

Copies of these photographs are part of the extensive holdings on South Carolina Jewish merchants and businesses in the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston library. Top left: Poliakoff Department Store, Abbeville. Top right: I. Cohen's store, Latta. Bottom left: Lavisky's store, Denmark. Bottom right: Novit's Department Store, Walterboro.

From the President.....

Dear Friends,

I have had the privilege for the past two years to serve as the President of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, following Isadore Lourie and Klyde Robinson in that capacity. This Society was formed to study, preserve, and promote our unique history. In its brief six year history, the Society has had a major impact in highlighting the notable Jewish history of South Carolina and bringing Jewish South Carolinians together in a common forum.

The Society is the brainchild of former Senator Isadore Lourie, who wanted to unite his friends and fellow South Carolina Jews who have an active interest in studying their history and traditions. His goal was to capture some of the solidarity created in earlier days by B'nai B'rith, which brought Jews from across the state together, regardless of where they lived or what branch of Judaism they practiced.

From its inception, the Society has had as its mission the development of a major museum exhibit on the three hundred years of Jewish life in South Carolina. Working with our partners, the College of Charleston and McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina, we have raised almost \$500,000 for this exhibit, which is scheduled to open in Columbia at McKissick on September 9, 2001. The exhibit will then travel to the Gibbes Museum in Charleston in the Spring of 2002, and thereafter, to major museums across the country. The extraordinary story of the Jews of South Carolina, one of the great secrets of American history, will soon be known throughout South Carolina and beyond.

In conjunction with the exhibition opening, the Society is planning a comprehensive educational program to increase public awareness and understanding of the South Carolina Jewish story. As a result of generous gifts from Harriet and Dr. Herbert Keyserling, Jerry and Sue Kline, and the Jesselson Foundation of New York, the Society



is actively planning a "cutting edge" educational program. This will include the production of curricular materials for public schools and Jewish religious schools, an interactive, user-friendly Web site, teacher training for public and Jewish school educators, and possibly, a short video that will be appropriate for classroom use and public television.

I hope you will have the opportunity to join us at our annual meeting, which will be held in Charleston on April 15 & 16, 2000. This weekend will include a panel discussion on Jewish merchants in the South and an interfaith seder commemorating a Civil War seder held in 1864 in Adams Run by the Levy brothers. Rabbi Ted Levy (no relation) of Hilton Head will preside.

Our South Carolina Jewish heritage is an important one. Please become a part of our living history and join the Society. Our continued success is tied directly to the active participation of neighbors and friends across South Carolina. I urge you to join us in Charleston for our annual meeting and to become actively involved in the exciting events leading up to our museum exhibit opening in the Fall of 2001, "...A Portion of the People": Three Hundred Years of Jewish Life in South Carolina.

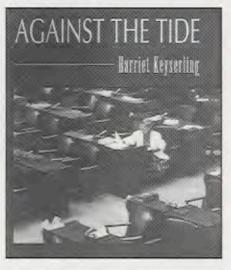
We are all South Carolinians now, whether our roots are in Charleston, Greenville, New York, Michigan, or Russia. As South Carolinians, we are heirs to a wonderful legacy of religious tolerance and acceptance. We need to continue to record and educate ourselves and others about our history; as Jews, we have always been concerned with our history. We need new members, both young and old, native and immigrant, to continue the work we have begun. Please join.

Sincerely,

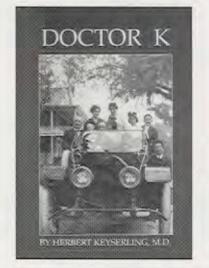
Richard Mark Gergel

Authors Harriet and Herbert Keyserling

Harriet Keyserling, who in 1998 published, Against the Tide: One Woman's Political Struggle, a personal account of her career in Southern politics, has been joined in the literary world by husband, Herbert, author of the newly released, Doctor K., a memoir of Dr. Keyserling's family and experience as a Jewish doctor in the Low-country of South Carolina.



Harriet Keyserling's book may be purchased through www.amazon.com (\$22.46) or through Barnes & Noble (\$20.96).



Herbert Keyserling's book may be purchased by sending \$15.95/per book to Dr. Herbert Keyserling, P.O. Box 1108, Beaufort, SC 29901.

Don't forget to keep up with us through the Internet!!!

Jewish Heritage Collection: www.cofc.edu/~jhc Jewish Studies Program: www.cofc.edu/~jwst

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

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Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief Managing Editor Copy Editor

News Notes...

Seeking Rebecca I. Moses...

In search of the daybook belonging to Rebecca I. Moses (née Phillips, 1792-1872), who lived most of her adult life in Charleston, South

Carolina. The daybook has entries dating from c. 1840-1860 and is known to have been in the possession of Adolph Brady Rosenfield, 1044 Redondo Avenue,



Long Beach, CA. in 1945. Rosenfield is descended from Rebecca's daughter, Adeline Moses, who married Adolph Brady of Savannah. Rebecca died in Savannah, Georgia, at the home of her daughter, Cecilia Moses, who married Abraham Alexander Solomons. Any leads are appreciated. Please contact Judith Shanks, P.O. Box 42456, Washington, DC, jshanks@mindspring.com.

Joint Study Program on Sephardim in Spain and the Americas

In 1996, the Xavier de Salas Foundation in Trujillo, Spain, a partner of the College of Charleston in its semester and summer study abroad programs, began a project to investigate the continuity, changes, and influences of the Sephardic traditions in the modern and contemporary histories of Argentina and Mexico.

The Foundation would like to broaden the comparative approach with research on Sephardic communities in the Americas and specifically in the Low-country of the Carolinas. The research envisioned is of individual and community case studies, for inclusion in a publication on Judeo-Spanish cultures. The archive will be located at the Convento de la Coria in Trujillo. For more information, contact Dr. Jack Parson, Director of International Education and Programs at the College of Charleston, SC, 29424. Charleston, 843/ 953-7662 or parsonj@cofc.edu.

Sephardim in Charleston

An informal group has begun meeting in Charleston to bring together people of Sephardic ancestry and traditions and those with an interest in this culture. The group will meet to explore their common background and to increase their knowledge and awareness of this

often overlooked Jewish heritage. Social gatherings will include sharing resources, family histories, religious traditions, music, and food. For information, contact Luna Gainer at 843/740-6907.



New Jewish Studies Program Center at College of Charleston

The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston is developing a Jewish Studies Center. The Center will be the home for all of the activities of the Jewish Studies Program, which include the Jewish Student Union/Hillel, the academic and administrative offices of the Jewish Studies Program, and outreach efforts to the larger South Carolina community. The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is housed at the College and is part of Jewish Studies outreach efforts.

With College of Charleston President Alex Sanders' help, the Program has purchased a property on the corner of Glebe and Wentworth Streets, in the heart of the historic campus and two door down from the President's house. It is now undertaking a capital campaign for the Center, and will begin construction in the nottoo-distant future.

The new Center is a wonderful opportunity, combining as it does, the three hundred year history of Jewish South Carolina with the two hundred year history of the College. It represents a new dimension of the rich South Carolina Jewish story to which we are heirs.

Seventh Annual Meeting Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina April 15 & 16, 2000

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Saturday, April 15, 2000

12:45 PM	Registration, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim Please register and pick up your name-tag for the events.
1:15 PM	Stella Suberman, author of <i>The Jew Store</i> (Algonquin Books, 1998). Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim sanctuary
2:15 PM	Panel Discussion of small town Jewish merchants with Alvin Fleishman (Anderson), Alwyn Goldstein (Georgetown), Mick Lourie (St. George/Columbia), Rose Y. Mark (Beaufort), Ray Stern (Andrews), and Bernard Warshaw(Walterboro).
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Opening reception, The Phoebe Pember House, 301 East Bay Street
6:00-9:00 PM	Dinner (included in registration for weekend) Alumni Hall, Randolph Hall, College of Charleston Havdalah service by Cantor Marie Betcher, Columbia, SC Dramatic readings of letters of Phoebe Pember, the diary of Eleanor Cohen Seixas, and a letter of Isaac J. Levy describing the Civil War Seder in Adams Run.
	Sunday, April 16
9:00-10:00 AM	Bagel Breakfast served.
10:00-11:30 AM	Judith Shanks with Larry Freudenberg and Dale Rosengarten, slide lecture on Eleanor Joseph Solomons Friendship Coverlet. Room 309, Simons Center for the Arts, College of Charleston
11:30 AM	Business Meeting, Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Room 309, Simons Center for the Arts, College of Charleston
3:00 PM	Interfaith Commemorative Civil War Seder, Christ-St. Paul's Episcopal Parish, Hollywood, SC. Limited seating, first-come, first- served basis for weekend registrants.

Special Hotel Accommodations

Rooms are available at a special rate of \$129/per night (single or double occupancy) at the Spring Hill Suites by Marriott, located on the Ashley River, across from the Ripley Light Marina. Tel. 843/ 571-1711 or toll free, 1-888-287-9400 and mention that you are with the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Rooms at this rate must be reserved by March 14th.

Creation of the Council for Jewish Culture in South Carolina

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC) announces the formation of the Council for Jewish Culture, which will help to support and promote Jewish arts and culture in South Carolina. The Council held its first meeting at the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina on Sunday, January 9, 2000. Richard Gergel, Columbia attorney and president of the JHSSC, expects this new group to generate statewide interest and further enhance the cultural environment in the state.

The next meeting of the Council for Jewish Culture will be held April 16th, in Charleston, SC, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the JHSSC. There will be a special reception for Council members at the King Street Studio of Bea Aaronson.

Performing artists, visual artists, writers, and filmmakers of all faiths are invited to submit projects of interest to the Council. For further information, please contact Lyssa Harvey at 803/ 920-0707.

Speech given by JHSSC President Richard Gergel at the 250th Anniversary of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim <u>October 22, 1999 - Charleston, SC</u>

We celebrate this weekend the 250th anniversary of the oldest continuously operating synagogue in America, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, but we do more than that.

We celebrate the 304 years of recorded Jewish history in this city and this state, which have afforded their Jewish citizens so much opportunity.

We celebrate the original colonial constitution of the Carolina Colony, authored by the great political philosopher John Locke, which was the first constitution in human history to guarantee religious freedom.

We celebrate the election of Francis Salvador in 1774 to South Carolina's First Provincial Congress, making him the first Jew ever elected to public office.

We celebrate the opportunity for public service Jews have been provided throughout South Carolina's history. In antebellum Charleston, this county was represented in the state senate by M. C. Mordecai, a member of K.K. Beth Elohim who was one of the state's most influential political figures. Jewish mayors were elected before the Civil War, in Georgetown, Camden, and Columbia, and the first Jew ever elected chief justice of any state's Supreme Court was in South Carolina. In the modern history of this state, elected officials with names like Heller, Goodstein, Rubin, Rudnick, Blatt, Keyserling, and Lourie have served with distinction.

We celebrate here today the city of Charleston, whose citizens welcomed, accepted, and supported their Jewish neighbors, which gave rise by 1820 to the largest Jewish community in North America. Indeed, Charleston, with its rich heritage of religious tolerance, can justly lay claim as the mother city of religious freedom in America.

Yes, we celebrate here today three centuries of Jewish life in South Carolina and 250 years of this historic synagogue. When the building in which we now meet was dedicated in 1840, KKBE's legendary rabbi, Gustav Poznanski, spoke for all Jews of this city and this state when he said,

"This synagogue is our temple, this city our Jerusalem, this happy land our Palestine."

The Poetry of Aaron Moses

transcribed, copyright, and with bibliographical information by Lani Florian

Aaron Moses was born, the sixth of twelve children, to Isaiah and Rebecca Phillips Moses, on January 5, 1817, in Charleston, SC Within the family, he had the reputation of a scholar and wrote many poems, some romantic, others commenting on current events or commemorating events in the lives of his extended family. Some of these poems were published in New York newspapers. He married Judith Ottolengui in 1844 and they had two children, "Otto" and Sarah. An original notebook of Aaron Moses' poetry now belongs to Lani Florian, his great-great-great-great-daughter. She has undertaken the transcription of his poetry and provided these examples for our newsletter.

untitled

When basking in thy sunny smile And melting 'neath thy eyes, What tender thoughts are born the while And in my bosom rise! Those witching eyes have power to move A heart of brass or stone Then why shan't mine so filled with love Their conquest freely own? By night I dream, by day I think Of thy sweet presence e'er, And in my dreams I frequent drink Of bliss beyond compare. Oh could I know thro' thy sweet voice That I your love inspire Then since thy lips have sweetly spoken And filled my heart with bliss We'll pledge our love shall ne'er be broken In sweetest loving kiss Like this, like this, like this...

