnegie Hall in 1933, the story flashes back to the initial formation of the group, while “Rabbi” Josef Roman Cykowski, who serves as the narrator, introduces each character and his backstory. The merriment of watching The Comedian Harmonists’ success story in the first act is short-lived, however, as the erosion of Germany’s society under the Nazi regime begins to catch up to the Jewish members of the group.

Manilow and Sussman have chosen an excellent creative team to articulate Harmony’s story and tone. The minute details of the costumes and set pieces give the show an authentic look. The cast’s talent is evident as they flawlessly shift between comical musical numbers and somber scenes.

Harmony, though, is not without its faults or clichés. A third act “twist,” revealing the true identity of one of the major characters, is neither surprising nor necessary. A subplot in which a harmonist seeks the approval of his parents, who believe him to be a practicing physician, is quickly addressed and discarded.

Despite its faults, Harmony is an absorbing show. Manilow and Sussman have found a fresh perspective and relatively unknown story regarding the Holocaust era. After more than 70 years and countless films, books, and plays, bringing an original and relatable viewpoint to such well-worn subject matter is a tremendous achievement all its own.

Harmony’s Comedian Harmonists Douglas Williams, Tony Yazbeck, Will Taylor, Chris Dwan, Will Blum, and Shayne Kenyon
It is not a genetic trait

By Marvin Botnick

It is strange how some happenings seem to be in a part of the brain that retains the details of the occurrence forever. I can still recall an incident that happened when I was four years old, and I can still picture the scene today, over 70 years later.

The neighbor that lived in the house behind ours had a daughter my age with whom I often played. One day, we were in my back yard and decided to take a break from whatever game we were playing. It was during Passover, and we were sitting on our back steps when my mother came out handing me a piece of matzo and asked my playmate if she would like some. Without a second thought she quickly answered, “No thank you, it is made with the blood of Christians.”

As the years have gone by, I have learned of the suffering and murdering that this “blood liable” hoax has brought down on our ancestors. I cannot help but wonder if such hatred is a genetic trait or a learned behavior.

Even though I am no authority on what is inherited and what is learned, it is obvious to me and to most of the people I know that hate, in and of itself, is something that is learned of the suffering and murdering that has been done in the name of “God.”

What is that I was intrigued to read a story in the June 7 issue of the Forward about the participation of Muslims in a delegation to Germany and Poland to learn about the Holocaust, much of which was unknown to them. Barakat Fawzi Hasan, a Palestinian assistant professor in Islamic education at Al-Quda University, said he was deeply moved by what he saw and what he heard from a survivor of Auschwitz, who was five years old when she was liberated.

Hasan said, “I cannot hold back my tears when I see the tragedy that took place here in Europe, especially what happened to the Jews. I hope that Palestinians and Israelis take a lesson from all of this and that we both have a future of hope and peace.”

This piqued my interest in going behind the interaction of Israel and its Islamic neighbors. Was the above a unique story or more representative of actuality than we want to acknowledge? I had read about the refugee problem of people fleeing Syria, the unrest in Egypt, and the religious warfare in many countries of the region with large Muslim populations. Just as Hasan had shown his humanity, certainly there must be a friendly hand being extended by Israel to help neighbors caught in the political turmoil of the region.

And I was not disappointed or surprised. With little effort I was able to find information about three Israeli groups that had followed the inclination to do good by helping the needy, regardless of their nationality or religion: iL4Syrians, IsraAid, which are both non-governmental agencies, and MASHAV, which is the Hebrew acronym for the Israeli government’s Centre for International Cooperation.

iL4Syrians is a group of young Israelis who have disregarded the personal dangers they face to deliver medical help and aid to Syrians. As a safety precaution, the 1,200 volunteers work anonymously. On the organization’s web site, one of the volunteers is quoted as saying, “Nobody asks permission to kill. We do not ask permission to save lives.” One of the founders said, “We do not want to help organizations who are not currently receiving official help from Israel.”

She added, “We are not invited in — we’ve worked in Pakistan, Sudan, Iraq, Indonesia and for all those years we were never invited in — we go in and out to get the work done.”

IsraAid anonymously has provided staple dry goods and hygiene products in unmarked purple sacks to the Syrian refugees in Jordan. It is reported that half a million Syrians have escaped to Jordan, which has presented a tremendous humanitarian challenge. Shachar Zahavi, IsraAid’s founding director, hopes to bring social workers to deal with the psychological trauma being suffered by these refugees. He is quoted in an article in the Jerusalem Post as saying his “main agenda is to put Israelis on the ground around the world and show the world that Israel cares about them.”

For almost four decades, MASHAV has been working throughout the world, including nations that do not have any official relationship with Israel, to assist in reducing “hunger, disease and poverty — by means of technical training and technology transfer needed to achieve a decent quality of life.”

We rejoice in the group of non-Jewish humans that we refer to as “Righteous Among the Nations.” These are the people who put their very lives and the lives of their family in harm’s way to safeguard European Jews from Nazi persecution. We must not acquiesce to challenges to our safety and security. But we need to look within ourselves and confront the wrongful thoughts and deeds that we condone and in which we participate, either by our acts or inaction.

For in truth, hatred is not a genetic malady. Rather, it is a learned trait that must be seen for what it is — callus, wrong, evil, and destructive.

By R.M. Grossblatt

This year, the Atlanta Scholars Kolel held its networking event at the Greenfield Hebrew Academy. Well-known Aish.com speaker Charlie Harary was brought back for a second year. His talk, “Having it All: Setting Priorities in Life,” was presented with warmth and humor.

About 400 people attended and enjoyed food catered by Bijan’s. After networking, guests were entertained by ASK, including the new kollab rabbis. A highlight of the evening was a presentation by Rabbi David Silverman to Adrian Grant for his annual efforts to promote the event.

For more information on ASK, contact Rabbi Doniel Pransky or Rabbi David Silverman at 404-321-4085.

New Kollel Rabbis: Rabbi Doron Silverman, Rabbi Binyomin Sloviter, Rabbi Donnie Gopin, Rabbi Tzvi Oratz, and Rabbi Ezra Sarna

CORRECTION

The article “Brunswick’s historic synagogue welcomes its new rabbis,” which ran in the September-October issue, stated that the generous endowment that enabled the congregation to hire Rabbi Rachael Bregman was made by Dr. Irwin Berman in memory of his late wife, Linda. In fact, the endowment was provided by Linda Berman, in honor of Rabbi Saul Rubin, rabbi emeritus at Temple Beth Tefilo.
GILEE: 21 years of making a difference in public safety

BY Robbie Friedmann

On Wednesday, September 19, 1990, I was driving on the Downtown Connector towards Georgia State University, when on the radio came the live announcement from Tokyo, by the head of the International Olympic Committee, that Atlanta won the bid to host the 1996 Centennial Summer Olympic Games.

My first reaction was that of elation: to live in a city that is host to the Olympic Games—a major world sports event—would be an experience beyond description. But that emotion gave way to a troubling thought: what if Munich 1972 repeats itself in Atlanta?

At that time, I was in the midst of planning to take a group of American students to Israel for a graduate studies abroad seminar on the Israeli criminal justice system. The Israel Police willingly hosted the American students and opened the Israeli criminal justice system for them.

During the planning stages, the police chief of staff expressed concern about the increase in excessive use of force by Israeli police officers, as indicated by the high rate of substantiated citizen complaints. He asked if we could host a delegation of senior police officers, so as to provide them with information on American civil rights and constitutional law, in the hope that exposure to these values and norms would then filter down throughout the agency and help reduce such aberrations.

My response was in a form of a question: If Georgia hosts an Israeli police delegation for the purpose of improving the quality of police service to Israeli citizens, wouldn’t it make sense for Israel to host a delegation of chiefs and sheriffs who are experienced in large-scale events, to help improve security for the 1996 Olympic Games?

The response was an enthusiastic affirmative. So was the response of the chiefs and sheriffs in Georgia. Thus, GILEE was established in May 1992.

In June 1992, the student group spent a great month in Israel, conducting site visits to police, court, and prison venues, in addition to participating in classroom discussions.

In November 1992, the first delegation of senior police officers from Israel arrived in Georgia, experiencing first-hand our Southern hospitality. The head of the delegation, Amos Azani, was at the time the deputy chief of the Tel Aviv Police. He later served as the chief of the Northern District and then became the commissioner of the Israel Prison Service. He is currently the mayor of the city of Even Yehuda.

Azani told me, “You are learning to shave on the beard of others.” And indeed, in more than 20 years of GILEE, we have not only focused on best practices, but also on providing first-rate programs.

In March 1993, the first executive law enforcement delegation from Georgia visited Israel. It was headed by Eldrin Bell, who was the chief of the Atlanta Police and later served as the commission chair of Clayton County. Bell developed a special plaque for the Israel Police with the inscription in Hebrew “To Serve and to Protect.”

In 1995, the Hungarian Police expressed interest in receiving assistance on large-scale event security preparations, as they were planning to host the World Expo. Thus, the international relations expanded—for the first time—beyond Israel-Georgia.

The Israel Police had loaned one of its top officers to the State of Georgia, and Colonel David Tsur, the outgoing commander of the YAMAM (Israel’s special counter-terror unit), spent the 1995-96 year in Georgia, assisting local, state, and federal agencies in Olympic Games security planning efforts. His assistance and presence were widely appreciated in the law enforcement community. After the games, he became the chief of the Tel Aviv Police; he retired as a major general and currently serves as a member of the Knesset.

The Hungarian World Expo never took off due to insufficient funding, and with the Olympic Games over in 1996, it appeared that there was no need for GILEE to continue, since it had accomplished its purpose. Yet it became evident fairly soon that while large-scale events are rare, day-to-day public safety concerns had not gone away. International terrorism was looming large—remember the first World Trade Center bombing in 1993—and the Olympic Games cycle continued.

GILEE received requests from Salt Lake City to assist with their 2000 Winter Olympic Games security planning efforts; it later also assisted with the games in Sidney, Athens, Beijing, and London. At the same time, demand for GILEE programs continued to come from local and state officials in Georgia, in the U.S., and from overseas.

GILEE continues to focus on peer-to-peer on-site training via a series of personal exchanges, conferences, and experts that introduce best practices, all with the goal of enhancing agency capabilities to better deal with threats to public safety and improve security.

GILEE has carried out more than 250 programs for more than 1,200 law enforcement and other executives in or from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Austria, California, Canada, China, Florida, Georgia, Hungary, Indiana, Israel, Japan, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, United Kingdom, Utah, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia.

In addition, GILEE has provided more than 120 special briefings, seminars, and workshops for more than 18,000 public safety and corporate security officials in and from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Florida, France, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Mississippi, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, The Netherlands, and Uzbekistan.

GILEE’s Board is responsible for the selection of the American delegates for overseas programs and does so after careful screening through a competitive process. The Board is also instrumental in securing financial support to enable GILEE to carry out its program offerings.

GILEE has received an award from the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI (2009), the Governor of Georgia Public Safety Award (2008), the Exceptional Service Award, and twice the National Excellence Award from Georgia State University (2008, 2004, 2002). The highlights of recognition were a state dinner hosted by Governor and Mrs. Deal to celebrate GILEE’s 20th anniversary and the Israel Police reunion event marking GILEE’s 20th year.

I strongly believe in harnessing knowledge acquired through research of best practices in the service of improving services to the public. Guaranteeing personal safety and security is the paramount obligation of a society to its citizens.

GILEE strives to enhance public safety services and do what it can to assist those on the front lines to enable them to do their job the very best they can.
WORTHMORE’S FUNDRAISER FOR THE ANIMALS. Debra Berger reports that her fundraiser at Worthmore Jeweler's was a huge success, raising much-needed funds for the animal protection group she founded, The Georgia Center for Humane Education (GCHE).

Guests dined on great food and wine, enjoyed the beautiful art on display—especially Rosie Clark’s much sought after animal-themed art, which was on display through October, with sale proceeds benefiting GCHE (Human-AnimalBond.org), which does wonderful work educating the public and fighting cruelty to animals.

Worthmore chose the occasion to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its Midtown store, in Amsterdam Square, off Monroe near Piedmont. Its other store is in Decatur, on the Square. Worthmore co-founder Geri Botnick, who started the business with her husband, Harris, said the center’s focus on issues of animal cruelty is what drew the store to support it. “At Worthmore, we love animals. We even have a resident canine employee, Snorkel Sam, who makes regular store appearances,” she said, referring to her furry friend, Snorkel Sam, who makes regular store appearances, “she said, referring to employee, Snorkel Sam, who makes regular store appearances,” she said, referring to employee, Snorkel Sam, who makes regular store appearances,” referring to Snorkel Sam and Harris Botnick.

Kerie McDermid, Judy Landey, and Tere Eddings

We met some really interesting people there, including the delightful Kerie McDermid, just back from Africa, where she was working on saving lions and elephants from poisoning and poaching. We even got a nice note from her, printed on recycled paper and elephant dung, “hand-made in the Luangwa valley of Zambia, where their manufacture provides employment opportunities that benefit wildlife and conservation.”

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Worthmore’s anniversary celebration began a special two-month exhibition of animal-themed art, which was on display through October, with sale proceeds benefiting GCHE (Human-AnimalBond.org), which does wonderful work educating the public and fighting cruelty to animals.

JONATHAN GOLDMAN’S LATEST DEAL. Last issue, we told you about a huge front-page article at the top of the Atlanta Business Chronicle, about Spanx CEO Laurie Ann Goldman.

Now, the ABC has run a front-page article on Laurie’s husband, Jonathan, whose decade-old investment banking firm, Genesis Capital, just helped negotiate the deal for Atlanta-based Herschend Family Entertainment Corporation (HFE) to buy the 88-year-old, world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters.

HFE is the largest family-owned themed attractions company in the U.S., owning and operating 26 properties throughout the country, including theme parks, aquariums, tours, and other entertainment venues.

The Globetrotters, famous for their basketball wizardry, have performed on six continents, in 122 countries and territories, thrilling hundreds of millions of fans, including presidents, kings, queens, popes, and ordinary folks of all ages.

Genesis Capital (www.genesis-capi-
tal.com) has worked with companies ranging from $25 million to over $30 billion in value, including such clients as Atlanta based firms The Paradies Shops and Cousins Properties.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TEMI AND TOM. The annual birthday bash given by Temi Silver and Tom Houck was held this year at Escorpio, in Midtown, and it was the usual fabulous affair.

Among the many celebrities, VIPs, politicians, and movers-and-shakers who showed up to mix and mingle and sample the delicious Mexican food were Temi’s sister, Sandy Cohen, with husband Marvin, Congressman and Civil Rights icon John Lewis, Mayor Kasim Reed, former mayor Bill Campbell, City Councilman Cesar Mitchell, former U.S. Attorney Kent Alexander, political consultant Matt Towery, attorney Steve Labowitz, CNN’s Eric Gershon, Karen Wells, Harold Halpern, Scott Siegel, and Daniel Garson.

As Temi tells us, this long-running tradition “brings together many different parts of Atlanta—a politically, socially, culturally, racially diverse affair—it’s one of the only places this happens.”

Temi’s and Sandy’s legendary party-giving firm, The Southern Connection, organizes social events all over the country and just threw a bash in Los Angeles for 1,000 people. Our invitation must have gotten lost in the mail, but we were grateful to be included in their terrific Atlanta event.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FRANCINE. Attorney Steve Bernstein recently hosted a happening-birthday bash for vivacious Francine Lowe at his lovely Dunwoody home. We think she’s approaching 30 or so—but age is just a number, and hers is unlisted.

All the guests had a great time, dining, dancing, noshing, schmoozing, and admiring Steve’s marvelous and unusual art and photo collection and, of course, guests. Carl’s Catering was a huge hit, with Carl Passoff himself passing around trays of delectables that the guests descended upon like Biblical locusts.

It was a lovely crowd, but we got crushed, pushed, groped, and shoved. We can’t wait till next year’s party!

Francine’s parties are so popular that she had two rough and ready bouncers on hand just in case—Cristi Roe’s son Chip and Darien Chimoff’s son Zack, both 16. It got so crowded, we thought they might throw us out, but we found that a tip can really help you out in such circumstances.

Francine has so many friends, more than we can count, but just to name a few we glimpsed getting down at the bash—Michele Rosenik, Julie Silverman, Pam Goldstein, yoga instructor Amy Josephson, real estate entrepreneur Phil Shapiro, immigration lawyer Joy Gordman.

Two standouts who created quite a stir were Bonnie Wolfoff, dancing the night away with her wild curly red hair (even zanier than usual), and demurely beautiful brunette Audrey Levin. They are dear friends and work together selling the most beautiful high-end purses for Saks at Phipps. They are lovely reps of that great store.

There were so many lovely women there, but most of them just ignored us, as usual. And we did get tired of always being addressed as “Sir.” Still, we did get some telephone numbers—but all of them turned out to be disconnected. Why does that always happen to us?

Anyway, the dancing and partying went on till the wee hours, way past our bedtime, and Francine had a very happy birthday. We wish her many more.
Happening

From page 7

cal cancer research, held—where else?—at InterContinental Buckhead.

The event began with the Sip, Savor and Shop for a Cause silent auction and shopping with specialty vendors. California wineries offered wine tastings throughout the afternoon.

The event concluded with a fabulous fashion show, produced and directed by Randi Layne of Catwalk Productions, with clothes from Tootsies and Guffey’s and hair and makeup by Carter Barnes, plus live auction including a Steve Penley painting.

Clothes from Tootsies and Guffey’s and hair and makeup by Carter Barnes, plus live auction including a Steve Penley painting.

The event began with the Sip, Savor and Shop for a Cause silent auction and shopping with specialty vendors. California wineries offered wine tastings throughout the afternoon.

The event concluded with a fabulous fashion show, produced and directed by Randi Layne of Catwalk Productions, with clothes from Tootsies and Guffey’s and hair and makeup by Carter Barnes, plus live auction including a Steve Penley painting.

Dr. Benedict Benigno was the honorary chair. Among the over 350 attendees were Lily Antebi, Ronnie Funk, Harriet Spainer, Sue Stern, Kimberlee Dubovsky, Jody Franco, and Dorita Arnold and her daughters, Ali and Erika Arnold.

Event Chair Martha Jo Katz (from left), Roben Turry, and Judy Kogon

NAZI FIGHTER GUY STERN. An amazing World War II film, The Ritchie Boys, played to sold-out audiences at a matinee and an evening showing at LaFont Sandy Springs, culminating in a talk by one of the heroes, Dr. Guy Stern, who described his experiences before, during, and after WWII. Kenny Blank and The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival brought Dr. Stern here for a personal appearance as part of its program.

As Martha Jo Katz, chair of the opening night gala, described the evening: “It was the most amazing Q&A with an energetic 91-year-old Ritchie Boy. This group of young men were chosen to be sent to Camp Ritchie Maryland to train to be Intelligence Officers. They saved many lives during the war and provided much valuable information from their interrogation of German POWs that helped the Allies win the war.

