

NOV / DEC 2020

mickve israel

contact



Hanukkah is Coming!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 6PM

Join us for a Zoom Hanukkah Service and menorah lighting. Enjoy the Zoom spectacle of several households lighting their own menorahs as we recite the blessings and sing holiday songs.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 4PM

CMI participates in the Community Chanukah CARNIVAL. Decorate your car and come to the JEA to see friends and pick up goodies. Featuring music, giveaways and more!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 6PM

Outdoor Hanukkah Party
Come down to Monterey Square food and festivities as we fully light our outdoor menorah on the crazy 8th night.



COMMUNITY Chanukah CARNIVAL

Sunday, December 13

4:00-5:30 PM

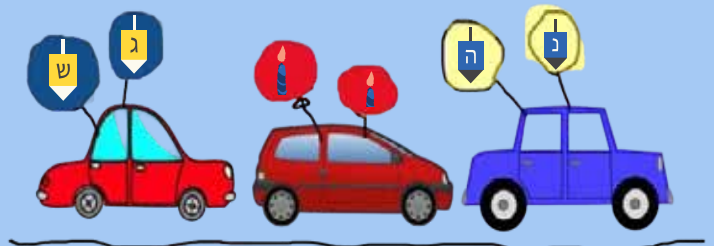
Jewish Educational Alliance

Celebrate Chanukah as a community in a safe & socially-distanced way.

Decorate your car and come to the JEA parking lot to see friends and pick up goodies from local Jewish organizations.

Featuring music, giveaways and more!

Bring a toy to donate.



More details at savj.org

Shop at our online gift shop or call 912-233-1547 to schedule a private in-person shopping experience.

**HANUKKAH
SALE!**



Mickve Israel Gift Shop

shopmickveisrael.com

During the months of November and December, we are continuing all services and events online. We are using the application Zoom as well as our YouTube channel to stream these offerings. Each service and event will indicate which platform we are using for streaming.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 11/6 at 6pm

Kabbalat Shabbat from our Youtube Channel, 6pm

SATURDAY 11/7 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

FRIDAY 11/13 at 6pm

Kabbalat Shabbat from our Youtube Channel, 6pm

SATURDAY 11/14 at 11am

Veterans Day Shabbat Morning Service streamed from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

FRIDAY 11/20 at 6pm

Kabbalat Shabbat from our Youtube Channel, 6pm

SATURDAY 11/21 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

FRIDAY 11/27 at 6pm

Kabbalat Shabbat from our Youtube Channel, 6pm

SATURDAY 11/28 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

FRIDAY 12/4 at 6pm

Kabbalat Shabbat from our Youtube Channel, 6pm

SATURDAY 12/5 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

FRIDAY 12/11 at 6pm

Hanukkah Shabbat Service from our Zoom and Youtube Channels, 6pm

SATURDAY 12/12 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

SUNDAY 12/13 at 6pm

Community Chanukah CARnival at the JEA, 4pm
Decorate your car and come to the JEA to see friends and pick up goodies! Featuring music, giveaways and more!

THURSDAY 12/17 at 6pm

Outdoor Hanukkah Party and Menorah Lighting at CMI, 6pm

FRIDAY 12/18 at 6pm

Kabbalat Shabbat from our Youtube Channel, 6pm

SATURDAY 12/19 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

FRIDAY 12/24 at 6pm

Kabbalat Shabbat from our Youtube Channel, 6pm

SATURDAY 12/25 at 11am

Shabbat Morning Service streamed from our Youtube Channel, 11:00am

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Rabbi Haas Interviews

Every Tuesday at 1pm
Zoom ID: 898299995
Password: 009694

Holocaust Education

with Tim Slivinski
Tuesday, November 10, 17 & 24
at 6:30pm
Email Tim at tim@mickveisrael.org to participate in any of the classes

Study Session with Rabbi Haas

Every Wednesday at 10:30am
Zoom ID: 91646643571
Password: 151619

Weekly Torah Study with Tim

Every Friday at 1pm
Zoom ID: 898299995
Password: 009694

Save the Date

Judaism 101 returns beginning on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 6:30pm. While this extensive multi-week course is part of the requirement toward conversion to Judaism, it is also valuable for anyone of Jewish background who simply wants to know a bit more about their faith, traditions, history, and celebrations. Watch for more details in January's Contact.

