



Congressman John Lewis and Tom Houck

notes, “A lot of people look up to him as saintly, but he was very much one of us. He worked briefly in a mattress factory, lived in Vine City, played pool, and wanted to be connected to the people. That just makes me realize how each and every one [of us] may not be a saint, but we can be as Martin Luther King [Jr.] was, to make a difference as much as he has.”

As Tom told us exclusively, “Civil Rights is, as you know, a Jewish cause ...and there is much conversation about the Jewish contribution to MLK and the movement.” Indeed, the year when we were being confirmed at The Temple, in the 10th grade, the synagogue was bombed, one Sunday morning in 1959, by racists who were infuriated by Rabbi Jacob Rothschild’s strong and outspoken support of King and the movement.

To book the tour, which was recently the subject of a major story on the CBS Evening News, check out www.civilrightstour.com, or call 844-442-4845.

NEW FILM: THE JERRY FARBER STORY. One of the most popular films offered by The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival was Leanna Adams’ epic, *Jerry-Atric: One Comic’s 77 Year Climb to the Top of the Bottom*, edited by Neil Logan Butler.

The film covers Jerry’s growing up in Greensboro, his early career as a *schmattah* salesman in Atlanta, still “undeterred by age or misfortune, an Atlanta comedy legend who keeps plugging away at his decades old showbiz career, determined to get the last laugh.”

Along with Buckhead Mayor Sam Massell and comic Josh Harris, we were honored to be briefly featured in the documentary, saying, “Jerry does a lot of adult humor—all his jokes are at least 21 years old.”

We figured that if only the people Jerry owes money to showed up, the film would



Jerry Farber (photo: Peter Polites)

be a sell-out. He says that he signed over a hundred autographs that day... but, sadly, no one ever asked for one.

Before the showings, Jerry was standing out in front of the Lefont Sandy Springs Theaters, holding court, like at a Hollywood premiere, greeting the likes of his son Joshua, former wife Roberta Rochman, friends Judy Ayal, Debra Berger, Gayle and Dan Glazer, Anna and Jerry Heltzer, Judy Landey, Larry Lieboss, Howard Ossoff, David Kuniansky, and Chana Shapiro.

He calls producer Leanna his “future 4th ex-wife,” and expressed disappointment that son Joshua didn’t make the premier, since “there was another film he liked better.”

REBECCA PORTMAN. Meet Rebecca Portman, the newest Humane Society of the United States staff member. She is the new food policy coordinator for HSUS in Georgia, focusing on improving the treatment of farm animals. HSUS is the nation’s largest and most influential animal protection organization.



Rebecca Portman

She grew up in Savannah, where her father was the town pediatrician for 50 years, and her family attended Congregation B’nai Brith Jacob, where her dad still belongs. She attended Hebrew day school until 6th grade.

Becky says, “Like many others I know, I feel a strong disconnect between the slaughter rituals and *Tza’ar ba’alei chayim* (the code of Jewish laws forbidding cruel treatment of animals). This is one of the reasons I pursued work to help farm animals gain protection from serious abuse and neglect.”

She goes on to observe, “Most animals raised for food suffer inhumane standards of living due, in part, to American’s high demand for animal products. Factory farms cram egg-laying hens into cages so tiny they can’t even spread their wings. Breeding pigs and veal calves are stuffed into cramped individual cages so small they can’t walk or turn around. But we can change that. At the Humane Society of the United States, we advocate for compassionate eating—or the three Rs: ‘reducing’ or ‘replacing’ consumption of animal products and ‘refining’ our diets by choosing products from sources that adhere to higher animal welfare standards. Enjoying more plant-based meals is not only more nutritious and environmentally sustainable, but also helps reduce the number of animals on factory farms.”

Becky and her husband, a pediatric neuro-oncologist at Emory, now reside in Decatur with their 9-year-old daughter.

Our fondest memory of Savannah is 55 or so years ago, dancing with Mickey Ginsburg and competing for her attention with Steve Selig, at a dance following our high school’s playing Savannah Country Day school in soccer, which few Georgia schools played at that time.