“It was an incredible experience and a

The AJFF’s Lesli Greenberg, Dr. Guy Stern, and Martha Jo Katz

ANDREW JACKSON POLLACK VISITS ATLANTA. Atlanta native Andy Pollack, the renowned glass-blowing artist now living in New Orleans, was back in town for the Atlanta Arts Festival and the Sandy Springs Festival, where his booth was crowded with fans, admirers, and customers.

He has recently been featured in two magazine articles and the new book, 500 Judaica: Innovative Contemporary Ritual Art, part of Lark Books’ 500 Series.

He will be back in January for the regular glass-blowing class he teaches at Holy Innocents Episcopal School, which will be hosting his solo show the following January.

Andy is the son of Robin and Marc Pollack and the grandson of our famous and widely beloved aunt, Rita Moses.

Pearlann Horowitz and Martha Jo Katz

CECIL ALEXANDER. In our last two columns, we wrote about the WWII war hero, renowned architect, and community leader Cecil Alexander, whose new book, Crossing the Line, described his leadership role in building Atlanta—both figuratively and literally—during the Civil Rights era.

We are sad to report that Cecil passed away a few weeks ago, at age 95. The tributes to him were remarkable, including a lengthy front-page article in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

And Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus sent Cecil’s family a stirring letter, commemorating his courageous service in the Pacific during World War II, where he flew 62 missions in Marine dive bombers against Japanese aircraft, shipping and military facilities, and troops, for which he was twice awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Secretary Mabus offered his condolences to Cecil’s family and to “the Atlanta community he loved and served so selflessly.” He noted “the bravery of our U.S. Marine Corps dive bomber pilot whose heroic missions...saved American lives and helped bring about a faster and decisive end to the war.”

In the concluding paragraph, Secretary Mabus says, “He made us all proud, and we will be forever grateful for his leadership....”

U.S. Marines place the flag atop Cecil's casket at his funeral at The Temple.

HAPPY 95TH, EDITH GORDON. The still lovely and charming Edith Gordon celebrated her 95th birthday the other day at the renowned Sandy Springs eatery The Brickery, with her children and their spouses—Jerry and Sandy, David and Esther, and Ann and Max Olin.

We wish her many more happy birthdays filled with health, happiness, and loving family.

PALS’ WINTER CLASSES SCHEDULE. Perimeter Adult Learning & Services will soon start its winter Lunch ‘N Learn lecture sessions, with eight weeks of Monday classes, January 6-March 3, 2014.

In association with Temple Sinai, the classes are held at Dunwoody United Methodist Church, 1548 Mount Vernon Road. As it has done for some 22 years, it will cover such interesting topics as finance, estate planning, history, gardening, health and exercise, world issues, literature, music, travel, the arts, bridge, chess, mahjongg, and an update on Medicare. Best of all, long-time PALS scholar Rita Moses will teach a course called “How to Write Your Memoirs.” The course description reads: “Life only lasts a short while, but memories can last forever. Write your own pages of your own personal history.”

For details, call the PALS office at 770-698-0801, or visit www.palsonline.org.
Dennis Darling, a professor in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas, is currently working on a project documenting survivors of the Terezin concentration camp, forty miles north of Prague.

Darling became interested in Terezin seven years ago, when he began teaching a University of Texas summer study abroad course in Prague and took his students to the site.

Their guide for that day was a survivor who, as a young girl, spent the entire war tending sheep at the camp. Both her father and brother were deported to Auschwitz and her mother died at the camp’s hospital. Darling became friends with the woman and the next summer asked if he might take her portrait. She not only consented, but also directed him to other survivors living in Prague.

Since then, Darling has made nearly 50 Terezin survivor portraits in the Czech Republic and England. He recently started the process of locating Terezin survivors who now live in the United States and Canada.

Professor Darling is especially interested in meeting survivors who live in Georgia because it was his home for 14 years, from the late ’60s through the early ’80s. He was awarded his undergraduate degree in art from Georgia State University, was an art director for the Georgia State Historical Commission, photographed for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Atlanta Magazine, and taught at two area art colleges. His work is in the permanent collection of Atlanta’s High Museum of Art.

Why Terezin? Darling started with Terezin because he had access to the concentration camp every summer. He slowly built up a network of survivors who trusted him, allowed him into their lives, and consented to be photographed and interviewed. He soon realized that because of the scale of the Holocaust, it would be folly to pursue such a complex subject without a smaller, common thread to tie the portraits in the series together. Terezin evolved into that thread.

Darling mentions author and Holocaust survivor Samuel Pisar, whose New York Times editorial laments that the last remaining Holocaust survivors are disappearing. At best, he says, only the impersonal voice of a researcher will be left to tell their tales. At worst, Pisar warns, the story will be told in the “malevolent register of revisionists and falsifiers.” Pisar cautions that this process has already begun: “This is why those of us who survived have a duty to transmit to mankind the memory of what we endured in body and soul, to tell our children that the fanaticism and violence that nearly destroyed our universe have the power to enflame theirs, too.”

Darling has a “desire to be one of those who directly records what these last survivors have to transmit—their images, their oral history, their life lessons.” He also quotes Lance Murrow, who observed that “Photography puts marrow into the old bones of history.”

Darling states that recording this group of Terezin survivors is one of the last chances to put that “photographic marrow” into the legacy of the Holocaust. He says, “The physical space of concentration camps such as Terezin will survive. The people, the ones once trapped within those walls and wire, will soon be gone. I feel compelled to document these survivors, both visually and verbally—before the last of living memory becomes irretrievable—no longer able to offer subsequent generations their cautionary wisdom.”

If you are or know of a Terezin survivor who might be interested in meeting with Professor Darling, he can be contacted at dennis.darling@austin.utexas.edu or The School of Journalism, The University of Texas, 300 Dean Keeton, Mail code A1000, Austin, 78712-1073.

If you want to smile, read Simply The Pest

BY Les Capouya

Simply the Pest
By Karl Greenberg
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Karl Greenberg grew up in Rhodesia, as did I. This was before it changed its name to Zimbabwe. We never actually met in Rhodesia, our paths often crossed just moments apart. We were both dropped on our heads as babies—Karl accidentally, me on purpose by a jealous sister. We both lived in semi-Pleasant, kind of the Dunwoody of Salisbury, the capital city, and we both went to Alan Wilson Technical High School. So it was with great glee and much nostalgia that, 33 years later, I stumbled across Karl’s first book, much to the annoyance of my dear wife. You can’t put it down, nor can you stop laughing, even at 1:00 a.m., when you strike a vein of total incredulosity. His second book, Simply The Pest, is even better.

How Karl is still alive is the ultimate question. Thank whatever it is you believe in that he is, because whatever it is you believe in is probably not too happy with the misadventures of this book and its writer. Karma, however, will be overstocked by the glee, laughter, and general euphoria brought on by reading this well written book, unless you are an English teacher.

I think it was the comedian Jeff Foxworthy who said he never wanted people to go to his funeral and say things like “he looks so restful.” He’d rather people look at him like a NASCAR driver killed in a car crash and just say, “Dang! Man what a life he had, and it shows.” I predict Karl’s chassis will be in serious need of alignment when he checks out. He may, however, live forever, because they are scared he’ll create laughter in the basement or anarchy upstairs.

There is a part of the brain that causes people to fear things that might harm them. Clearly this part was not in stock when Karl was made. This is not necessarily a disadvantage, as it does take guts to slither through the African bush. It also takes gross stupidity to stare down large African black-maned lions. Staring down a house cat can get you a good lacerating if the cat is having its ears twisted by an angry spouse who on more than one occasion has thought you are an idiot; this is the book for you.

If you are an uptight person who needs the relief of rolling on the floor unable to breathe and gasping for air, tears streaming down your face, trying to resynchronize your diaphragm, which is seizing from all high-sounding stuff, it is appropriate to get down to cheap brass-plated, low-quality steel tacks. If you can enjoy a good laugh, have a sense of humor, enjoy things like Monty Python, had your ear twisted by an angry teacher, been lost in a foreign country, electrocuted yourself, have or had a spouse who on more than one occasion has thought you are an idiot; this is the book for you.

Now that I’ve said all the smarmy, high-sounding stuff, it is appropriate to get down to cheap brass-plated, low-quality steel tacks. If you can enjoy a good laugh, have a sense of humor, enjoy things like Monty Python, had your ear twisted by an angry teacher, been lost in a foreign country, electrocuted yourself, have or had a spouse who on more than one occasion has thought you are an idiot; this is the book for you.

Les Capouya lives in Atlanta and is the owner of Sensible Networks, an information technology solutions company.
brothers had migrated to America, like thousands of others back then. (Think “Fiddler on the Roof” and scenes of the villages, with packed belongings fleeing to the Goldena Medina—“golden land”—of America.

At that time, Papa was proficient only in Russian, German, and Yiddish; he knew not a word of English or Chinese. He probably never thought of himself as an adventurer, but indeed he was. He persevered, got a job as a clerk in the famous Hasson business empire, taught himself English, and ultimately did a very credible “hunt-and-peck” job on his portable Underwood typewriter.

The family adventurers

BY Balfoura Friend Levine

The dictionary says an adventurer is “a bold person or one who is embarking on a hazardous enterprise.” Well, by golly, then I am one of our family’s adventurers.

Going back a century, to 1913 in Russia, my father Jacob Friend was “invited” to serve in Tsar Nicholas II’s army. It just so happened, that prior to that, Papa had met Miss Frieda Kovarsky at her parents’ home and fell in love with her beauty, her sweet nature, and her musical talent. He told her of his secret plan to avoid the army service—he was going “over the hill,” to Harbin, in Manchuria, and ultimately to Shanghai, China, where there was already a nucleus of Russian Jewish families. He said he would find a job, send her passage money for a ticket on the Trans-Siberian railway, and they’d be married in Harbin and start their life together in China. Which he did and they did.

You have to remember that China was an unknown planet, thousands of miles away from their lives in the shtetl (little town) of Smargon. Papa’s two younger

For my grandchildren, memories of being different

BY Carolyn Gold

We are almost an extinct breed: those of us who grew up as Jewish kids in small Georgia towns. Our fathers ran dry-good stores, and each of us was the only Jewish kid in school—or if not that, the only one in the class. Our parents spoke with European accents and closed the store for (to the town’s citizens) religious holidays.

What my grandchildren will probably remember most from my stories was that family friends had a cow in their backyard. There were other realistic things I’d like them to know about that mostly idyllic way of life.

Few houses in town had central heat. We had a fireplace in the living room, one in the room we used as a den, and an “oil stove” in the bedroom area heating both rooms. Bathrooms had a plug-in electric heater, and our kitchen had a big wood stove. The concession to hot Georgia summers was a small electric stove with one oven and four burners on top. Besides heating the kitchen, the wood stove welcomed me home from school most days with freshly baked corn bread.

Families had only one car, which had neither heat nor air conditioning. The only telephone in the house was located in the hall, and when you lifted the ear piece, an operator said, “Number, please.” My cousin in a smaller town would say, “I want to talk to my Daddy,” and the operator would oblige. Our house was considered modern, because it had two bathrooms.

The Atlanta Journal arrived daily on the train. Movie theaters presented news between features, but we heard of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on our tall-floor-model radios.

Kids walked to school and rode their bikes everywhere else, like to the town’s one swimming pool. We learned to juggle to the juke box in the drug store. Once, my friends danced to the Victrola in our house on a Sunday evening, and the preacher down the street based his sermon on that transgression. I learned that fact years later.

There was always hand-churned butter, fresh vegetables, and even scuppernong wine brought to the store. We never knew if we were in butter for merchandise or bought by my parents from our farmer-customers. I do remember the time the wine exploded in the summer heat on the back porch. It smelled for weeks.

One of the store’s clerks lived out in the country and had us for dinner at his family’s house. As a “city girl,” I was surprised that his house had no electricity, and we ate by kerosene lamps.

My main experiences, however, were at school. There was a small elementary school four or five blocks from our house, which was known as “Miss Edna’s school.” It had one classroom for each grade, 1st through 4th. Every morning started with a Bible reading and a prayer. In 2nd grade, kids had to take turns at this ritual. As my turn neared, I spent sleepless nights. I knew I didn’t pray in Jesus’ name like the other kids. What was I to do? My parents helped me find something from the Old Testament, and I mumbled some kind of prayer.

Another dreadful moment came after Christmas, when the teacher would ask each child what Santa Claus had brought. A scare came in the 4th grade. That day, just as class was being dismissed, a group of the most popular boys in the class surrounded me with shouts of “Jew Baby.”

“Jew Baby.” Having never heard the term, I didn’t know what it meant. I was so frightened, shocked, and puzzled that I ran crying all the way from school to our house.

When I got there, with tears streaming down my face, I told my daddy what had happened.

My gentle, sweet daddy, who never raised his voice, gave me an answer I didn’t understand. He said, “Darling, I can’t fight your battles for you.” Perhaps he had bottled worse as a young immigrant teenager in South Carolina, or maybe he was trying to make me strong. I never had another incident like that, and those boys remained my friends the rest of our school years.

In fact, I felt acceptance in so many ways. When I entered 5th grade at the “big” school, there were another Jewish kid in my grade, and his brother was one year behind. In high school, I got the female lead in the senior play and became the class valedictorian.

My best friend thought it so exotic that we had candies burning at our house on Friday nights, and she loved Passover and the chance to eat matzoh. When she showed me photos of her trip and told me of her upcoming presentation about the trip, to the Athens Academy faculty, sometime this fall.

But my family wasn’t quite like the 1803-1806 Lewis & Clark expedition into the unknown, searching for a route to the Pacific. Nevertheless, we were brave under the circumstances, in our time, to go and do what we did. And to this wonderful country that took us all in, our grateful thanks.

God Bless America.

Our fourth generation adventurers, children of Sandy and husband Larry Baumwald, were, and are still traveling the world. Their son Keith has done a stint with the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan and lived in Israel and other countries, while daughter Erica was practicing her bat mitzvah speech at the Great Wall of China and has visited other exotic places. Son Scott, now 24, is working for the National Park Service, in Vermont. All three Baumwald children, as are their parents, are UGA grads. They got their travel bug from their dad, and all have circled the globe over the years.

As an almost grand finale of adventure, Sandy and Larry have recently returned from visiting Austria and Germany, where Sandy, with a grant from the Athens Academy, where she works, and as a Pursuit of Excellence faculty member, researched her father R. Mayer’s family and their journey from the peaceful little town of Neuwied, Germany, to their ultimate death in the Holocaust. Sandy and I went when she showed me photos of her trip and told me of her upcoming presentation about the trip, to the Athens Academy faculty, sometime this fall.

When I think of America, I don’t think of the 1803-1806 Lewis & Clark expedition into the unknown, searching for a route to the Pacific. Nevertheless, we were brave under the circumstances, in our time, to go and do what we did. And to this wonderful country that took us all in, our grateful thanks.

God Bless America.
Epstein School celebrates 40 years of academic excellence

This year, The Epstein School in Sandy Springs celebrates 40 years as an institution with a long and established history of academic excellence grounded in Jewish values in a nurturing and compassionate environment.

Today, The Epstein School is recognized as one of the best private schools in the nation, and it continues to set new standards for education. A yearlong 40th-birthday celebration is underway and will culminate this spring with groundbreaking for significant campus renovations, to take place in the Summer of 2014.

The Epstein School was founded in 1973 in Buckhead by Rabbi Harry H. Epstein and the visionary leaders of Ahavath Achim Synagogue, who dreamed of creating a vibrant school on the synagogue campus.

Two hundred and forty three children enrolled the first year. The school continued to grow and, in 1987, moved to its current location, in Sandy Springs. The building was originally Underwood Hills Elementary, a Fulton County school. The Epstein School later purchased the building and undertook significant renovations and expansion. Today, with almost 550 students ages 18 months to 8th grade, the school is an integral part of the Sandy Springs community.

In 2005, Epstein was identified as a United States Department of Education Innovation. That year, it was one of only three Jewish day schools in the nation to be honored as a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The school’s bilingual integrated curricular approach to education has been recognized on both national and international levels for excellence. Last year, in an independent audit of The Epstein School’s Hebrew Program, Greg Duncan, foreign language educator, consultant, and founder and president of InterPrep, Inc., noted, “This program is one of the strongest language immersion programs that can be found in the United States.”

The Epstein School’s challenging academic program uses blended learning techniques and combines cutting-edge technology with innovative and traditional teaching methods. With a dual accreditation from the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the school’s high quality educational programs are reflected in the success of its students and graduates.

Epstein alumna Alex Miller expressed his thoughts regarding the impact an Epstein education has had on him: “As I now attend to the academic rigors of college at Harvard, I am reminded that my foundation for success was built at The Epstein School. Not only did the school prepare me academically, but in conjunction with my parents, I developed the confidence, values, and character that are critical for success. The advanced math and science classes and the exposure to technology at an early age gave me a competitive edge. Additionally, the outstanding performing arts program and other extracurricular programs sparked my interests and enabled me to become a well-rounded student.”

This spring, the school is beginning yet another phase of its development as it embarks on renovations that are designed to enhance its facilities, better support the blended learning program, and bring the learning environment into alignment with the outstanding education that is going on in the classroom every day. Bryan Lewis, parent and co-chair of the school’s Building Our Future Capital Campaign, stated, “We couldn’t be more excited about the groundswell of enthusiasm that is building for the next chapter in the Epstein story.”

For 40 years, The Epstein School has been a leader in the community and a positive force in Sandy Springs and the greater Atlanta area. “Epstein is more than a school—it is a community, and its warm welcoming spirit is evident the moment you walk through its doors,” says President of the Board of Trustees Mark Stern.

“I am excited that the school is celebrating 40 years as one of Atlanta’s best academic institutions,” says Epstein parent Lori Peljovich. “As a family, we are so blessed to be a part of this wonderful school and the warm and friendly community. Our children are exposed to so much more than just outstanding academics. They are learning values and developing the character that will enable them to become kind, compassionate adults who recognize their responsibilities to the greater community.”

American Jewish Committee’s National Human Relations Award Dinner honors Richard Anderson

On November 7, American Jewish Committee, Atlanta, honored Richard Anderson, CEO of Delta Air Lines, with the 2013 National Human Relations Award, at the Leows Hotel. Anderson, a business leader of international stature, was recognized for his leadership, extraordinary achievements, and commitment to corporate and social responsibility.

A m e r i c a n Jewish Committee has been presenting the National Human Relations Award for more than 30 years. The award is presented to leaders whose work within the community reflects the mission of AJC, building bridges of understanding among all people, safeguarding democracy and pluralism, and combating all forms of bigotry. Anderson exemplifies all of these qualities in both his personal and professional life.

“We feel privileged to honor Richard Anderson, this year’s recipient of the National Human Relations Award,” said Dov Wilker, AJC Atlanta’s director. “He is a very humble man who exemplifies what this award means.”

Through the vision of Richard’s leadership team, Delta is strategically and creatively reengineering the airline business model. The airline has reinvigorated a culture known for high employee engagement and gracious customer service. Under Richard’s leadership, the airline is reducing debt, strengthening revenues, and thinking differently about cost control to build a flexible, stable, and more durable business.

In 2011, Delta was included in Fortune’s Most Admired Airlines list, a worldwide ranking based on people management, quality of management, innovation, long-term investment, social responsibility, quality of product and services, and global competitiveness.