The Earthquake of August 31, 1886 (1886)

The revolving earth had turned its face away Obscured in utter darkness, from the god of day. The busy hum of life had ceas'd ev'ry mart, And rest about to crown the overburden'd heart. The lurid sky and mephitic atmosphere Oppress'd the senses, with feelings sad and drear; As if conscious of some great impending doom, The lower animals were filled with gloom, And with hasty pace, retreated from their stalls, And terror o'er them, with dread confusion falls.

The little ones at rest, in simple ignorance, Slept the sweet sleep of infantile innocence, While o'er them watch'd the deep maternal care To shield them from all danger that might be near, When sounds like those from angry thunders roll, Shaking the earth, as the lion shakes his pole And crash follows crash at each tremendous shake, When cries and screams announce the dread earthquake! The mothers seize their tender slumbering babes to save And men seek shelter to save them from the grave.

Then Death went forth to strike his unprotected prey, Who flying from the danger, met him on his way. Full fourscore persons unconscious victims fell, Mangled unto death, no time their tale to tell. The servile race, in superstitious dread, From their rack'd homes, in awful terror fled; With groans and sobs they bend their knees in prayers, While clinging to their white friends, supplicate their care "It is doomsday!" they cried, "The world is at an end, Join and pray to Him, a saving arm to send." With phrenzied fear in tumultuous throngs, They seek the safest place, confess their wrongs.

The trembling earth beneath and firmament on high, They seek out for a refuge and hither hurried fly With what hopes and fears all passed that horrid night! The earth might yawn and with violence might Engulf them there; or by a monstrous tidal wave, Consign them to one common watery grave ... For three successive days in painful anguish kept, Whilst beneath their feet, the angry quiv'ring swept The ruined homes and cumbr'd streets attest, What violence that earthquake expressed ... Sad tho' it was, a pleasing lesson taught, That "all the world's akin" by the offering brought To aid the suffering, relieve their pressing need By contributions sent by each and every creed. The stricken place now feels it has a goodly part In this fair country, and shares its common heart From North and East, from South and West there came, A golden stream of sympathy to help the poor and maim.

Yet, many a heart is bleeding and in pain, For the lov'd and dear ones, they shall not see again; No help on earth, can restore them to their friends, And time alone its consolation sends... With courage high, these world encouraged men Exert their pluck, and restore their homes again... And now, three months have sped upon their way, Their troublous night is converted into day; With faces bright and mansions looking new, Their ruin'd to a handsome city grew The wonder of the age, that, in so sort a space, They could rebuild and beautify the place. Long may she thrive the "City by the Sea" And ever keep her country's sympathy



Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Jewish Studies Program College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424

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<u> IHSSC Annual Membership</u> (through Dec. 2		r family r student	
Registration for the weekend: (Does not include hotel accom				
Support the activities of the JI	HSSC by consid	dering these a	additions - all donations are tax deduc	tible.
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Make checks payable to JHSS Charleston, SC 29424.	C and mail to:]	Jewish Studies	es Program, College of Charleston,	

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

Fall 2000









Photos from the April 15-16, 2000 Annual Meeting, Charleston: Above: Dramatic reading cast - clockwise from top left, Jason Shaiman (Union soldier J.A. Joel), Jason Berendt (Confederate soldier Isaac J. Levy), Elizabeth Moses (Eleanor Cohen Seixas), Carolee Rosen Fox (Phoebe Pember); Top left: Stella Suberman, author of *The Jew Store*; Middle left: Interfaith Seder at Christ-St. Paul's Episcopal Parish, L. to R. - Robert Rosen, Isadore Lourie, Reece Williams, III, Jack Boineau, The Reverend Craige Borrett, Jeffrey Rosenblum, Rabbi Theodore Levy; Bottom left: Reception at The Phoebe Pember House, 301 East Bay St.

Photos by Dale Rosengarten

Hilton Head Meeting - October 27-29, 2000 See pages 6 - 7 for Agenda and Registration!

Dear Friend,

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It is a great pleasure to take over the leadership of a group that has come so far in such a short time. Founding President Isadore Lourie and Past Presidents Klyde Robinson and Richard Gergel have done an excellent job in getting us to this point. The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC) enjoys a growing membership, recently topping 300 members. An unusually large percentage of our membership regularly attends the Society's meetings and the Historical Society represents all the population centers of the state. In fact, we are the only functioning state-wide Jewish organization, having assumed some of the functions of B'nai Brith of old. It is important that we continue to build on our past successes to provide for a strong future. Towards that end, my goal is to provide the JHSSC with staff, a permanent home, and greater member participation.

I need help to continue the growth and activities of the Society and I ask those of you who want to actively participate to please let me know. For the first six years of our existence we relied on the efforts of Secretary Marty Perlmutter, Treasurer David Cohen, Curator Dale Rosengarten, and a few officers to administer the Society. Now, for the Society's own good, we need to move from a few individuals doing all the work to the membership assuming broader The relationship between the responsibilities. College of Charleston and the Society is a great marriage from which both parties benefit, and rather than change it, I shall build upon it. This means our using the College as an academic resource rather than a crutch, while continuing to strengthen our Society by increasing our membership and involving more people as committee chairs, board members, and officers. Those of you who want to serve on the board or become officers need to step forward and let your interest be known. There are still committee chair positions that need to be filled and opportunities to serve the organization.

The Society has taken important steps in securing a permanent home. Last year, the membership voted to accept an offer from the College of Charleston's Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program and agreed to occupy an office in the proposed Jewish Studies Center on the college campus. Last month, the JHSSC Board voted to help raise \$250,000 to fund that office. The decision to establish a permanent home for the Society makes the statement that we anticipate the Society will persevere and grow in the coming years. An address adds permanence to the credentials of any organization. Furthermore, we have hired an administrator, Elizabeth Moses, to oversee the correspondence, bookkeeping, and daily tasks of the organization. A staff and a permanent home will assure the Society's future.

We need to consider new initiatives to undertake in the near future. Some suggestions have been to place historical markers in Jewish cemeteries throughout the state, to identify all the Jewish sites (synagogues, cemeteries, community centers, archives, etc.), to establish a Jewish museum in the state, to make a formal study of Georgetown and Manning, and to research the Glen Springs resort near Spartanburg, where many Jewish families vacationed in the years between the world wars. We should continue these discussions and entertain all suggestions.

Finally, the quality of our meetings continues to improve. Our October meeting in Hilton Head will be an outstanding event, and we anticipate the largest membership in attendance to date. I hope that the relaxed atmosphere of the beach will allow us to reflect on our history while still allowing us to enjoy the island. In the spring we will meet in the Grand Strand, and be hosted by the fastest growing Jewish community in the state, while we discuss the vanishing Jews of Georgetown. In September 2001, our meeting will celebrate the opening of "...A Portion of the People": 300 Years of Jewish Life in South Carolina at the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina.

1 look forward to seeing and being with all of you on Hilton Head.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Rosenblum

Dr. Herbert Keyserling passed away on June 18, 2000. Dr. Keyserling was a founding member of our Society and a pillar of the Beaufort community. His funeral was a wonderful reflection of Jewish life in Beaufort. Rabbi Belzer officiated, the Hallelujah Chorus sang gospel music, and the casket, draped in an American flag, was afforded full military honors.

Eulogy for Dr. Herbert Keyserling June 21, 2000 - Beaufort, South Carolina by Pat Conroy

Herbert Keyserling was always his own best story.

The story begins in 1869 in a *shtetl* in Lithuania and ends today in a Jewish cemetery in Beaufort, South Carolina. His story carries with it tales of pogroms and Cossacks and the invasion of Tsar's men as his father, William Keyserling, hid in a farmer's wagon and smuggled his way across a heavily guarded Russian border. In that year that same boy decided to become an American. William was the first Keyserling to arrive at Ellis Island in the shadow of the great statue the world calls Liberty. It was this father who came to Beaufort to plant the Keyserling name, yes, the famous Keyserling name, in the social history of this town. Such stories are the ones that define the glorious paths that turn immigrants into Americans and Americans into great men like the one we bury today - Dr. Herbert Keyserling.

Think Herbert lacked greatness? Think again. He had it written all over him Pick a child of a certain age in Beaufort and there is a good chance that Herbert was present at his or her birth. Think I exaggerate? He delivered half of my own children and when Megan and Melissa say they were "birthed" by Herbert Keyserling they say it with a fierce and unstoppable pride. They knew what Herbert and his family have stood for because I have told them. Any woman who has found Herbert standing over her during the great storm and freight train that is childbirth and listened to his calming, stoic words as he coaxed her child into life can tell you the secret things about his quiet greatness. Ask a poor black man or black woman anywhere in this county who they would trust among white people in this county and Keyserling would often be the first name that you would hear. The Keyserling family did not do their good work for black people in the slums of New York - no, they did it in Klan country. Herbert did it for black people every day of his working life as he did it for white people with the same overpowering sense of awe and love for the profession of medicine.

As a young man Herbert Keyserling was the kind of man that America would send to war. How'd he do in wartime? He did well enough at Guadalcanal to win a Silver Star. Know what a Star is? It is one of our nation's highest awards for uncommon valor under fire. They only give them to heroes of the first order. Herbert Keyserling crawled to the sides of critically wounded soldiers on the front line of the Battle of Guadalcanal. Men were dying all around him. He did the job that America had sent him to do and he did it with exemplary courage. We bury a Silver Star here today and we honor this cemetery by so doing. Herbert Keyserling was fighting in the greatest war to end tyranny ever fought. As he fought in the Pacific, other Americans were planning the landing on D-Day when American boys would fight the forces of Hitler and inch their way toward Auschwitz and the butchers of Bergen-Belsen who emptied the ghettos of all traces and memories of its Jews. Today, we honor a Jew who fought against them.

The honesty of Herbert Keyserling was both a form of genius and greatness. He often told you things about yourself that you would not want to know. His honesty could be a cutting thing, but if you were sick or hurt or in need, the soft, sweet care of Dr. Keyserling is what you found ready to be of service to you. Whenever I was sick, Herbert was the man I needed by my side. When I say the word "doctor," the words "Herbert Keyserling" spring instantly to life. Whenever I have had need of a doctor in one of my novels, I have always named the guy "Herbert Keyserling." The words mean healer and physician to me. He was the layer on of soft hands. In a town made up of fabulous doctors, Herbert became mine. He was one of the men who taught Beaufort what to expect of its doctors.

Herbert Keyserling taught us to expect everything; to demand the best, and to ask for the highest standards. His only flaw as a human being is that he told about 100,000 too many jokes in his lifetime. 1 think his humor was another way for his sweetness to leak out.

His greatest achievement: he extended his father's legacy by leaps and bounds. He and his extraordinary wife Harriet, his brothers and sisters, his cousins and his children have made the Keyserling name a great and honored one when the

⁽Continued on page 4)

roll call of the finest families of Beaufort are mentioned. He loved his wife and children with a devotional fierceness rarely seen in these imbalanced times. Because of Herbert Keyserling the very word "Keyserling" has come to mean service and commitment and honorable advocacy of all that is important and right in this town

Do you hear that? That is a whole town in grief. That is the sound of Beaufort in mourning. We are mourning the passing of one of our giants on the earth, one of the ones we just don't know what we'll do without.

Pat Conroy's most recent novel, Beach Music, is about the Jewish community of Beaufort. Mr. Conroy is a close friend of the Keyserling family.

News Notes...

Exhibition Opens September 9, 2001 at McKissick

The Jewish Heritage Collection's exhibition, "...A Portion of the People," the three hundred year story of Jewish life in South Carolina, opens a year from this fall.

As we head into the final stretch of exhibit preparation, project staff have organized public meetings in Sumter, Charleston, and Columbia to explain the process to lenders and answer questions.