CMI Returns to Kingdom of Life for an **Outdoor Shabbat Service** on Saturday, January 9, 2021, at 11am. After the success of our drive-in Sukkot service, we will gather again for Shabbat service at Kingdom of Life Christian Fellowship. See the next Contact for more details.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to Rebecca Kahn, granddaughter of Jane Kahn, (daughter of Bobby and Susan Kahn of Atlanta), who just received her PhD in Population Health Sciences and Epidemiology from Harvard.

Mazel Tov to Rich and Debi Macarin on the birth of their granddaughter, Mia Grace, born September 20 to parents Daniel and Hillary Macarin.

Mazel Tov to Meryl and Arden Fleishman on their B'not Mitzvah (Jonathan and Jennifer Fleishman)

Mazel Tov to Hunter Goldstein on his Bar Mitzvah (Dr. Jay and Courtney Goldstein)

OF BLESSED MEMORY

Milton Nolan Kassel
husband of Valerie Cohen Kassel (z"l),
brother in-law of A.J. (Kelly) Cohen
and uncle of George (Ruth) Cohen and Julia Cohen
October 6th, 2020.

Valerie Cohen Kassel,
Sister of A.J. (Kelly) Cohen and aunt of George
(Ruth) Cohen and Julia Cohen
September 28th, 2020.

Evelyn (Evie) Golcman Weinreich Gilmer,
sister of Berta (Samuel) Adams
September 14, 2020 in Atlanta.

SISTERHOOD

Thank you to everyone who ordered honey from our honey sale. This year's honey sale was the most successful yet!

We provided High Holy Day cards beautifully designed by Heather Szatsmary for the people who are homebound.

Normally we provide a Thanksgiving meal for Hospice Savannah. Unfortunately this year we aren't able to do that with the pandemic going on but we will still be providing desserts for them.

Sisterhood will still be providing scholarship money to Shalom School, per our bi-laws.

Lastly, we want to wish everyone a safe and Happy Hanukkah

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome back to *Walter and Melanie Biner*, returning to the Savannah area from a tour of duty in Sweden with their children, Sarah, Karla and baby Jonah who was born shortly after they returned to this area. As Mickve Israel members from 2012 – 2017, they know many people in our congregation, have a wonderful relationship with Rabbi Haas and are truly thrilled to be members once again. Walter, a Major in the US Army, is stationed at Fort Stewart; Melanie, a physician, is spending time as a full-time mom these days. They reside in Richmond Hill.

Mickve Israel is fortunate to have another branch of the Biner family as new members. Walter's parents, *Stanley and Margaret (Peg) Biner* have just retired to this area from New Jersey, happy to be close to their children and grandchildren and to begin a new chapter of their lives in Savannah. They were frequent visitors to Mickve Israel during the years that Walter and Melanie lived here and developed a special bond with our congregation, feeling very welcomed each time they came and meeting very interesting people. Stanley is an electrical engineer having worked in the Power Generation field and Peg is a college professor of business education. They are looking forward to being active in the general community and at Mickve Israel.

Jay and Courtney Goldstein and their two sons Hunter and Noah are returning members to Mickve Israel. Jay is a physician and head of the Emergency Department at Memorial; Courtney is an equestrian trainer. They reside at the Landings. We are delighted to welcome them back to the congregation.

GEORGIA SENATE RUNOFF

Don't forget to register for your absentee ballot for the Georgia Senate Runoff election at mvp.sos.ga.gov if you don't want to vote in person.

IMPORTANT DATES:
(GEORGIA SENATE RUNOFF)

The graphic features a purple background with four orange calendar icons. The first icon is labeled 'NOW' and 'Request your ballot.' with arrows pointing to it from the other three icons. The second icon is labeled 'DEC 7' and 'Voter Registration Deadline'. The third icon is labeled 'DEC 14' and 'Early Voting Begins'. The fourth icon is labeled 'JAN 5' and 'Election Day!'. At the bottom, it says 'For questions, call 888-730-5816'.

Request your ballot.

DEC 7
Voter Registration Deadline

DEC 14
Early Voting Begins

JAN 5
Election Day!

For questions, call **888-730-5816**

Keeping a Positive Outlook

April and I rarely watch the same Television shows. We generally just have different tastes in programs, as I prefer to spend my T.V. time alongside aliens and superheroes. However, once in a while we find a program that we both enjoy. Enter Ted Lasso, the head football coach of a small college in the U.S.A. who through a strange set of circumstances is hired to coach a soccer team in England, even though he knows little about the sport.