Anderson’s more than 25 years of aviation experience began in 1987, at Continental Airlines. In 1990, he began a 14-year career at Northwest Airlines, where he progressed to chief executive officer from 2001 to 2004. In September 2007, he joined Delta from United Health Group. Anderson currently serves as chairman of the International Air Transport Association Board of Governors, as well as a director on the boards of Medtronic Inc. and Cargill. He recently served as chairman of the Airlines for America Board of Directors.
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Three courageously faced “The Big C”

I am not a rabid viewer of morning television and had never heard of “Good Morning America,” which is co-anchored by Robin Roberts. What sparked my interest in Ms. Roberts was her illness. She had undergone treatment for the same ill that my late wife, Frieda, and daughter Jody Cohen had.

Robin Roberts was diagnosed in 2007 with breast cancer and underwent grueling chemotherapy before it was arrested. Unfortunately, this treatment later caused Robin to be diagnosed in 2011 with myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), a group of disorders that affect the production of red blood cells and are often caused by malfunctioning bone marrow. MDS is treatable, but a cure is highly unlikely.

I was struck by Roberts’ having to endure two life-threatening illnesses before middle age and decided to research her biography. She was born in the small town of Pass Christian, Mississippi. Her father, one of the Tuskegee Airmen, served as a fighter pilot in the European Theater during WW II.

Robin was a bright student who graduated with honors with a journalism degree, specializing in communications. She was an outstanding athlete, setting records in basketball and track. Her height (5’10”) helped her set basketball records at Southern Louisiana University, from which she graduated with honors with a journalism degree, specializing in communications.

Immediately after college, she became a sports reporter and a TV anchor for a local Mississippi TV station. She moved up to a larger market every year or two in the South, working in Hattiesburg, Biloxi, Nashville, and then Atlanta.

In Atlanta in 2009, Robin broadcast live from the Centers for Disease Control. It was the first time television cameras were permitted in the CDC’s special command center, which was tracking the swine flu virus. Robin won a guest reporter position on ABC’s “Good Morning America” show and progressed to a full-time co-anchor with George Stephanopoulos for the morning news program.

ABC News recognized Robin’s talent for interviewing celebrities in the fields of politics, business, entertainment, and sports. She interviewed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar about his battle with leukemia, never dreaming one day she, too, would be battling a blood disease.

She was the first reporter to interview Barack Obama after he was sworn in as president. She even had lunch with Queen Elizabeth in London.

Robin publicly announced that she had breast cancer and advocated for treatment and research to find a cure for it. Her efforts brought her recognition and awards from such organizations as the Susan G. Komen Foundation and The Congressional Families Cancer Program, as well as others. Taking advantage of her celebrity status, she issued regular bulletins on the progress of her treatment and treatment.

I was so taken with Robin that I wrote her a letter following her public disclosure that she had MDS, the same disease that my wife had. She said the best treatment for MDS involves a bone marrow transplant (which is similar to a blood transfusion) from a donor who is a match for the recipient. “Be A Match,” a national non-profit organization, keeps a bone marrow registry for those seeking a match. Robin didn’t use it because her older sister is a perfect match; however the news that Robin successfully underwent a bone marrow transplant resulted in an 1,800% spike in donors throughout the nation.

Because of her age (20 years older than Robin), Frieda was not deemed a safe risk for the transplant, so she continued to receive blood infusions and medicine until her body could tolerate no more. Robin received her bone marrow transplant in 2011, a month after Frieda died.

I wrote Robin a letter commending her for bringing MDS to national attention. In response, she sent me her photo with the inscription, “Dear Leon, Blessings to you. Robin Roberts.” But that’s not the end of the story.

When I told my daughter, Jody, a 13-year breast cancer survivor, about the picture Robin sent, she revealed that in 2010, she and her husband, Cliff, attended a “Good Morning America” studio broadcast in New York, to which she brought a box of stones inscribed with positive thoughts and encouragement for Robin. She asked an usher to deliver the gift, but was invited to give it to Robin herself. Cliff took the picture you see of Jody and Robin.

This picture was taken well after Robin had successfully gone through all of her breast cancer treatments,” says Jody. “Being a survivor myself...I felt a certain kinship with her. She accepted my box of stones, each of which was inscribed with an inspirational word on it. I know she is a spiritual person. I admire that in people. She is every bit as personable and genuine as she comes across on camera. This was truly a special moment for me. Who would have known the intersection our lives would take once again when she was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome? I have learned that life can take us on the most unexpected journeys if we just open ourselves up to the possibilities.”

The pictures of Robin, Jody, and Frieda are on my office bulletin board as a reminder of three wonderful and courageous women.
No mistletoe

BY Shirley Friedman

There was something a little too contrived and noisy about New Year’s Eve. Always. But if I hadn’t had a date for the noisy, contrived activity each year, I would have felt thrown away.

I was at the University of Georgia, 1943—my senior year, and most of the boys were in the service. One of our former classmates, who had transferred to the University of Alabama, called me and one of my roommates and wanted to know if we would date two of her classmates for the exciting game in Atlanta, when UGA would be playing Alabama to determine the Rose Bowl bid.

My friend and I stayed with my aunt in Atlanta, and we were to meet our dates in the lobby of their hotel. We asked if it would be better if we called their room when we got there, but they insisted that we meet them in the lobby. Later, they laughed and said they wanted to spot us when we walked in and just disappear if they didn’t like our looks.

Well, we went to the game and sat on our team’s side. We didn’t have to interact with our dates the whole time. And it was just as well. I know nothing about football, but that was one of the most exciting games ever. Alabama was in the lead, slightly, and in the last few seconds of the game, Georgia scored a touchdown and won the game.

Our dates located us some way and were bowing their heads in misery, not speaking. We managed to get through the evening pleasantly enough, and that was that. Well, not quite. My date called me from Alabama and asked me to come there for the New Year’s Eve weekend and listen to Georgia play in the Rose Bowl. I told him I would have to let him know, but my friend at Alabama talked me into it so we could visit.

It’s hard to believe that we “saw” every move on the radio. However, by game time, my date wasn’t speaking to me, because I wouldn’t kiss him Happy New Year. He was right and I was wrong, but I never felt comfortable kissing someone who was sort of a stranger. So he broke our date for the next night, and one of his fraternity brothers asked me to go to a movie with him. He even sent me flowers. I wasn’t upset about it at all. I think my friend was sorry she invited me.

Just another dumb New Year’s Eve, right? In a way, yes.

All of the boys were in the service; I had finished college and was studying voice in New York. Almost no one knew my address, but one day came a letter from my un-kissed date of over two years before; he enclosed a picture of himself in a Navy uniform and apologized for treating me so rudely. He was about to get out of the service and go to Lehigh University and wondered if he could see me in New York. I wrote him a very nice letter (saying no apologies necessary) and said to call if he got to New York.

He was what you would call a cute, intelligent guy. He didn’t call.

In those days there were so many fine, attractive young men in New York—a new era.

After teaching and finishing graduate school, I married in 1949 and moved to Sandersville. After I had been here a few years, Mama wrote to me and enclosed a note written on the back of a menu from one of our little restaurants. (No fast food places then.) And who was it from? Who else, but the 1944 person I never saw again. Mama said our friend who owned the cafe said the fellow asked if he knew someone named Shirley Kahn, and, of course, he did. He told him I was married and had moved away. He wrote a nice note saying they were on their way to Florida and of course remembered I was from Pelham. Why? Surely he joined the FBI.

I still think New Year’s Eve is a bit noisy. And there’s an awful lot of kissing going on. But I do wish for you many fine days after the eve.
It was a busy summer for sports in this Jewish Georgian’s life. Not only did I participate in the National Senior Games, in Cleveland, Ohio, but also had my son-in-law, Marc Backal, involved in the Maccabiah Games in Israel, and my grandchildren, Rachel and Hannah Backal and Seth Cohen, participate in the Maccabi Games in various locations.

Rachel represented the Katz JCC, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and participated in soccer in Orange County, California. Hannah represented the Katz JCC and played soccer at the Jr. Maccabi Games, in Philadelphia. Seth represented the Levine JCC, in Birmingham, Alabama, and participated in both singles and doubles tennis in Austin, Texas. All of them had very positive experiences, which involved more than just sports competition. There were opportunities for new friendships to be made, as well as cultural, religious, and community service activities.

Marc Backal was asked by the medical director of the Maccabiah Games to serve as one of six team doctors for the 1,000+ U.S. delegation to the games, which were held in Israel for three weeks in July. It was a big commitment for Marc, who left his family and medical practice for three weeks, but one he chose to accept, due to his love of sports, and most importantly, Israel. The Games are held every four years, in Israel, and involve over 9,000 athletes, ranging in ages from 14-90 and representing 76 countries. The three-week period first included a week of training and touring for the athletes. Marc spent his time initially with the wrestling and water polo teams. They competed at the national and vied for a medal. We came close, making it to the “Elite Eight,” but lost to the team from New York, which won the gold medal. They were just too big.

Marc Backal at the Opening Ceremony

Kenny Silverboard, of Atlanta, was also at the Maccabiah Games, as a volunteer for Maccabi USA, the organization that runs the games for the U.S. athletes. We sent 1,100 athletes, coaches, and support staff. Approximately 9,000 athletes from 76 countries participated in the games, in age categories 15-16, 17-18, Open (college age to 25), Master (35 and up), and Grand Master (55 and up).

Kenny was an accommodation manager (logistical guy) for the Master/Grand Master athletes in Tel Aviv, which included participants in half marathon, triathlon, tennis, table tennis, squash, softball, cycling, and swimming. He dealt with credentials, transportation, and any issues that arose.

Among the many athletes in the Georgia delegation were Samantha Findling and Meagan Light, who played on the gold medal softball team. Ryan Landy competed as a Master triathlete; he won a gold medal in the 40-44 age group and finished 5th overall for all age groups. Halle Friedeman competed in the swimming competition. I was hoping that Kenny and my son-in-law, Marc Backal, would be able to meet up, but their busy schedules and their locations never allowed for that.

Kenny told me that the opening ceremony, with 40,000 singing Hatikvah, was a “goosebump experience.” He said that seeing all the athletes mingling before they marched into the ceremony was amazing.

NATIONAL SENIOR GAMES

My wife and I traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, in late July, for the National Senior Games, in which I participated in 3X3 half court basketball in the 70-74 age group. This would be the 6th time our team competed at the national and vied for a medal. We came close, making it to the “Elite Eight,” but lost to the team from New York, which won the gold medal. They were just too big.

The best part of the trip for me was that our daughter, Cathy Backal, flew in from New Jersey to see me play. She said that she had never seen me play in a basketball game before, which I couldn’t believe, and so there she was. After three days sitting in a gym watching older timers play from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., I’m certain she was cured of any desire to see a senior game again. It meant a lot to me that she came. She was officially adopted by the wives of my teammates, and we had a great time together. We even got to visit The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Meagan Light and Kenny Silverboard at the opening ceremony of the Maccabiah Games

REMEMBERING FREDDY BENAMY

After the April 21 Alta Cocker softball game, I sat at a table and enjoyed a deli lunch with Freddy Benamy and other old-timers. It was great seeing him. As always, he asked how my brother, Kenny, was doing. Three months to the day later, Freddy died from diabetes complications. Willie Green called me with the sad news, and it was hard to believe.

When we moved to Atlanta in 1966, Freddy was one of the first guys I met. He was the captain of my first AJCC basketball team, and Benamy’s Bulls won the league championship that year. He was also the captain of softball teams I played on, and we always seemed to win the championship with Freddy on the mound, with that cigar in his mouth. He had a knack every season for finding and drafting one or two ringers whom the other captains didn’t know.

I also played on the City League softball teams he captained in the late ’60s and early ’70s. I have fond memories of the days with the Buddy’s Sporting Goods, Atlas Transmission, and Coca-Gebrda teams. Freddy was always organized, brought all the equipment, kept the batting averages, and pitched and played the outfield.

Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was coaching the 18-and-under girls’ softball team known as the Atlanta Brats. He was inducted into the Georgia USSSA Hall of Fame in 2002. He was quite a guy, one who will always be remembered and missed.

Hope you have enjoyed this column. Until next time, drive for the bucket and score.
I respectfully disagree

BY Janice Rothschild Blumberg

A recent news item in the Forward frightened me—only for our future as Jews, its immediate concern, but in its broader context for our future as Americans and world citizens.

The article reports action by an organization known as COPMA—Citizens Opposed to Propaganda Masquerading as Art—to cut off funding for its local Jewish Federation unless the Federation forces the Jewish Community Center in that city to make its resident Jewish theater cancel production of a play seen by some as anti-Israel. The playwright is a well-known Israeli Jew, and the theater’s artistic director is a deeply committed American Jew demonstrably devoted to Israel’s welfare.

The play is fiction, based on an event that allegedly occurred during Israel’s War of Independence. If true, it would indicate that Israeli soldiers committed acts of vandalism. Haven’t we seen enough of war by now to realize that these things happen, even perpetrated by our own American GIs, the otherwise good guys? We wish it weren’t so, but we still recognize the need to seek the truth in order to help prevent further atrocities. That is what this play is purporting to do.

Those who seek to silence playwrights ignore our cherished American principle of examining controversial subjects openly in order to help people understand them. That’s at the foundation of democracy, Jewish as well as American. It is frightening to think that we, as a Jewish community, must accept the dictates of a self-chosen few as to what is or is not in Israel’s best interest.

Thankfully, the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning offers a course entitled “Beyond Borders: The Story of the Arab-Israeli Conflict,” which examines the issue from its beginnings and thus far has not been muzzled in its attempt to seek the truth. But Melton, wonderful and successful as it is, reaches only a privileged few. The subject cries out for wider illumination. That is what art does.

Call it propaganda if you like, but think of how that “propaganda” of the past resonates with us today, how in its day art opened discussions that led to what we know as progress. History is replete with examples, from Biblical poetry to Gentleman’s Agreement and To Kill a Mockingbird. Art is the last bastion of free speech.

Let us be wary of those among us whose love for Israel blinds them to what is actually good for Israel. Surely the abrogation of free expression is not good for anyone. We need to be wary of it, especially within Jewish communities here in America, where our ability to support Israel depends so much upon our cohesiveness and credibility.

Artistic vigilantism is a virus that, left unchecked, could affect us all. It hasn’t happened in Atlanta yet—at least not to the extent that it has in other Jewish communities—but let’s make sure that it doesn’t. Think clearly and keep an open mind. The truth may hurt, but it’s only a surface wound, whereas suppressing it can be much worse.

Living one’s Judaism

By I.M. Levi

Through the millennia of displacement and wandering, the Jews, either by choice or by dictate of the rulers, developed a societal system by which to govern and rule themselves. Legal and communal principles and standards were implemented, many of which were based on the conventions and principles of Judaism.

The mitzvah prohibiting the collecting of interest from a fellow Jew when lending money is well established in biblical text. Likewise, the concept of helping the needy, especially if by doing so you enable the recipient to become self-sufficient, is a basic tenant.

Gemilut hasadim, or acts of loving kindness, is a well-established, fundamental Jewish value. It is doing for others without the anticipation or expectation of receiving repayment of any kind, and it is an action that guides a person’s dealings in everyday living. It is a duty and responsibility that can include such activities as providing food and clothing to the needy, comforting the sick, and giving solace to the bereaved. It also can include helping a person in financial need to meet this challenge and become self-sufficient. In everyday parlance, the acronym gemach is used to refer to such mitzvot.

Europe, Jewish communities established communal interest-free loan societies to function in helping one another. With the influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe to the United States in the 19th century, they brought with them the concept of the Jewish interest-free loan society, an agency that was unique among all immigrant groups. The first such organization was founded in Pittsburgh in 1887 and spread from there. These groups primarily were involved in making small loans for business purposes to help individuals engage in commerce to provide for them and their families.

Such charitable endeavors were also started in Atlanta during this era. There were several agencies that provided support for those in need. Through the years, most of those organizations went out of existence, however, one has thrived. The Hebrew Orphans Asylum, as it was originally known, came into being in 1889. While its primary purpose was to serve as a residence of orphaned and impoverished children, as, thankfully, the need for this type of service abated, the organization changed its mission and name.

Today, it is known as the Jewish Educational Loan Fund (JELF) and makes last-dollar loans for Jewish students to go to college. Recently, a community-wide gemach, the Jewish Interest Free Loan of Atlanta (JIFLA), was again activated to serve the non-educational needs of people who are unable to obtain credit from the traditional market sources. There is at least one other synagogue-connected lending sources that operates in the Atlanta area.

To aid and support one another, the International Association of Hebrew Free Loans (IAHFL) was formed by organizations around the world as a way to learn from and communicate with similar organizations in other places. It serves as a forum to exchange views and to draw on the experiences of others that are operating under the same basic guidelines. This past October, IAHFL came to Atlanta to hold its annual conference. The meeting was hosted by the two Atlanta organizations that are members of this association, JELF and JIFLA. Workshops were held on a number of different subjects, and social gatherings were planned so that the attendees could get to know one another on a more personal basis.

Panelist for one of the sessions are (from left) Rona Gottlib Bochenek, Hebrew Free Loan Society of New York; Natasha Vayner, Atlanta, from JVillageNetwork; David Contorer, Hebrew Free Loan of Metropolitan Detroit; Ellen Sacks, Jewish Free Loan of Greater Phoenix; and Ede Barr of Jewish Interest Free Loan of Atlanta

Participants at one of the instructional seminars at the 2013 IAJFL annual conference

Over sixty representatives from all over came, some of whom were representing brand-new organizations that were in the startup phase.

Thanks to the unbelievable effort and work of both staff and volunteers from both organizations, the event moved smoothly through the program. Because of these efforts, the participants left with a warm feeling for the cordiality of Atlanta and the usefulness of the program that was presented.
MORE THAN A PAL. "Family." That’s how Elissa Fladell and Tali Herskovitz describe their relationship. More than 13 years ago, Elissa and Tali were matched by Jewish Family & Career Services’ PAL Program. Tali was 12 years old, and her parents had recently divorced. Elissa was single and employed, and she wanted to make an impact on someone else’s life. Tali’s mom, Audrey, needed a break from the difficulties of being a single parent.

After her divorce, Audrey’s two girls became Little PALS. “The PAL program was life-changing for the kids. It’s probably the only positive thing that came out of the divorce for them,” said Audrey. “Elissa was a positive influence at a tough time. She gave Tali something special to look forward to.”

Elissa recalls those early days she spent with Tali, doing lots of arts and crafts projects together. But as time went on, their relationship only became stronger. When Elissa married, Tali was a junior bridesmaid. When Elissa had children, Tali was a part of all. (She even potty trained one of Elissa’s kids.)

Of course, there were occasions when life’s timing was a big challenge. Getting together was difficult, and they had to stay close with lots of phone calls, proving their dedication to make their friendship last for life. “Now we have a real adult relationship,” Elissa says. “She’s one of my closest friends. For me, it has always been about having someone else in my life to love. She’s part of our family.”

Like many PAL matches, their relationship lasted way beyond the formal program, which ends when the Little PAL graduates high school.

