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MJCCA News

BOOK FESTIVAL CONTINUES. One of the community's most anticipated cultural events, the 25th Edition of the Book Festival of the Marcus Jewish Community Center (MJCCA), bringing the best in cultural arts and literary voices to Atlanta, continues through November 20. Each year, the Book Festival's exceptional repertoire has something to offer all book lovers. More than 13,000 visitors come together to listen to, meet, and engage with their favorite local, national, and international authors.

"Whether you are an artist or musician; a scholar or historian; a reader of mystery, humor, or fiction, this Book Festival has something for you," said Deborah Jacobs, Book Festival co-chair. "The 25th Edition offers a range of new programs: a live musical concert, a cultural Jewish food tasting, 'In Conversation' interviews between authors and local journalists, and various book club programs."

"For 16 days, we invite people from across the Southeast to meet these renowned authors," added Dee Kline, Book Festival co-chair. "Book lovers can't wait for this year's lineup of unique events, featuring everything from comedy and cooking, to health and Hollywood; from terrorism and kidnapping, to Israel and politics, and much more."

Featured authors include Peter Bergen, Andy Cohen, Yael Dayan, Jonathan Safran Foer, Daniel Gordis, Shep Gordon, Alice Hoffman, Carson Kressley, Kenny Loggins, Jeffrey Toobin, and many more. Local authors include Brian Curtis, Zoe Fishman, Jesse Itzler, and Jeffrey Selman.

Most events will be held at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 678-812-4005 or visit atlantajcc.org/bookfestival.

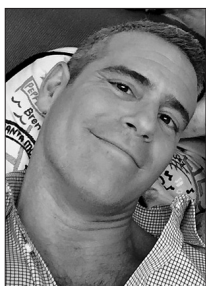
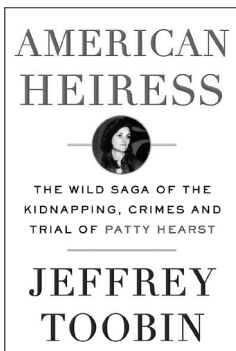
The Book Festival's Social Action Project, Project GIVE, supports ORT Atlanta's



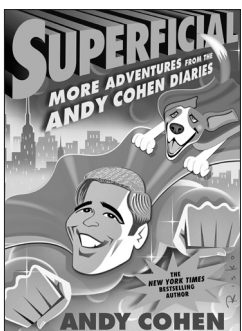
Deborah Jacobs and Dee Kline, Book Festival co-chairs



Jeffrey Toobin



Andy Cohen



Annual "ORT My School" project, in which young Atlantans help refurbish a local Title I school. ORT's mission is to bring education to disadvantaged students around the world. This year, volunteers will help Dobbs Elementary School build a library. Visitors are invited to bring books that are new or gently used, secular, and appropriate for elementary school students to the Book Festival. A bin will be at the MJCCA front desk until November 30.

ARTS AND CULTURE SEASON CONTINUES. The MJCCA presents An Acoustic Evening with Matisyahu, bringing the Reggae Superstar back to Atlanta (two nights, two venues) January 7, 2017, 8:00 p.m., at the MJCCA, 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody, and January 8, 8:00 p.m., at City Winery, Ponce City Market, 650 North Avenue. Tickets are \$45-\$65 and \$100 VIP, which includes a meet-and-greet, photos and autographs.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit atlantajcc.org/boxoffice, or call at 678-812-4002.



Matisyahu

JEWISH LIFE IN KRAKOW. Atlanta native and Epstein School graduate Jennifer Singer, director of external relations at the Jewish Community Center of Krakow, Poland, recently gave a compelling, firsthand report on Jewish life in Krakow today, to a standing-room only crowd at the MJCCA.

"It is a testament to the strength of an expanding Jewish community, that the JCC Krakow now has a membership of 800, including 80 Holocaust survivors, and continues to thrive as a vital cultural center, where young and old can reconnect to their Jewish heritage and traditions outside of a synagogue," Singer says.