I usually watch an episode or two of the shows she promotes to me, but my attention usually wanders. Not so here. We both found this show to be absolutely fabulous, less so because of the premise and more because of the main character. In case you haven't heard, soccer - or football as it's called in England and everywhere else - is a big deal in Great Britain. A really big deal, bigger than college football in Georgia or South Carolina. Oh Yes! So, when fans learn of this new move by the owner, they vent their frustrations at Ted Lasso. Upon entering any pub in the city, a barrage of insults meets him at every turn. His players find his lack of knowledge unappealing, and the newly divorced owner of the team seems to continually place all of her trepidations about her new life as a single woman on his shoulders. To add to the spectacle, his marriage sits precariously on the edge of a precipice.

Through all of these challenges though, Ted Lasso keeps his positive outlook on the world as best as possible. Even when challenged by outraged fans, he deflates their negativity with his patient enthusiasm and by remembering everyone's names. His genuine kindness and willingness to help anyone in need helps endear him to everyone around him. I simply find his supreme lust for life infectious. Both April and I found the show entirely refreshing, especially considering the stressful world in which we live.

As the election season comes to an end, I've felt a sigh of relief from some but a biting sense of heightened anxiety from many others, coming from both sides of the political world. The election process seems to drain us every year, and this year is no different. However, if the election

proves anything, it is that we live in a diverse world. It proves that people feel comfortable sharing their opinion globally. It further proves that we, as Jewish Americans, feel comfortable publicly shouting our political opinion aloud without fear of reproach. What would our ancestors from 150 years ago have given for such a privilege? What would they have said if they were given a sincere chance to vote for the next Tzar?

Someone asked me, why can't one of the presidential candidates just win 90% of the vote and thus save country from this tense atmosphere. The answer is that there are places in the world in which a candidate wins by such a landslide, but we certainly don't want to live in any of them. Lyndon Johnson won his reelection campaign in 1964 with 61.1% of the popular vote. No one else has cracked 61% since 1820 and only three other candidates have won over 60% of the popular vote in more recent times, Warren Harding in 1920, Roosevelt in 1936, and Nixon in 1972.

Some would say that our country remains ever divided, but the truth remains that we actually live in a united country that houses people with various opinions. Our job as Americans has always been and will always be to find a way to shake hands with someone on the opposing team, because if there isn't an opposing team, then we're living in a place where the "President" does win that 90% of the vote. Only three times in the last two hundred years has a president won over 60% of the popular vote, yet we've almost always found a way to compromise in one way or the other. I believe the most important lesson from any election in a free society remains that we shouldn't demonize the opposition, because no one wants to compromise with a demon.

I may just catch a few more episodes of Ted Lasso tonight. He may only be a television character, but if he has the ability to enjoy life even as Football hooligans shout expletives at him, then I can go to lunch with someone who supports a different political party.

CMI RAFFLE

(CMI MEMBERS ONLY)

ALL DONATIONS ARE
100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE

FOR TICKETS CALL
912-233-1547

1 YEAR MICKVE ISRAEL MEMBERSHIP

(ASSOCIATE, SINGLE, OR FAMILY - MAX VALUE OF \$1430)
ONLY 100 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

\$40

TICKET

Building of God's First Jewish House in Savannah

A Bi-Centennial Anniversary - Part I

Until our building re-opens, Mickve Israel's History and Heritage Committee encourages all to take advantage of the numerous online educational opportunities offered by many Jewish and Savannah historical and cultural sites, including our new sanctuary and museum tour which is available on Mickve Israel's website.

By Rabbi Saul J. Rubin and Herbert L. Victor

When Jews first arrived in Savannah on the *William and Sarah* in July, 1733, they brought with them items necessary for a Jewish community, a Torah scroll and a circumcision kit (both on display in Mickve Israel's Gutstein Museum). Within two years of their arrival, Savannah's Jewish community had begun to build the infrastructure of a permanent Jewish settlement. Almost immediately, Jewish worship began, first in Jewish homes and later in rented spaces. Shortly afterwards, a cemetery was needed, in 1738 a *mikveh* was available, and in 1735, the Jewish community was named, Kahal Kodesh Mickva Israel, Holy Congregation Hope of Israel.