Tali is a beautiful young woman who is intensely studying for the Georgia Bar exam. From the time she was 12, Tali loved having a “cool” adult as her very own friend with whom she could chat and shop. “She listens,” Tali says. “We talk about everything. Having someone older to talk to who is not your mom has always been so helpful.” During Tali’s senior year of high school, her mom relocated. Tali moved in with Elissa and her family for the remainder of that school year and stayed with them during breaks from college. When it came time for her graduation from Duke, Elissa and her family didn’t think twice about attending. “I’m so proud of her,” says Elissa. “She’s worked her tush off!”

Elissa sums up their relationship by saying, “I don’t think about what I’ve done for her... I just think about how much she’s done for me.”

“I just can’t think about life without her,” says Tali. “I think all kids could benefit from someone’s undivided attention.”

PEPS. JF&CS Atlanta is recognized by its peer agencies in the Jewish communal world, as well as by larger organizations in the greater community, for its outstanding program management. Now, it has entered into a collaborative agreement with the Association of Jewish Family & Children’s Agencies to provide a tool to help other member organizations be more effective in strategic and program planning.

Based in Baltimore, the AJFCA counts approximately 125 Jewish family service agencies of various sizes from across this country and Canada in its membership. Through JF&CS Atlanta’s PEPS (Program Planning & Evaluation System) software, the agencies will have a web-based set of scorecard analysis tools for new and existing programs based on programmatic impact and fiscal performance.

“JF&CS Atlanta’s PEPS is a very exciting development and a great opportunity as a value-added benefit for membership within the AJFCA,” said Gary Miller, CEO of JF&CS Atlanta. “We set out in our strategic planning process a goal of reviewing our services and focusing on earned income initiatives. We take our innovation seriously.”

JF&CS is currently exploring other distribution channels, as well as ways to provide the tool to a wider audience, he added. “This really is about entrepreneurial innovation.”

In February, JF&CS completed a yearlong Scope of Services evaluation of its programs to ensure that, going forward, the agency would focus on the right mix of services for its clients and the community. The PEPS software proved critical in determining the programs and services that had the most impact and were the most effective and efficient.

“We’re pleased to be able to offer this tool that transformed our own agency to friends and colleagues across the country,” said Rick Aranson, chief operating officer of JF&CS Atlanta. “There is a clear need for this type of tool in nonprofit agencies across the country, and we look forward to sharing our best practices approach to program planning and evaluation with organizations in the AJFCA network.

“We developed this proprietary tool for internal use initially, because nothing like it existed in the market,” he said. “It addresses all critical components of nonprofit program planning.”

Lee Sherman, president and CEO of AJFCA, believes PEPS is an outstanding strategic tool. “We are pleased to be able to bring this valuable resource to our network of agencies across the U.S. and Canada, so they can better manage their programs and services in this increasingly complex world.”

In addition to program analysis of both new and existing programs, PEPS offers a wide range of analytic tools and benefits, including strategic planning, reporting, tracking, benchmarking, program scorecards, and outcomes tracking. It promotes diversification of funding sources, increases accountability of program staff, and identifies earned income potential among the many other benefits.

For more information about PEPS, contact Rick Aranson at 770-677-9387, or visit pepssoftware.com.

A NEW PATH IN THE JOB SEARCH. JF&CS has an exciting, new interactive tool for job seekers. The Gateway to Careers website takes users from assessing their career skills to looking for a job.

“This is another key tool in the JF&CS Career Services toolkit,” said JF&CS Chief Operating Officer Rick Aranson. “It provides our clients access to an exclusive, comprehensive suite of assessments that complements our agency’s career counseling, workshops, and job placement services perfectly.”

JF&CS-Atlanta is one of 32 members of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS) to offer the tool, which is designed by the U.S. Department of Labor. One of its key attributes is the ability for each agency to customize it. In Atlanta, the JF&CS careers team continually updates and monitors the site.

“In addition to what we offer, this will help people who are self-directed in their job search,” said Debi Lastinger, career counselor and Gateway to Careers project lead. “They can engage with this site without a counselor or a workshop. If they get stuck, they may come in to see us, but this gives them a good start.”

Gateway to Careers (ga.jobseekers-guide.org) is free and will connect to JF&CS website, yourtoolsforliving.org.

MARNI LONDE SHOWS OFF THE CARDS SHE AND HER FRIENDS MADE FOR AVIV CELEBRATIONS.

AVIV CELEBRATIONS. The Aviv Celebrations program was created by Jewish Family & Career Services’ PAL Program. Marin Londe, a 6th-grader at The Epstein School, wanted to do a service project that would change the world by making someone else’s day special.

She and her family had an idea: visit an independent living community and walk the residents’ dogs for 15 minutes. “I was amazed at how happy and appreciative the residents were,” Marin said. “Not only did I find the experience of helping the residents meaningful, but the notion of friends helping friends helping others as part of zidusah is very meaningful to me. For together we can do more— and feel good about it!”

Since a simple gesture such as dog walking could brighten the day of residents, Marin wanted to replicate that feeling for other seniors in the community. The opportunity arose when she learned about the Aviv Celebrations program by participating in JF&CS’ Mitzvah Day. The program mails handmade birthday cards to older adults in the JF&CS community and delivers handmade get-well cards to people in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living communities, and more.

Marin was hooked. She felt it was important to improve the world for seniors on their birthdays or who are in poor health, and the Aviv Celebrations program was a perfect match. “My grandparents love getting cards from me. My hope is that the older adults getting these cards feel that special moment as well.”

She set a goal of 500 cards for the program and asked friends to help make it happen. She hosted card-making parties and “movies and card” nights. By early September, Marin not only met her goal, but also exceeded it by making 560 cards.

“Marin has done quite a mitzvah,” said Cherie Avir, who started the program. “She will touch 560 lives by sharing a card with each to brighten his or her day.”

For more information about Aviv Celebrations, call 770-677-9394 or visit http://jfyl.org/cards.
As it begins its expansion, Friends of the IDF (FIDF) Georgia Region has changed its name to Friends of the IDF Southeast Region. Under the leadership of recently appointed Executive Director Seth Baron, the chapter will continue its efforts to raise awareness and support for the men and women of the Israel Defense Forces and their families across the Southeast. Friends of the IDF (FIDF) Southeast Region has expanded throughout the Southeast and continues through November 17. One of the most talked-about authors, celebrities, and influencers this season is Elizabeth Gilbert. Her book, “Eat, Pray, Love,” has been transformed into a Hollywood movie. Gilbert will embark on an unprecedented book tour over the last few years, thanks to its expanding donor base and exceptional generosity. Last year, FIDF was extremely successful in its programming, which included:

- the IMPACT Program, which granted academic scholarships to 3,400 combat soldiers
- the LEGACY Program, which brought 80 bar/bat mitzvah children, who have lost a loved one in action, on a trip to the U.S., hosted by over 700 widows at Rest and Relaxation Centers in Israel, and funded workshops for nearly 1,000 bereaved siblings
- the OIGNITY Program, which provided financial assistance and holiday gift-vouchers to over 8,000 soldiers in need; and
- the Lone Soldiers Program, which assisted more than 2,700 Lone Soldiers through every stage of their military service.

Friends of the IDF Southeast Region supports these programs. It will also participate in “Adopt a Brigade,” a newly launched initiative that combines many FIDF programs. Through “Adopt a Brigade,” the FIDF Southeast Region will provide support for thousands of soldiers serving in the Combat Intelligence Corps through an array of wellbeing and recreational activities, as well as assistance to Lone Soldiers in the corps’ various units.

“Our expansion throughout the Southeast is a critical step to enhance and strengthen the mission of FIDF,” said Baron. “We look forward to working with all of the Pro-Israel communities in the Southeast as we continue to provide for the men and women who serve in the IDF and who fight relentlessly to defend the Jewish homeland.”

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Thought you’d like to know

By Jonathan Barach

BOOK IT. The Book Festival of the MICCA continues through November 17. One of the South’s premier literary events, it features works from this year’s most sought-after and talked-about authors, celebrities, and influencers. Enjoy events with Jeff Clemmons (Rich’s: A Southern Institution), November 14; Alan Dean Foster (Taking the Stand: My Life in the Law), November 16; Lynn Povich, (The Law of the Land), November 22; and Alan Dershowitz (Rich’s: A Southern Institution) and Lori Rotskoff (The Death of Santini), November 27. For more information, visit www.atlantajcc.org/bookfestival.

FREE PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS. The JF&CS Tools for Aging program invites Holocaust survivors to a new social event, Nosh ’n Schmooze, November 14, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at Congregation Beth Jacob; social and refreshments. Register at cobbjewishacademics.org; admission is $12 and includes coffee, tea, and bagels. For more information, contact Rabbi Glusman at 678-812-4161 or rabbi.glusman@atlantajcc.org.

NOW YOU CAN HELP TO FUND AN INTERACTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE. Jews & Jews provides an interactive learning experience in a fun social setting. Drinks and food available for purchase. For more information, contact Rabbi Glusman at 678-812-4161 or rabbi.glusman@atlantajcc.org.

NEW ISRAEL FUND. The New Israel Fund’s Inaugural NIF Atlanta Donor Event, “Rekindling Liberal Democracy in Israel,” is November 20, 7:30 p.m., at The Temple. It will feature a conversation with acclaimed Israeli journalist and historian Gershom Gorenberg, moderated by Professor of Modern Jewish History Professor Deborah Lipstadt of Emory University. Gorenberg will discuss the development of Israeli democracy, the anti-democratic policies and fundamentalist groups that threaten to undermine it today, and what must be done to renew democratic values in Israel.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF ATLANTA. The JCC’s Zaban Park Gymnastics Pavilion, MJCCA-Zaban Park Gymnastics Pavilion, November 15, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Children will have the opportunity to tour the facility, play games, and jump on the trampoline. Parents will have the opportunity to tour the facility and learn about and register for gymnastics classes. Rabbi Glusman will lead Shabbat songs and blessings. Challah and refreshments will be provided. Contact CJCEvents@atlantajcc.org, or visit www.atlantajcc.org.

FRIENDS OF THE IDF expands throughout the Southeast. Friends of the IDF (FIDF) Georgia Region has expanded throughout the Southeast as we continue to provide for the men and women who serve in the IDF and who fight relentlessly to defend the Jewish homeland.

- Financial assistance and holiday gift-vouchers to over 8,000 soldiers in need;
- Assistance to Lone Soldiers through every stage of their military service.
- Educational scholarships to 3,400 combat soldiers;
- Vouchers to over 8,000 soldiers in need;
- The DIGNITY Program, which provided financial assistance and holiday gift-vouchers to over 8,000 soldiers in need;
- The Lone Soldiers Program, which assisted more than 2,700 Lone Soldiers through every stage of their military service.

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FRIENDS OF THE IDF expands throughout the Southeast

By Seth Baron

At the age of 18, young Israeli men and women must join the IDF and uphold the difficult task of defending the State of Israel. FIDF provides all Israeli soldiers with love and support in an effort to ease the burden they carry on behalf of the Jewish community worldwide. FIDF was established as a not-for-profit organization in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors with the mission of supporting educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs and facilities for these brave soldiers. The organization also offers services to the families of fallen soldiers.

FIDF operates through 15 chapters around the United States and Panama and has expanded more than 2,700 Lone Soldiers over the last few years, thanks to its expanding donor base and exceptional generosity. Last year, FIDF was extremely successful in its programming, which included:

- the IMPACT! Program, which granted academic scholarships to 3,400 combat soldiers;
- the LEGACY Program, which brought 80 bar/bat mitzvah children, who have lost a loved one in action, on a trip to the U.S., hosted by over 700 widows at Rest and Relaxation Centers in Israel, and funded workshops for nearly 1,000 bereaved siblings;
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- the Lone Soldiers Program, which assisted more than 2,700 Lone Soldiers through every stage of their military service.

Friends of the IDF Southeast Region supports these programs. It will also participate in “Adopt a Brigade,” a newly launched initiative that combines many FIDF programs. Through “Adopt a Brigade,” the FIDF Southeast Region will provide support for thousands of soldiers serving in the Combat Intelligence Corps through an array of wellbeing and recreational activities, as well as assistance to Lone Soldiers in the corps’ various units.

“Our expansion throughout the Southeast is a critical step to enhance and strengthen the mission of FIDF,” said Baron. “We look forward to working with all of the Pro-Israel communities in the Southeast as we continue to provide for the men and women who serve in the IDF and who fight relentlessly to defend the Jewish homeland.”

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Noric Albert, LPC
Dr. Ima Enoch, Ph.D

Dan Arnold, LCSW
Elishava Funk, LCSW

From THOUGHT, page 40

Seth Baron

NEW ISRAEL FUND. The New Israel Fund’s Inaugural NIF Atlanta Donor Event, “Rekindling Liberal Democracy in Israel,” is November 20, 7:30 p.m., at The Temple. It will feature a conversation with acclaimed Israeli journalist and historian Gershom Gorenberg, moderated by Professor of Modern Jewish History Professor Deborah Lipstadt of Emory University. Gorenberg will discuss the development of Israeli democracy, the anti-democratic policies and fundamentalist groups that threaten to undermine it today, and what must be done to renew democratic values in Israel.

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Berman Commons breaks ground

BY Marice Katz

The Atlanta Jewish community has always been fortunate to have dedicated professional staff and lay leadership in our organizations who anticipate needs and guide us toward meeting these objectives. None has been more effective than those involved in the operation of The William Berman Jewish Home and its affiliated organizations.

After many years of planning, on Sunday, September 15, a large crowd of people gathered at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Berman Commons, the newest addition to the Jewish Home Life Communities. The Berman Jewish Home’s website describes the new facility as “a kosher assisted living community partner with the CAC because their

The concept behind the Berman Commons has been a dream of Steve’s, and it came to be his “baby.” He has always given his time, money, and care freely to the entire Jewish community, but the dream of this assisted living place, with its expanded services, including secure memory care services, had a special place in his priorities. Steve said being involved in the Jewish Home has been his life. It is also interesting that the Commons will give its residents the ability to enjoy the many, varied programs at the MICCA, because it is right next door.

Berman Commons project team: Joe Rubin, Bob London and David Weiss; Dunwoody Mayor Pro Tem Denis Shortal; MJCCA President Steven Cadranel; State Senator Fran Millar; WBJH Past President Steve Berman; WBJH President Jerry Weiner; City Councilman Terry Nall; Capital Campaign Chair Fred Halperin, and WBJH President Elect Steve Merlin

Anyone who has need of the services offered at the Commons should not hesitate to sign up. I would describe the accommodations, studio and one-bedroom units, as “adorable” and “beautiful” — and the monthly rents are competitively priced. This 90-unit building is expected to open in December of 2014.

Let’s all go to the grand opening!

Davis third-graders take shortest and longest field trip

BY Rabbi Micah Lapidus

Every year Davis Academy third-graders go on the world’s shortest and longest field trip. They board buses and head to an amazing organization called The Community Assistance Center. It’s the world’s shortest field trip because the CAC is approximately one mile away from The Davis Academy. It’s the world’s longest field trip because the realities that the CAC addresses are very different from the life experience of Davis third-graders. Here’s a description of the work of the CAC (taken from their website): CAC programs are designed to help families and individuals facing emergency situations meet the basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing. Our goals are to prevent homelessness, alleviate hunger, promote self-sufficiency, and enrich the lives of children whose families are struggling to make ends meet. Since CAC was founded 25 years ago, the center has touched 16,000 families in our community. In 2011 we served 5,000 individuals and families.

Touring CAC’s Sandy Springs facility that includes a clothing closet and a food pantry

Davis Academy third-graders are a community partner with the CAC because their curriculum dedicates time to understanding the history of Georgia and the important concept of “community.” Many of the children are surprised to learn that there are families in their own community and zip code that do not have enough money for rent, fresh food, or other basic necessities. When we tour the CAC, the children see

the food pantry — sometimes full, sometimes partially full, and sometimes alarmingly sparse. They see shelves dedicated to basic school supplies like paper, pencils, notebooks, and backpacks, and they see the clothing-processing facilities with everything from underwear to formal wear. As they tour the CAC, they begin to understand the importance of the collections they do at Davis in support of this organization.

Davis Academy third-graders sort and bag toiletries for CAC clients

With seeing comes understanding. Third-graders come to understand that volunteering benefits not only those who receive the toiletries and groceries, but that it also transforms the volunteer into a more loving, more aware, and more thoughtful person. They come to understand that “Thrift Store” isn’t only a song by Macklemore, but a place where people are able to shop with dignity. They come to understand that the world actually is unfair and imbalanced, but that it doesn’t have to be.

They come to understand the idea of tzedakah — one of The Davis Academy’s menschlichkeit values. At a very young age children are able to understand the idea of tzedakah — charitable giving. Tzedek, meaning “justice” or “righteousness,” is a bit harder to understand because it’s much more abstract. Through visits to the CAC and other service learning experiences, children understand that tzedakah is one of the ways that Jews strive to create tzedek.

The Davis/CAC partnership is now several years old. The CAC is blessed to have many partners in the Sandy Springs community (though never enough), and Davis students are blessed to have many opportunities to pursue tzedek. It’s a short drive, but a long journey to the CAC, and our students see and understand differently once they’ve been there and back.

Brian Lapidus is the Director of Jewish and Hebrew Studies at The Davis Academy.
I think Theodore Herzl would be proud.

Last month, Jewish National Fund, of which I am the chief executive officer, declared its vision for a bold future when a new and expanded partnership was announced with the Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI). AMHSI brings American teenagers to Israel for a semester or part of a semester. There, they will study their regular American school curricula together with an extensive Zionist history curriculum, including site visits to the places where Jewish history occurred. We believe this will catapult Zionist education to the next level something that is sorely needed and here's why.

Many people in the Jewish world today even the most committed are afraid of the "Z" word Zionism. Not Jewish National Fund: it is part of our everyday vernacular. When we speak to young or old when we are talking about our work in Israel or our Zionist educational activities here in the U.S. when we refer to our rich history; and when we speak about our vital and promising future, we show its relevance in today's world.

The story of Jewish National Fund is the story of Zionism and reaches back to 1901 when Theodore Herzl first established the fund. Now, over a century later, JNF is the largest organization that provides the most Zionist impact to the greatest number of young people. Starting with children planting a tree on Tu b'Shevat, to learning about the historical sites in Israel, to young adults participating on Alternative Spring Break or Birthright, Jewish National Fund knows how to connect young American Jews to Israel from kindergarten through college and beyond. Jewish National Fund knows Zionism.

For over 40 years, the Alexander Muss High School in Israel has led the field in providing transformative, pluralistic Israeli experiences for high school students. AMHSI has developed fully accredited academic programs for teens to strengthen their Jewish identity while developing deep-rooted connections to Jewish life, to the Jewish people, and to Israel. Today, the school has more than 20,000 alumni and of whom are active leaders in their Jewish communities.

AMHSI is the leading high school program in Israel, and JNF has the necessary and highly regarded oversight and operational infrastructure to broaden AMHSI's reach. We believe this expanded partnership will help ensure future generations of students and Jewish community leaders.

