

DOCENTS:

When the project to recreate the wall of presidential letters was begun and the two letters that had been in the "modern" case (the one closest to the door going into the office) were removed, it was incumbent upon the Museum Committee (now called History and Heritage Committee) to create a new display. A task force was created and with the help of the temple's art committee as well as people from the Telfair and the original designers of the museum, Studio Displays, Inc., we now have a completed display.

This display will be installed on Thursday, September 7th.

Here is some pertinent information for each of you as you give your tours:

As you approach the last cabinet you can explain that now that our guests have seen our history, they should be aware that we have always been and still are a very active congregation. In order to illustrate this, we want to share with them some of our activities within the Jewish community as well as Savannah and the world around us. We are centering our display around the concept of Tzedekah and as a centerpiece have our beautifully handcrafted tzedekah box. (See the text below for specific information about it.) We have chosen each of the concepts/photos/artifacts carefully to convey Mickve Israel's vital and in some ways, unique, connection to the entire community.

Please read the text below carefully. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Toby Hollenberg, Eileen Lobel or Kerry Rosen. (we can give phone #'s)

TEXT FOR MODERN-ERA MUSEUM CASE

Current Mickve Israel congregants embody the Jewish concepts of Tzedakah (justice and fairness) and Tikun Olam (repair the world) as they reach out into the community.

#27: TZEDAKAH BOX

Commissioned in 1983 by Marcia Berens and Michel Steinfeldt to honor their children's' B'nei Mitzvah, this unique model of our building was utilized for many years for donations. (displayed in center of case)

#28 CONGREGATIONS IN SERVICE

This program provides the opportunity for Mickve Israel members to join with members of Savannah's Muslim, Christian and Baha'i congregations to work together on projects for the betterment of the entire community. (Photo of three women, one of whom has attended Mickve Israel regularly)

#29 BACKPACK BUDDIES

In 2008, Mickve Israel's Backpack Buddy program began in Savannah to provide the city's neediest children with backpacks filled with food for the weekend and has since been adopted by many other area houses of worship. Mickve Israel received the Martin Luther King Legacy Award in 2017 as well as the Union for Reform Judaism's Religious Action Centers prestigious Fain Award in 2011 for this program. (Acrylic Legacy Award and Photo of backpacks and food)

#30 COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND CONCERTS

Many musical and cultural events are held in our sanctuary because of its beauty and fine acoustics. Shown here is a concert during the annual Savannah Musical Festival. *Photo courtesy of the Savannah Music Festival/Frank Stewart.* (Photo of concert in sanctuary)

#31 COMMUNITY MENORAH LIGHTING

Mickve Israel congregant Sigo Myers provided the initial funding for and was the first President of the Jewish Educational Alliance (JEA), an institution founded in 1910 through the vision of Mickve Israel's Rabbi George Solomon. The annual community menorah lighting takes place at the JEA, Savannah's Jewish community center. (Photo at JEA)

#32 JEWISH GATES AT BONAVENTURE CEMETERY

In 1909, Mickve Israel acquired land adjacent to the existing Bonaventure Cemetery to create the current Jewish section, aware that Laurel Grove cemetery, established in 1850 by the City of Savannah, was reaching capacity. The Bonaventure Gates adorned by Stars of David were added in 1919. (Photo of Jewish Gates)

#33 THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE

Mickve Israel's Rabbi joins the clergy of the Downtown Historic Houses of Worship to lead the annual Thanksgiving interfaith service. The site of the service rotates among these congregations. (Photo of clergy at Thanksgiving Service including Rabbi Haas)

#34 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

The old religious school bell was used from 1880 until 1962. Shalom School, formed in 1992, was one of the first combined religious schools by Reform and Conservative congregations and continues to provide Jewish education to the children of Mickve Israel and Agudath Achim. Shown here, Shalom School children visit elderly residents of a local senior facility to create meaningful intergenerational relationships. (Old CMI religious school bell and photo of child with elderly gentleman)