The next piece of infrastructure for a permanent congregation, a synagogue, would take almost ninety years. Before that would happen, the Ashkenazi and Sephardi, disparate factions who came to Savannah, would have to unite into a more homogeneous community. The passing of time and common experiences of the American Revolution, as well as learning to survive and later succeed, would move the Jewish community into a somewhat more unified group.

In 1790, K.K. Mickva Israel became the first Jewish congregation chartered in Georgia. With that and an estimated population of about 100 Savannah Jews, the Board of *Adjunta* (BOA), officers, and regular meetings with written minutes began. (The first Minute Book is exhibited in the Gutstein Museum.) The chartering of the congregation demonstrated acceptance of Jews by the State and promised confidence by the community for a permanent future in Savannah. Shortly afterwards, talk of a synagogue building began. In October, 1791 a proposal was made to the Board of *Adjunta* by Abraham da Costa for a building on the South Commons (now West Oglethorpe Street, possibly adjacent to the cemetery) on land already owned by the congregation. Da Costa, a wealthy merchant, provided seed money to start the project, and a building committee of da Costa, Levi and Mordecai Sheftall, Sheftall Sheftall, and Emanuel De la Motta

was established; however, after accusations of inferior bricks and wasted donations, by early 1792, the project was dropped. Although the congregation did own land for a potential synagogue, finances, fires, and economic conditions prevented further building considerations for over two decades, but hope and financial preparation for a future structure did not die.

In 1816, Dr. Moses Sheftall became leader of the congregation, and in 1817, the rental property being used for worship had been sold and the congregation began looking for new quarters. Although the congregation owned other structures, none was deemed appropriate for worship, so the two Torah scrolls, menorahs, prayer books, benches, and the shofar used in the previous location were stored in those properties. Worship was likely done in a home.

In May, 1819, several Jewish community leaders attended the dedication of Independent Presbyterian Church (on Bull and Oglethorpe), and were impressed with the ceremony (and, no doubt, the attendance of President James Monroe!). Probably partially inspired by this church dedication, by August, 1819 BOA minutes indicate that a building program and consecration ceremonies were decided. A Building Committee of A. DeLyon, D. Leion, Dr. Moses Sheftall, Sheftall Sheftall, and later, Dr. Jacob De la Motta were appointed with power to contract with a builder and with necessary means to fund a building. After almost nine decades of Jewish life in Savannah, was a synagogue to finally become a reality?

Resources:

Third to None. Rabbi Saul Jacob Rubin. 1983.

"Historical Record of the City of Savannah". F. D. Lee and J. L. Agnew. 1868.

After our building re-opens, Mickve Israel's History and Heritage Committee welcomes you to explore our Gutstein Museum, sanctuary, and Slany Torah exhibit to learn more about our congregation's story as well as Savannah and American history.

We are extremely grateful to all the following businesses, organizations, and individuals who partnered with us to bring our 32nd Annual – first time Virtual – Shalom Y'all Jewish Food Festival to life!

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FOOD FEST ENTERTAINMENT

Bill Averbach & Austin
Klezmorim and Carolina
Klezmer Project

Dan Horowitz and the Klezmer
Local 42

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Rachel Policar, Soprano
and American Traditions
Competition Quarter finalist

The Milnes VOICE Programs
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VOICE Festival
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of Dance

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Artistic Director
Sinisia Ciric – Violin
Assaf Gleizer - Piano
Ricardo Ochoa – Violin
Mark Chesnow – Bass

November Nights Education – The Holocaust

Join me for three Tuesday evenings as we take a more in-depth look at one of the greatest tragedies ever to befall the Jewish people and the entire world. We will examine how a seemingly modern, progressive nation that had accepted its Jewish citizens into most areas of day to day living could be turned into a nation that supported bigotry, hatred, and fascism. It did not happen overnight. We will look at the early events that signaled the coming danger for Europe's Jews as well as what occurred once The Final Solution was firmly in place. Finally, we will also examine what occurred in the years following the liberation from and the defeat of Nazism.

All classes will be held via ZOOM on Tuesday evenings in November of 2020, and they will start at 6:30pm, with each session lasting 90 minutes to 2 hours. November 10, 2020 – *The Gathering Storm* will look at the foundations of fascism and anti-Semitism in Germany. Where did it come from? How did it grow? What was Jewish life like in Germany at this time? How

did the Nazi Party work its way to complete control of the government?