After a four-month run at McKissick, the exhibit is expected to travel to Yeshiva University Museum at The Center for Jewish History in New York (Spring and Summer of 2002), return to South Carolina at The Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, then move on to two additional sites.

Educational Video Plans

The team of Bill Pendergraft and Paul Keyserling has been contracted to produce a public education video about the Jewish history of South Carolina as well an



educational video for 8th grade schoolchildren.

Upcoming Meetings of the JHSSC

The Society's Spring meeting will be held in the Grand Strand in March and will include a trip to visit Jewish sites in Georgetown.

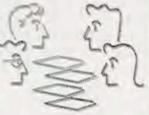
An ambitious annual meeting is planned for the Fall of 2001 to coincide with the opening of the museum exhibition. A preview banquet will be held Saturday evening September 8, 2001, at the McKissick Museum, honoring Society members and their friends and lenders to the exhibit.

Sunday morning, prior to the public opening at 1:00 PM, the Society will host schoolchildren from across the state as they explore the exhibit. Special educational programs are planned.

Committee Updates

At its August 13th Board Meeting, the Society formed a new committee, Historic Sites, chaired by Isadore Lourie. The purpose of this committee is to produce a list of all Jewish sites in the state (synagogues, cemeteries, archives) - past and present - and make recommendations to the Society as to which sites are in need of attention.

The Council for Jewish Culture Committee, in the six months since it was formed, has created a cultural network throughout the state, involving over 50 people. The Cultural Committee will



present its first annual arts award at the Fall meeting in Hilton Head. Contact chair Lyssa Harvey for further information (803) 787-7331.

The Membership Committee reports a 100 percent increase in new and renewing members as a result of a recent membership drive.

With Sadness We Note the Passing of Society Members

Herbert Rosefield, a longtime resident of Sumter and member of Temple Sinai, passed away June 29th. He immersed himself in the fine arts and community service; he and his wife, Virginia, each received The Order of the Palmetto in 1997.

Ben Stern, a native of Kielce, Poland, and a resident of Columbia, passed away December 1999. Together with his wife, Jadzia, he was tireless in speaking to groups of all ages on the evils of the Holocaust.

B.H. Kline, of Kline Iron and Steel in Columbia, was devoted to community and Jewish causes for many years. His leadership of the U.J.A. was especially noteworthy.

Peter Baumgarten of Aiken, passed away in July. He and his brother fled Berlin in 1940 as kindertransport and came to the U.S. He was a past president of Adas Yeshurun of Aiken and an active member of the Society.

A chapter from history ...

Charleston's Uptown crowd will convene for a reunion photo on October 27th. For more information, call Fannie Rones (843) 766-2225.

For two generations, St. Philip Street was the center of Charleston's Eastern European Jewish community. Families typically settled in apartments above their stores on King Street, then moved into Charleston "single houses" along adjacent streets.

The Jews of St. Philip Street constituted a significant minority, but not majority of the neighborhood. They lived next door to black Americans and immigrant families, including Greek, Italian, German, Irish, and Chinese.

With the prosperity Charleston experienced as a consequence of World War II and the higher levels of education achieved by the second, American-born generation, the Jewish families of St. Philip Street moved to the northwest section of the city, and then across the Ashley River to the new suburban subdivision of South Windermere.

The Street of Streets

We were one short block away from famous St. Philip Street, the street of streets.

-Edna Ginsberg Banov

Living on St. Philip Street

Great place to grow up whether you were Jewish or not. We must have had, oh, fifteen, twenty Jewish families all living on St. Philip Street within a block. Rabinowitz on one side of us, the Appels across the street. Gershons down the street. I can almost name everybody. Trueres, Oxlers, Prystowskys-two or three Prystowsky families. Solomon, Sam Solomon. When you walked up St. Philip Street-we all went to shul on Friday nights and when you walked home you could smell the cooking from the Sabbath dinners. The kids all got together and played together. We had a good time enjoying each other. Of course, our recreation wasn't watching TV at the time. We'd run races from one block to the otherthings like that that we did for ourselves. -Robert M. Zalkin

Beth Israel

Beth Israel was on St. Philip Street between Radcliffe and Morris Street. It was in a house which had been in some way altered. They had a big room. I remember you used to go on high steps to go to it. And they had an open basement, nothing below. But on the second floor they had a side porch and they had this room, maybe two rooms or maybe three rooms, which had been stripped apart, that had one long room there, and they had benches in there and they had a small ark, and I remember the reading area. To the side was an area for women on the second floor with a gauze curtain hanging in between or a lace curtain - you could see through it to separate the two sections there. And there was a third floor and I think that the *shames* stayed up on the third floor or maybe the *chazan* or *shokhet*, somebody stayed up on the third floor there. --Solomon Breibart

Patches

SA: I remember. We couldn't go in the living room. Just on special occasions. Maybe Saturday night to listen to "Inner Sanctum," right. I remember patches. We had slip covers over those. But we had patches because it would wear out for some reason. I don't know how because we never used it. But I guarantee you those patches were sparkling clean. Everything in there was sparkling clean. Those slip covers had patches but they were sparkling clean.

FR: Clean. Clean. And before I had a date—we had beautiful floors in the house—I used to put the wax down and I would put on heavy socks, my father's heavy socks, and I would skate around the room polishing up the floors.

--Samuel Appel and Fannie Appel Rones

These excerpts are from the oral history archives of the Jewish Heritage Collection. To read many more, visit our Web site: www.cofc.edu/~jhc



Fanny Appel Rones & her brother Sam Appel Charleston, 1998 Photo by Keith Bäll

		al Meeting - Hilton Head, S.C. storical Society of South Carolina October 27 - 29, 2000
		000000127 - 29, 2000
Friday 10/27	8:00 PM	Services at Beth Yam Synagogue, 4501 Meeting St. Rabbi Aaron Koplin (Beth Yam, Hilton Head) Cantor Sheldon Feinberg (Beth Israel, Beaufort)
	9:00 PM	Oneg following services, jointly sponsored by Beth Yam and Beth Israel Congregation (Beaufort, SC)
Saturday 10/28	7:00-9:00 AM	Breakfast, Residence Inn (included in accommodation price)
	Free Mornin	ng - Optional Activities Available
	8:00-Noon 8 & 9 & 10 AM 9:00 & 10:30 AM 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	Golf; Reservations required, additional fee (<i>Contact Linda Harrison</i>) Tennis; Reservations required, additional fee (<i>Contact Linda Harrison</i>) Croquet; Reservations required, additional fee (<i>Contact Linda Harrison</i>) Torah Study at Beth Yam with Rabbi Koplin
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Lunch - Residence Inn
	2:15 - 3:30 PM	Panel Discussion, Residence Inn "Creating a Jewish Home in Hilton Head" Beatrice & William Chait, Paula Flink, Mark Mayer, Hank Noble.
	3:45-4:45 PM	Slide Presentation, Residence Inn Bill Aron, photographer: "From the Lower East Side to the Deep South"
	7:30 PM	Evening Banquet, Residence Inn Havdallah by Cantor Feinberg Council for Jewish Culture Award Concert by Massa U-Mattan
Sunday 10/29	7:00-9:00 AM	Breakfast, Residence Inn (included in accommodation price)
	9:00-9:15 AM	Dale Rosengarten, Beth Yam Synagogue Update on exhibition "A Portion of the People"
	9:20-9:30 AM	Martin Perlmutter, Beth Yam Synagogue Update on Jewish Studies Center, College of Charleston
	9:45-11:00 AM	Panel Discussion, Beth Yam Synagogue "Jews in the Confederacy": Dan Carter, University of South Carolina; Marvin Dulaney, College of Charleston; Belinda Gergel, Columbia College; with a response by Robert Rosen, author, <u>Confederate Jews</u>
	11:00-Noon	Informal Lunch, Beth Yam Synagogue
	12:00 PM	JHSSC Business Meeting - Open to all Members - Beth Yam Synagogue
	1-2:00 PM	Council for Jewish Culture Committee Meeting, Beth Yam Synagogue

JHSSC reservations: Residence Inn, 12 Park Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC, 29928 (843) 686-5700 or Fax (843) 686-3952. Please make reservations by September 29, 2000. (\$75.00 & \$85.00 per night, up to 4 persons) Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Regional Meeting - Hilton Head, SC - October 27-29, 2000 7

NAME(S)		ADDRESS	3:	
CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	_
E-MAIL		- 16		

<u>Registration for the weekend:</u> includes meals, Saturday evening banquet, speakers, and reception. Does not include hotel accommodations. Banquet space limited to first 120 registrants. No partial registration. **\$65 per person**

For information on golf, tennis, or croquet, please contact Linda Harrison at (843) 689-9278 (phone); (843) 689-9279 (fax) or LHarri4738@aol.com (e-mail).

Make checks payable to JHSSC and mail to: Jewish Studies Program, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424.

Jewish Historical	Society	of	South	Carolina	2000 - 2001

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Mick Lourie	Columbia	Nominations		Jack Bloom



Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Jewish Studies Program College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424 NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE **P - A - I - D** CHARLESTON, S.C. PERMIT No. 149

Council for Jewish Culture Committee - Fall Events Around the State

Ongoing

Through October 15th - Toni Elkins opens a new series, "Le Dor Va Dor", postcard exhibit at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia.

Through November - Lyssa Harvey exhibits "Earning a Place in Time" at the City Art Gallery in Columbia. Part of her Tzedekah Series.

September

18th - 8:00 PM - S.C. Public Radio Carolina Concerts - Greenville's Temple of Israel Jewish Music Series.

23rd - 8:30 PM - Jerusalem Lyric Trio - Simons Center for the Arts, College of Charleston. Call (843) 953-5682.

October

1st - 30th - Columbia Jewish Community Center presents, "Horizons": Israel at 50, aerial photography sponsored the Consulate General of Israel.

October 22nd - 7:30 PM - Temple Emanu-El Concert Series, Myrtle Beach, renowned fiddler, Jay Ungar and Molly Mason and their band, Swingology. Jewish folk music and more. Call Evelyn Abelkop (843) 448-5063 for place and further information.

November

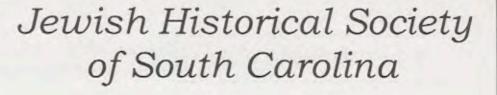
November 19th - 4:00 PM - Temple Emanu-El Concert Series, Myrtle Beach, "A Jewish/Celtic Experience". Call Evelyn Abelkop (843) 448-5063 for place and further information.

November 10-12th, 15-19th, & 24-25th - Trustus Theatre, Columbia, presents "Gin Game" with Ruth Gottlieb Moore and Lou Kaplan.

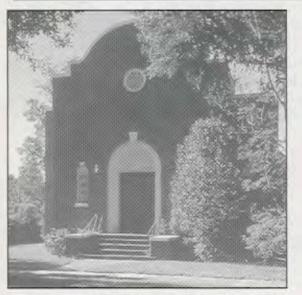
November 14th - 7:30 PM - Koger Center - Columbia. "Happy Birthday Aaron", celebration of the Aaron Copland Centennial.

November 19th - 2-5:00 PM -Columbia Jewish Community Center, Workshop offered by Meira Warshauer on "The Healing Art of Music". Call (803) 787-2023.

To submit arts & cultural events for the Winter and Spring calendar, contact Lyssa Harvey, 3605 Greenleaf Rd., Columbia, SC 29206, (803) 920-0707 (phone), (803) 738-2591 (fax), SCartandplay@aol.com (e-mail).



Spring 2001



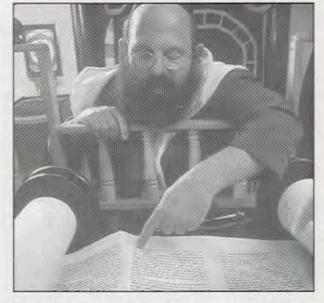
Temple Beth Elohim, Georgetown, SC All photos by Bill Aron, October 2000



Temple Beth Elohim - interior - clockwise from top left: Philip Schneider, Meyer Rosen, Alwyn Goldstein, Rita Fogel, and Debby Abrams.



"The Jerusalem," a glatt (strictly) kosher Israeli restaurant in Myrtle Beach, with owners Nina & Yossi Elmalih, and Nina's nieces, Hanni Logasy and Hanni Zohar.



