

MorningStar Cultural Arts Group Presents  
A Film Premier:



A Girl Scout Centennial: A Jewish Perspective  
They were our mothers, our daughters, our  
sisters... Girl Scouts All!

With reminiscences about Love and Scouts  
by JEA members

Sunday, May 13, 2012

4:15 to 6 PM

Free & Opened to the Public

**RSVP:** Carol Greenberg 912-352-1238  
or [MStarArts@gmail.com](mailto:MStarArts@gmail.com)



Troop II poses in front of the Barnard Street JEA

## **Acknowledgements for MStarArts:**

President: Maxine (Midge) L. Schildkraut (obm)

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Jami Brantley of the First National Headquarters for inspired ideas!

Victor women: three generations of Girl Scouts; Henrietta, Rhonda, and  
Rachel Victor, thanks to **Photos by Becky**.

Cranman Family photos used with permission of the **Cranman family**

Autographed copy of Hoover visit photo given to Henrietta Victor by Mrs.

Lou Henry Hoover 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of girl scouts

Historic Photos used with permission of the **First National Headquarters**

**Newspapers sited:** Savannah Jewish News

Savannah Morning News

Savannah News Press

Ms. Amram and outfits on loan from Judith Odrezin and Carol Greenberg

Museum Display Case on loan from the JEA

Bridge section on loan from Carol Greenberg

1996 JEA Girl Scout Quilt on loan from the JEA

Ceremonial objects on loan from and poem written by Carol Greenberg

**Thank you to my family for years of Scout memories: Love, Mom**

# NEWS

## New Girl Scout “Cadette” Troop is Forming

by Carol Towbin Greenberg

JEA Girl Scout Troops are offering something new and spectacular to girls ages 11-14, a troop of their own! With five girls to pilot this new Cadette troop, leaders Judy Odrezin and Carol Towbin Greenberg led a “mission impossible” themed sunrise beach party to welcome these girls to a new scouting adventure. The former Junior Girl Scouts, Shira Malka Gordon, Amanda Daniel, Stephanie Greenberg, Alysse Longwater and Greta Odrezin all bring years of Jewish scouting experiences to help them self-direct and govern troop 504, dedicated to promoting leadership education and social service while having fun.

In their first month of programming, the girls each have designated board assignments and chair certain aspects of our program. The girls have elected to combine mitzvahs and fund raising with their “Chave you Chad a Good Challah Lately?” campaign. For a mere five dollars for two loaves the girls will bake weekly challahs to fill personal orders, or orders placed and donated to home bound and nursing home residents. To get our project started, with the help of Alan and Lucy Gottlieb, Marla Towbin, Judy Odrezin, Eta Longwater and Gertrude Barr, the girls baked individual sized round challahs for the New Year and with cards provided by the Brownie and Junior

Scouts, the girls delivered the challahs around town in time for the holiday. They had so much fun visiting, that they have voted to go to Savannah Commons on a monthly basis and will work with the JEA Chesed Committee to make Chanukah decorations to be delivered to the senior facilities December 14.

The girls held a roller skating “fun” raiser and will host a movie premier for the Disney release *Anastasia* on Sunday, November 23. The girls collected bags of groceries for operation Isaiah, have started a Baby-sitting course that will include CPR and First Aid Training, will help host a Doll Fair at the JEA on November 16 for all registered younger scouts and will help restart our youngest group of scouts - our Kindergarten Daisies in November. The fall will culminate in a snow skiing trip on Dec. 7 to Blowing Rock, North Carolina. To place a challah order, for *Anastasia* premier tickets, for more information about scouting at the JEA - or wider opportunities for more mature girl, call Ms. Greenberg at 927-9922.

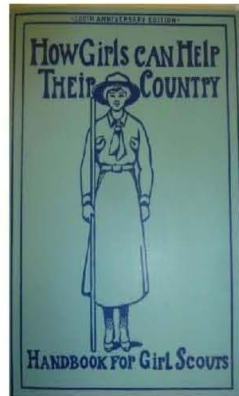


## Our Film's Perspective

This is the story of how girl scouts impacted the lives of a few Jewish women. No, Girl Scouts is not a Jewish organization and not all of the women interviewed belonged to troops sponsored by a synagogue or



community center, but the fact that Juliette Gordon Low did not discriminate against Jewish girls—or girls of any faith, race or physical or mental capacity meant that since the very beginning Jewish girls were able to participate, to compete, to play and to learn with their peers from all communities, it meant they found a way to apply secular skills to their lives within the Jewish community and to find acceptance on a leveled playing field in the non-Jewish community.



world.

