

MARCH 2019

mickve israel

contact



Rembrandt

AND THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE

See it March 15 through June 30



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JUDAISM 101

A 12 week course
led by Tim Slivinski

TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM

TOPICS FOR MARCH & APRIL:

ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST

THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE AND DIVERSITY

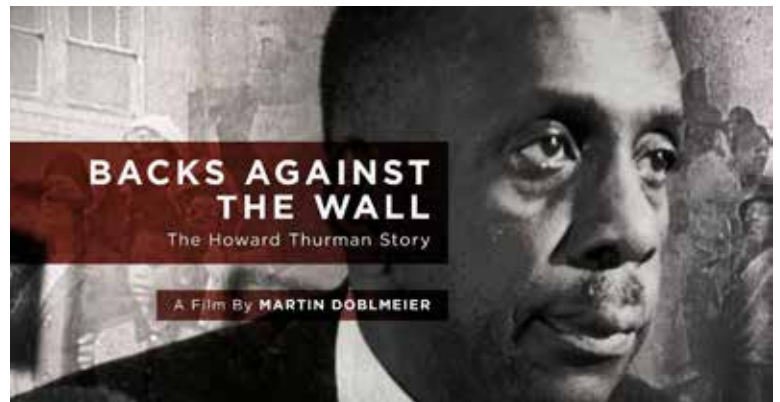
PRAYER, SYNAGOGUE, LITURGY AND MUSIC

MARRIAGE, PARTNERSHIP, FAMILY AND CHILDREN

DEATH AND MOURNING

CONVERSION

Contact Tim Slivinski at 912-233-1547
ext 313 or tim@mickveisrael.org
for more information



BACKS AGAINST THE WALL

Tuesday, March 19th at 7 pm

**Asbury Memorial
United Methodist Church
1008 E. Henry St.**

**The film is an hour long and will be
followed by a panel discussion which
will include Rabbi Haas.**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 3/1

Community Shabbaton at the Jewish Educational Alliance:
6:00pm (more info page 3)

SATURDAY 3/2

Shabbat Morning Service led by Joel Greenberg: 11:00am

Weekly Torah Study, 1:00pm

Kiddush lunch sponsored by Susan and Stephen Gross in honor of their family birthdays - Alisa, Alan, Ellie and Toby Schultz and David, Sam, Faith, Susan, And Stephen.

FRIDAY 3/8

Young Family Gathering: 5:30pm

Contemporary Shabbat Service led by B'Nei Mitzvah Students: 6:00pm

Oneg: 7:00pm

SATURDAY 3/9

Shabbat Morning Service with guest vocalist Chad Sonka, baritone with Savannah VOICE Festival: 11:00am

Weekly Torah Study, 1:00pm

Kiddush lunch sponsored by Harrison Garrett and Ann Sainz-Jones in honor of their daughter Audrey's birthday and by Toby Hollenberg in honor of all March birthdays.

FRIDAY 3/15

Kabbalat Shabbat Service: 6:00pm

SATURDAY 3/16

Shabbat Morning Service off-site at the JEA due to St. Patrick's Day: 11:00am

No Weekly Torah Study

No Kiddush lunch

FRIDAY 3/22

Kabbalat Shabbat Service with guest Cantor Abby Hirsch: 6:00pm

SATURDAY 3/23

Shabbat Morning Service with guest speaker Daniel Piolske: 11:00am (more info page 5)

Kiddush lunch in memory of Sheri Portman, beloved wife of Michael Portman and mother of Dori Portman.

FRIDAY 3/29

Kabbalat Shabbat Service: 6:00pm

SATURDAY 3/30

Shabbat Morning Service honoring our Museum Docents: 11:00am

Weekly Torah Study: 1:00pm

Kiddush lunch sponsorship still available.

