

Happening

From page 5

The keynote speaker will be one of Israel's most renowned entrepreneurs and high tech venture capitalists, Jonathan Medved, who was prominently featured in the bestselling *Start-Up Nation*.

The Eagle Star Gala honors the people and companies who have made the greatest



John Medved



Tom Glaser

contributions to the Southeast-Israel business relationship, recognizing the Israeli Company of the Year and Deal of the Year. The chamber will also recognize Asheville, North Carolina, attorney Robert Deutsch with the Chamber Founders Award and the Israel Economic Office to the U.S. Southern Region with the Community Partner Award.

The event website, www.eaglestar-gala.com, features all the event details and offers the ease of online ticket purchasing. For further information, contact aiccse@aiccse.org, or call 404-843-9426.

WHO STOLE MY RELIGION? Professor and author Dr. Richard Schwartz knows more about Jewish law relating to the treatment of animals and the environment than anyone alive. He has just published a new book on Judaism, *Who Stole My Religion?: Revitalizing Judaism and Applying Jewish Values to Help Heal Our Imperiled Planet*.

Richard laments the ways in which he believes his beloved religion—Orthodox Judaism—has been “stolen” by partisan politics and suggests ways in which Judaism can “get back on track as a faith based on peace and compassion.”

Although Richard is a lot more liberal than we are—who isn't?—there is no one more brilliant when it comes to discussing the fate of our planet, the many environmental issues that threaten human civilization, and the religious and moral obligations of Jews to take action to avert the impending ecological disaster we face.

Check out the book's blog, WhoStoleMyReligion.com, and Richard's website, www.jewishveg.com.

PASSOVER AT THE ZOO. What to do when Passover comes to the zoo, and all the animals' Haggadahs are too old and worn out to read? You turn, of course, to the elephant, Shai, who never forgets, and remembers every word of the Exodus story, even

giving each animal parts to read. Every zoo creature is eager to do its part in Pesach, and has a role to play—“from the lion's great big ‘Ma-Roar!’ to the vultures' help finishing off the meal.”

Daniel Guttman's and Phillip Ratner's new children's book from Pelican Publishing, *The Passover Zoo Seder*, provides a fun, easy-to-read rendition of Passover for kids, as well as many young-at-heart parents who enjoy a “roaring good read.”

GREATER ATLANTA HADASSAH CELEBRATES HADASSAH'S CENTENNIAL. In celebration of a century of Hadassah's history and achievements, Greater Atlanta Hadassah presented Hadassah's Centennial Celebration, February 26, at Greenfield Hebrew Academy. Tina Wasserman, noted chef and author of the popular cookbook *Entrée to Judaism: A Culinary Exploration of the Jewish Diaspora*, was the guest speaker. The event honored Greater Atlanta Hadassah life member Florence Kaplan Nathanson, one of the early Hadassah volunteer nurses serving in the newly founded state of Israel. Mrs. Nathanson and five other nurses set sail to Israel in 1950 to work in a transit camp for new immigrants established at Rosh Ha'Ayin. Her job was to care for Yemenite children who were malnourished and sick with life-threatening illnesses. She served for nine months before returning to the U.S.



Diane Nevins presenting the Hadassah Centennial Award to Florence Nathanson, R.N.



Greater Atlanta Hadassah President Diane Munzer Fisher addressing the audience at the Hadassah Centennial Celebration

Super Realtor Alan Joel

By Reg Regenstein

When Native Atlantan Alan Joel recently won one of the city's most prestigious business awards—being named Atlanta's Commercial Realtor of the Year—the press release was so well written we thought it was one of our articles and mistakenly put our name on it in the last issue.

Since then, *The Atlanta Business Chronicle* featured Alan in a front page article entitled, “Rocketing to the Top,”

honoring several brokers' “stratospheric achievement” in “blasting through a sluggish” market.

We are really pleased, though not surprised, that he has risen so quickly to the top of Atlanta's super competitive real estate industry.

A founding partner of Joel & Granot, Alan received the Realtor of the Year Award—his latest award—at the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors' holiday party at the InterContinental Buckhead hotel. The award recognizes “spirit, civic activity, and business accomplishments [and] what the individual has done for the real estate community as a whole and the size and complexity of deals.”

Alan, an Olympic-class swimmer, has often been in deep water, but he's never been in over his head. This latest honor followed his receiving, in 2004,

the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors Alvin B. Cates Award for the most outstanding real estate transaction of the year. Alan was the top producing broker for five consecutive years at his firm before founding Joel & Granot Real Estate, which specializes in tenant representation, build-to-suit, investment sales, property management, and leasing.

Alan's distinguished family has been in the real estate business for over half a century, so he's literally got it in his blood. He's an avid Bulldog, having



Alan and Sophie Joel

graduated from the University of Georgia, which he attended on a swimming scholarship. He went on to get his degree in finance from Georgia's Terry College of Business, where, as a

Dean's List student, he was a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society. He obtained his master's degree in Real Estate from Georgia State University.

In 1981, he participated in the Maccabiah Games, held in Tel Aviv, as a member of the United States swimming team. But his greatest accomplishment was marrying the beautiful and delightful Sophie Mantler, who has a landscape and floral design company. Their daughters are also excelling. Holly is a freshman at Georgia. Helen just graduated with a 3.4 GPA from University of Alabama and is now looking for a job in the PR/communications business.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST FOLK ART SHOW. Mark your calendars; it's almost time for Folk Fest 2012, which Amy and Steve Slotin have made the world's largest and best folk art show and sale. There will be over 100 galleries and dealers from around the nation, selling thousands of works of some of the most beautiful art you've ever seen, especially folk art, Southern folk pottery, and anonymous antique pieces.

As always, Folk Fest will be held at the North Atlanta Trade Center, I-85 and Indian Trail Road, Exit 101, and there will be every kind of art work at every price level. The show begins Friday, August 17, 5:00 p.m.-10 p.m.; \$15 gets you admission to the Meet-The-Artists Party and first crack at the amazing art featured in the show, which continues through Sunday.

The Slotins also have several folk art

auctions during the year, so be sure to get on their e-mail list. For more info, check out slotinfolkart.com, or call 770-532-1115.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARTHA JO. Although she never seems to get any older or less youthful looking, Martha Jo Katz recently had another birthday.

On April 2, her daughter, Roben, and daughter-in-law, Tascha, planned an “usher in a new decade” ladies luncheon for her with friends and family. Martha Jo says, “It was a perfect ‘10’ day and a fabulous event.” Among the guests were MJ's first cousins, Raye Coplin, Joan Kent, Suzy Engelhard, and Brenda Caghan. Roben recited a great poem she wrote, titled *MY MAMA!* “It sure made my heart sing,” says MJ, “as did the entire party.”

See HAPPENING, page 8