Scouts come in all shapes and sizes, from many cultures and countries and communities. Jewish participation in scouting is the story of how one lady, Juliette Gordon Low, shared her vision with all girls of Savannah, the country and then the

In the early years, as told in the Congregation Mickve Israel exhibit, *In the*



*Beginning We Were There*, many of the girls of the historic congregation dating to 1733 were not only the scouts and campers, but also the leaders and council members. The exhibit honoring that legacy will continue until December, 2012.



Girl scouting is for girls, but also has always been a family affair:



Ellen Schneider Goodrich writes: "I was in the dedication ceremony of the Juliette Gordon Low House as was Daddy."



The Jewish Educational Alliance is also celebrating 100 years of serving the community first on Barnard Street and now on Abercorn. When my daughter was in the JEA troops in 1990's, to

the traditional four groupings, we added Daisy Scouts, a preschool program.



The troops were multi-racial, with mixed religious and socio-economic compositions, but the JEA troops provided a service that no other troop in Savannah provided: we were the only troops in the council that catered to the needs of the traditional Jewish girl in food, in dress and Shabbat and Holiday observance. What all girls learned was cooperation, respect for each others' traditions and better understanding of the ways we all are different, but all are similar.



At our zenith about 150 girls travelled, sold cookies and we represented the Jewish Community and the JEA in religious, Girl Scout and civic events. We



created a mentoring program for teenaged scouts in which the girls were partnered with women who have been successful in their businesses, the arts, sports and healthcare to learn not just about careers,

but options for life.

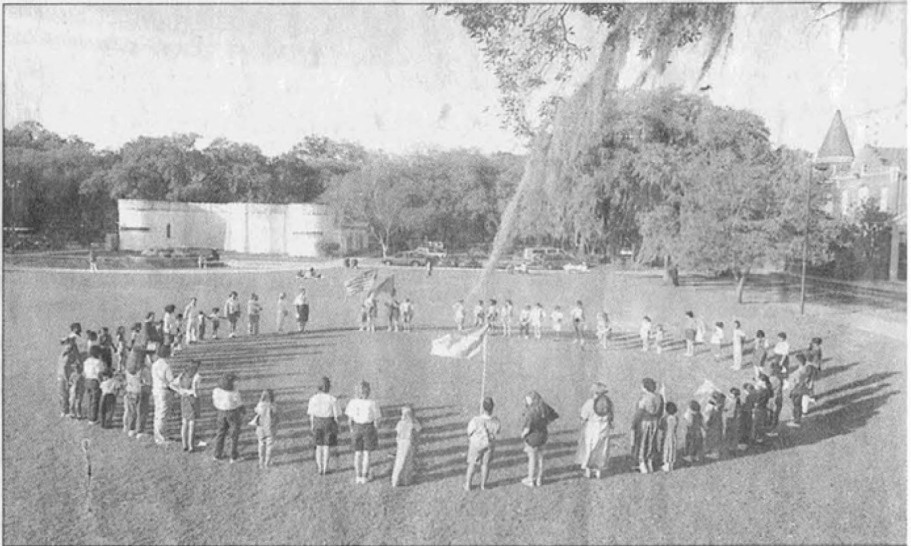
**Leadership** and special effort is sometimes rewarded in Scouts through pins, badges and awards, but for Girl Scouts the rewards are doing good deeds, achieving new skills, and in completing a journey of discovery. This is particularly well suited to Jewish teachings.



Jewish or not, Girl Scouts are “sisters” wherever they go, in that way the circle of friendship and service to others continues...



# GIRL SCOUTS ANNIVERSARY



Scott Bryant / Savannah Morning News

**Representatives from about 20 troops joined hands in a "Promise Circle" to renew the meaning of Girl Scouts. The Girl Scouts of Savannah met at Forsyth Park to commemorate their 85th anniversary.**

From a News Article dated 4-29-49

The Girl Scouts is under the leadership of Mrs. Arthur Lefko and follows the national Girl Scout program which offers the girls opportunity to learn skills in cooking, sewing, other home-making projects, nature lore as well as participation in community service projects. Girls between the ages of 10 through 13 years are eligible to join the Alliance troop. The troop will meet every Friday afternoon at the Alliance.