KIDDISH LUNCH FUND

We realize that some of you might like additional opportunities to contribute to our Kiddush lunch fund. We invite you to sponsor a Kiddush lunch individually or with a group of friends in 2019 or contribute to the Kiddush lunch fund. Contributions can be made in honor or memory of a friend or loved one and any amount is greatly appreciated! Please contact the office to make a contribution at 912-233-1547.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 1

COMMUNITY SHABBATON AT THE JEA

Friday, March 1,
5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Reception
6:00 pm Shabbat Services
7:15 pm Community Shabbat Dinner
Cost for dinner \$18 per adult, \$10 per child
RSVP required for dinner only to
912-355-8111

MARCH 1-3

SAVANNAH TEEN WEEKEND AT THE JEA

Friday, March 1, 5:00pm -
Sunday, March 3, 12:30pm
Teenagers (grade 8-12) from around the
southeast will be invited to enjoy exciting,
transformative programming in a Jewish
atmosphere. For more info contact Caitlin
Gardner at <mailto:engagement@savj.org> or
912-355-8111

MARCH 5

JUDAISM 101 CLASS

Tuesday, March 5, 6:30pm
Week 7 topic: Anti-Semitism and the
Holocaust

MARCH 6

KABBALAH IN SUN CITY

Wednesday, March 6, 10:30am at the home
of Carole Lurie

MARCH 10

BROADWAY PURIM SPIEL

Sunday, March 10, 11:30am
Followed by a Hamantashen Oneg

MARCH 12

JUDAISM 101 CLASS

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30pm
Week 8 topic: The American Jewish
Experience and Diversity

MARCH 19

JUDAISM 101 CLASS

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30pm
Week 9 topic: Living a Jewish Life – Prayer,
synagogue, liturgy, and music.

MARCH 19

BACKS AGAINST THE WALL DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION

Tuesday, March 19, 7pm at Asbury Memorial
United Methodist Church

MARCH 26

JUDAISM 101 CLASS

Tuesday, March 26, 6:30pm
Week 10 topic: Living a Jewish Life – Marriage,
partnership, family and children, and more

MARCH 27

CMI BOOK BANTER BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, March 27, 1:00pm
Join our new book club and discussion of books
by Jewish authors or with Jewish themes. For
our March book we will be discussing "The
Weight of Ink" by Rachel Kadish.

MARCH 31

CONGREGATIONS IN SERVICE

Sunday, March 31, 12:30pm
Meet at Congregation Mickve Israel at
12:30pm for lunch before working at various
sites. All ages welcome! We are collecting
items of individual cereals and snacks for
Backpack Buddies.



Chair Yoga at CMI

Mondays at 2pm
Please join us for fun
and fitness at the temple!
RSVP to Marcia Berens
at 912-604-2779

MAZEL TOV!

Mazel Tov to Dr. Steven Elisha on his promotion to the rank of Full Professor at Georgia Southern University.

Mazel Tov to Herbert Victor on the publication of his article, *"Still Thriving After All These Years: Savannah's Mickve Israel at 285."* in the *Southern Jewish Historical Society's Rambler Newsletter Winter 2019* edition. You can download the newsletter and read Herbert's article on page 6 by going to: <https://www.jewishsouth.org/rambler>

OF BLESSED MEMORY

Muriel Bonder

Mother of Michael Bonder

Grandmother of Cherie Dennis and
Great-grandmother of Emmett Dennis

February 3, 2019

Mary Friedman

Mother of Stephen (Annette) Friedman

February 5, 2019

Howard Paul Cooper

Husband of Patricia Cooper

February 5, 2019

Chester J. Solender

Father of Adam (Sarah Denmark) Solender

Monday, February 18, 2019

If you or someone you know will be celebrating a special occasion, please send us their information so we can add it in the next Contact. Email: jill@mickveisrael.org.

Our next issue will be the April issue, so keep that in mind when sending articles. We will need everything by Monday, March 11th.

Weekly Torah Study **The Book of Genesis**

Saturdays after
Shabbat Service starting
at 1:00pm



JUDAICA SHOP SALE

MARCH SPECIAL

Enjoy a 20% discount
off everything Passover
throughout the entire
month of March!



Have Jews always been Funny?