Rabbi Doron Aizenman, director of Lubovitcher chabad, an Orthodox day school in Myrtle Beach.

Annual Meeting - Georgetown & Myrtle Beach June 22 - 24, 2001 See pages 10-11 for Agenda and Registration!

From the President.....

Dear Fellow Members,

I want to take this opportunity to report to you on some of the Society's activities over the past several months. First, the one-hour TV documentary on South Carolina Jewish history is progressing well; Big Pictures Inc. will soon begin interviewing members of the Jewish community in the South Carolina and beyond. The video will be completed before the end of 2001.

Second, McKissick Museum's exhibition, "...A Portion of the People," originally scheduled to open in Columbia in September 2001, has a new opening date: Sunday, January 13th, 2002, with the Gala on Saturday evening, January 12th. Acting in the interest of the Society and lenders to the exhibition, the exhibit oversight committee postponed the opening date to help us obtain the best national venues that McKissick can secure.

Third, for our spring meeting, we will join our fellow Grand Strand members and visit Georgetown and learn about its historic Jewish community, now in decline. We will also hear about the fast-growing Myrtle Beach Jewish community.

Fourth, progress is continuing on the Jewish Studies Center at the College of The building has received Charleston. initial City of Charleston approval, has been presented to the Board of Architectural Review, and is now moving into its final design stages with groundbreaking set for July 2001. I mention this because the Center will be the permanent home of the Society only if the Society meets its commitment to raise funds for the Center. It is important that the Society have a permanent home, so I urge all of our members to make a generous gift to the Jewish Studies Center.

These are exciting times for the Society and I look forward to seeing you at Georgetown & Myrtle Beach in June.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Rosenblum, President

News Notes.....

<u>Receiving duplicate mailings</u> from the JHSSC? We apologize and appreciate being notified. However, it is a big task to maintain our mailing list, especially as many of you belong to several lists already (JCCs, federations, synagogues). We do our best, but please feel free to pass along your extra copies to someone who might be interested or take them to your local JCC or synagogue.





<u>The South Carolina Humanities Council</u> recently awarded the JHSSC's video documentary project a \$15,000 grant. The project applied for a \$10,000 grant and was awarded an additional \$5,000, an extremely unusual and wonderful honor. The SCHC, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, helps preserve the state's cultural heritage, fosters lifelong learning, and encourages civic involvement among South Carolinians.

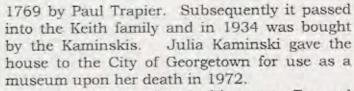
The Jewish Community of Georgetown, South Carolina

The town of Georgetown was founded in 1730 by the Rev. Elisha Screven. Its Jewish community was established in 1762, although Jews may have arrived earlier. The Jewish cemetery was established in 1772, making it the second oldest Jewish cemetery in the state.

Georgetown's Jewish community was an outgrowth of the Charleston Jewish community. Among the first Jews to relocate up the coast were Abraham Cohen and Mordecai Myers, who became merchants, opening businesses in Georgetown in 1762 and 1772. Around 1800, Georgetown's Jewish population numbered 80 ten percent of the town's white population. Jewish leaders founded the town's banks, library society, and fire departments, and many held political office. The Jewish community of Georgetown produced six mayors. Solomon Cohen was elected in 1818 and 1837, Abram Myers served from 1826 to '28, and Aaron Lopez from 1876 to '78. Three Jewish mayors are buried in the Georgetown cemetery, Louis Ehrich (1886-88), Harold Kaminski (1930-35), and Sylvan L. Rosen (1948-61).

Heiman Kaminski emigrated from Poland in 1854 and, after serving in the Confederate army, settled in Georgetown. By 1900 he had become one of the town's most prominent businessmen. He and his wife Charlotte Emmanuel had three children. Several years after she died he married Rose Baum, and they had one child, Harold Kaminski. Harold married Julia Pyatt in 1925. They had no children. Harold died in 1953.

The original Kaminski House was built in



Another prominent citizen was Bernard M. Baruch, who was born in Camden and reared in New York. He became a part-time member of the Georgetown community when he purchased several old rice plantations on the Waccamaw Neck and created Hobcaw Barony. Here Baruch entertained world leaders, including Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and George C. Marshall.

Georgetown's congregation Beth Elohim was founded in 1904 with a membership of over one hundred people. For half a century the congregation enjoyed the services of visiting rabbis – notably Rabbi Jacob Raisin – from Charleston's Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim.

Today, the Georgetown Jewish community is in serious decline. There are no living descendants of the first Jewish families. Younger members of the community have moved away, and Jewish newcomers tend to affiliate with one of several Myrtle Beach congregations. Even though Georgetown's Beth Elohim no longer has a *minyan* of ten, members still meet twice monthly on Friday evenings, with services conducted by one of the congregants.

Information for this article was compiled from the writings of Charles Joyner, unpublished papers of Cornelia Thomas Bull, and Kaminski House publications.





Left: Alwyn Goldstein and Philip Schneider at "Alwyn's" on Front St. Right: Rita Fogel in Temple Beth Elohim. Photos by Bill Aron

Committee Reports

The JHSSC Council for Jewish Culture has been very busy. Here are some highlights from Chairperson Lyssa Harvey: The Council held its First Annual Arts and Cultural Achievement Awards on Sunday, October 29, 2000 in conjunction with the Jewish Historical Society's fall meeting in Hilton Head. The ten nominees for the award were: Sheri Farbstein, Bernard L. Friedman, Willard Hirsch, Harriet Keyserling, Morey Lipton, Martin Perlmutter, Dale Rosengarten, Jim & Kay Thigpen (Trustus Theatre), Meira Warshauer, and John Whitehead. Meira Washauer, PhD., a composer who has dedicated much of her creative output to Jewish themes, was this year's award winner.



Award Presentation - L to R: Lyssa Harvey, Lee Malerich, and Meira Washauer, with art work. October 28, 2000

She received a beautiful piece of original work by fabric artist Lee Malerich of Orangeburg, SC.

Jewish Cultural Events Around the State May 5th - 9th - First Annual Jewish Film Series for South Carolina - Sponsored by the Columbia Film Society and Nickelodeon Theatre, Columbia. May 9th, 7:00 PM - World War II Veterans' Commemoration Celebration, remembering the Russian and American armies who met to mark the end of WW II. Sponsored by the College of Charleston Russian Club. Call 843/ 953-1359 or 843/ 953-5776 for further information. July 16th - Story hour featuring Jewish folk tales for children. Marvin Bienstock, storyteller - Richland County Public Library, Columbia. August 16th - Trustus Theatre will host HOOK and EYE, the Annual Playwright's 2000. Festival winner about four Jewish sisters. Sunday, November 4th, 3:00 PM - the American Arts Trio with Donald Portnoy, violin; Robert Jesselson, cello; and Charles Fugo, piano - music by Jewish composers. Tree of Life Temple, Columbia. For further information contact Lyssa Harvey, Council for Jewish Culture Committee P.O. Box 12089, Columbia, SC 29211 803/787-7331 ****

A chapter from history ...

THE JEWISH INFLUENCE IN CLARENDON COUNTY Presentation to the Clarendon County Historical Society January 18, 2001 by Sylvia Hanna Weinberg, Ph. D.

The story of a community is the story of its people. Manning was settled by strong individuals and families like those who settled across South Carolina in other frontier towns of the 1850s. Families here prior to creation of the new county and its capital were joined by new families who came to seek their fortune. The people cleared the wilderness, built houses and businesses, raised families. Jewish families were integral to the growth and development of the town, in business, banking, law, education and property development.

Jews came to America as early as colonial days and many fought in the American Revolution. They came from all over the world, to escape religious persecution and provide a better life for their families - the same reasons that propelled most immigrants to this new land. At the time of the Revolution, there were an estimated 3000 Jews in this country, with the largest community being in Charleston, SC. The South Carolina constitution, written by the English philosopher John Locke, promised toleration for "Jews, heathen, and dissenters." This was the first constitution in history to guarantee religious freedom to Jews. Beth Elohim (House of God) Congregation was established in 1749 in Charleston, third oldest in America after New York and Newport.

There were three waves of Jewish immigration:

1. From Spain and Portugal, prior to 1815. Jews in Spain were highly regarded for centuries and attained great wealth. Jews helped finance the voyage of Christopher Columbus, who used the knowledge of Jewish scientists and cartographers. The Spanish Inquisition of the early 1500s forced all who would not profess Christianity to flee for their lives, leaving possessions behind. Many fled to Holland and later to America. These are Sephardic Jews, and the name Tobias is found among them. The Tobias family was one of the earliest to settle Clarendon County, well before it was a separate entity. Thomas Tobias, who farmed in the Wilson's Mill area, is cited as a Revolutionary War hero.

2. From 1815 to the end of the century, from Germany and other Central European countries. Thousands of Germans - of all faiths - fled. Great poverty and religious oppression were widespread. The biggest influx was from 1840-1850, and most Jews who settled in the South were from this wave.

3. In 1881, the Russian Czar enacted specific anti-Semitic laws which caused Jews to flee Russia, Austria, and Roumania. The play "Fiddler on the Roof" portrays this period. Entire communities of these more Orthodox Jews immigrated, mainly to New York.

It is in the second wave of immigrants, from Central Europe, that we find most of the Jews who settled in Clarendon County. Having fled Germany and other European countries with little if anything in the way of worldly goods, many began life here as peddlers selling door-to-door. They walked until they could buy a horse and wagon, then built a small store and then a larger store. Nearly every small town in South Carolina and across the South had Jewish families who built mercantile businesses. Few were scholars or professional men in Germany, and German schools were not opened to Jews until about 1850. Laws in many parts of Europe forbid Jews from owning real estate, and barred them from professions. Prior to 1808 Jews in Germany had no family names, nor were their births and deaths recorded.

The story of Moses Levi parallels the story of Manning for its first half century. He arrived just as the town was beginning, established a business, built a fine home, and made a fortune which he lost during the Civil War, and re-built by the end of the century.

Remarkably we have a copy of Moses Levi's birth certificate. He was born in the village of Bosenbach, Germany, at 7 A.M. August 11, 1827, son of Jacob Lovy, age 44, a butcher, and

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Johanna Grunewald. The occupations of his father and the two witnesses to his birth (a mason and a worker for the town government) show a stability and status most unusual in Jews of that period. Moses at age 21, in 1848, probably came to this country to avoid the persecution following the 1840 revolution when anyone not Catholic was persecuted.

Five years later, in 1853, Hannah Jekel (Jacobs), born in Bavaria, Germany, December 30, 1830, arrived in Charleston where she married Moses Levi. We can speculate that they had met previously and that Moses sent for her, but I can find no reference to that. Hannah was a beautiful young woman as we see from the portrait of her in the archives building next door. According to their marriage contract, which was required by law to be filed with the Secretary of State, Moses gave her a marriage settlement of two thousand dollars to be used to her benefit, not spent on household expenses. They moved to Sumter where Moses was in the mercantile business, and three years later moved to Manning, which was being established at that time, where they lived the rest of their lives, greatly influencing this community.

Jews were at home in the South, experiencing less anti-Semitism than in many parts of the country. Robert Rosen, a Charleston lawyer who recently published the book <u>The Jewish</u> <u>Confederates</u>, attributes this to the fact that Jews were never in large numbers in Southern towns and quickly assimilated into the culture. Jews, like most European immigrants, were grateful for the opportunity to build good lives in a new country and became part of the country. They believed in the causes of their neighbors, and were willing to fight for what they believed in. When the South left the Union and became the Confederate States of America, Jews became part of that country.

Moses entered the Confederate Army as a private with the Sprott Guards, which later became Company I, Twenty-third Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, commanded by Colonel Harry L. Benbow, where "he shared the hardships and privations with his comrades, with that cheerfulness characteristic of a true and brave soldier." Lieutenants in the Guards were H. H. Lesesne, R. B. Harvin, T. N. Slawson. Company members included the names of Eadon, Ridgill, Clark, Aycock, Cutter, Gamble, Stukes, Shorter, Thames and many others.