I've read the recent reports and studies on American Jews. Some of the numbers are frightening others show promise. The best way to strengthen Jewish community is through Jewish education, and that is what this partnership is all about.

Now is the time to engage young people and get them excited about their heritage. Get them to love the land of Israel. Get them to feel their heritage, one that goes back thousands of years. Create a visceral experience for today's youth, and you will create a Jewish future.

I say Zionism just claimed a victory with this partnership. I think Theodore Herzl would say the same.

The Jewish National Fund is developing an Alexander Muss Alumni and Parents Network. Please contact Abby Halper at AHalper@JNF.org or 404-236-8990 here in our Atlanta office to be kept abreast of visiting Muss teachers, capital developments and reunions.

BY Russell Robinson

BIRNBREY HONORED. Next spring, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta will honor Henry Birnbrey with its Lifetime of Achievement (LOA) Award. From a deep roster of deserving finalists, Henry Birnbrey, with his record of tireless community leadership distinguished him from the field, unanimously emerging as this year's winner. Henry has dedicated nearly 70 years to serving in a variety of key leadership capacities throughout the community, beginning in 1945 when, upon returning from the war, he assumed the presidency of the Atlanta Chapter of Masada, a vital agency before returning to Atlanta, Georgia, has seen its top ten Jewish organizations or programs less than five years old that do not currently receive annual funding from Federation. This year's recipients are:

- Adaham Adventures, a Jewish outdoor adventure summer camp that challenges teens to increase their self-confidence independence and sense of adventure while building a strong Jewish community focused on environmental awareness and outdoor living.
- Jewish Kids Groups, Atlanta's independent Hebrew school and after-school community offering fun, content-rich, Jewish supplemental education to children and their families, irrespective of affiliation.
- Jewni House, which provides meaningful Jewish experiences for young adults in their 20s, as they create vibrant home-based Jewish communities for their peers and themselves.
- Atlanta Jewish Music Festival, which engages and unifies under-affiliated Jews of all ages, drawing them in through cultural and social programming driven by the power of music.

Like many of the towns with synagogues, Fitzgerald, Georgia, has seen its Jewish population decline to the point that it is not possible to support a full-time rabbi. As a result, the remaining Jewish population relies on the services of student rabbis who occupy the pulpit once a month.

While in New York last month, Claudia and Penson Kaminsky, two of the remaining stalwarts of the congregation, arranged to have lunch with three former and the current student rabbis. Shown in the picture wearing one-of-a-kind shirt designed by the Kaminskys are, from left to right, Jonah Geffen, Mia Simring, Claudia and Penson Kaminsky, Miriam Liebnan (the present student rabbi), and David Minkus.

Penson pointed out that he added the chickens in the design of the shirts as a local symbol of the wild chickens that abound in Fitzgerald.

Student rabbis at Fitzgerald Hebrew Congregation

Innovation Fund Grant. Five organizations have been awarded Jewish Continuity Innovation Fund Grants. Federation established the fund to support organizations or programs less than five years old that do not currently receive annual funding from Federation. This year's recipients are:

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Cecil Alexander: A remarkable Atlantan

By Jeremy Katz, ed. Sandra Berman

Born a war baby on March 14, 1918, Cecil Alexander was a World War II veteran, a renowned architect, and an outspoken activist during the Civil Rights Movement who influenced the physical appearance, as well as the political, social, and racial structure of the great city of Atlanta.

Cecil grew up in an Atlanta that was vastly different from the city we know today. Only a little over fifty years prior, Sherman burned the city to the ground on his March to the Sea, during the Civil War. In his memoirs, Cecil stated, “Memories of the horrors of that war and the devastation of reconstruction hung heavily on its people, weighing down Atlanta’s progress.”

Subsequently, race riots ravaged the city in 1906, and Jewish businessman Leo Frank was lynched in 1915. Segregation was a part of everyday life, and although social lines were usually drawn by race rather than religion, Jews lived in constant fear that they would be ostracized, like the African-American community.

Cecil thrived at Marist School, but due to the Great Depression, his family’s finances could no longer support his education at a private school. He graduated from Boy’s High School in 1936 and continued his education at Yale University, where he received a degree in architecture.

While at MIT, working towards a master’s degree in architecture, Cecil learned of the atrocities being committed towards Jews in Nazi Europe. In an oral history, Cecil stated, “From that point on, I wasn’t interested in academics at all. I wanted to go fight the Nazis.”

He soon enlisted in civilian pilot training and then in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. During World War II, Cecil flew sixty missions as a dive-bomber pilot in the South Pacific. He named his plane “The Hermi Swoose,” after his wife, Hermione. He reached the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring from the service.

Shalom, good friend

By Ruben Stanley

Atlanta is a big city, and the Jewish National Fund is a large, international organization. With these two factors, it would be very easy for the JNF’s Southeast Region office located in Atlanta to project an impersonal, bureaucratic persona. Nothing could be further from the truth. They get the job done with a small, warm, dedicated professional staff and a cadre of dedicated volunteers from around the district.

For the past six years, this staff has included Ronnie Porat, an Israeli citizen assigned to this office as a schaliach, or emissary. Ronnie has worked hand in hand with Beth Glick, JNF Southeastern Region Director, to spread the JNF story throughout the territory with great success.

And now that Ronnie is leaving and going back to Israel, the people who had worked with and gotten to know him – staff, volunteers, and friends he had made throughout the region – wanted to say “thank you” to him.

On August 27, a large contingency of friends and supporters gathered in the auditorium of Or VeShalom Synagogue to recognize and celebrate Ronnie, the friendships that have been established, and the accomplishments that have been achieved during his assignment. Appreciative supporters had come from Atlanta, towns outside of Atlanta, and outside of Georgia. As a tribute to his service to Israel and JNF, the region honored him with a plaque on the Wall of Honor at Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem. In addition, friends and admirers contributed to
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Founded as M. Rich Dry Goods in 1867, Rich’s grew into one of the most influential institutions in Atlanta’s history before it was finally absorbed into Macy’s on March 6, 2005.

“We are charting new ground with this initiative. There is not a Jewish museum model we have encountered that takes this initiative. There is not a Jewish museum seen largely as a history museum.”

“The Molly Blank Jewish Concert Series celebrates the role Jews have played in music. The Breman Museum is partnering with The Atlanta Opera to provide a three-concert series, which features the highly acclaimed TAO musical director, Maestro Arthur Fagen, and leading musicans and performers from around the region. Held in the intimate space of the Breman Museum’s auditorium, these concerts provide both Jews and non-Jews with an impassioned and engaging musical experience—the first of its kind in Atlanta.

The first concert, “Music of the Holocaust: Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Kristallnacht,” took place November 9. The evening, led by Maestro Fagen, whose parents were saved by Oskar Schindler, featured chamber music interwoven with a selection of images and readings prepared by the Weinberg Center for Holocaust Education at the Breman Museum.

Upcoming concerts are:

• “Jewish Composers of the 19th & 20th Centuries,” Sunday, January 19, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. This concert will provide a 100-year journey through music with German composer, pianist, organist, and conductor of the early Romantic period Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), late-Romantic Austrian composer Gustav Mahler (1860-1911), and American composer, conductor, author, music lecturer, and pianist Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), who was among the first conductors born and educated in the U.S. to receive worldwide acclaim. The concert will include a singer and pianist from the Atlanta area and a string quartet made up of Atlanta Opera Orchestra musicians.

• “The Best of Broadway,” Sunday, March 9, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. This concert will feature two singers and a pianist from the Atlanta Opera Orchestra performing works by Rodgers and Hammerstein, whose popular Broadway musicals initiated the golden age of musical theater; Irving Berlin, an American composer and lyricist of Belarusian-Jewish origin, widely considered one of the greatest and most prolific songwriters in American history; and Stephen Sondheim, who at the age of 10 was mentored by Oscar Hammerstein II and grew up to be described by The New York Times as “the greatest and perhaps best-known artist in American musical theatre.”

The Molly Blank Jewish Concert Series has been made possible through a generous grant from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation and was named after Arthur Blank’s mother, Molly Blank, a lifetime lover of music. Additional support has been provided by the Schwob Family Foundation and The Georgia Council For The Arts.

For more information or to RSVP, visit jewishconcertseries.org, or call 678-222-3700.

KRYSTALLNACHT. On November 10, “Bearing Witness: Memories of Kristallnacht” commemorated the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht with a presentation of historical photographs and a panel discussion with eyewitnesses to Kristallnacht. Featured speakers included Herbert Kohn, Benjamin Hirsch, and Liane Levitan. This program is free and open to the public.

“Bearing Witness” was presented by The Weinberg Center For Holocaust Education and sponsored by Eternal Life Hemshech.

BLACK FRIDAY AT THE BREMAN MUSEUM STORE. Instead of fighting crowds at the mall, come to The Breman Museum Store’s mid-Hanukkah sale, on Black Friday, November 29. The store will be hosting local artists, as well as selling Judaica, jewelry, apparel, and books at up to 75% off. While you’re there, check out the new exhibition, “Return to Rich’s: The Story Behind the Store.”

The museum and store are open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For details, visit thebreman.org or call 678-222-3700.

Alexander

From page 29

During his career, he helped shape the Atlanta skyline by designing well-known buildings such as the AT&T Midtown Center, the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, the Coca-Cola International Headquarters, the Georgia Power Company Corporate Headquarters, and the State of Georgia building.

Cecil puts it best: “While my career has been devoted to creating buildings, such as the Atlanta Fulton County Stadium, Coca-Cola Corporate Headquarters, and others, my conscience and, I will admit, pragmatism led me to do whatever I could to make this city a better, more livable environment for all of its citizens.”

While at Harvard, Cecil befriended a fellow pilot and war veteran Conrad Johnson, who was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen. This friendship influenced the rest of his life.

During the Civil Rights Movement, Cecil was an outspoken supporter of integration and equal rights for African-Americans. Andrew Young wrote of Cecil, “During the period that Atlanta and the South struggled to accept the Civil Rights Movement, there were only a few white Atlantans who openly and with courage stood up for our goals. Cecil Alexander was one of those few. He risked his career and at times was subjected to threats of violence as a leader in opposing the bigotry hate mongers who would deny us our rights.”

When Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, Cecil helped sponsor a dinner in his honor.

In 2001, Cecil was awarded the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award for his work on Mayor Ivan Allen Jr.’s Committee to Mediate Racial Unrest and Housing Resource Committee, which constructed thousands of low-income housing units. The mayor wrote in his nomination of Cecil, “He was a constant support and always on the side of the less fortunate—always willing to fight for the rights of all citizens.”

In 2001, Cecil redesigned the controversial state flag of Georgia, which was adored with the cross and stars of the Confederacy. Cecil strove to create a flag that would bridge the gap between those who saw the Confederate flag as a sacred symbol of Southern heritage and those who saw it as a symbol of terrorism and violence. His goal... “was to eliminate a divisive issue and, through the adoption of a new flag, present Georgia to the world as the progressive state—the leader of the new south—it had become.”

The flag he designed was adopted, and Governor Roy E. Barnes honored him for his work. Cecil’s accomplishments add to a rich family history. The Alexanders trace their roots in America back to 1760. Cecil’s ancestors fought in every major war and include forty members that fought for the Confederacy. As a young attorney, his uncle, Henry Alexander Sr., worked on multiple appeals on behalf of Leo Frank.

In an earlier Jewish Georgian article, Lyons Joel stated, “This family, now in its seventh generation in America and its sixth in Atlanta, represents the hopes and ideals of this great country.”

Much of the Alexander family’s papers are housed in the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at The Breman Museum. To make an appointment to conduct research in the archive, contact Jeremy Katz, archivist, at 404-870-1862 or jkatz@thebreman.org.
It can happen to you: falls among the elderly

On Mother’s Day, May 12, the Becker family gathered to celebrate. But little did they know that five days later they would be using checklists to help manage Saul Becker’s care.

Upon sunrise on May 17, Saul, who turned 86 that same week, got out of bed and fell to the floor. His wife of 64 years, Sylvia, came to his side quickly. They managed to get him into bed, realizing quickly the full impact of Saul’s fall. Sylvia called her daughter Sue and grandson Ben, who came over in minutes and helped get Saul to the emergency room at St. Joseph’s Hospital.

Saul and Sylvia Becker

Having a fall is a scary thing. Not knowing if you are going to recover from it and be able to take care of the day-to-day things is even scarier. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one out of three adults age 65 and older falls each year.

In Saul’s case, he shattered his hip, cracked his femur, and needed major surgery. But the good news was that he would be well cared for, thanks to daughters Sue and Katie, who made sure that his every need was met.

And fortunately for him, after surgery, Saul went to recover at the Aviv Rehabilitation Center, at The William Breman Jewish Home, a Jewish Home Life Community.

“Aviv Rehabilitation is outstanding,” Saul said. “The therapists pushed me hard to achieve my goals. They worked the heck out of me, and because of that program, I was able to regain my strength and come home.”

Sylvia said, “I felt so lucky that Saul was there. Everyone was so kind and helpful, and the staff had a sixth sense about how to care for all of us as a family. Saul enjoyed many of the Jewish programs available at The Home. From Shabbat Services Saturday morning to the aroma of challah baking on Friday afternoon... just like Momma’s.”

Sylvia added, “To further Saul’s return to good health, we utilized The Home’s private home care service, The One Group. With Saul at home, he needs help in a different way than before the fall. He needs help with bathing, walking, and more. And I can’t help him with everything. If I’m walking alongside Saul and he stubbles, I worry we might both lose our footing. The One Group’s caring professionals provide that extra support that we needed, so he could become independent again and continue to have a rewarding life with just a little help.”

It’s good that the Beckers are receiving this extra care, because many people who fall develop a fear of falling, even if they are not injured. This fear may cause them to limit their activities, which leads to reduced mobility and loss of physical fitness, which in turn may actually increase their risk of falling. And accidents seldom “just happen.” The National Institute of Health notes on its website. Furthermore, NIH recommends everyone, not just elderly, should take care of his or her health by exercising and getting regular physicals. Eliminating hazards that would increase the chance of falls can help, too.

Sylvia concluded, “Falling is a danger for all of us at our age. We have to move carefully, slowly...and those with us just have to be patient. Thankfully, with the excellent care from physicians and therapists, as well as private care-givers, so perfectly orchestrated by Bebe from The One Group, our family is progressing toward normalcy.”

For more information on falls and how you can prevent them and reduce chances of breaking a bone, visit the CDC online at cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Falls/index.html.

For useful tips, see the Mayo Clinic’s website, mayoclinic.com/health/fall-prevention.

What began as The William Breman Jewish Home has expanded and grown over the past 60+ years to become Jewish Home Life Communities, a comprehensive system of lifestyle communities and services that meet the many needs of seniors and their families. Jewish Home Life Communities includes The William Breman Jewish Home, Aviv Rehabilitation Center, The Zaban Tower, The Cohen Home, The One Group, Weinstein Hospice, The Meyer Balser NORC, and the new Berman Commons. From long-term care, independent and assisted living to rehabilitation, home care, and hospice, Jewish Home Life Communities provides care and resources for generations. To learn more, visit www.jhlc.org.

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The William Breman Jewish Home

Shalom

From page 28

JNF’s investment in the Negev town of Yerucham, a part of JNF’s vision for the area that is close to Ronnie’s heart.

As one attendee said, “shalom, good friend, travel safely back to Israel, but remember, you will never be able to wash the Georgia red clay out of your inner being.”

Southeast Regional Director of JNF

Beth Gluck with Mayor Edna Jackson of Savannah

Former President of the Southeastern Region of JNF

Michael Miller, Valerie Miller, with Tuti and Ronnie Porat

Ronnie Porat, JNF Orlando President Jim Riola, JNF Yerucham 2020 Task Force Chair Geri (Geraldine) Shatz, and JNF Atlanta Co-President Alan Lubel
Becoming a part of the Leo Frank Case: A focus on my three Georgia heroes

BY Dr. David Geffen

In 1998, I was a member of a somewhat subdued audience at the Lincoln Center’s Vivian Beaumont Theater, watching Governor John Slaton commuting the sentence of Leo Frank to life imprisonment, in Alfred Uhry’s play Parade. As I watched, I flashed back to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1948

Excited as only a boy of 10 can be after visiting his dad’s office, I entered the elevator with my father, Louis Geffen (z’l), on the tenth floor of a building at Five Points, the original heart of the city, where five Native American trails crossed. A graduate of Columbia Law School and a classmate of the former New York State Supreme Court Chief Justice Stanley Feld (z’l), my father had been practicing law in Atlanta since 1927, except for the five and a half years he served in the U.S. Army as a judge advocate in World War II.

As we were riding down, the elevator stopped, and a tall stately gentleman entered. “John, how are you?” was the first question.

“Louis, I am fine, and who is this lad?”

“My son David. David, please shake the hand of Governor Slaton. He is a real hero and a great friend of the Jewish people.” The governor gave me a warm handshake.

Being an Atlanta Jew, born and bred in Dixie, I can never forget that handshake. I was only then beginning to learn in Hebrew school what an incredible human being Governor Slaton was. Can you imagine, this rising star, back in June 1915, committing political suicide by commuting the death sentence of Leo Frank, falsely convicted of murdering one of his employees, 12-year-old Mary Phagan.

When Parade began previews in New York in the fall of 1998, my wife and I were living in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where I was serving as the rabbi of Temple Israel. For some reason, I was reluctant to buy tickets. I had read several books on the case, including the one by Harry Golden. I knew several members of Alfred Uhry’s family, and we had enjoyed his Driving Miss Daisy immensely. My wife, Rita, quickly picked up my hesitancy, so she just went ahead and bought matinee tickets for us in December, shortly after the play opened.

Surprisingly, Alfred Uhry, of Atlanta, Oscar winner and noted dramatist, had chosen the Leo Frank case—or the “Frank incident,” as it was known in my childhood home on North Highland avenue—for this new show.

On the fateful morning of the lynching of Leo Frank, August 13, 1915, Louis Geffen, my dad, and his eight-year-old brother, Sam, father of nationally known Jewish educator Peter Geffen, were on their way to school, because in that era, summer vacations were very brief in Atlanta. They walked to the Fair Street School from their home on Hunter Street (now MLK drive), located near the Georgia State Capitol and the Fulton Tower city prison.

Suddenly, little boys started throwing rocks at them and shouting “Christ-killers” in deep southern draws.

I know exactly how my father and my uncle looked at the time, because a picture of them was taken with their older brother, Joel, only a week earlier. Joel was to be a bar mitzvah bash on that Shabbat in August, just three days before the lynching. The three of them are smiling broadly and dressed in the trendy shirts and jackets of that era.

If what they had been labeled was not enough, the Geffen brothers were confronted by teenagers as well as adults, brandishing sticks from the Frank lynching tree in Marietta, just outside Atlanta, and waving them menacingly at the “Jew boys.”

In the distance, the shouts of the newspaper vendors hawking the penny editions of The Atlanta Constitution and The Atlanta Georgian, a Hearst newspaper, echoed: “Vigilantes get Frank,” “The Yankee Jew is Dead,” “Mary Phagan at rest in Heaven.”