In 1893, the chief rabbi of London, Hermann Adler, wrote an article in which he “argued against” the prevailing belief that Jews did not have a sense of humor. The mere fact that he felt compelled to write this article feels very anachronistic to us, as the concepts of Jews and comedy seem to go hand in hand today. Many would then suggest that Jewish humor must stem from the latter Yiddish Belt/Vaudeville era when so many Yiddish satirists moved to America from Eastern Europe at the turn of the 19th century. These entertainers then helped adept comedy for Broadway, motion pictures, radio and T.V. Yet in reality, the basis for Jewish humor runs much deeper. Some would say our comedic instincts hail from passages in the Bible, such as when a She-Bear attacks a group of children at the behest of the prophet Elisha, after these said children insult him for the crime of being bald. Others might refer to Talmudic passages or to the poets during the Golden age of Spain.

However, many if not most would point to the one truly consistent comedic practice in our religion, one that began over 1,000 years ago and remains a stalwart of any Jewish community. We are of course then speaking of the..... Purim Spiel, which is actually more than just a piece of our history. According to Janet Leuchter, the author of *The Fascinating Evolution of the Purim-Spiel*, the annual Spiel should also be considered the “only genuine folk theater that has survived a thousand years in European culture.” The Spiel (Yiddish for play) remains today an indelibly part of our shared synagogue experience. In it, we perhaps find the origins of our uncanny ability to laugh during even times of great turmoil.

We act out the story found in the book of Esther, as the book's namesake, along with her Uncle Morty, save the Jewish people living in Babylon from the dreaded Haman

and his evil intentions. Every year we sing and dance and make merry, as we eat Hamantaschens, dress in costumes, and mispronounce the name of King Ahashverus.

This year, we as always, have written a wonderful Purim Spiel that will be fun for the whole family. There will be singing and dancing a plenty at 11:30 on March 10th in the sanctuary, and even though it comes at the end of Shalom School, everyone is invited. After careful consideration of the all the options, this year's Purim Committee has decided upon the theme of.....Broadway. So, join us for our 2019 Broadway Purim Spiel as well as our Purim Party/Megillah Reading on March 20th. Why do we host the Purim Spiel and the Party/Megilah reading on different days you may ask? Well, it's of course to give us as much Purim Celebration time as possible.

We've celebrated Purim for countless generations, and the best Spiels are yet to come. After all, we know, Jewish tradition tells us that we are actually commanded to celebrate Purim. Since at least Talmudic times, we've celebrated this grand ole holiday. In fact, we may actually find the first Jewish joke ever written down in our history in the Talmudic tractate of, you guessed it, Megillah.

In Megillah 7b, we read, “Rava said, ‘A man should get so drunk on Purim that he can't distinguish between ‘Cursed is Haman’ and ‘Blessed is Mordecai.’ Rabbah and Rabbi Zeira once made a Purim feast together. They got drunk, and Rabbah went and killed Rabbi Zeirah. In the morning, Rabbah prayed to God and brought Rabbi Zeira to life again. The next year, Rabbah again invited Rabbi Zeira to join him for a Purim feast. ‘No thank you,’ said Rabbi Zeira. ‘A miracle may not happen every time.’”

Special Guest Speaker:

Dr. Daniel Pioske,
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
at the University of Georgia Southern

Dr. Pioske holds a PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary and is the author of *Memory in a Time of Prose: Studies in Epistemology, Hebrew Scribalism and the Biblical Past* and *David's Jerusalem: Between Memory and History*. He will be speaking at Kiddush lunch on March 23rd.



Do You Have the Spark?

By Eve Horwitz

What a journey this past year has been! We have toured and lunched in a lovely Antebellum plantation, wrapped holiday gifts for friends we never met before, and hosted proactive Jewish women from all over the southeast for an Area Day for WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism). It was a rousing success to judge by the accolades we received!

Along our journey, we have become enlightened, enthusiastic, and educated. We traded ideas and expressed our own creativity in so many different ways. We forged friendships which otherwise might never have been. In other words, now many of us have a desire to learn more, see more and give more. We have "The Spark"!

Join us on our journey. Become part of the Women's Seder on April 14.

Save the date! Tuesday, May 7th at 11:00. Sisterhood is invited to the Telfair Museum for a docent-led tour of "The Jewish Experience" of Rembrandt. He was particularly interested in the Jewish community of Amsterdam.