November 17, 2020 – *The Storm Intensifies* will consider the early years under Hitler's regime in Germany. How calculated was the Nazi Party's plan? How did they "test the waters"? How was the rest of the world reacting?

November 24, 2020 – *The Storm and the Aftermath* will look at how The Final Solution was planned and implemented. How did the war affect the destruction of European Jewry? How did the Nazi Party turn genocide into an efficient "business"? What happened once the Nazis were defeated? Have the lessons of the Holocaust been learned?

To register for any or all of the sessions, call Tim at the synagogue at 912-233-1547 or email him at tim@mickveisrael.org. Registering ahead of time assures that you will receive each session's outline and any handouts on the Monday prior to the class session.

THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL

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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

NOV 6 & 7

Benjamin S. Abeshouse MD
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NOV 13 & 14

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Norman David Richard
Norman Richard
Fay Silvers
Muriel A. Sutker
Bernard Ungar
Rachel Basch Victor
Mildred Weichselbaum
Gertrude E. Wortsman
Dr. Joseph L. Zerman

NOV 20 & 21

Edward L. Byck
Arthur Deutsch
Albert Ehrlich

Marcus I. Frankenstein
Herman S. Gordon
Stanley Harris
Georgia Hughes Hymes
Bertie Kroskin
Josephine Wachtel Smith

NOV 27 & 28

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Max T. Brown
Beatrice R. Chaskin
Herman Delancy
Lyn Stacie Getz
Harry Hirsch
Mrs. Marcia Lebos
Stanley Lichtman
Asa Meddin
Rachel Paderewski
Barney Minkoff Paderewski
Hedwig Freund Richtman
Irene Schaffer
Mark Silvers
Joseph M. Solomons
Karilena Hohnerlein Traub

DEC 4 & 5

Faletta D. Bentschner
George Brown
Annie G. Byck
Philip Nathan Coleman
Janie S. Falk
Alvin F. Kahan
Jerome M. Krapf
Ziprah De Sola Mendes
Joseph H. Mendes
Adele Meyer
Mildred S. Michaels
Etta P. Schaul
Helen Engel Weil

DEC 11 & 12

Olivia Marie Coleman

Maude Rice Dryfus
Washington Falk
Aleen Wolf Feiler
Hannah Kassel Goldsmith
Rudi Loebinger
Alma Hannah Mendes
Octavis A. Meyer
Barney Minkoff
Louis Laurent Rosenthal
Minnette R. Taylor

DEC 18 & 19

Sylvia Blumenthal Barnett
Rebecca P. Dewald
Marian Katzman Eisenstein
Robert I. Feidelson
Miriam H. Leffler
Annette Peltz
Joseph A. Price
M. Fred Rosolio
Lewis Wolner

DEC 25 & 26

Jacqueline Brower
Ilse Frank
Sims Gaynor
Mr. Lawrence Gutstein
Richard A. Heller
Samuel David Hirsch
Stephen Hollenberg
Zelda Wetherhorn Homans
Herbert Lester Kayton
Martin Edward Kirschbaum
Eva O. Lipman
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SUMMER
CAMP
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE
See Rabbi Haas for details!

Thank you!

The generosity we receive does not go unnoticed. We thank everyone who supports Congregation Mickve Israel through contributions, participation, volunteerism and other means. A special thank you to those listed below who have given Honor Dues. Please consider joining this special group by giving Honor Dues in 2020.

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Mr. Jason Slutsky
Mr. & Mrs. Kayton Smith, Jr.
Ms. Sue Solomon
Col. & Mrs. Edward Wexler

Essen Essen By Ina Kuller Orange Dijon Chicken

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 Thighs, Or Your Pieces of Your Preference, Pat Dry with Paper Towel
- 1 Tablespoon Butter, Or Neutral Oil
- 2 Shallots, Chopped Small
- 1 -2 Garlic Cloves, chopped fine
- 1 Tablespoons Flour
- 1 /2 Cup Chicken Stock
- 1 /3 Cup Dry White Wine
- 1 /3 Cup Orange Juice
- 1 Bay Leaf
- 2 Tablespoons Dijon Mustard
- 1 /4 Cup Orange Marmalade
- 2 Tablespoons Fresh Tarragon, Chopped Small Or 1 Teaspoon Dry
- Salt & Pepper