The Brownie Scout Troop of the alliance is sponsored by the JEA's Women's Club for girls between the ages of 7 through 9 years. Mrs. Henry Karsman is Brownie Leader and her assistants are Mrs. Charles Sax and Mrs. Jack Hermans. The Brownie program includes games, dramatics, holiday parties, mother-daughter affairs and service projects. This troop also meets on Friday afternoon at the Alliance.

## Girl scouts Memories for Morningstar

By Jane Guthman Kahn



Of all my memories growing up, The Girl Scouts have been the most meaningful.

So why, when I take finger to keyboard do I draw a blank? Why, when your Morningstar Reporter asks me for an interview, do I think, “I have nothing to say”? Why when Girl Scouts from Savannah and from around the country get together and reminisce do I look out into space? Why do I have nothing to say? Why did I keep my badge sash, with 21 badges neatly sewn on (by my mother—why did she not make me do the sewing?) and my assorted pins, (whose significance became apparent again only this year) through college, marriage, children, and 6 major moves, in the miniature cedar chest that was a high school graduation gift from a local furniture store in 1950?

My first A at Vanderbilt came in a Public Speaking class when I discussed the Girl Scouts. The instructor, in comparing it with my previous speech which implored my classmates to Give Blood, said, “This was much better. You believed in what you were saying.” (She did not need to draw comparisons; she did not need to remind me that I did not want to talk anyone into drawing blood.) Since I have kept just about every paper I ever wrote, I am shocked to discover, I did not keep my Girl Scout Speech. I did not keep many pictures of me in scouting activities (in fact, pictures were not as ubiquitous as today’s cell-pones enable them)



I will try to reconstruct. At 10 years old (it must have been 1943) I joined Girl Scout Troop 21, sponsored by Charles Ellis School. Most of the girls were in



my class, or the class just below mine. We met at the school immediately after classes were over. Once we earned the right to buy and wear a uniform (we bought them at Adler's Department Store) we all wore our uniforms to school. Now, we were singled out as a group, and I am sure we wore them with pride. I'm sure we marched ourselves down to the school auditorium/lunchroom with self-assurance that befit our new status. With our same leaders in tow, we moved to Hull Memorial Presbyterian Church, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, and First Presbyterian Church. (There were only two Jewish girls in our Troop, and we got along just fine on Girl Scout Sunday. In fact, I do not remember our Jewishness ever being an issue or a factor in my Girl Scout experience. We were simply a part of the greater Girl Scout experience.)



Looking back, our entire Girl Scout being was due to the dedication and encouragement of our leaders—Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Trainor, parents of two members of the troop. Their enthusiasm never faltered as they led us through memorizing the Girl Scout Promise, and the Girl Scout Laws, understanding the Girl Scout ethics and the Girl Scout mystique. They mentored us, we mentored the younger Scouts as we all learned to do things that Daisy Low had envisioned just 31 years before us.

This was during the War. (That would be World War II), and we developed a patriotism that I still feel until this day. We marched (I once carried the



American flag) in uncountable parades. We proudly stood color guard for civic events, and we always attended community programs as Girl Scouts. We sold cookies, door-to-door, but my father, being in the food business, was able to talk some of his grocer customers into putting in trays of cookies (one flavor only)

by the cash register. We saved rubber bands for the war effort and we bought .25 cent savings stamps toward purchasing a \$25 war bond (for

\$18.75). The War loomed huge in our lives, but since we had known little of anything else, we took it all in stride, and didn't miss the sugar, the chocolate, the drives in the country, new shoes and other staples limited to us because of rationing for the "war effort".

We spent weekends at Girl Scout Camp Walleila (on Whitemarsh Island), digging latrines, scratching mosquito bites and swimming in the horrible mud that was Richardson Creek. I vaguely remember trying to rub stones together to light a fire, but I think I heard some undercover whispering and I think a match magically appeared). I never went to Girl Scout sleep-away camp—much too primitive for me.