Join us on the Bima for Sisterhood Shabbat on May 11. Celebrate the 2019 "Women of Valor." Learn even more about our Savannah forefathers by touring the our city's Jewish cemeteries. (Date TBA)

Let 2019 be the year that you light your Spark!



Women's Seder 2019

Sunday April, 14 at 4pm

Cost: \$25 per adult, \$12 for ages 12 and under payable at time of reservation

This will be a joyful celebration of women and freedom highlighted by a delicious seder meal, music, and dancing.

The dinner menu items will be prepared by chef Bryan Graves

Each attendee is asked to bring one of the following to share:
Passover wine, grape juice or
a Passover dessert.

Reservations are required by April 7th.
RSVP to Teresa Victor at 912-657-4108

(Make checks out to Sisterhood and drop off at the temple office)

Contemporary Shabbat Service

led by B'nei Mitzvah Students

Friday, March 8

5:30pm Young Family Gathering
6pm Contemporary Shabbat Service
6:45pm Oneg for all!



BROADWAY Purim Spiel



PURIM CELEBRATION

Wed, March 20, 6pm

Join us for dinner followed
by the Megillah reading and fun projects!
rsvp@mickveisrael.org or 912-233-1547

Cost: \$8/person, \$20/family for members
\$12/person, \$30/family for non-members

WE REMEMBER THOSE WITH YAHRZEITS

Only those names with Memorial plaques are published. For information on purchasing a plaque or to request that a loved one's name be read during Shabbat services, contact Jennifer Rich at 912-233-1547, ext. 302 or jennifer.rich@mickveisrael.org

MARCH 1 & 2

Cissie Solomons Falk
Bella Fisher
Robert Heller
Paul T. Kuhr
Edwin Leffler
Rachel B. Longwater
Jacob Simon
Kayton Smith Sr.
Rabbi George Solomon
Mary Volpin Straus
Esther Saloshin Straus
Helen Edel Udell

MARCH 8 & 9

Mildred S. Byck
Nathaniel J. Dewald
Sophia Gazan
Jean Guckenheimer Guthman
Doris Kroskin
Sidney H. Levy
Alice Oppenheim
Alice Weichselbaum Osterweil
Edith Schafman
Joan Weiner E. Schwartz
Pauline Mirsky Stein

Selma Sternshine
Dr William Weichselbaum
Ferdinand A. Weil
Arthur Wetherhorn

MARCH 15 & 16

Nathan Coleman
Nathan Gazan
Dr. Leroy S. Harris
Shirley Mekler
Joseph H. Mendes Jr.
Betty H. Michels
Theresa J. Oppenheim
Clemmie Mayer Pinkussohn
Myrna Penn Reiter
Arthur Rosenthal
Adele Meddin Schneider
Faye S. Schwartz
Lawrence Mayer Steinheimer
Sam L. Trotz

MARCH 22 & 23

Sara Deich Coleman
Fred Kazlow
Charles Lichtman
Rose G. Michels

Jean Eichholz Mopper
Benjamin F. Sheftall
Herbert S. Traub Jr.
Marsha E. Weiss
Carrie D. Wortsman

MARCH 29 & 30

Henry R. Alexander
William Bear
Dora Deutsch
Edwin J. Feiler
Audrey Green Goldsmith
Reginald Max Goldsmith
Isaac D. Hirsch
Mildred A. Kuhr
Dorothy Mendel Levin
Yetta G. Lindauer
Jonas Mendel
Herman Myers
Evelyn J. Nagelberg
Lucille M. Perlinski
Mary Toomer
Gloria Ellen Weiner
Mildred Lipsitz Wiseman

Save the Date

2019 Passover Seders

Women's Seder, April 14, 4pm

First Night Seder, April 19, 6pm

Second Night, April 20, 6pm

*Watch for more details in the E-news
and in the April Contact!*

How We Can Channel Purim's Giving Spirit all Year Long

Article from ReformJudaism.org originally published 2/26/2018

BY JULIANA KAROL, ELIANA FISCHER, & ERIC ABBOTT

At the end of M'gillat Esther, the Jewish people celebrate their survival with merrymaking, feasting, and sending gifts to one another and to the poor. As a result, today's Purim celebration has become inextricable from our obligation to share our bounty with fellow Jews and with the impoverished among us.