During the last attacks on Petersburg, Virginia, which included the Battle of Five Forks, on April 1, 1865, Moses and probably many of his group were taken prisoner. He was Regimental Quartermaster. These last major battles of the war were part of the Federal initiative to regain Petersburg. Five Forks was key to General Robert E. Lee's supply line, and he sent Confederate General George Edward Pickett to check the Federal advance. Pickett arrived late for the battle because he was attending a shad bake, much to Lee's annoyance. Pickett made a stand at Five Forks but was finally forced to withdraw, and many Confederates were taken prisoner. Moses and the others were sent to Point Lookout, a Union prison camp in Maryland where they lived in a tent city.

According to the foreword in the Moses Levi Institute yearbook of 1899-1900, "It was here where his spirit shone out like a beacon light; for not long after reaching prison he set his business ingenuity to work, not with a purpose of self-aggrandizement, but for the noble purpose, to lighten the burdens of prison life upon his comrades. By some means he communicated with the outside world and secured such necessaries of life which prison rules would not supply, and these were sold and the proceeds used for the purchasing of dainties and comforts for his fellow prisoners."

Although Lee surrendered just eight days after the Battle of Five Forks, April 9, 1865, Moses and the other prisoners were not released until June 11, 1865. He made his way back home to find his cotton, most of his buildings, and virtually everything he owned burned. Total losses for the town of Manning were about \$103,000. Moses Levi lost \$40,000. He, with everyone else here, set about re-building the town.

Many Jews who came to this country abandoned Jewish affiliation, largely by default. (Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

They married Christian neighbors and raised children as Christian. This happened immediately in some cases and sometimes took a couple of generations. The Appelt family is an example.

Louis Appelt, editor and publisher of the *Manning Times* during the latter part of the 19th century, and a state senator for 15 years, was a self-made man. He was born in 1857 in Troy, NY, and moved to Lydia, South Carolina as a lad of 13 years, apparently on his own. He moved to Manning a few years later, getting a job with a local merchant. He read a great deal, and the early editions of the *Manning Times* attest to his extensive vocabulary and use of the language. He was judge of probate for the county, and also postmaster, obviously a man of influence. According to his biographer, he was of Jewish descent but married Eliza Clark, a Presbyterian, and reared his children in that faith.

Aaron Weinberg operated his first store at Hodges Crossroads and in the early 1880s moved into Manning where he built a 16-room mansion for his family and operated a mercantile business. He married Rosa, daughter of Moses Levi and had 13 children, ten of whom reached adulthood. The newspaper notes that on November 19, 1890, Mr. Aaron Weinberg left Monday for Charleston where he carried his little son Julien for medical treatment. The next week, it was reported, he returned from Charleston with his little son Julien. An operation was performed on the child's leg and he was somewhat improved.

Jewish leaders greatly influenced the economic development of Manning. Retail businesses of every kind -- mercantile, drug, furniture, saloons, bootmaker, millinery -- were operated by Jewish families. Moses Levi owned huge cotton warehouses and shipped local goods to northern markets. The editor of the newspaper, dentists, druggists, and lawyers were of the Jewish faith. Abe Levi and Jake Weinberg were instrumental in organizing the first two banks in Manning, with Levi president of the Bank of Manning and Weinberg president of the Bank of Clarendon at the turn of the 20th century.

Many small private schools operated in Manning and surrounding areas from its earliest days, but the Manning Collegiate Institute was the first one established for the entire town. The Institute struggled for years and was about to close because of indebtedness. The family of

Moses Levi paid off the debt and provided operating funds for the school, renamed the Moses Levi Institute in 1899. A true public school, this was the precursor of Manning High School. The first public library in Manning, and in fact the only one until the Harvin Clarendon County Library was built in the 1980s, was given to the town in memory of Hannah Levi by her family. They gave the land and \$1000 toward the building. Today this building appropriately houses the county archives.

Jewish citizens participated in civic organizations of the early days, Knights of Pythias Masons, and the like, and served on committees such as the one to raise money to build a monument to fallen Confederate soldiers. They built substantial homes, especially along Brooks Street. Many have been torn down to be replaced with businesses, notably the Aaron Weinberg, Simon Iseman, and the Moses Levi homes, where we now find the shopping center with B-Mart and First Palmetto Savings and Loan. Houses standing include the Haygreen



Sylvia and Julien Weinberg, at their home in Manning, SC, October 3, 1996. Photo by Dale Rosengarten

house built by Jake Weinberg, the Goldsmith house built by Nettie Weinberg Geiger and her

(Continued on page 11)

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina - Membership 2001

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(Continued from page 8)

Irving & Helen Lipsky Stanley & Mary Littman A.M. "Mick" & Nancy Lourie Isadore & Susan Lourie Harriet & Harold Lurey Suzanne Rae Lurey Spencer & Liz Lynch Lee Malerich Rabbi Sanford & Ruth Marcus Harry Margolius Rose Y. Mark Morris & Marcie Mazursky Bryan McCanless Jane & Burnet Mendelsohn Rhetta & Joe Mendelsohn Nancy & Bernard Mendelson Robert Merenbloom Henry Miller Ruth Miller Herman & Annabelle Mischner Emily & Davis Moise Blanche Morgan I. Harby Moses Robert & Harriett Moses Lynne & Larry Nachman Harry & Ann Needle Kenneth & Myra Nelson Henry & Suzanne Noble Bonnie Rosen Nurick Alan & Neda Nussbaum Eric & Ruth Oser Paul Paskoff Stanley & Sonja Pearlman Hanna Pearlstine Edwin Pearlstine, Jr. Marty & Jeri Perlmutter Gerald & Arline Polinsky David Popowski Lawrence Praeger David & Jean Pustilnik Rachel Raisin Raymond & Barbara Reich Ruth & Bert Reinhold Nathan & Judy Rephan Lenny Reznik Harold & Sydney Richman Gerald & Sheran Rittenberg Henry & Sara Rittenberg Jan & Solomon Rivers Klyde & Claire Robinson Sam & Beatrice Rogol Fannie & Buddy Rones Virginia Rosefield Brenda & Samuel Rosen

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> This list is as of March 20, 2001. If there is an error with your name, or your name does not appear, please contact Elizabeth Moses, 843/ 953-5682 or by e-mail: mosese@cofc.edu or by fax, 843/953-7624.

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Annual Meeting - Litchfield Beach, SC June 22 - 24, 2001

Agenda

Services at Temple Emanu-El, 406 65th Ave. N., Myrtle Beach 843/ 449-5552 Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan (Transportation will be available).

Tours of the Kaminski House*, the Jewish cemetery, & Temple Beth Elohim (Georgetown) Or:

Tour of the Bernard Baruch Foundation*, (Winyah Bay, just north of Georgetown)

Lunch (on your own - see suggestions next page)

Tours of the Kaminski House*, the Jewish cemetery, & Temple Beth Elohim (Georgetown) Or:

Tour of the Bernard Baruch Foundation* (Winyah Bay, just north of Georgetown)

5:30 PM Reception - Hampton Inn

Dinner (on your own - see suggestions next page)

9:15 - 10:30 Panel Discussion Temple Beth Elohim, Georgetown

10:45- 11:45 General Society Business Meeting (Open to all members - Election of new officers)

12:00 - 1:00 PM Cultural Committee Meeting

Special Hotel Rates are available at the Hampton Inn, 420 Marina Drive, Georgetown, SC, until June 1st. Please call 1-843-545-5000 for reservations. \$76 per 1-2 person room, includes breakfast. Mention the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina meeting.











*Tours of the Baruch Foundation are SIZE LIMITED. One tour is from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon and the second one is from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Twenty-eight (28) people maximum per tour. Tours filled on a first registered, first available basis. It is a 3 hour tour, mostly driven (transportation provided), some walking involved in a tour of the house. Please indicate your 1st and 2nd choice on the registration form and you will be notified.

Tours of the Georgetown Jewish cemetery are unrestricted and on your own.

*Tours of the Kaminski House are about 1 hour in length and they start on the hour at 10, & 11:00 am and 12, 1, 2, 3, & 4:00 pm. Maximum group size is 15 per group. Tours fill up on a first come, first serve basis. Please arrive at the Kaminski House 15 minutes prior to the tour you wish to take.

Saturday Afternoon, June 23

Friday Evening, June 22

Saturday Morning, June 23

7:30 PM

Sunday Morning, June 24

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Litchfield Beach, SC - April 27-29, 2001 Annual Meeting - Registration 11

NAME(S)	ADDRES	IS
CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHONE	E-MAIL or FAX	x
Registration for the weekene Does not include hotel accord	d: includes meals, panel, & tou mmodations. \$55 per person	rs

Make checks payable to JHSSC and mail to: JHSSC, Jewish Studies Program, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, 29424.

Dining Suggestions	for Georgetown
There are many restaurants located on Front Street in Georgetown. These include:	However , June 22-24 is also Harborwalk Weekend in Georgetown and it is likely to be crowded. Your best bet for eating is the Land's End Restaurant located right next to the hotel on Marina Drive.
Kudzu Bakery, 120 King St., 843/ 546-1847 Rice Paddy, 819 Front, 843/ 546-2021	Land's End Restaurant, 444 Marina Ave 843/ 527-1376
River Room, 801 Front St., 843/ 527-4110 Thomas Café, 703 Front St., 843/ 546-7776	Maps will be provided with your registration receipt.

(Continued from page 7)

husband, the Robert Ridgeway home, built by Moses Levi, and the Julien Weinberg house built by Leon Weinberg.

Politically, there were fewer Jewish names mentioned in the early days. Louis Appelt, state senator for 15 years, also served as postmaster and probate judge. Julien Weinberg was mayor in the 1960s and served several terms on City Council before becoming probate judge. Jewish citizens have fought in all the wars of this country.

Obviously, it is impossible to name all the Jewish families who ever lived here, and as was pointed out earlier, many abandoned their religious affiliation. By the end of the 19th century there were probably about 30 families who had lived or were living in Manning but not necessarily at the same time. Names of individuals and families in this area who likely were Jewish at some point included: Abrams, Appelt, Cohen, Eichelberger, Feintuck, Furstenburg, Hirschmann, Iseman, Jacobs, Kalisky, Karesh, Krasnoff, Levi, Loryea, Loyns, Machem, Moses, Ness, Podowsky, Richman, Riff, Schirm, Schwartz, Sigwald, Stern, Tobias, Weinberg, Wolkoviskie, and Yassney.

Jewish families here traditionally worshiped at Temple Sinai in Sumter, but planned to build a synagogue. On a 1937 town map, the lot beside the Haygreen house is designated the Synagogue Lot. A congregation was never formed here and people continued to worship at the Temple in Sumter. Jewish families became fewer and fewer as the years moved on. As far as I know, when he died in 1999, Julien Weinberg was the last practicing Jew in Manning. ~



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Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina 2000 - 2001

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY of South CAROLINA

FALL 2001 VOLUME VI - NUMBER 2



Rebecca Isaiah Moses (1792-1872), by C. Wilkes, 1843.

From the President Jeffrey Rosenblum page 2

Exhibition Opening page 3

JHSSC Annual Meetings Information and Registration pages 4 - 5

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> Reading List page 8 - 9

The Grand Strand in June Elizabeth Moses page 10

Notes from Special Collections Harlan Greene page 11

A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life

Gala Opening and Annual Meetings January 11 - 13, 2002

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

PAGE 2



From the President Jeffrey Rosenblum

Dear Fellow Members,

In this last newsletter of my term as president, I want to reflect on what I have learned about American, southern, and South Carolina Jewry as a result of my participation in the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. The JHSSC has helped me to better understand my heritage as a transplanted New Yorker, and to

gain insight into the phenomenon of the northern Jewish experience – growing up in a community where Jews were in the majority. I understand much better the heritage of my wife and her family and how different their upbringings were from mine. The southern Jewish experience is unique, interesting, and largely unknown outside the region.

The JHSSC is now completing its eighth year. Not only have we created the largest Jewish organization in the state, but we are about to launch a spectacular museum exhibition and, in the spring, a pair of educational videos – a fifty-minute documentary for ETV and a fifteen-minute version for use in public and religious schools. We have accomplished a great deal in a short period of time, and the best is yet to come. We have an excellent base to build upon.