Fearing for their lives, Louis and Sam ran home in tears to their parents, Sara Hene (z’l) and Rabbi Tobias Geffen (z’l).

In 1955, driving through the area where he had run the gauntlet forty years earlier, my father recalled the soothing words of his father. “Mein sin [my sins], don’t be afraid, these Atlanta wilder chayyot cannot hurt you. Der Evigster, God will protect His people, for the Guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.”

By 1915, the German Jews in the city, who had started to arrive in 1845, had become a minority of the Atlanta Jewish population; the Ashkenazi Jews were the majority. However, the Deischen (German Jews) were the wealthiest and most influential Jews in the city. Terribly frightened by the lynching of Frank and the community’s reaction, some of the members of The Temple shipped their wives and children out of town to other Southern cities.

Rabbi Geffen, my zade, urged his congregants at Shearith Israel, his shul, to be calm. Neither his wife, my bubbe, nor any of their seven children, including the baby, later Helen Geffen Ziff (z’l), left town, nor did any of the synagogue members. The Geffen’s eighth child, still alive, Professor Abraham Geffen, the former chief radiologist at the Beth Israel Hospital in New York and the inventor of the “Geffen Ruler,” used in measuring organs movements on x-rays, was born in 1916.

These Ashkenazi Jews at Shearith Israel and the larger Ahavath Achim synagogue had experienced worse massacres in Eastern Europe. When their rabbi urged remaining, they did.

A day or so later, in August 1915, my father and his brothers and sisters, along with all the Jewish children around the Hunter Street neighborhood, returned to school. Rabbi Geffen encouraged his congregants to come to shul, daven, attend his daily shiur in Talmud, and get ready for Rosh Hashanah 5676.

A native of Kovno, Lithuania, my zade brought his family to the U.S. in May 1903, in the wake of the Kishinev pogrom. While he and his family left, 130 members of the Geffen-Rabinowitz family (Rabinowitz is my grandmother’s maiden name) remained and were slaughtered in the Holocaust. In 2013, the 110th anniversary of the family’s arrival in the U.S., five generations of their descendants live in the United States and Israel. A bit unusual in this day and age, all are Jewish, spouting originally from the red clay of Georgia.

Watching Leo Frank in his cell in the Fulton Tower in the play Parade, I recalled that Rabbi Geffen once told me, when we studied together, that a daily prayer was made for this Jewish prisoner from the day he first stood trial in 1913. My zade visited Leo Frank in the Fulton Tower, and I was even in that prison once, accompanying my father, who went to see one of his clients.

I first learned about the concept of pidyon hevrurim (the redemption of captives) from my grandfather. When I was an undergraduate at Emory University, I was not only my zade’s student, but also his chauffeur. He once said to me, as we drove past the Fulton Tower, “Mein Einkeel, Moshe David, I felt so badly that something could not have been done to save the life of a fellow Jew, Mr. Frank.” Twenty years later, when another incident occurred, he influenced Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia to free a Jewish young man from a Georgia chain gang.

Just a bit more about my zade—the 11 years I studied with him and carried out any tasks he assigned me, he never said a word to me about his Coca-Cola tehuva. A humble man and a man of honor, he received no payment from the Coca-Cola company for his pioneering halachic efforts regarding the soft drink. He did not even receive a free Coke.

The musical Parade was very cathartic for me, because I could actually relive all that I had heard from my father and grandfather.

To this day, many in my own family and my Atlanta school friends have questioned why Mr. Uhry chose this incident as the subject for a musical play. But I believe that we must learn from history, and there is much that is educational in its dialogue and the songs.

Most important for me, sitting in that theater 15 years ago, I focused my attention on my three Georgia heroes—Governor John Slaton, Rabbi Tobias Geffen, and my father, Louis Geffen. The “red hills of Georgia” as one song in Parade notes, have provided a wide variety of gifts.

Some of the most important ones, I think, are the Jews of Atlanta and the Peach State.
Project Understanding promotes communication and sharing

The 2013 Project Understanding Retreat was held August 24-25 at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center in Peachtree City, Georgia. The retreat provided an important forum for 32 young black and Jewish professionals to share and learn about each other.

Project Understanding is designed to break down barriers between the black and Jewish communities and enable participants to form friendships that last a lifetime. This year’s program featured a keynote speech by Reverend Dr. Gerald Durley, a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement. Sunday’s activities were facilitated by Doctor Joy, of Carver and Associates.

Project Understanding was born from the combined experiences of the Atlanta Black-Jewish Coalition and the strongly expressed desire on the part of Access, the young adult division of the American Jewish Committee, to create an opportunity for young Black and Jewish adults to share experiences and develop relationships. It has been held every other year since 1989.

This year’s participants included Kenya Casey, Stacey Chavis, Cobi Cohen, Corey Cooper, Richard Corbin, Taylor Davis, Ashley Dopson, Matthew Drano, Shana Dukette, Jason Estes, Steven Fair, Clifford Foster, Nathaniel Goldman, Tanika Gray, Kevin Grimes, Jonathan Grunberg, Melissa Hall, Sheri Halpern, Dotan Harpak, Billie Hilliard, Allen Lee, Kevin Levington, Lauren Linder, John Miller, Alisha Morgan, Rebecca Nathan, Chloe-Anne Ramsey, Marc Sonenshine, Maurice Stewart, Carla Stokes, Todd Surden, and Michelle Zalisberg.

For more information about the American Jewish Committee or the Atlanta Black-Jewish Coalition, contact Lindsay Hirsch at 404.233.5501 or hirschl@ajc.org.

Participants agreed that the video shared on Saturday night, after Havdallah, was one of the highlights of the celebration.

In reflecting on the impact Camp Barney Medintz made in her life, Lisa King Coleman said, “It was the best part of every year of my life for 13 years... and this past weekend, I renewed having that Barney Medintz spirit deep in my heart to stay.”

JAZZ AT THE JCC. Renowned pianist Joe Alterman performed two jazz concerts, on October 27, kicking off the MJCCA’s new 2013-14 Jazz at the JCC series.

Alterman has performed at venues around the world, including the Blue Note Jazz Club, in Milan, and Preservation Hall, in New Orleans. Both October 27 concerts were produced in association with the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival.

The series continues with The UpBeatniks, January 26, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. This Atlanta-based group, which draws from the sounds of “The Beat Generation,” will present a Beatles tribute. Admission is $10/MJCCA members and $15/community.

Michael Feinberg performs February 15, 2014, at 8:00 p.m. Hailed as a “musical prodigy turned evil genius,” bassist and composer Feinberg has made his name known throughout the jazz world. Admission is $17/MJCCA members and $22/community.

On April 10, 2014, 7:30 p.m., musician, journalist, producer, and author Ben Sidran will perform live and discusses his newest book, There Was a Fire: Jews, Music, and the American Dream, a comprehensive social history of Jewish contribution to American popular music. Admission to this Page from the Book Festival Event is $12/MJCCA members and $18/community.

The 4th Ward Afro Klezmer Orchestra performs May 4, 2014, 7:30 p.m. This nine-piece klezmer-funk-rock-jazz ensemble performs original compositions and arrangements that combine West African rhythms with Eastern European klezmer melodies. Admission is $10/MJCCA members and $15/community.

To purchase tickets, call 678-812-4002, or visit atlantajcc.org/boxoffice. Discounts are available to students, seniors, and groups.

BACK TO CAMP BARNEY. More than 700 members of the Camp Barney Medintz family gathered at “Our Summer Place,” August 23-25, in celebration of 50 years of friendship, Jewish identity, individuality, and a connection to the great outdoors.

From Shabbat services in the Chapel to the 50th Dedication Ceremony in The Chippie Amphitheater, the weekend was full of nostalgic moments.

Participants took a walk down memory lane as they moved through a museum-quality exhibition curated and built by veteran camper and staff member Matthew Bagen. Called “Our Summer Place,” this exhibition, which examines the camp’s beginnings, leadership, program, Jewish spirit, and community, is now at the MJCCA’s Zaban-Blank Building.

Participants agreed that the video shared on Saturday night, after Havdallah, was one of the highlights of the celebration.

In reflecting on the impact Camp Barney Medintz made in her life, Lisa King Coleman said, “It was the best part of every year of my life for 13 years... and this past weekend, I renewed having that Barney Medintz spirit deep in my heart to stay.”
By Belle Klawonsky

FREEDOM. Since the beginning of the school year, the halls of Yeshiva Atlanta have been filled with talk of freedom, because the school has adopted “Freedom to...” as the theme for the current academic year. While the foundations for this year’s theme are firmly rooted in traditional Jewish sources, YA’s general studies teachers have already discovered opportunities for cross-curricular instruction. For instance, Mrs. Sally Stanhope, who teaches American and world history, had a hand in developing a series of posters, which will be displayed prominently in all history classrooms. The posters feature prominent Americans and their views on freedom.

A WALK IN THE WOODS. Weber’s freshman class (pictured) had an exciting outing in the woods of Red Top Mountain, staying at a lakeside campsite and learning about community building through the statement “V’asu Li Mikdash, V’shachanti B’osham.” (“Build for me a temple, and I will dwell in them.”) The students discussed the idea that the holy presence dwells in all who build the community—that community builders gain strength through building. To experience this for themselves, the students constructed an Eruv entirely in Spanish. Each student was required to play the role of both model and announcer. As announcers, students described clothing, colors, hobbies, personality traits, and physical characteristics of the models. The students had to demonstrate an understanding of setting, audience, situation, and subject matter, while using Spanish quickly and confidently with proper word and sentence stress, intonation patterns, and rhythm.

IN STYLE, IN SPANISH. Students in Senora Rocamora’s Spanish II classes (pictured) at The Weber School worked in groups to create a class-wide fashion show—“Desfile de moda”—conducted entirely in Spanish. Each student was required to play the role of both model and announcer. As announcers, students described clothing, colors, hobbies, personality traits, and physical characteristics of the models. The students had to demonstrate an understanding of setting, audience, situation, and subject matter, while using Spanish quickly and confidently with proper word and sentence stress, intonation patterns, and rhythm.

FLANNERY’S WORLD. Students in Sam Bradford’s AP English class (pictured) at The Weber School traveled to Milledgeville, Georgia, home to author Flannery O’Connor and the setting for many of her stories. Referencing photographer Barbara McKenzie’s book *Flannery O’Connor’s Georgia*, students were instructed to take photos, as McKenzie did, that captured the juxtaposition of the Sacred and Profane—a common theme in O’Connor’s work they analyzed beforehand. The students will then choose a single image taken during the trip and write an essay connecting their photo to *Wise Blood* or another of O’Connor’s works.

SMART SHOPPERS. To lend practical experience to their classroom discussions on budgeting, Mrs. Geppert’s economics class visited a local Publix grocery store. Weber students (pictured) were paired off and given different family shopping scenarios (e.g., a family of four with a $200 weekly budget). Students then developed a grocery list and shopped for items to create 21 nutritious meals for their “family.” Back in the classroom, students learned how to use Google Spreadsheet to calculate the cost per serving and the cost of each meal, and then used the results to create a weekly meal plan.

WEBER RAMS. Weber’s boys and girls cross-country teams (pictured) have started their run to region and state championships; they dominated the field at the inaugural Weber Rams Invitational, and the girls team ranked 7th and the boys ranked 18th in the state. The JV volleyball team defeated Holy Spirit Prep, Mill Springs, and Crown Athletics, and now has a 7-3 overall record. The Varsity Volleyball team is in a very competitive race for the Region 1-AAA title: with an 8-4 overall record, and 5-2 record in region play, it is currently 3rd in the region.

COMPUTER SAVVY. TDSA’s 4th-grade boys learning about computer networks and servers to flourish in the technology-oriented environment of the 21st century.

IN OBSERVING SHABBOS. TDSA’s 1st-grade girls invited the kindergarten girls for a Shabbos party in honor of parshas Vayera. }
4th-grade students welcomed more than 100 guests to a special Day of Learning during Sukkot. Although the weather did not cooperate and the event did not take place in the school sukkah as planned, the spirit of joy and study permeated the Homburger Commons, as the students studied Torah with their parents. Here, 4th-grader J.J. Brenner and his father, Robert Brenner, discuss Yaakov’s dream of the ladder.

REMEMBERING YITZHAK RABIN. In honor of the 18th yahrzeit of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister of Israel assassinated in 1995, GHA middle school students learned about his life and pondered the lessons of his legacy at special activities throughout the day. Fifth through eighth-graders rotated among stations that examined his personal history, the need for unity among the Jewish people, and the longing for peace in our homeland. Here, Brad Flory, a seventh-grade student, draws spontaneously about loss and peace, in work reminiscent of the graffiti that turned up in Rabin Square after the prime minister’s death.

COLONIAL TIMES. As part of their unit on Colonial America, which will culminate in a Thanksgiving Colonial Festival, GHA 1st-graders performed a skit demonstrating what school was like in Colonial times, when students carried logs to school to provide their own heat, wore dunce caps as punishment for mistakes, and were “switched” when they “misbehaved.” First-graders Kayla Joel (left) and Ari Gordon (right) make believe that they forgot their homework and must wear signs labeled “Idle Girl” and “Idle Boy.”

CRIME SCENE UNIT. GHA’s new Electives program is wildly popular among middle school students. The forensic science class invited the mock trial class to attend when they hosted some fascinating visitors—Special Agents David Norman (left) and Agie George (right), of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. They explained how the GBI uses forensic science to bring criminals to justice. Their presentation ended with a visit to the GBI Crime Scene truck, which was parked in front of GHA. Students learned about the specialized equipment in the van and were fingerprinted.

WATER FROM THE WELL. GHA’s Early Childhood Department never misses a chance to bring Torah and science together in its curriculum. After learning about the Torah section that describes Rebecca drawing water from the well for Eliezer and his camels, the K’tantanim group of three-year olds studied how pulleys work to help lift a heavy bucket of water out of a well. In this photo, Jayden Cohen studies the model in its curriculum. After learning about the

PEER MEDIATION. GHA Interim Lower School Principal Sylvia Miller has written a new curriculum on peer mediation to assist 8th-grade students in conflict resolution. Ms. Miller was inspired to do this in memory of her late father, Donald Miller, whom she describes as “the ultimate mediator.” Here, Ariel Sirota and Jonah Esworthy use role-playing to solve a problem.

INDUCTEES. Erin Beiner (class of 2010) and Adam Stoumen (class of 2010) were inducted into The Epstein Hall of Fame. Erin was honored for her leadership in United Synagogue Youth as local chapter president, sub-regional president of Ein Gedi USY, and current HaNegev USY regional vice president. She has also chaired the Ice for Ian fundraiser for pedi-atric brain tumor research for five years. Adam was recognized for his baseball achievements (which resulted in Neighbor Newspaper recognition), his participation in student government, hosting a school podcast, and other achievements. Pictured: Erin Beiner, Head of School Stan Beiner, and Adam Stoumen.

WELCOME RABBI SHAFRIN. Rabbi Scott Shafrin (pictured) is Epstein’s new staff rabbi. He received his ordination from the American Jewish University and has a master’s degree in education. His experiences include being a camp program director, rabbinic intern at Temple Aliyah in Los Angeles, Leffel Fellow (AIPAC), and community teen worker in Siberia. Rabbi Shafrin will provide more parent education, family programming, and ruach (spirit) for the school’s prayer curriculum and will bring the joy of living Jewishly to the community in creative new ways. This new position is funded, in part, by an SREL Fellowship Grant through United Synagogue.

SWEET MATH LESSON. Davis Academy Mechina students participated in the Oreo Challenge. The four- and five-year-olds were asked to estimate how many cookies they thought they each could stack before the cookie tower toppled. Then they made a chart of their estimates and how many they actually stacked. More than 500
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A feisty band of goblins has stolen Hanukkah, and it's up to brave young Hershel of Ostropol to get it back!

Join Rabbi Inger for a fun Hanukkah holiday experience at Atlanta's Congregation Beth Jacob, and Torah Day School of Atlanta sponsored by the MJCCA, Young Israel of Toco Hills, and Torah Day School of Atlanta.

Menorah lighting, crafts, songs, stories, party featuring dreidel games, games from ancient Israel, and historic goblins reenacted. 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Activities will include:
- Small Ride-on Toys
- Sensory Toys, and More!
- Swings, Slides, Climbers
- Indoor Pool
- Fitness Center
- Fitline Demo Classes

For more information and where to purchase, visit Georgiahoneyfarm.com or call 678.812.4000 or rabbi.ingber@atlantajcc.org.

It's fall in Atlanta—and the kosher food community is buzzing with activity.

Georgia Honey Farm is now certified kosher by the AKC and, yes, readers, it is real honey. There has been a lot written recently about commercially filtered honeys, using processes to delay the onset of crystallization and fermentation. According to the experts, commercial processing often reduces honey's health benefits, including pollen and nutrients.

With over 15 years of experience in honey making, Georgia Honey Farm offers a selection of high-quality raw and natural honey. Their honeys are not pasteurized or micro-filtered—which means consumers get nature’s optimum nutritional benefits. I tasted the lovely, sweet wildflower honey, but the company offers many choices, some seasonal. And guess what? Many Costco Warehouses stock this product. It’s okay to buy a big container; honey never goes bad. Visit Georgiahoneyfarm.com for more information and where to purchase.

A casual eatery that originated in Memphis, recently opened in the Hillel Building at Emory. The restaurant is the creation of former Atlantan David Cenker, a 3rd-generation Atlantan. David has more than 20 years of experience in the food industry. Starting in his youth as a busboy and dishwasher, he worked his way up to positions including chef, manager, and kosher supervisor. Launching Table 613 fulfills a professional dream for him.

The restaurant offers hand-cut French fries, hamburgers, panini, schnitzel, soups, salads, and more in a casual, family-friendly atmosphere. For more information, visit table613.com or Facebook.com/table613.

AmericanMart has gone kosher! No need to bring your own lunch when shopping at the January AmericasMart Gift Show. Steve Gilmer, of Kosher Gourmet, is once again setting up his very popular kosher food kiosk. If you go to the show, check the directory for his location.

By the time you read this, I expect The Spicy Peach to be open at Toco Hill Shopping Center. According to co-owners Jodi Wittenberg, Tzippy Teller, and Lydia Schloss, expect to see many items previously unavailable in the Atlanta area. For more information, visit facebook.com/thespicypeach.

Whole Foods Briarcliff has a large and growing selection of kosher products, including some of my favorites: Imagine No Chicken Broth (garve and kosher—great as a foundation for recipes), 365 Value Brand organic beans (CRC kosher certified), Emerald Cove Sushi Wrappers (If you need a sushi lesson, come watch my granddaughter Shira roll up a batch!), Alexia hash brown (see recipe below), fresh gelato, and of course, kosher fish when available. The store also offers Earth Balance margarine and Tillamook kosher cheese at good prices.

IT WAS SMOKIN’. What a delicious day at the 2nd annual Atlanta Kosher BBQ competition, which was held on Sunday, October 6. It was the place to be, to see, to meet, and to taste. Twenty teams were smoking, grilling, and saucing for hours and hours the night before, in their efforts to wow the judges and to win the crown in the four BBQ categories: beans, ribs, brisket, and chicken. And then, it was all there for the sampling.