I remember some of my badges, but I don't remember what I did to earn them—First Aid, Swimming, Child Care, Bibliophile (not sure if that was reading or binding books or what qualified me for that one), basketry, Cooking and I have no idea what else.

But, after probably 7 years as an Intermediate Girl Scout and a Senior Scout, I became a competent woman, and to this day, along with my parents, I attribute the me of today to my early training and guidance as a Girl Scout.

5/1/2012

Members of  
JEA troops  
110, 510 and  
662 chat with  
the Mayor of  
Savannah



## Girl Scout Summer Camp      by Elinor Schmalheiser Shaum

I joined the Girl Scouts in 1941 when I was nine and this year is my first time to spend two weeks at Camp Low the Girl Scout Camp located on Route 16 just outside of the city of Savannah Georgia. The camp is situated on 300 acres on Rose Dhu Island which is filled with 200-year-old magnolias, 500-year-old cedars and palmetto trees 40 feet tall. I am excited as my parents drop me off; they will be back in a week on Parent's Day.

The Girl Scout Camp Leader greets us and introduces us to our counselors. We sit outside on the grass area under the flag pole and listen to the history of the Girl Scouts and Camp Low. Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon was born in Savannah on October 31, 1860. Talented and skilled, she wrote poems, acted in plays later became a talented painter, and sculptress. She married William Mackay Low in 1886. On that day as they left the church people threw rice at the couple which was the custom. A grain of rice lodged in her ear canal and she lost her hearing in that ear.

Juliette met Englishman Robert Baden Powell founder of the Boy Scouts. On March 12, 1912 she founded the American Girl Guides later to become the Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts Headquarters was in the stables of the Low home at 330 Drayton St. This is where I remember making Rice Krispies treats. That was over 65 years ago!

The Girl Scout leader asks us to stand and recite the Girl Scout Promise and we raise our right hand and recite:

*"On my honor I will try to serve God and my country*

*To help people at all times and to live by the Girl Scout Laws"*

Helen, our counselor and my sister, shows us around the camp, first the "swimming hole," which is part of the muddy creek that runs just north of the camp. A dock takes us to the edge and to the right we



see three wooden fenced off areas which I think of as “cattle pens,” this is where we will swim. The first area is for the girls who are learning to swim. It is shallow and when your feet touch the bottom mud oozes through your toes.

Did I mention the water was the color of the mud?

More about the swimming later. Then we walk past the large building where we will eat, do crafts and spend the day if it rains; to the wooded area where our cabins are located. This area is dotted with small wooden cabins housing two girls to a cabin. The counselors’ cabins are located around the areas and sleep four counselors to a cabin.

I look all around me and the sights of all the tall trees mixed with the smell of the woods fills me with anticipation of what we will be doing and being away from home for the first is exciting and a bit scary.

Nighttime did bring new experiences with some new fears, like the second night in camp. The counselors told us we would be going on a “snipe hunt.” What is a snipe? We were assured that it would be fun we were told to bring our flashlights and we were each handed a gunny sack (burlap bag which had held potatoes.) The counselors then marched us out into the woods near the west end of the island where Confederate soldiers had built earthen batteries during the Civil War.



We could see the trenches and mounds left by the soldiers. To catch the snipes we were told to make clucking sounds and the counselors would go out and drive them to us and we were to catch them in the gunnysacks and the one who had the most would win the prize. Then the counselors left

making clucking sounds and we the innocent waited and clucked a little

then we slowly began to understand we had been had! Someone finally said, "What is a snipe anyway, I've never heard of a snipe bird and I know a lot of birds." So using our flashlights we tried to find our way back to camp much the wiser. Upon our return the counselors had cheerful smiles on their faces and congratulated us on finding our way back, *"sure they were happy they didn't have to go find us and none of us got hysterical!"*

We were served hot cocoa and cookies and sent off to bed. It was good to get back to the small cozy cabin with my girlfriend and roommate Gail and, boy, were we tired! It didn't take us long to fall asleep.

I awoke with a start; the wind was blowing and the tall palmettos were making rustling sounds. The moon cast shadows from the magnolias and the cedars, making shadows dance on the walls and ceiling all around the cabin. I looked over and Gail was sleeping soundly her breath moving the hairs of her pigtail, which hung over her cheek.