I cannot say enough about Dale Rosengarten, curator of *A Portion of the People*, and her scholarly approach to the exhibit. Working with McKissick's Director Lynn Robertson and her staff has been exciting and eventful. As the culmination of nearly eight years of research and development, the exhibition represents a major milestone in the life of the organization. Our success would not have been possible without Senator Isadore Lourie's foresight in founding the Society and Dr. Martin Perlmutter's energetic efforts to maintain its momentum.

Many individuals are helping to make the January meetings possible. Arline Polinsky is coordinating the weekend events in Columbia. My thanks to Arline and her committee for all their hard work. Lyssa Harvey is organizing our second Cultural Arts Award to be presented at the Sunday brunch. Her commitment and drive have made the Cultural Arts Committee a vital part of the Society. I also want to thank our past presidents, Isadore Lourie, Klyde Robinson, and Richard Gergel, for their leadership and steadfast support.

I want to express my appreciation to the Society for allowing me the chance to serve as your president. It has been a privilege, a challenge, and a wonderful opportunity to learn.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Jeffrey Rosenblum

FALL 2001

A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life

Premieres January 12, 2002

don't quite know what draws me to Caro Moïse. Is it her extraordinary beauty or simply the clarity and glow of the newly restored portrait? Is it the haunting quality of such a peaceful gaze from one who was to die so young? Is it that she was

captured in youth forever by her loving grandfather, the painter Theodore Sidney Moïse? Or maybe it is the pansy at her elbow signifying fond memories.

Caro and two hundred other heirlooms will be on view in a landmark exhibition opening January 12, 2002, at McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Through portraits, photographs, original documents, diaries, family memorabilia, military uniforms, business records, and Sabbath candlesticks, the long and eventful history of Carolina's Jews will be recounted in *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life*.

The title comes from a letter written in 1816 by Isaac Harby, journalist, playwright, and leader of the Jewish Reform movement in America, to Secretary of State James Monroe. Protesting the removal of the American consul to Tunis because he was a Jew, Harby reminded the future president, "They [the Jews] are by no means to be considered as a *Religious sect*, tolerated by government; they constitute a portion of *the People*."

The long-awaited opening will be heralded in an event-filled weekend organized in conjunction with the Annual Meetings of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. (See pages 4 - 5.) Sponsored by the Society, the College of Charleston, and McKissick Museum, *A Portion of the People* presents a remarkable group of objects and a new view of a neglected subject. by Elizabeth Moses

How many people know that South Carolina was the first place in the western world where a Jew was elected to public office, or that in 1800 more Jews lived in Charleston than anywhere else in North America? The show addresses the implications of the Carolina Jewish experience for people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds who have made a place for themselves in a pluralistic society. The exhibition turns on events that compelled Jewish South Carolinians to ask what it means to be a Jew, a southerner, an American.

Make your reservations for the gala weekend now. Caro Moïse awaits you.

A Portion of the People will run through May 2002 at McKissick, then begin a two-year tour that will take it to the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, the Center for Jewish History in New York, and the Museum of the New South in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Major contributors include the National Endowment for the Humanities, Bank of America, Maurice Amado Foundation, Jesselson Foundation, South Carolina Humanities Council, State Historical Records Advisory Board, Jerry and Sue Kline, Harriet and the late Herbert Keyserling, Benedict Rosen, Brand Foundation, Jerry and Anita Zucker Family Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation, John and Frances Loeb Foundation, Helena Rubinstein Foundation, Joseph J. Miller Foundation, Lucius J. Littauer Foundation, William Price Fund of the Spartanburg County Foundation, and Hadassah International Institute for Research on Jewish Women at Brandeis University.

Photos: Left · Caroline "Caro" Agnes Moïse Lopez (1854-1885), by Theodore Sidney Moïse, c. 1875. Above · Silver basket given to Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim by Joshua Lazarus in 1841.

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PAGE 4

Program of Events

Friday, January 11

4:00 - 5:00 pm Board Meeting at Adam's Mark Hotel

> 6:30 - 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner at Tree of Life

8:00 pm Joint Services of Tree of Life & Beth Shalom Followed by Oneg Shabbat Sponsored by both Sisterhoods at Tree of Life

Saturday, January 12

11:00 am - 2:00 pm Lunch and Panel Discussion: Jews in South Carolina Politics at the Summit Club 100 Gervais Street

> 4:30 - 7:00 pm Exhibition Premiere & Cocktail Reception at McKissick Museum

7:30 pm Dinner & Entertainment at Adam's Mark Hotel

Sunday, January 13

9:30 am Brunch Keynote Speaker: Eli N. Evans Cultural Arts Award and Business Meeting at the Palmetto Club 1231 Sumter Street

1:00 pm A Portion of the People opens to the public at McKissick Museum University of South Carolina

Jews_{in} South Carolina Politics

A panel discussion on Saturday, January 12, will feature five Jewish activists who have made a mark in South Carolina politics. Panelists will address the question of how being Jewish affected their campaigns and the issues with which they became involved. The discussion will be motivated by audience participation.



Max Heller, former mayor of Greenville, fled his native Vienna a step ahead of the Nazis and settled in the upstate where he went on to found the Maxon Shirt Company. Married to the former Trude Schonthal, Heller is credited with revitalizing Main Street in his adopted city.

Harriet Keyserling, a native New Yorker, moved to Beaufort

after World War II. A liberal northerner in a conservative political world, Keyserling served on the Beaufort County Council before being elected in 1977 to her first of eight terms in the South Carolina House of Representatives.





Joel Lourie, son of longtime South Carolina Senator Isadore Lourie, is currently serving his second term in the State House of Representatives. A partner in Lourie's department store, he represents Richland County District 78.

Sam Tenenbaum is a retired steel executive from Columbia who is active in Democratic Party politics. An ardent

supporter of the Anti-Defamation League, he is the husband of Inez Tenenbaum, South Carolina Superintendent of Education. Tenenbaum directed planning for the inaugurations of governors Richard Riley and Jim Hodges.



Jack Bass, panel moderator, has authored seven books about the American South. The son of immigrant Jewish parents, he grew up in the town of North, South Carolina. Between 1963 and 1973, Bass covered South Carolina state politics as governmental affairs editor of *The State* and Columbia bureau chief of *The Charlotte Observer*. In 1978, he ran for U.S. Congress. Two years ago, he joined the College of Charleston faculty as professor of Humanities and Social Sciences.

FALL 2001

Eli N. Evans To Give Keynote Address:

"This City is Our Jerusalem; This Happy Land Our Palestine"

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is pleased to welcome Eli N. Evans as the keynote speaker for its gala weekend.

Evans is the award-winning author of The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South, Judah P. Benjamin: The Jewish Confederate, and The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Reflections of a Jewish Southerner. He was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, where his father, E. J. "Mutt" Evans, served six terms as mayor. His mother, Sara Nachamson Evans, was a lifetime member of the National Board of Hadassah, Evans was graduated from the University of North Carolina and earned his law degree at Yale. He served in the United States Navy and worked as an aide and speech writer in President Lyndon Johnson's administration. He is currently president of the Charles H. Revson Foundation in New York City. In October 2001 he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Evans will address the Society on Sunday morning, January 13, at the Palmetto Club. The public is invited to attend.

Free Time Suggestions for Saturday Services at Beth Shalom 9:45 am - noon

"When the Big Apple was a Jewish Synagogue" Tour the Big Apple Nightclub with Belinda and Richard Gergel Corner of Hampton and Park Streets 9:00 - 10:30 am, on the half-hour

Holocaust Memorial Memorial Park, Corner of Washington and Park

> South Carolina State Museum 301 Gervais Street 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Annual Meetings Columbia, S.C. January 11 - 13, 2002

Adam's Mark Hotel room reservations can be made by calling (803) 771-7000 or (800) 444-2326. Mention the JHSSC for special rates.

Registration fee: \$95.00 per member includes meetings, panel discussion, lecture, exhibition opening and reception, and meals, with the exception of Shabbat dinner on January 11, which requires an additional fee of \$12.50 per person. All meals are "Kosher-style."

Name

Address

Phone

Fax/e-mail address

2002 Family Membership dues - \$36.00

Registration fee - \$95.00 per person

Please help defray the costs of these special events by becoming a patron - \$750.00 sponsor - \$350.00 friend - \$200.00

> Shabbat Dinner, Friday, Jan. 11 \$12.50 per person

Total Amount Enclosed: S

Please make checks payable to JHSSC and mail completed form and payment to: Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Jewish Studies Program, College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424

PAGE 5

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Matzah Ball Memories in the Jewish South an update on research in South Carolina

by Marcie Cohen Ferris

Were grits a common side dish at your southern Jewish table? Did holiday meals include fresh butter beans and stewed tomatoes and okra? Were relatives expected to bring bagels and rye bread back home from New York and other cities? Did you buy kosher supplies or Passover foods by mail order or drive some distance to find them? Were African-American food traditions mixed with your Jewish food traditions, or strictly separated? Were the *Settlement Cook Book* and cookbooks published by the Sisterhood well-used texts in your family's kitchen? Did the local shohet, or Jewish butcher, work out of the Piggly Wiggly grocery store? Did your family have a treyf garage or beach cottage where forbidden shrimp, barbecue, and other southern specialties were eaten? If any of these scenarios feels familiar, your taste buds were most likely shaped by the world of the Jewish South!

Since the first arrival of Sephardic Jewish immigrants in the South during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, Jews have blended their regional identity as Jews and as southerners through the foods they eat, the holidays they celebrate, and the products they buy. As a doctoral candidate at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., I am researching this unique world for my dissertation, "Matzah Ball Gumbo, Gasper Goo Gefilte Fish, and Big Momma's Kreplach: Exploring Southern Jewish Foodways." I am examining how food has defined daily life for southern Jews, from foods prepared in the home and the synagogue to food-related businesses that Jews built and patronized.

I recently spent a week in Charleston, South

Carolina, where I explored food traditions in this historic Jewish community. My time was divided between archival research at the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston and oral history interviews with local members of the Jewish community. I also was privileged to attend Rosh Hashanah services at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, one of the South's earliest and most influential Jewish congregations. Thanks to the efforts of Dale Rosengarten and a corps of dedicated volunteer interviewers, the Jewish Heritage Collection has assembled one of the most comprehensive "memory banks" of Jewish oral histories in America. This rich resource contains colorful descriptions of Charleston institutions, such as Zalkin's, Lash's, and Baker's kosher meat

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markets, Ruddich's bakery, and Mazo's delicatessen, as well as photos of these and other Jewish food-related businesses in South Carolina.

During my week in Charleston I interviewed Fred Bernstein and his daughter Teri Lash, who

shared their stories of Mildred and Anita Bernstein's kosher catering business. including their famous "mile-high" babkas. Jack Kahn described his father Morris Kahn's coffee roasting business in Charleston. which Jack later expanded into a food manufacturing business, now famous for its delicious freshpacked "half sour" and "bread and butter" pickles. I observed Marcie Rosenberg and assistant her Earl McCallum as they

braided 150 kosher challahs for their weekly order at Charleston's Jewish Community Center.

Sandra Goldberg Lipton described her parents' early involvement in Synagogue Emanu-El and the many meals her mother served to visiting Jewish dignitaries and scholars, such as Mordecai Kaplan. Sandra's husband, Dr. Morey Lipton, shared his brother Joe's descriptions of the "Beaufort Shtetl." Jack Bass and his sister. Ruth Bass Jacobs, recalled Jewish life in North, South Carolina, including their weekly drive to Columbia in the back of their parents' Chevrolet to attend Sunday school, followed by a mandatory stop at the local delicatessen. Sydney Solomon Richman explained how the Charleston congregational sisterhoods organize a "meal of condolence" for bereaved Jewish families, an act that evokes both a Jewish tradition and a strong sense of southern family. Sandra and Raymond Rosenblum described Charleston Jewish weddings where the powerful combination of southern and Jewish traditions of hospitality are clearly apparent in celebrations that begin on

Friday evening and go non-stop through a closing brunch for out-of-town guests on Sunday.