Attending the luncheon presentation were Sally Levine, executive director of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, as well as Gary Alexander and Charles Berk, board members of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust.

Created in 2008, the JCC Krakow, located just 45 miles from Auschwitz, hosts festivals, film screenings, book promotions, and lectures. It houses the only Jewish library in Krakow that is open to people of all faiths. Its active Senior Club, the Krakow Jewish Students' Club, and a variety of programs for children are helping to support the viability of the city's thriving Jewish community.

The MJCCA Lisa F. Brill Institute for Jewish Learning sponsored Singer's presentation. For more information about the Brill Institute or the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, contact Dr. Shelley Buxbaum, director, at shelley.buxbaum@atlantajcc.org, or 678-812-4152.



Atlanta native Jennifer Singer (left) and Sherie Gumer, past president of the MJCCA, reunite at Singer's talk about today's Jewish life in Krakow, Poland. (photos courtesy of MJCCA)



Jennifer Singer (left) and Dr. Shelley Buxbaum, director of MJCCA Lisa F. Brill Institute for Jewish Learning



Dr. Shelley Buxbaum (left), director of the Lisa F. Brill Institute for Jewish Learning and Deborah Jacobs, co-chair of the MJCCA 2016 Book Festival

BBYO LEADERSHIP TRAINING. More than 100 teen members of the MJCCA's BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization), program recently attended a weekend Leadership Training Institute (LTI), at Camp Coleman in Cleveland, Georgia. Atlanta Council BBYO Teens were engaged in chapter and council meetings, traditional BBYO programs, and leadership training sessions.

Teens also gained valuable information from guest speakers Suzanne Simkin, co-founder of PeaceLoveMom; Tamar Gez, Israeli emissary; Scott Magat, high school engagement associate, Alpha Epsilon Pi International; Hannah Boresow, graphic designer, SeeMeDesign; and Michelle Krebs Levy, founder and CEO, The Sixth Point.

"It's amazing to see what motivates these teens to do so many great things," said Scott Magat. "They all want to learn how to become better leaders, not just in BBYO, but in their community, too. They inspire me to do more in my community, and I was lucky enough to work with them all weekend."

Teens also completed an anonymous social issues survey on topics including substance abuse, domestic violence, LGBTQ+ issues, and interfaith relationships, in an effort to tailor future programming to suit the teens' needs. After powerful presentations from teen



BBYO members convened for a weekend of leadership training and fun. (photos courtesy of MJCCA)

leaders and three rounds of voting, teens chose to advocate for suicide prevention and further awareness of teen suicide in their community and BBYO chapters.

For more information on MJCCA's BBYO program, contact David Hoffman at 678-812-3974 or david.hoffman@atlantajcc.org.



Leadership Training Institute participants enjoyed a Havdalah ceremony and song session around a campfire.



A traditional circle of thanks signified the official close of BBYO's unifying LTI Convention, at Camp Coleman, August 26-28.

BONDING THROUGH BAKING. Food brings people of all ages together, not only to eat, but also to share knowledge, culture, and mutual respect. Such was the case at the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, where teens and seniors recently joined together to bake and bond, at an intergenerational cooking class.

The MJCCA hosted the class at its Kuniansky Family Center, in conjunction with the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, Jewish Family & Career Services, and Ageless Interaction. The event brought together high-school students from The Weber School, and senior citizens, to prepare a meal, while also promoting meaningful conversations.

"We are very proud to host an activity where the power of food serves as a common ground for people of all ages," says Laura Ross, MJCCA associate program director.

For more information on the culinary arts program at MJCCA, contact Laura Ross, at 678-812-3971 or laura.ross@atlantajcc.org.



Students partner with seniors at an intergenerational cooking class (photos courtesy of MJCCA)



Teens and seniors build bonds as they bake and prepare a meal