I enjoyed meeting the pit bosses (mostly volunteers), who took great pride in their offerings. There were teams from Missouri, Connecticut, New York, Tennessee, and Georgia, including the Atlanta area.

Congratulations to Congregation B’nai Torah, their volunteers, and sponsors. Well done!

So BBQ teams, who wants to share

November-December 2013

THE JEWISH GEORGIAN

KOSHER LIVING

SCHER LIVING

JAZZ at the JCCA

Kosher Affairs

BY Roberta Scher

2013 Atlanta Kosher BBQ Grand Champions (Photo: Sussman Imaging, sussmanimaging.com)
their recipes with our readers? Send them to kosheraffairs@gmail.com.

And the winners are:

**Grand Champion**
1st Place: Not Your Bubby’s Brisket
2nd place: Smokey and The Brisket
3rd place: HOD Brisketeers

**Brisket**
1st place: Not Your Bubby’s Brisket
2nd place: Char-Kol Nidre (My “home-town” Toco Hill team?)
3rd place: Meat the Press

**Ribs**
1st place: Not Your Bubby’s Brisket
2nd place: Smokey and The Brisket
3rd place: B.B.Q. Enterprise

**Chicken**
1st place: Not Your Bubby’s Brisket
2nd place: Two JQ/Ribbinical Council
3rd place: HOD Brisketeers

**Beans**
1st place: HOD Brisketeers
2nd place: B.B.Q. Enterprise
3rd place: The Ramafia

**Best Team Name**
1st place: Char-Kol Nidre
2nd place: HOD Brisketeers
3rd place: Smokey and the Brisket

**BOOKS FOR COOKS**

Even if your cookbook library is bulging (yes, mine is), you will want to consider these three new must-have cookbooks.

**And Then There Was Cake: Desserts to Enjoy and Impress** is a fundraising project by the Hebrew Academy of Montreal. Enjoy 80 sweet confections and desserts ranging from classic to modern, many with a “French accent.” The 200-page cookbook reflects Montreal’s diverse Jewish heritage and is a shared project of the families of the Hebrew Academy of Montreal and its community. www.ha-cookbook.com.

**Balaboosta: Bold Mediterranean Recipes To Feed the People You Love** by Einat Admony is published by Artisan. Chef Einat Admony is owner and executive chef of several New York City restaurants, including the book’s namesake, Balaboosta. In this cookbook, Admony shares her professional recipes with home cooks. She includes some of her specialties for weeknight, comfort food, Israeli food, and some of her most popular restaurant dishes. With everything from hummus to Rice Fit for a King, the book is full of Admony’s stories of home, family, travel, and restaurant life.

**Joy of Kosher: Fast, Fresh Family Recipes** by Jamie Geller is published by William Morrow. Jamie Geller continues to amaze me—her energy, her warmth, her entrepreneurial spirit, her work ethic, and her Jewish commitment, demonstrated by her recent decision to make aliyah and move to Israel. And, now, another book. I don’t know where she finds the time, but I’m glad that she does. Her new cookbook is a love story from Jamie to her readers. She shares her personal thoughts, her feelings, and her relationships, side-by-side with simple, creative, and friendly recipes.

**What’s cooking?** E-mail kosheraffairs@gmail.com.

This column is meant to provide the reader with current trends and developments in the kosher marketplace and lifestyle. Since standards of kashruth certification vary, check with the AKC or your local kashruth authority to confirm reliability.

**See KOSHER AFFAIRS, page 44**
KOSHER LIVING
November-December 2013

Kosher Korner

BY Rabbi Reuven Stein

KOSHER NEWS

Table 613, the new meat restaurant at Marcus Hillel, is now open. It is located at 735 Gatewood Road NE, Atlanta 30332. Hours are Sunday-Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., and Friday, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Call 404-963-2544.

Cowlucks Frozen Yogurt & Floats has closed.

The Carleton Assisted Living Center has discontinued its on-site kosher program with Mr. Fred Glusman. Residents and guests will be encouraged to shop for kosher meals at nearby stores, including Publix and Passover. Georgia Honey Farm is committed to supplying consumers with the best raw and natural honey. Located north of Atlanta in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Georgia Honey Farm bottles and distributes only the purest and freshest honey. They have several varieties of honey, which can be found at Whole Foods, Kroger, and other locations or at georgiashoneyfarm.com.

Foodman, LLC, is a kosher food manufacturer that makes Matzolah, artisan granola that is available for everyday and Passover consumption.

KOSHER CODES

Some food items don’t have a formal kosher symbol on the packaging, but as long as they meet Passover regulations, they are kosher.

• Kripsy Kreme Doughnuts: The AKC supervises the Atlanta Krispy Kreme Commissary that provides doughnuts for various establishments, as well as the pre-packaged doughnuts sold in supermarkets. The pre-packaged doughnuts need to have either the number 149 or the initials AKC on the inkjet.

• Kroger Brads: When bearing the plant number 13-250 and the letters “AKC” on the inkjet of the container, apple juice, caffeine free unsweetened tea, diet tea caffeine free, lemonade, orange juice concentrate, orange juice, and vanilla bolested cereal are kosher.

• Kroger Value: When bearing the plant number 13-250 and the letters “AKC” on the inkjet of the container, blue raspberry fruit beverage, citrus punch beverage, orange beverage, sweetened tea, and tropical punch beverage are kosher.

Thought

From page 23

Chaim (Conservative) for a lively class and discussion at MJCCA-Zaban Park, November 22 and $35 from November 22 until the day of the show. For more information, contact Rabbi Glusman at 678-812-4161 or rabbi.glusman@atlantajcc.org.

LUNCH ‘N LEARN. All are invited to join Rabbi Eytan Kenter, from Congregation B’nai Torah (Conservative), for a lively class and discussion at the MJCCA, December 12, 12:00-1:00 p.m., at MJCCA-Zaban Park. The series is sponsored by the MJCCA, the Weinstein School Pre-School Playground, and the Marcus Foundation of Atlanta, and Congregation Beth Jacob. For more information, contact Rabbi Glusman at 678-812-4161 or rabbi.glusman@atlantajcc.org.

FAMILY FUN DAY. On December 25, all are invited to the MJCCA Zaban Park for a free family day of fun and entertainment. The fitness center, indoor pool, and Marcus gym will be open 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Family Fun Day begins with a sing-along, followed by family-friendly movies. Children can enjoy inflatables, ride-on toys, activities in the Sophi Hirsh Srochi Discovery Center, table tennis, basketball games, indoor pool, and The Weinstein School Pre-School Playground. Food is available for purchase at Goodfriend’s Grill, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Rabbi Glusman at rabbi.glusman@atlantajcc.org or 678-812-4161.
The Greenfield Hebrew Academy middle school students waited expectantly in their seats, an undercurrent of uneasiness adding a certain nervous vibration to the air. Assemblies are always exciting, if only for their novelty; but the students knew what they were assembled to hear. The memories of a Holocaust survivor can be confusing and frightening to the young. This Holocaust survivor, they knew, was George Topas, grandparent to GHA students. This made it an even more personal experience for them. This provided a little context.

Miriann Cann, the daughter of Mr. Topas and the parent of three GHA students—two of whom were in the audience—spoke first. “I am humbled to stand here before you, the Greenfield Hebrew Academy Middle School,” she began. “You are very important people. You have been handed on high for an important mission. You are the last generation of Jews that will receive living testimony about the Holocaust. It will be your mission to remember what you hear, to teach your children and their children about it. Beyond that, as you listen to what my father has to say, and when you have the opportunity to hear or read other survivors’ stories, I also want you to imbibe a good dose of courage from their experiences, because that’s what it will take to complete your mission. To stand up to those who say the Holocaust didn’t happen, and to inspire those who become complacent and afraid to do what is right. And to continue rebuilding the Jewish life that was lost.”

George Topas took the stage, looking younger than his 88 years. He was almost 15 when World War II erupted—only a year or two older than the middle school students listening to him speak. He shared his story simply and kindly, telling stories that were inspiring and amazing, as well as tragic and heartbreaking. Students seemed comforted by the strength that was evident as he spoke, his story a revelation of the way other survivors’ stories, I also want you to imbibe a good dose of courage from their experiences, because that’s what it will take to complete your mission. To stand up to those who say the Holocaust didn’t happen, and to inspire those who become complacent and afraid to do what is right. And to continue rebuilding the Jewish life that was lost.”

George Topas (photo: Jill Rosner)

“Poland, where I come from, had the largest concentration of Jews in Europe,” he began. “There were six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, and three million were from Poland. Of those, half a million were from Warsaw, the city I lived in.”

He described the bustle and flow of upper-middle-class Jewish life in Warsaw—the day schools, the synagogues (including the stately Great Synagogue, where he celebrated his mitzvah just two years before the war)—and the family-owned shoe company that comfortably supported his extended family.

Mr. Topas’ father, uneasy about increasing anti-Semitism in Europe, urged his grandfather to give up the factory and leave. He did not succeed. At that time, it was hard to believe that a community so large, so strong, and with so many solid supports in place could ever fall, and the Topas family continued to live in Warsaw. However, when the time came to choose a high school for young George, his father chose a Zionist agricultural boarding school in the country, in an attempt to prepare George for a life outside of Poland. Other countries would prefer Jews, then only Jewish doctors can treat Jews, then no public transportation for Jews, until life was stifled. Jewish doctors then had to share the fate of our group.” The next morning, the shoes were back in place—but that day, all the workers were loaded onto a train headed for the death camp of Majdanek. George and his group were unloaded from the train and marched off toward an unknown fate. At that desperate moment, Moshe Kessel produced a letter from the head of their previous camp that stated that they let me go back home to get my tools. An armed guard escorted me to the Ghetto, but I disappeared into the maze of alleys and buildings.”

Home again, he was happy to be reunited with his family, but then he heard rumors that the train station in the Ghetto was being repaired. George didn’t wait to get the report verified—“bad news, you can always believe.” He volunteered for another Luftwaffe work camp and was sent to an airfield outside of Warsaw. The work was hard, but the Luftwaffe soldiers weren’t as brutal as the SS. He was careful to recite morning prayers every day; once, a furious guard caught him wearing tefillin and destroyed them, but he continued his (abbreviated) prayers each morning before work.

When the prisoners heard that the camp would be “evacuated” in 1943, George and a fellow named Moshe Kessel planned an escape. However, when they got up that night to leave, they found their shoes missing. “You can’t run barefoot,” explained Mr. Topas. “So we decided that we were meant to share the fate of our group.” The next morning, the shoes were back in place—but that day, all the workers were loaded onto a train headed for the death camp of Majdanek. George and his group were unloaded from the train and marched off towards an unknown fate. At that desperate moment, Moshe Kessel produced a letter from the head of their previous camp that stated that they were trained laborers. The entire group of 88 men (and some 70 people who had the good luck to be following them) were immediately diverted from the line. As they waited for their next directions, a Jewish worker approached them. “Brothers,” he said, “you have just been pulled out of the ovens.”

The group was sent on to yet another labor camp, Budyń, where George was a landscaper. One day, he was sent on an errand to fetch hot water for some visiting soldiers. He was startled to find that there were twelve officers in black uniforms—the extermination command! All the workers were confined to their camp, with double locks and armed guards. Mr. Topas expected the worst at any moment. But to his astonishment, the next day, their camp was unlocked and they were sent to work as usual. He never understood what had happened until nearly fifty years later, when he met a man named David Tannenbaum at a gathering of Holocaust survivors.

“He had been at the front office in the aircraft factory at that camp; he was just a boy, he lit the fires. He worked for the director of the factory, a German named Kinder.”

David Tannenbaum explained that Mr. Kinder had once modified an airplane for a secret Nazi mission to rescue Benito Mussolini, the Italian dictator, and bring him to see Hitler in Berlin. The general in charge of the mission, Otto Skorzeny, had thanked Mr. Kinder profusely for his work, and told him to call if he ever needed a favor. That...
Happy Chanukah
FROM THE TEMPLE

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Rice Fit for a King

Excerpted from Balabonista by Einat Admony

Serves 4 to 6

“My mother claims there are 356 recipes for rice in Iran—one for every day of the year. (Apparently there are nine fewer days in the Persian calendar. Different story.) This recipe is the one used to commemorate holidays. The potatoes are baked right in, and the rice is flavored with cumin seeds, carrots, and currants. I’m not sure how it got the name orez ha-malachim—rice fit for a king—but it is.”

Kosher salt
4 cups jasmine rice
1 large potato, peeled
1 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons canola oil
1 teaspoon ground turmeric (optional)
2 medium carrots, finely chopped
1 cup dried currants or raisins
1 tablespoon cumin seeds

Bring 4 quarts of water and 1/4 cup salt to a boil (it may seem like a lot of salt, but the goal is to cook the rice as you would pasta). Meanwhile, rinse the rice in cold water; repeat until the water is clear. Add the rice to the boiling pot and cook until it is almost tender, about 10 minutes, there will still be plenty of liquid remaining. When the rice is al dente—but it is.”

Infinitely more reliable than the traditional chocolate soufflé, mousse is something even the beginner baker can handle. It is synonymous with understated elegance. Presentation is an essential part of the experience—it will look chic served in flat stemmed or more family friendly served in a trifle bowl. This version stays true to the classic, with coffee and rum running their magic. There’s always room for a little mousse!

12 eggs, separated
7 tablespoons sugar
17 ounces bittersweet chocolate
1 teaspoon instant coffee granules
1 tablespoon rum (optional)
optional: cocoa powder, for sprinkling

Whisk egg yolks and sugar in a small bowl, and set aside. Melt chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pot of simmering water. Remove from heat, and add egg yolk mixture, coffee and, if using, rum. Pour into a large bowl, and set aside.

Beat egg whites in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, until stiff peaks form. Incorporate the egg whites delicately into the chocolate mixture. Pour into serving bowl of choice and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours. When ready to serve, sprinkle generously with cocoa powder.

Note: This recipe can be Passover friendly with a change of liquor. It can also be made parve or dairy.

Makes about 12 large or 24 small latkes

1 1/2 cups hash browns, defrosted (I like the Alexia brand)
1 1/2 pounds russet potatoes
1/2 teaspoon salt, optional
1/4 cup flour
1 small onion, grated
Canola oil, for frying

Put flour, salt, and pepper in a bag. Add remainder of ingredients. Mix gently, uncovered, stirring frequently, until tender, about 20 minutes. Mixture will thicken a bit. Let cool.

Serves approximately 4-6

Slow Cooker Short Ribs

A KosherEye Signature Recipe

Delicious over mashed potatoes or with latkes on the side.

1/4 cup flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 cups red wine
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup chili sauce
2 tablespoons catsup
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons minced garlic
1 teaspoon chili powder

Put flour, salt, and pepper in a bag. Add ribs, and shake to coat.

Brown ribs in margarine in a large skillet. Place ribs in a slow cooker. In same skillet, combine remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil, stirring. Pour mixture over ribs. Cover and cook on low for 9 hours.

Continued from page 39
12-year-old black belt organizes community bullying prevention seminar

Josh Perling, a student at Sandy Springs Middle School, decided to mark the occasion of his bar mitzvah by hosting a schoolwide Anti-Bullying Prevention Seminar.

The school, like most, has been dealing with rising incidents of bullying. According to the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, 17% of students in grades 6-10 were bullied “sometimes” or more often during the school term, and 8% were bullied at least once a week. Nineteen percent bullied others “sometimes” or more often during the term, and 9% bullied other students at least once a week.

Josh Perling is a 2nd-degree black belt at Karate Atlanta. He has been training at Karate Atlanta for several years. “He is very active in our school. He is on our demo team and helps to mentor some of our younger students,” says his instructor, Mr. Josiah Hunt, “He’s an incredible young man.”

Josh was inspired to organize the seminar while reading an article about The Agent G Project in ATA World Magazine. Created by a partnership between the American Taekwondo Association and the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, the Agent G Project takes many of the best principles taught in ATA martial arts and presents them in child-friendly scenarios. Karate Atlanta is a local affiliate of the ATA.

With the help of his instructor, Mr. Hunt, Josh enlisted fellow Sandy Springs Middle School students who also practice martial arts at Karate Atlanta to perform during the bullying prevention seminar, which took place on October 23. Josh and his team presented six 20-minute sessions, which included a martial arts demonstration and various skits involving bullying prevention techniques and the psychology of bullying behavior. Over 800 students participated and learned techniques for handling many different forms of bullying.

Joshua Perling and Instructor Josiah Hunt

Classnotes

From page 37

es in the United States and around the world participated in the challenge. For the record, 19 was the greatest number of cookies stacked in the Davis Mechina class. Here, Emma Hatton carefully makes her stack.

TEFILLAHPALLOOZA! Davis Academy Middle Schoolers got an energetic and creative start one Monday in October, when all 6th – 8th-graders participated in a unique program called Tefillahpalooza. Each student chose from one of 13 options—from hashtagging to songsmithing—to celebrate FINE ARTS. Creative expression is as important as math and Hebrew at The Davis Academy. Fourth-graders learned about the sculptor Alberto Giacometti, who is known for his exaggerated and elongated forms of the human body. Students used wire to create their own beautiful “bronze” sculpture forms in various poses.

HONORABLE MAYORS. Gracie Wolf, Bradley Amato, and Zachary Rubin are the new Davis Academy 2nd-grade mayors. The 2nd-grade classes learned all about the democratic process, while the candidates campaigned and gave speeches about what they would do if voted mayor. Each 2nd-grade class elected its own mayor.

SAMMY TURNS 20. Sylvia Rouss, author of the Sammy Spider series, visited Davis Academy Mechina, kindergarten, and first-grade students in celebration of Sammy Spider’s 20th birthday.

BECOMING LEADERS. Davis Academy Middle School students Ben Bernstein, Max Rubenstein, Jacob Rogow, Mya Artzi, Zoe Bober, and Isabelle Mokotoff are among the 11 members of the Davis Academy Jewish Life Leadership team. The team is part of a new Davis leadership program that gives students opportunities to become student leaders through one of three tracks: Jewish Life Leadership, Student Ambassadors, and Student Government Association. The Jewish Life group is working on developing an art project that will be given to Holocaust survivors at a Chanukah party through Jewish Family & Career Services.

Survivor

From page 41

day, when Mr. Kindler found that his Jewish workers were about to be exterminated, he called in that favor and saved them all.

But as the war wound down and the Germans became increasingly pressed, they moved George to a camp called Flossenbuerg, inside Germany. When they asked the prisoners to register their skills, he claimed to be a chemist—though he knew nothing about chemistry. He was assigned to work on an invention.

“That shows you how clever the Germans were,” he said. “I worked in a warm office, I got extra rations, and I had no idea what I was doing. I found a copy of David Copperfield in the office, and I used it to teach myself English, for after the war.”

The end of the war was coming soon, and the Nazis knew it. They evacuated the camp on a death march, trying to get the prisoners away before the allies got there, to cover up the evidence of their crimes. After marching three days, George Topas was finally liberated from the horrors of the camps by the U.S. Army, 11th Division.