Historian James William Hagy suggests the early Jews of Charleston "adopted the way of life of other white southerners."¹ Nowhere is this

> process revealed more clearly than at their tables. Jews from Barbados. Germany, England, Poland, the Netherlands, France, and Eastern Europe brought the foodways of their countries with them to Charleston, and then mingled these culinary traditions with a southern cuisine shaped by African-American cooks. Anglo-American and creole influences, and native plants and animals. Dr. Rosenblum, who was raised in Anderson, describes the kosher kitchen of his Eastern European mother, who prepared collard greens with schmaltz and

gribbenes, instead of the usual "fatback." And Sandra Lipton speaks of her aunt who prepared "hoppin' John," a mixture of rice and field peas traditionally served on New Year's Day. Sandra's aunt served it for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and flavored it with fried salami instead of pork.

Throughout their history, observant Jews in South Carolina kept kosher homes that were supported by businesses like Lash's kosher meat market in Charleston. Alex Lash says, "as long as a person wanted to keep kosher, they sent the meat to them."² Those with more flexible attitudes created elaborate southern versions of kashrut that allowed "forbidden" foods to be eaten outside the home. Some families prepared two versions of the *Continued next page*...

²Alex and Lila Lash, interview with Marcie C. Ferris, Charleston, S.C., 21 September 2001.

Dana Berlin Strange, owner of Jestine's Kitchen in Charleston, poses in front of a wedding-day photograph of her mother, Shera Lee Ellison Berlin, with Jestine Matthews. Mrs. Matthews worked for the Ellison family for two generations, and was the inspiration for Dana's restaurant.

¹James William Hagy, This Happy Land: The Jews of Colonial and Antebellum Charleston (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1993), 1.

Matzah Ball Memories

.... Continued from page 7

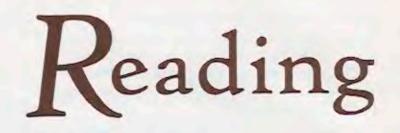
same dish cooked with and without treyf, such as gumbo with shrimp and sausage, and a kosher version with chicken and salami.

If your congregation or individual members and families within your community would like to share food memories for my study of southern Jewish food traditions, please contact me either by e-mail,

marcieferris@erols.com, or by telephone, (202) 364-4088. My research is affiliated with the College of Charleston's Jewish Heritage Collection and the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in Utica, Mississippi.



Marcie Rosenberg and Earl McCallum bake over 150 kosher challahs each week for the Charleston Jewish Community Center. To order, call the Center's "challah chotline": (843) 571-6565.



A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life

This full-color catalogue documents the upcoming exhibition of the same name. The product of an eight-year collaboration by the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, McKissick Museum of the University of South Carolina, and the College of Charleston, the volume will be published by USC



Press in September 2002. Edited by Theodore and Dale Rosengarten, with a preface by Eli N. Evans and essays by Deborah Dash Moore, Jenna Weissman Joselit, Jack Bass, and the editors, *A Portion of the People* is an important addition to southern arts and letters. A photographic essay by Bill Aron, who has documented Jewish communities around the world, brings the story into the present.

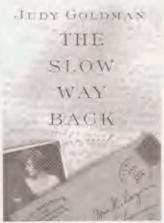
- USC Press, fall 2002

The Slow Way Back Judy Goldman

This remarkably crafted first novel by a native of Rock Hill, South Carolina, traces three generations of a southern Jewish family. It is a story about deeply rooted family secrets, the complex love between sisters, and the constant human struggle to keep one's history alive.

"A luminous, achingly

beautiful novel that makes you shiver with delight. Judy Goldman is a lace-maker with her lovely words, and her novel made me happy to be alive. Her ending thrilled me and surprised me. Please read this book." — Pat Conroy



FALL 2001



Against the Tide: One Woman's Political Struggle

Harriet Keyserling This autobiography is the story of an unconventional politician's impact on the world of "good ol' boy" southern politics. When Harriet Keyserling arrived in the small town of Beaufort in

1944, after marrying native son Dr. Herbert Keyserling, she was a liberal northerner in the conservative South, a Jew in a predominantly Christian world, a New York City girl in a very small town. These differences intensified her feelings of being an outsider – a thread that ran through much of her life and career.

"Against the Tide is the story of changing times in southern politics."

- The Washington Post

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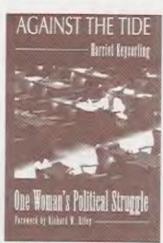
Tales of Charleston, 1930s

Arthur V. Williams, M.D.

"We had the oldest and best municipal college in the country, the oldest and best museum in the United States, famous authors like DuBose Heyward, a lot of painters, a church where George Washington had worshiped, the *News and Courier* that probably everyone in the

country read, and we had the Ashley and Cooper Rivers that flowed together off the Battery to form the Atlantic Ocean."

from Tales of Charleston, 1930s



Doctor K Herbert Keyserling, M.D.

"Membership on the staff of the Beaufort Memorial Hospital required that I respond to calls from the hospital E m e r g e n c y Department. . . In critical cases needing transfer to the larger hospitals, the doctor on emergency call often had



to ride in the 'ambulance,' which was really a funeral coach or hearse that was put to that use for lack of true ambulances. . . . The customary drivers of funeral coaches suddenly were transformed into race-track drivers, each one apparently trying to establish a record in the 'race for life.' With siren screaming and no regard for the nervewracked doctor or the patient in the back, they sped merrily down the narrow highway. Upon return to Beaufort, the drivers would brag on how fast they made it to the hospital." — from Doctor K

The Jewish Confederates Robert N. Rosen

"An eye-opening, myth-shattering, stereotype-breaking work of originality, elegance, and wisdom. A must-read for Civil War buffs, Jewish history fans, and all Americans interested in learning – and you will



learn much – about Jewish southerners who placed loyalty to their adopted states above the moral teachings of their tradition (at least as we now interpret them). You may not agree with these Jewish Confederates, but you will surely understand them better."

- Alan M. Dershowitz

PAGE TO

TENTER REPORTAL SOCIETY OF SEUTH CARCLINE

Grand Strand ⁱⁿ June

The June meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina revealed a portrait of small-town Jewish life in a growing resort community.

by Elizabeth Moses

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina's combined annual/regional meeting was held in Georgetown and Myrtle Beach, June 22 -24. About 40 Society members attended, voted in a new board, and enjoyed a relaxed, set-your-own pace weekend. The weather cooperated perfectly, holding off threatening rain Saturday until everyone was convened for the reception.

Temple Beth Elohim, Georgetown, S.C.

The weekend began with services Friday evening hosted by Temple Emanu-El in Myrtle Beach. Eleven members of the Society braved the Myrtle Beach traffic, under the care of Society President Jeffrey Rosenblum, who did double duty as our chauffeur. We were warmly welcomed by Rabbi Mitchell Kornspan and Temple President Lorraine Wachter. Temple Emanu-El is experiencing rapid growth and will soon be expanding. There to remind everyone of the early days of the congregation were Hugo Schiller and Raymond Schild, who regaled us with stories of what it takes to be southern and Jewish and to start a synagogue against the odds.

Returning to the original aim of our regional meetings – to highlight smaller Jewish communities around the state – the Society did not schedule a keynote speaker or gala banquet for the weekend. Instead, members were on their own to explore the fascinating story of Georgetown's historic Jewish community. Jews settled in Georgetown in the 1760s; by 1800, the port town was home to a thriving Jewish community, almost ten percent of Georgetown's white population. Congregation Beth Elohim formally organized in 1904 and the present temple was built in 1950. The cemetery was established in 1772, making it the second oldest Jewish burial ground in the state. It is the final resting place of three of Georgetown's six Jewish mayors.

Society members enjoyed free tours of the Kaminski House. This colonial home, overlooking the Sampit River, was built in 1769 by merchant Paul Trapier and bought by Harold and Julia Kaminski in 1931. It is filled with American and English antiques, many from the late 1700s, and was left to the city of Georgetown as a museum upon Julia Kaminski's death in 1972.

The highlight of the weekend, judging by participants' comments, was a three-hour tour of the former Baruch family estate, Hobcaw Barony. Originally several rice plantations, the land was purchased in the early 1900s by stockbroker and presidential advisor Bernard Baruch, son of Confederate surgeon Simon Baruch. Upon her death, Belle W. Baruch, Bernard Baruch's daughter, deeded the 17,500 acre property for the "purposes of teaching and/or research in forestry, marine biology, and the care and propagation of wildlife, flora and fauna in connection with colleges and universities in the state."

We wrapped up the weekend with a panel discussion held at Temple Beth Elohim on Sunday morning. Panelists were Rita Fogel, longtime member of Beth Elohim, Hugo Schiller, member of Myrtle Beach's Emanu-El, and Rabbi Doron Aizenman of the Chabad Lubavitch Center of Myrtle Beach.

FALL 2001

Notes from Special Collections by Harlan Greene, Project Archivist

Harlan Greene, College of Charleston Library.

In August of 2001, just as students started to fill the College of Charleston campus, there was new activity, as well, in Special Collections at the College library. As sort of a SWAT team, we, new members of the Jewish Heritage archival staff, began to arrive, make plans, and get to work.

According to the terms of our grant from the

National Endowment for the Humanities, we have 18 months to go through literally hundreds of feet of manuscript. printed. photographic, ephemeral (and you name it, it's here) material. Our job is to touch each sheet of paper, analyze it, put it in some kind of order, identify the creator and intuit its importance. After we have organized the materials in folders and boxes, we draft descriptions and assign added entries that will then be smoothed out by

a cataloguer who will transform our worksheets into an electronically readable format. Once the information is on-line, readers around the world can search by subject, author, content, etc. We are part treasure hunters, part trash collectors, and part technicians. We're all ready and already at work.

I am the head archivist, on a generous leave of absence from the South Carolina Room of the Charleston County Public Library. My assistant is Zinnia Willits, a recent arrival to Charleston, who brings enthusiasm and greatly needed experience in museum work. Manuscript librarian Annette Blum, retiring from the public library, brings her knowledge of cataloguing Caroliniana to the team. We already have three student helpers labeling folders and photographs, putting materials in chronological order, and doing a lot of the "busy work" for us.

We've processed fewer than ten collections so far, but we are getting up a head of steam. Before beginning, I tried to peek in every box and see what sort of work was in store for us. It is a truly amazing collection of materials and it certainly justifies the NEH grant – for the Endowment only funds work on materials of national importance.

What I saw was amazing: a true panoply of Jewish life in South Carolina (and elsewhere). Jews



visiting Jerusalem,

where he muses on the homeland of his forefathers. Another earlier diary contains the frank, selfeffacing confessions of a young man just graduated from college and starting the study of law. He makes fun of himself (and others), and is so modern in his sensibilities that I almost expected the ink still to be wet. It whetted my appetite to sit down and read the whole diary from cover to cover.

But I could not; there were too many other people "to meet," too many other families to visit, images to ponder and exclaim over, documents in Yiddish or German to decipher – or find someone to do it for us. In these next few issues, we look forward to telling you more of our discoveries.

If you have questions concerning the project, please contact me at (843) 953-7428 or e-mail me at greeneh@cofc.edu. We will need volunteers for some projects, but please bear with us; we need to get everything set and assess all possible tasks before that call goes out.



JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY "SOUTH CAROLINA

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The Jewish Studies Center at the College of Charleston is scheduled for completion in August 2002, in time for the 2002-2003 academic year. It will house the offices of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. The estimated cost of the 12,000-square-foot, three-story facility is three million dollars. The center is being built with private funds. Contributions may be sent to the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston.

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of South Carolina

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JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



From the **President** Robert N. Rosen

Exciting things are happening at the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. "A Portion of the People": Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life has been a big hit at McKissick Museum on the

University of South Carolina campus in Columbia. On March 26th the exhibition was featured on National Public Radio's Morning Edition, and on April 9th appeared on page 12 of the *New York Times*. The show closed at McKissick in May, and will move to Charleston for the fall season. A grand opening party at the Gibbes Museum of Art will be held on September 12th – MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! We are working hard to make it a memorable evening and a landmark event in the history of South Carolina's Jewish community.