Suddenly, drops of rain began lightly hitting the tin roof of the cabin. I wondered if my Daddy had put those roofs on the cabins. Then the wind picked up and the rain came down hard and then even harder and it sounded like the rat-a-tat-tat of a drum beating on the roof. The rain started to blow into the cabin, which was open on three sides, no windows, just screens.

"Gail Gail, get up we have to close the shutters!" Half asleep we ran out into the pouring rain the two of us unhooking the heavy wooden panels and lowering them over the unprotected screens. We returned to our cabin soaked and now fully awake.

The cabin was completely closed off from the rain, the wind, and the fresh air and we were in total darkness. The excitement of our adventure kept us laughing as we dried ourselves changed our clothes and listened to the rain pounding on the roof above. We made small talk for a while and settled down again.

I laid on my back and listened to how muffled the rain now sounded and how the wind made a whistling sound as it found its way through the cracks between the wall and the shutters. How eerie it all sounded in total darkness.

As I lay there a sly smile came over my face and I had a thought; what could I do to scare Gail. What were my options scream something touched me, or reach over and lightly touch Gail and say it wasn't me...

Or, too late, as I lay there planning, I heard light snoring coming from Gail's bed. The rain continued and lulled me back to dream land.

Then there was the night that Gail wanted to have her hair braided so we walked to the counselors cabin and knocked on the door and what did we see when we opened the door? There were the counselors, my sister Helen was one, madly shoving candy confiscated from the campers under their beds! You see we weren't allowed to receive candy from home. So now we knew what happened to it!!

So the week passed and I remember how I loved to be chosen the waitress for a meal. I went to the food service area and picked up the food and carried it to the table. I don't remember having to do the dishes or clear the table. I don't remember getting a tip either!

I learned to swim in that icky water too! I even made it to the second "cattle pen."

It was Parents' Day and we were to show our parents how we were learning to swim. The camp rule was before, going into the swim area, we each had to turn over a round tag, which showed we were in the water a safety feature for the camp. Unlucky me, I forgot to turn my tag and so I was taken out of the water and could not swim that day, maybe, this was unlucky for me, but still my responsibility. So guess what my Mother did? She took me out of camp!

Elinor Schmalheiser/Small Chaum  
2009

## Agenda- Planned like a Day with My Scouts:

### Sign In

#### **Warm Ups:** Snack

Ice Cream Social sponsored by Kroger

Cookies- sponsored by Lucy Gottlieb

#### **Call to Order**—Pledge

#### **Scout Business of the Day** Scheduled speakers:

Special memories presented by:

Helen Cranman- Romancing the Girl Scout

Henrietta Victor— Girl Scout honors

Mary Friedman—Ceremonies & the Daisy Bowl

Marion Levy Mendel—Family Legacies

Julie Hirsch—Friendship Knots

#### **Sharing: Social Circle-** Girl Scout Adventures by assembled scouts

Movie Premier— A film Premier by **Billy Jamerson**

Introduction of Production Crew

#### **Snack: Anniversary Cake**—courtesy of Cold Stone Creamery

#### **Ending Song & Friendship Circle:** Julie Hirsch leads

### Project & Event Support with Sincere Thanks from MStarArts:

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**Former JEA Scout leaders and helpers for their input:** Leslie Westmoreland,

Terri Parker, Cheri Kramer, Judy Odrezin, Shelley Gordon, Professor

Amy Lerner- Maddox,

## **Taps (In Hebrew)**

Ha yamim cholfim shana overet (repeat line)  
Aval ha mangina, aval ha mangina, aval ha mangina  
l'olam nisheret.

For MStarArts : **MorningStar Cultural Arts 2011-2012 Team**



**Behind the Scenes: with Billy, Kayla, Marlene, Nancy & Gabe—the best!**  
**Thank You for your excellent work & professional attitude!**

**MStarArts(.org ,@gmail, twitter, and facebook)**  
**Donations are tax deductible and appreciated!**

*A 501C3 non-profit 100% volunteer charity supported by donations, MStar's free & open cultural and health events educate, empower & entertain diverse audiences, so naturally, we applaud Juliette Gordon Low's emphasis on empowerment and diversity! Mazel tov GSUSA & JEA on 100 years!*

