

## Member Spotlight

## Savannah Lures Couple

by Leni Ram

Katherine and Aaron Vantosh were married in July, 2012, and never have they had to concern themselves with choosing the right mattress. Aaron, an Atlanta native, owned a mattress store there. Katherine was born in Atlanta, had lived in San Francisco for seven years, then decided to move home to Atlanta, where she met and married Aaron, and well, mattresses happened for her, too.

Aaron, with encouragement from his bride, decided to open an online mattress business in addition to his mattress discount store in Atlanta. And soon after they married, the young couple decided they wanted to leave Atlanta and chose to move to Savannah where they would open another mattress store. So along with their new 'actual' mattress store, *The Rest Stop*, Aaron and Katherine operate an online mattress business from their location in Savannah at 2125 E. Victory Drive (near Skidaway Road). They said they chose Savannah as their new home because of its proximity to the water and its relative convenience to Aaron's remaining business in Atlanta.

Aaron and Katherine say they love Savannah. He has a family history here. His grandfather, Norman Weitz, was born here and his sister, Beth Vantosh, and her husband, Ken-



Aaron & Katherine Vantosh with their two-year-old Bruno

neth Richards, have lived here for ten years. Beth, a commercial realtor, is on the Board of the Savannah Jewish Federation and is a past Chair of the Savannah Jewish Film Festival.

Both Katherine and Aaron have already committed themselves to becoming involved in the Savannah Jewish community, for they are new members at the JEA and are thinking of joining Congregation Mickve Israel. They also are planning to visit Israel for the first time this fall with the community mission.

It certainly seems a most fortunate "happening" for our Jewish community that this couple has chosen Savannah to be their home, to start a new business, and to contribute their time, energies, and interests in all that this location offers ... in addition, of course, to becoming part of Jewish life here.

## Save the Date—Sept. 22

## JEA Gala Plans Underway

Mark your calendars now for a magical evening of *Moonlight & Martinis* at the JEA's annual gala event, to be held Sunday, September 22, 2013. Full details will be announced soon, but the event's planners say that "fabulous" is the word for the night.

Look forward to a fabulous dinner, fabulous auction and perhaps best of all, Jeremy Davis and the Fabulous Equinox Orchestra Quintet, including renowned vocalist Clay Johnson, who are providing the truly special entertainment. Plan to dance the night away; you won't be able to stay in your seat.

For information on Gala sponsorship opportunities or to volunteer to help with the Gala, please contact Mindy Nash, [mnash@mnashevents.com](mailto:mnash@mnashevents.com), (912) 224-7889.



Jeremy Davis & the Fabulous Equinox Orchestra Quintet



Jewish National Fund Israeli Shaliach Ronnie Porat (l) and JNF Southeast Region lay leader Lauren Gordon Mescon (r) present local attorney Barney Portman with JNF's Tree of Life Award at the April 16, 2013 community celebration of Israel's 65<sup>th</sup> Independence Day held at the JEA, sponsored by JNF with the JEA and the Savannah Jewish Federation.



Ernie Friedman was honored by the Coastal Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America on April 5, 2013, with their Outstanding Eagle Award in recognition of his lifetime support for scouting. Ernie first became a Boy Scout as a member of Troop #2 at the JEA. His wife, Mary, is looking on as he accepts the honor.



Yuli Tamir (center), of Shenkar College of Engineering, Design & Art, appeared with Savannah Jewish Federation Executive Director Adam Solender (back row, left), Mayor Edna Jackson (far right) and other city dignitaries at a press conference during her visit here last month. Tamir, the President of Israel's largest art school, visited Savannah to meet with local universities, including SCAD, Savannah State and Armstrong Atlantic, to explore opportunities for exchange programs.