“And the very next day…” He paused. The students seemed breathlessly.

“I joined the United States Army!” George Topas immediately began serving as a translator for the Army; in fact, he translated their terms of surrender to a group of German officers.

After World War II, Mr. Topas worked in intelligence for the U.S. Army, pursuing Nazis for trial. He testified at a Nazi war crimes trial. He went to college on the GI Bill, becoming a successful electrical contractor and building a life in Lakewood, where his grandmother had settled. He was a religious man who contributed to his community and made sure his children had Jewish educations. Later in life, he went back to school and earned a master’s degree in history, and he wrote a book about his experiences, The Iron Furnace (University of Kentucky Press). None of his immediate family in the Warsaw Ghetto survived.

After the presentation, a student asked, “What helped you keep your faith in God?”

Mr. Topas answered simply, “I was brought up that way. I prayed every day. When the war began and the Germans came marching past, my father told me, ‘Someday, you’ll see these soldiers, and they will be a miserable bunch,’ and that’s exactly what happened. The most important thing I learned was to believe in God and act accordingly. And He protected me.”

Unrolling the history of a sacred Savannah Torah

By Jane Kahn

This article is reprinted, with permission, from The Savannah Morning News.

A story is unfolding in Savannah involving several coincidences in history—long-term and short—uncovered by a disbelieving committee doing research at Savannah’s Congregation Mickve Israel.

The more they dig, the more they uncover. They’re calling it the Slany-Savannah connection. The details:

• The museum committee of Congregation Mickve Israel is working to showcase its 280-year past. Co-chairs Phoebe Kerness and Herbert Victor are spearheading the research and put together much of the Slany information.

• A Torah collected during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia is now on permanent loan and in weekly use at the Savannah synagogue. The base of the Torah is inscribed with its provenance, “This Scroll came from Slany and was written in 1890.” It came to Savannah in 1968.

• It has been here almost 45 years, but until newcomer Kerry Rosen asked, nobody paid much attention. Holocaust, or Czech, Torah is all they knew. Where is Slany?

• For Teresa Victor, Mickve Israel’s go-to fact-finder, it was an aha moment. She discovered via the Internet that a B-17 bomber came from Slany. Twelve miles from his home in Prague, but became intrigued with the growing connection of Savannah and Slany. (Young was confirmed at Mickve Israel. His mother, Cathy Young Shriver, is a member. His father is Savannah attorney Arnold Young.) He took pictures and sent them home. Most startling were the photos of the monument, a section of the tail of the B-17, with its Mighty Eighth markings, that had been on a mission to bomb oil fields in Bohnen, Germany. He also translated the memorial’s inscriptions.

• Former Savannahian Jeffrey Young moved 20 years ago to the Czech Republic. He had never visited Slany, 12-15 miles from his home in Prague, but became intrigued with the growing connection of Savannah and Slany. (Young was confirmed at Mickve Israel. His mother, Cathy Young Shriver, is a member. His father is Savannah attorney Arnold Young.) He took pictures and sent them home. Most startling were the photos of the monument, a section of the tail of the B-17, with its Mighty Eighth markings, that had been on a mission to bomb oil fields in Bohnen, Germany. He also translated the memorial’s inscriptions.

• In Judaism, the Torah is the centerpiece of worship for weekly prayer at the synagogue and is read aloud in Deuteronomy. Sound familiar? It’s the Old Testament, or the Tanakh.

• The Torah is the centerpiece of worship for weekly prayer at the synagogue, and as a book it contains the first five books of the Bible. It is Jewish law.

• In Judaism, the Torah is the centerpiece of its history, philosophy and heritage. Scribed in Hebrew, on parchment (or deerskin in earlier times) it contains the first five books of the Bible. It is Jewish law.

• “In the beginning,” begins the scroll, during the Jewish High Holy Days, and continues to be unwound and read, week-by-week throughout the year—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Sound familiar? It’s the Old Testament and forms the basis of Western religion. “Torah” means learning. It starts with creation, and ends with the death of Moses. At Mickve Israel it is read aloud in Hebrew, translated in English.

• Mickve Israel, founded in 1733, has two significant Torahs of its own. Dating to the 1400s, one was brought over with the original Jewish settlers, four months after General James Oglethorpe arrived. The other arrived four years later. They are among the historic treasures of the congregation’s founding, and are believed to be the oldest documented Torahs in the United States.

• The Slany Torah is one of 1564 Czech Torahs in the United States. It was sent to Mickve Israel. The Torah is being restored in Miami. After its return expected later this year, the congregation will plan an appropriate welcome celebration.

Herbert Victor, Congregation Mickve Israel Museum Committee co-chair, holding the Slany Torah (photo: Jules Kerness)

A story is unfolding in Savannah involving several coincidences in history—long-term and short—uncovered by a disbelieving committee doing research at Savannah’s Congregation Mickve Israel.

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JSU NEWS

BUSINESS BITS

By Marsha Liebowitz

NEW PRO BONO PARTNER. Tamara Serwer Caldas became Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton’s new pro bono partner on November 4, succeeding Debbie Segal, who retires at the end of the year. Caldas, former deputy director of Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, was also a staff attorney for the Southern Center for Human Rights and in private practice with Clalbore, Oltman & Surmay. In 2001, Kilpatrick Townsend became one of the country’s few law firms with a fulltime pro bono partner, when Debbie Segal, former AVLF executive director, joined the firm. Under her guidance, the firm has become a recognized pro bono leader.

ZVULEN AT ATLANTA OPERA. Tomer Zvulun is the new general and artistic director of The Atlanta Opera. His career highlights include creating three new productions of Lucia di Lammermoor for Seattle Opera, Opera Cleveland, and The Atlanta Opera and a new interpretation of The Magic Flute, originally created as a co-production between The Atlanta Opera and Indiana University. Born in Israel, Zvulun came to the U.S. after serving as a senior medic in the Israeli Army and studying at The Open University, Tel Aviv. He and his wife, Birmingham native Susanna Eiland, recently moved to Atlanta from New York City.

Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta is proud to announce the appointment of Abby Halper as its new National Development Officer. Abby will be based in the southeast region of the country, serving the Atlanta metropolitan area.

To find out how you or a Jewish teen you know can get involved in JSU, call Rabbi Chaim Neiditch at 404-376-8800, e-mail rch@JewishStudentUnion.com, or visit www.JewishStudentUnion.com.

FINE RUGS. Buckhead Fine Rugs, Inc., has opened a new showroom. Owner Paris Shemboob has been in Atlanta over 20 years, assisting customers in finding rugs with unique designs from a variety of periods and regions for home or office. For over two generations, his family members have been in the business as importers and traders, selling some of the finest examples of this centuries-old art form. Other services include cleaning, restoration, repair, and appraisals. Buckhead Fine Rugs is located at 3255 #5 Peachtree Road, Atlanta. For more information, call 404-467-8242 or visit buckheadfinerugs.com.

FINE PRINTS. Buckhead Fine Prints, Inc., has opened a new showroom. Owner Paris Shemboob has been in Atlanta over 20 years, assisting customers in finding rugs with unique designs from a variety of periods and regions for home or office. For over two generations, his family members have been in the business as importers and traders, selling some of the finest examples of this centuries-old art form. Other services include cleaning, restoration, repair, and appraisals. Buckhead Fine Rugs is located at 3255 #5 Peachtree Road, Atlanta. For more information, call 404-467-8242 or visit buckheadfinerugs.com.

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**MASH**

By Erin O’Shinsky

WE WISH YOU A MERRY MITZVAH. The Pinch Hitter Program, which is organized by B’nai B’rith and chaired by Harry Lutz and Jerry Kravitz, provides volunteers to work in non-medical positions in area hospitals on Christmas Day to give employees the day off to spend with their families. Volunteers will work four-hour shifts at 11 hospitals and assisted living facilities this year. Sign up at www.pinchhitters.org.

**MERLIN JOINS ASO BOARD.** Michael Merlin, an executive director at Hansberger & Merlin at Morgan Stanley, has been named to the 2013-2014 Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors. The ASO, now in its 69th season, is one of America’s leading orchestras. Since January 2012, Merlin has been the Southeast Regional chair for the Anti-Defamation League and is overseeing the continuation of its “No Place for Hate” anti-bullying program at 100 metro-Atlanta area schools. He also serves on the board of directors of Jewish Family & Career Services, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, and The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum.

HONORING RUTH MESSINGER. Ruth Messinger, president of American Jewish World Services, was honored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Atlanta with the Lifetime Achievement Award, for her decades of working with marginalized people across the globe and empowering them to live productive, self-sufficient lives. Through AJWS, Ruth Messinger has built a dynamic organization, whose mission is rooted in Jewish values, dedicated to helping individuals realize basic human rights. In addition, AJWS assists individuals and entire communities in realizing their full potential for being self-sufficient and working to end poverty in the developing world.

Lois Frank (from left), honoree Ruth Messinger, Elizabeth Appley, Larry Gold, and Melanie Neikin

RABBIS HONORED. On October 6, the 40th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, Congregation Or Hadash honored Rabbi Dr. Analia Bortz and Mario Karpuj, who led a group 10 years ago in establishing a new congregation and a new spiritual vision. The congregation’s Event of Honor, held at its architecturally acclaimed building in Sandy Springs, included a discussion of Israel and its future, led by Rabbis Bortz and Karpuj and Yossi Klein Halevi. Halevi discussed his new book, *Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation.*

COMMUNITY WEBSITE LAUNCHED. Josh Lewis and his mother, Sydney Rubin Lewis, have launched Atlanta Jewish Life (atljewishlife.com). The site, currently visited by 300-500 people a month, provides an abundance of resources for visitors, newcomers, and seasoned members of the Jewish community. Tabs include Attractions for Kids, Malls, Leafy, Hospitality, and Schools. Although the Lewis family is Orthodox, they want the website to be for all Jews. They hope that synagogues, temples, and Jewish organizations will send schedules of their events, simchas, and other pertinent information, so that Atljewishlife.com can become a central place for all Jews to connect.

Josh Lewis

JSCREEN. JScreen is an in-home testing kit that allows participants to be screened for the 19 known preventable genetic diseases for only $99. JScreen is a non-profit, community-based public health initiative dedicated to preventing Jewish genetic diseases. Headquartered in Atlanta, at Emory University School of Medicine, JScreen is a collaboration among clinical geneticists, socially minded businesses, and nonprofits, to provide everyday people with a ready access point to cutting-edge genetic testing technology, patient education, and genetic counseling services. Visit www.jscreen.org for details.

**FESTIVAL BENEFITS MT. SCOPUS GROUP.** The Atlanta Foundation for Public Spaces’ Third Annual Fall Festival on Ponce took place October 19-20. This year, the festival donated 10% of its sales to the Mount Scopus Group of Greater Atlanta Hadassah Chapter, to raise funds for the Hadassah Medical Organization. The festival was held in the historic Olmsted Linear Park.

Mt. Scopus Group members Marilyn Perlung (from left), Anita Levy, and Rachael Schonberger

THE TEMPLE GOES LIVE. The Temple launched live streaming during Rosh Hashanah 5774 services and will live broadcast Friday and Saturday Shabbat worship services throughout the year. Now, congregational members who are home-bound, in the hospital, or out of town can fully participate via live video with real-time chat, photo, and social media. Both clergy and Temple leadership have been strong advocates for this use of technology, and early reports from congregants give this new initiative a big thumbs-up. Over 900 viewers tuned in to watch Rosh Hashanah services. To view upcoming and archived video events, visit new.livestream.com/accounts/5127330.

Barbara Shoulberg (from left), Sue Frankel, Judy Feldstein, Karen York, Chris Landy, and Co-President Robin Zusmann

OPENING LUNCHEON. The Brandeis National Committee recently held its 2013-2014 Opening Luncheon at McCormick and Schmick’s. Alzheimer’s Association Family Support Program Manager Sarah Carson spoke on advancements in dementia research, as well as communication techniques. Discussing dementia issues aligns with the Brandeis National Committee’s mission to promote “Sustaining the Mind.” Brandeis University’s cutting-edge neurodegenerative research program.

Rabbi Mario Karpuj and Dr. Analia Bortz

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ISRAEL, CLOSE-UP 2014. The American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Region, and Young Israel of Toco Hills co-sponsored a November 4 breakfast lecture at Young Israel. Professor Sam Lehman-Wilzig, deputy director of Bar-Ilan University’s School of Communication, spoke on the topic of “The Historical Roots of Israel’s High Tech Success in the Information Age.” This event was part of “Israel Up-Close 2014,” a multi-city tour organized by Bar-Ilan University’s School of Communication that aims to present a comprehensive, objective picture of Middle East events and trends, encouraging audiences to view occurrences in Israel and the region within a larger context.

MONEY MATTERS. The Mt. Scopus Group of Greater Atlanta Hadassah held a general meeting, on October 8, featuring Stephen Krumm, an attorney with the Senior Citizen Law Project at Atlanta Legal Aid. The topic of his presentation was

GAIH Daytime Programming Chair Edie Barr (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to Gabriella Licsko.
“Avoid Financial Exploitation and Secure your Future.” The meeting was held at the Avis G. Williams Library, in Decatur. For more information on Mt. Scopus Group’s events, contact mtscopushadassah@aol.com, or call Susan Berkowitz, 404-622-9601, or Marilyn Perling, 404-294-1613.

BOOK DONATIONS Sought. The National Council of Jewish Women, with the Atlanta Jewish Coalition for Literacy, collects children’s books, grade levels K-3, as part of its literacy program, which supplies over 100 tutors to seven metro Atlanta Title I schools. The books are used to practice reading each week. Upon completion, the book is gifted to the student; sometimes, it is the first book the student has ever received. Donated books should be in good shape. This is a wonderful program for a bar or bat mitzvah project. For more information, call 404-843-9600 or e-mail kinnu@ncjwatlanta.org.

BE A LITERACY TUTOR. The National Council of Jewish Women Atlanta Section is seeking volunteer tutors, as part of the Atlanta Jewish Coalition for Literacy program. Tutors work with K-3rd grade children in a program that seeks to increase early reading among children and help them become independent readers. Most tutors work with one child, 30-45 minutes per week, at a school near the tutor’s home. The program currently serves seven metro Atlanta schools. For more information on how to become a tutor, contact Kim Urbach at the NCJW office, 404-843-9600 or kinnu@ncjwatlanta.org.

JEWISH MOTHERS ON STAGE. On September 23, the Ketura Group of Greater Atlanta Hadassah hosted theater artist and educator Mira Hirsch, who spoke about Jewish mothers as portrayed in American theater and the stereotypes, some flattering, some not, that are reinforced. To demonstrate, she had nine Ketura members read parts from plays that portrayed strong Jewish mothers (including Beaux Jest, I Can Get It for You Wholesale, and The Loman Family Picnic), for which she provided introductions and explanations.

TRAINING WHEELS. Training Wheels/Al Galgalim, a program created by Hadassah, lets parents and children ages 3-5 discover together the joys of being Jewish. The first session of the year, August 11, was all about Rosh Hashanah. The children decorated “honey bee” honey jars to take home and fill, saw and heard a real shofar and then made their own out of paper, threw their “sorrys” in the “lake” to observe Tashlich, and told the story of Jonah and the Whale. For more information, visit www.hadassah.org/atlanta (click Our chapter/Training wheels) or contact Judy Serkin, 678-443-2961 or jsarkin@hadassah.org, or Sheila Barid, barids@bellsouth.net.

HADASSAH ATTENDS MAH JONGG EXHIBITION. Greater Atlanta Hadassah members and friends met at the Bremen Museum on August 21, to explore the “Project Mah Jongg” exhibition, followed by lunch and an afternoon of Mah Jongg. The event was coordinated by Daytime Programming Chair Edie Barr. To learn more about GAH daytime programming and other Hadassah events, visit www.hadassah.org/atlanta.

YOUTH ARTS & CULTURE CLASSES. The MICCA’s Arts & Culture Department offers several classes for children interested in pursuing the arts. Classes offered include: acting, musical theater, guitar, make believe, keyboard, film-making, and more. For more information, contact Brian Kimmel, brian.kimmel@atlantajcc.org or 678-812-4072.

GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING. Nineteen Mt. Scopus Group of Greater Atlanta Hadassah members visited the High Museum of Art, on August 15, to see the “Girl with a Pearl Earring” exhibition. A special presentation was given by Nicole Cromartie, assistant educator in the Museum Interpretation Department. Pictured: (1st row, from left) Marilyn Perling, Charlotte Slovis-Cooper, Doreen Wittenberg, Sondra Epstein, Bailey Olim, and Diane Braun; (3rd row) Rochelle Notrica, Doris Herzberg, and Anita Levy; and (4th row) Marc Abrams and Nancy Fried (Photo: Mel Perling)

New Deputy Consul Ron Brummer and Consul General Opher Aviran, of The Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast, and new American-Israel Chamber of Commerce Southeast Region President and CEO Shai Robkin

Alice is ready to blow the shofar.

Mira Hirsch with her real-life Jewish mother, Elaine Hirsch, and her aunt, Sandra Shulman, who were in attendance.

Hadasah ladies sport smiles and tiles at the Bremen. From left: Marlene Smith, Carole Feinberg, Lorraine Furst, and Edie Barr

WOMAN TO WOMAN. Woman to Woman is a weekly support group for women who are or have been emotionally or physically abused by a partner. This confidential group offers an opportunity to decrease isolation, understand the dynamics of abuse, share feelings, gain support, and explore additional resources. For information about the Shalom Bayit support group, call 770-677-9322 or contact shalombayit@jfcs-atlanta.org.
Wishing you a Happy Chanukah!

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Happy Hanukkah

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2013 Volvo C70 Convertible
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SAVE: $9000
MSRP: $43,345
Loyalty Bonus $2000
North Point Discount $4000
Volvo Allowance $3000
Stock No. 78252. We reserve the right to make changes without notice, and are not responsible for errors or omissions. The availability of this vehicle subject to prior sale. All prices exclude tax, title, tag, and Georgia Lemon Law. Payment terms and interest rates may vary due to model year and customer’s credit score. Call dealer for details. Offer expires: 12/31/2013

2014 Volvo XC90 3.2
SALE PRICE: $36,315
SAVE: $5000
MSRP: $41,315
Loyalty Bonus $2000
North Point Discount $2500
Volvo Allowance $500
Stock No. 88397. We reserve the right to make changes without notice, and are not responsible for errors or omissions. The availability of this vehicle subject to prior sale. All prices exclude tax, title, tag, and Georgia Lemon Law. Payment terms and interest rates may vary due to model year and customer’s credit score. Call dealer for details. Offer expires: 12/31/2013

2014 XC60 3.2 Premier
SALE PRICE: $33,865
SAVE: $5000
MSRP: $38,865
Loyalty Bonus $2000
North Point Discount $2500
Volvo Allowance $500
Stock No. 88390. We reserve the right to make changes without notice, and are not responsible for errors or omissions. The availability of this vehicle subject to prior sale. All prices exclude tax, title, tag, and Georgia Lemon Law. Payment terms and interest rates may vary due to model year and customer’s credit score. Call dealer for details. Offer expires: 12/31/2013

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