Sending mishloach manot (gifts) increases peace and harmony for Klal Yisrael (the community of Israel), and ensures that everyone can rejoice fully in the se'uda (festive meal). We distribute matanot le'vyonim (gifts to the poor) because we recognize that on a holiday about excess and the reversal of fortune, we must do everything possible to extend the sweetness of abundance that eludes too many.

But why wait for Purim to fulfill the mitzvah of giving to the poor? At Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) Soup Kitchen, our year-round moral imperative is to provide a dignified environment where our guests can enjoy a warm, nutritious meal.

And food isn't enough. To fully nurture our community, we move beyond the stomach and also tend to the soul.

We do this in a number of ways. Each week, world-renowned musicians donate their time and talent to the soup kitchen. Our clothing closet team attends to our guests' diverse needs, from underwear and socks to winter jackets and business attire. We provide everything from toiletries to legal aid, and we organize voter registration and flu shots when possible.

And although Purim invites us to give, the scourges of food insecurity and poverty exist all year long.

This year marks the 30th year of the HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen. While we celebrate our three-decades-long commitment to feeding our neighbors, we pray for a time when hunger is eradicated and soup kitchens like ours are no longer needed.

We recognize the unfortunate reality that makes our work necessary. And so long as our soup kitchen remains open and critical to the lives of our guests, there are a few things you should know:

- In the United States, 1 in 8 people struggle with hunger.
- In 2006 the U.S. government replaced "hunger" with the term "food insecure" to describe any household that, sometime during the previous year, did not have enough to eat.

- 12.3% (15.6 million) of U.S. households were food insecure at some time during 2016. That's nearly twice the population of New York City.
- In 1980, there were a few hundred emergency food programs across the country; today there are 50,000.
- More than 48 million Americans rely on what used to be called food stamps, now SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). The average SNAP benefit per person is about \$125 per month – or \$1.40 per person per meal.

Of course, \$1.40 is barely enough to pay for a snack, much less a whole meal. That means that, so long as our government fails to meet the basic needs of our communities, organizations like the HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen will remain open, filled with graciousness, food, and music.

And there are soup kitchens and food pantries all around the country that need your help! Ask to help out as part of your celebrations on Purim or on any other day – and when you behold that glimmer of hope born out of genuine connection with a stranger who is feeding your soul as you feed hers, resolve to go beyond the soup kitchen.

We can only eradicate hunger if we fix the larger system, a system that breeds income inequality, food deserts, and limited access to healthy food. So how else can we help? We can advocate for better federal nutrition programs, fair wages, safe working conditions, and strong local food economies that create jobs, generate wealth, and give people control over their own food.

For so many in the Jewish community, Purim is about merrymaking and feasting, the folly and the fun. We reread M'gillat Esther to re-live the miraculous story of Jewish survival, but also to ensure that we don't forget the second piece of the Purim puzzle: giving. Jewish wisdom teaches that we haven't fulfilled the mitzvah (commandment) of Purim observance until we've enriched another Jew's festive meal and given gifts of money or food to at least two people in need (Bavli M'gillah 7a).

When we recognize that the sweetness of Purim is bound up with acts of generosity and selflessness, we can extend its joy throughout the year.

WE ARE LOOKING
FOR YOU!



CONGREGATIONS IN SERVICE

Be part of a community of faith-based volunteers!

**VOLUNTEER AND HELP OUR COMMUNITY
IN OUR OWN BACKYARD!**

**SUNDAY MARCH 31, 12:30PM - 4PM
AT CONGREGATION MICKVE ISRAEL**

The event will start with lunch at
Mickve Israel at 12:30pm. RSVP to the office
by March 29 at 912-233-1547

PO Box 816
Savannah, GA 31402-0816
912-233-1547
912-233-3086 Fax
www.mickveisrael.org

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CONGREGATION
MICKVE ISRAEL



Need to get in touch?
Call 912-233-1547

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