DIRECTIONS:

Salt and pepper chicken. Heat large oven-proof skillet on medium-high and brown chicken on all sides. Remove chicken from pan and hold in bowl to collect juices. Don't crowd pan, so you'll probably have to do this in 2 batches. Remove fat from skillet and wipe clean with paper towel. Add butter and sauté shallots-then garlic for 30 seconds. Add flour and whisk. Add stock, wine, orange juice-stir, then all remaining ingredients and simmer for 5 minutes. Add back chicken, skin side up and bake uncovered @ 350° for about 30-35 minutes. Thermometer should read 165° inserted in deepest part of chicken. Adjust sauce for salt and pepper if needed. Enjoy!

Congregation Mickve Israel Begins New Inter-Faith Initiative

No one can deny that there are serious issues in Savannah which affect our community. For years, Savannah has seen increases in local violence, homelessness, hunger, unemployment, and, of course, Covid-19. A brand-new community initiative is set to take on these issues, and our congregation will be an active participant.

Founded in 1982, DART (Direct Action & Research Training Center) is a national network of over 20 grassroots community organizations who bring people together across racial, religious and socioeconomic lines to pursue justice in their communities. Since its inception, over 10,000 participants have worked together to improve conditions all over the country. 400 other congregations in 22 different cities have previously tackled problems that need addressing because they are able to get large numbers of people involved. Savannah is the newest community to join the network.

Some of the issues addressed elsewhere have been: Reading instruction and fair suspension policies in public schools, expansions of public transportation, accessible health care reform, local investment in affordable housing, jobs training and providing of food for the hungry. Some examples of success have been:

- 33,000 children in Florida are being diverted from the Juvenile Justice system because ten Justice Ministry Organizations pushed the state legislature to expand the use of civil citations for minor offenses.
- 80% fewer children were suspended out of an elementary school in Louisville, KY because the Justice Ministry Organization there pressed the School system to implement “whole school restorative practices” and now the District is implementing that program in all schools over the next five years. This process trains both teachers and professionals on how to better deal with disciplinary issues before they happen by better understanding their students’ behavior and personal circumstances. It has been quite effective and apparently was a big issue in this school system.
- 500 families a year are moving into safe, decent affordable housing because the Justice Ministry Organization in Columbus, Ohio got City and County officials there to allocate \$10 million a year to housing.

For the past 12 months, leaders of over 20 religious organizations in our community have created SAIJM (the Savannah Area Interfaith Justice Ministry), and our rabbi, Robert Haas, has been an active member of the Board. In October, after many months of planning, the various participating religious institutions began holding meetings with members of their congregations to learn about issues that were in the forefront of their minds. Mickve Israel held four of these meetings, referred to as “Sacred Conversations” during the past month.

Each meeting was led by two congregants who had undergone a detailed training program, and focused

on two specific questions: 1) “What issue keeps you up at night?” or put another way, “What issue wakes you up at 3AM?” and 2) “What issue in our community makes you angry?”

Each group meeting had over 10 participants and lasted over 90 minutes. The issues raised, and comments of the participants were recorded by each group.

On November 12, the Team Leaders of CMI will meet to review the outcome of the four “Sacred Conversations” and select two issues which will represent the collective results of our meetings. All participants have been invited to that meeting. A few days later, (November 16th) representatives of CMI will meet their various counterparts of all the participating congregations and collectively will select five issues that will be presented for a final vote on December 7th. The results of the November 16th meeting will be reported back to all the meeting participants.

On December 7, everyone who participated in the various Sacred Conversations throughout Savannah will meet together (via Zoom), choose two of these five issues, and begin next steps toward the ultimate goal of resolving these two issues. This will involve research, lobbying, fundraising, community activities and most important of all large-scale participation by our entire volunteer force.

By next summer, SAIJM anticipates being in a position to make a presentation to the “powers that be” on what our community sees as important issues for our local government and institutions to address, and demand that they do so. We anticipate that presentation will be attended by the thousands of participants who will have been working together on the issues and with those numbers it will be impossible for those with the power to address and make change to ignore the community it serves.

There is always room for more interested community participants. If you would like to join in this very exciting initiative, feel free to reach out to any of our Team Leaders and let them know.

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We will continue to report back to the congregation with updates on our progress.

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