Come to think of it, we wonder whatever happened to Selig.

MARTHA JO KATZ CHAIRS AJFF GALA. Martha Jo Katz was once again the dazzling chair of the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival’s Opening Night Gala, and we have exclusive photos of her with some of the stars of the festival.

Sasha Gordon is the star of the film *Natasha*, in which she played a 14-year-old girl, although she is really 26—which is MJ’s apparent, approximate age. MJ tells us that Sasha “grew up in the Ukraine, speaks Russian, and actually lived in Alpharetta for two months when she was going to college in North Carolina. She has been in the USA six years, was amazing in the movie, and speaks English beautifully.”

Another “great movie,” says MJ, was *Surviving Skokie*, a personal story about Jack Adler—his time spent in ghettos and concentration camps during the Holocaust and living in Skokie during the 1970s, amidst the neo-Nazi revival and demonstrations there. At 87, he still speaks at events about hatred and bigotry and also has a book out entitled *Y: A Holocaust Narrative*. The movie received a standing ovation and the entire audience stayed afterwards for the Q&A.



Martha Jo Katz (left) and Sasha Gordon



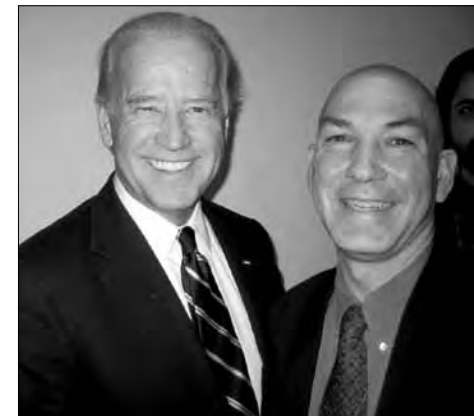
Jack Adler (from left), Martha Jo Katz, and *Surviving Skokie* Producers and Directors Eli Adler and Blair Gershow

DOUG TEPER AND VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN. We’d like to apologize for the boisterous, rowdy photo we ran in our last issue of former state legislator Doug Teper and producer Perry Goodfriend, as we received several complaints that it scared little children and was not fit for a family newspaper. We agree. So here is a more tasteful and dignified photo of Doug with Vice President Joe Biden.

It was taken at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Warrior in Kirkuk, Iraq, on January 13, 2009, with Senator Joe Biden, then-

chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who the following week was sworn in as vice-president of the United States. Doug was serving as governance specialist for the U.S. Department of State at Provincial Reconstruction Team Kirkuk.

Thanks, Doug, for your service, and we look forward to seeing you—and Perry—at the reopening of Manuel’s tavern.



Vice President Joe Biden and Doug Teper

FIGHTING A RARE DISEASE. Susan and L.D. Coddon are working extra hard to fight an often misdiagnosed, rare, predominantly Jewish genetic disease known as APBD—adult polyglucosan body disease. It is an inherited malady of metabolism that damages the nervous system, showing no symptoms in infancy or childhood, then hitting and disabling its victims when they’re in the prime of life, sometimes as young as 35.

Susan tells us exclusively, “We have an amazing opportunity to double the funds raised by the APBD Tour de Friends biking team in The University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine’s Orphan Disease Center Million Dollar Bike Ride (MDBR) in Philadelphia.”

A former Coca-Cola attorney, L.D. adds, “From my perspective there are two fabulous features of the Penn program, namely, Penn provides a match of funds raised by each rare disease team up to a maximum match of \$50,000. Second, the program injects Penn’s resources and knowledge into the search for treatments or cures for these diseases. Hard to imagine anything better than that.”

Visit givingpages.upenn.edu/defeatAPBD to learn more about APBD or to donate online. All donations are tax deductible and go to Penn’s Orphan Disease Center. Visit milliondollarbikeride.org to learn more about the bike ride. Donations by check should be made payable to Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania and sent to Development Alumni Relations, Attn: Brian Lewis, 3451 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104. Note APBD Fund-Million Dollar Bike Ride on the check.

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