After a nine-week stay in Charleston "A Portion of the People" moves to the Center for Jewish History on 16th Street in New York City. Because of the events of last September 11th, our co-sponsors, Yeshiva University Museum and the American Jewish Historical Society, have struggled to raise the necessary funds to bring the show to New York for a six-month venue. I am happy to report that everything is on track and the exhibition is scheduled to open at the Center early in February 2003, and run through July 20th of that year.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

- JHSSC Board of Directors will meet in Columbia on Sunday, August 11, 2002. Place and time to be announced.
- Our next members' meeting will be held in Charleston on October 12-13th, with high profile lectures and a special tour of "A Portion of the People" at the Gibbes Museum of Art. We will visit the College of Charleston's new Jewish Studies Center on the corner of Glebe and Wentworth Streets and have a chance to view the documentary video on Jewish South Carolinians currently in production by Paul Keyserling and Big Pictures, Inc., of Beaufort.

All in all, this young organization has done a marvelous job. We do, however, need volunteers, especially on the Finance (i.e., fundraising) Committee. If you are willing to volunteer, or need additional information before you raise your hand, feel free to e-mail me at RNRosen@RRHLawfirm.com.

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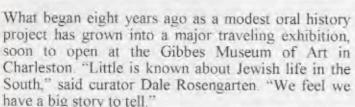
President, Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

Cover: Fifth Anniversary, Key Klub, Charleston, S.C., 1932.

Gift of Michael E. and Joanne Schwartz, Jewish Heritage Collection, College of Charleston Library.

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"A Portion of the People"



The title of the exhibit, "A Portion of the People," has gained an unexpected relevance since September 11th. The quote comes from a letter journalist and playwright Isaac Harby wrote in 1816 to then Secretary of State James Monroe. Provoked by the dismissal of a Jewish diplomat in the North African country of Tunis, Harby defended the rights of all religious groups – Quakers and Catholics, Episcopalians and Presbyterians, Baptists and Jews – to be considered as "one great political family." He issued an eloquent defense not of religious tolerance but of full acceptance into the body politic, championing ideas of pluralism and civil rights that are still lacking in our broken world.

Co-sponsored by JHSSC. McKissick Museum, and the College of Charleston, "A Portion of the People" is studded with exciting objects, many never before seen in public. Documents such as Carolina's Fundamental Constitutions, written by John Locke in 1669, and an 1803 Masonic patent signed by two of the four Jewish founders of Scottish Rite Masonry in Charleston, demonstrate the ways Jews were integrated into civic and economic life. Dozens of paintings, including a pair of miniature portraits of Sarah Moses Levy and her son, Chapman Levy (see above: she is wearing his miniature), create a picture of South Carolina's early Jewish elite. A predominantly Sephardic community, these early settlers were welcomed as white people in a colony with a growing black majority and were accepted by polite society as "a portion of the people."

The dark side of this embrace was the Jews' full participation in the system of slavery. Historical characters in the exhibition portray the contradictions of their age. Abraham Mendes Seixas, for example, was president of congregation Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim and brother of the best known Jewish religious leader in the country, but at the same time a dealer in slaves and warden of the work house. Franklin J. Moses, Jr., Christian son of a Jewish father, was a loyal Confederate during the Civil War, but served as "scalawag" governor of South Carolina under Republican rule during the tumultuous years of Reconstruction.

Exhibition Highlights

and

Upcoming Catalogue

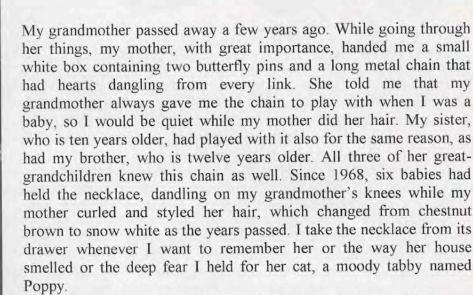
Later eras have larger-than-life characters as well "Jew Joe" Truere was a bootlegger in Charleston during Prohibition, with a reputation as a good Samaritan. Reuben Siegel of Anderson, who boxed for Clemson under the name "Jew Boy" Siegel, became one of the state's leading proponents of facilities for the mentally ill. Ben Bodne of Charleston, who married a daughter of deli owner Elihu Mazo, made millions delivering oil and wound up buying the Algonquin Hotel in New York.

A large-format, full-color exhibition catalogue will be available from the University of South Carolina Press in September. The volume features a preface by Eli N. Evans, an introduction by Theodore Rosengarten, and original essays by Deborah Dash-Moore, Jenna Weissman Joselit, Jack Bass, and Dale Rosengarten. A heavily illustrated exhibition natrative provides histories of each object and image reproduced in the book.

Both the exhibition and catalogue conclude with a rousing rendition of contemporary Jewish life across the state: a photo essay shot by Bill Aron in a whirlwind seventeen-day tour of South Carolina in the fall of 2000. Taken one year before the terrorist attacks of last autumn, Aron's black and white photographs document a lively, vital world that now strikes one as impossibly carefree, deeply rooted yet moving fast into the future.



Pictures at an Exhibition: The Meaning of Things by Elizabeth Keith



The objects on display in "A Portion of the People" have a similar place in the lives of their owners. Remembrance is at the heart of the exhibition, even for those generations-old objects that hold no place in living memory. The letters, paintings, textiles, kiddush cups, and candlesticks on display symbolize much more than personal memories for their owners; they represent a spectrum of emotion that colors peoples' lives. Most significantly, they represent endurance. The memories survive with the objects and they can inspire and be drawn upon for strength. These smiling lenders stand beside artifacts that have been points of pride for generations and will continue to endure.

Above: Charles "Chuck" Whitehead with portraits of his maternal greatgrandparents, Adeline Cohen Phillips and Isaac Phillips. Married in 1860, the Phillipses settled in New York where Isaac ran a wholesale fur business. Adeline was a daughter of Hartwig Cohen, who was the hazzan (religious leader) of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim between 1818 and 1823.

Left: Rosemary "Binky" Read Cohen in front of a photograph of opening day at Read & Dumas, 1912, still in business on the corner of King and Spring Streets in Charleston, S.C.





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Left: Judith Weil Shanks with an album quilt that has been passed down in her family. Sewn in the early 1850s for Eleanor Israel Solomons, of Georgetown, S.C., the quilt contains 63 blocks, each dated and inscribed with the name of its maker.

Right: Evelyn Rosenberg Gross-Brein with the wedding dress of her grandmother, Rebecca Winstock, who in 1885 married Abraham Rosenberg, proprietor of Rosenberg's Mercantile in Greenwood, S.C.





Barbara Karesh Stender and Mary Kohn Strasburger in front of a portrait of Caroline Agnes MoVse Lopez, of Sumter, S.C., painted in 1875 by Caroline's grandfather Theodore Sidney MoVse.



Mary Lourie Rittenberg with the cash register from the L. Lourie Department Store, established by her parents in St. George, S.C., in 1912.

Photographs taken by Jeri Perlmutter at the premiere of "A Portion of the People" at McKissick Museum, Columbia, S.C., January 12, 2002.

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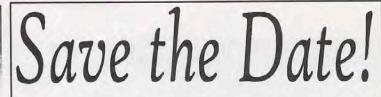
JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut visited "A Portion of the People" at McKissick Museum on Monday, April 15, 2002.

* * * * * *

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 12th GRAND OPENING AT THE GIBBES!



The Gibbes Museum of Art and The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina cordially invite you to the opening reception of

A Portion of the People Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life

> Thursday, September 12, 2002 7 p.m.

Entertainment by the Joe Clark Big Band Cocktail Buffet

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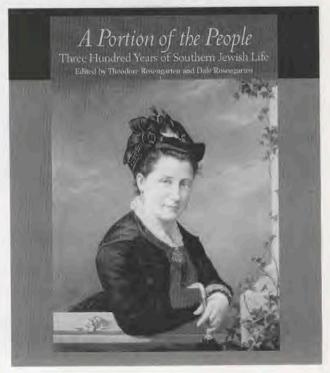
— Philip Morgan, Johns Hopkins University

A Portion of the People

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Oversized, approximately 288 pages 86 color plates, 74 halftones cloth, #1-57003-445-1, \$34.95 Pub. date: September 2002

Available at local bookstores or directly from University of South Carolina Press 718 Devine Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29208 Toll-free telephone orders: 800-768-2500 Toll-free fax: 800-868-0740 www.sc.edu/uscpress



SUMMER 2002 VOLUME VII - NUMBER I

Temple Sinai: A Brief History



Temple Sinai, Sumter, S.C.

by Robert and Elizabeth Moses

The first Jewish citizens of Sumter came from Charleston, South Carolina around 1815. By 1895, the Reform Jewish congregation had become established and well-organized, holding regular meetings and Sunday school. In 1904, Rabbi Jacob Klein came to Sumter to serve as the community's first resident rabbi. The congregation met in a wooden structure, but this was replaced by a brick building, dedicated in the spring of 1913. The synagogue was enlarged several times over the years and the sanctuary substantially remodeled and rededicated in 1969.

Temple Sinai is blessed with eleven exquisite stained glass windows, certainly the most striking aspect of the building. A set of ten matched windows, each measuring five feet wide by twenty feet tall, adorn the exterior walls of the

sanctuary. High on the rear wall is a single round window. Figurative scenes depict Biblical stories, each accompanied by a quotation from its respective book in the Hebrew Scriptures. The windows are in late Victorian style with interweaving patterns on their side borders. Large, circular arches top these windows, giving them a Moorish look. The glass is handmade with thick, rolling folds used to create deep colors and a dimensional effect. The windows are particularly breathtaking in the afternoon sunlight, but are beautiful at any time of day.

Temple Sinai's membership currently numbers about fifty and is served on a regular part-time basis by Rabbi Robert A. Seigel, a native of Charleston. In the last year, the temple has offered two well-attended "Taste of Judaism" courses and hosted the Upton Trio, with guest vocalist Meira Warshauer. In addition, Rabbi Seigel teaches two ongoing adult education classes, one for temple members and one open to the public. Temple Sinai has an active Sisterhood and Men's Club and hopes to start a Sunday school class in the near future. Shabbat services are held every Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. with an *oneg* following. All visitors are welcome.

The congregation invites you to visit Temple Sinai, located at 11-13 Church Street, Sumter, S.C., 29150. The temple office is open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tours of the temple can be arranged by calling 803.773.2122.





Elizabeth and Robert A. Moses in the sanctuary at Temple Sinai. Photos: Bill Aron, 2000

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B'nai Israel: A History from the Upstate by Rabbi Ben Romer, Marsha Poliakoff, and Ben Stauber

Prior to 1900, the Jewish community in Spartanburg was small, consisting of a few families who gathered in homes or in the backs of stores for prayer and observance of holidays. The Price and Spigel families were among those founders, and both remain today as members of Temple B'nai Israel. In 1905, newcomers moved into the area and provided enough members to support regular services. Rabbi Craft was the first spiritual leader to begin formal services and religious training of the congregants' children. Sunday school was conducted in a private home, and when the house could no longer accommodate the number of children, parents decided to build a synagogue with classroom facilities.

In 1912, a building committee was formed, an executive board of directors was elected, and plans were made to erect the first synagogue in Spartanburg. Rabbi Jacob Raisin of Charleston came to Spartanburg to inspire a fundraising effort and our families donated amounts ranging from 50 cents to five hundred dollars. In 1917, the cornerstone was laid, and the next year services and religious training for children began in the new building. Pews and stained glass windows were furnished by the fundraising work of the Sisterhood.

Despite the economic hard times of the Depression, the community maintained a rabbi. Thirtysix members belonged in 1936 and in 1937 the mortgage to the Dean Street synagogue was paid off and burned.

During the world wars, Jewish soldiers stationed in the area worshipped at Temple B'nai Israel. One of the army's most important training camps was located just outside of Spartanburg and quite a number of Jewish soldiers passed through the city. Following the war, a group of them came back, settling in the community and establishing downtown businesses. To this day, some of their descendants are still active members of the temple.

In 1953, Mr. Abe Smith donated a seven-acre tract of land and the house situated on it to be used for educational and social activities. In 1955, Rabbi Max Stauber joined the congregation and served as spiritual leader for more than 28 years. During his tenure temple facilities were greatly improved. A new synagogue was built in 1963, and a formal educational building, a parsonage, and chapel in 1971.

In the 1960s, Andrew Teszler (1931-1971) moved from New York and opened Butte Knits, the



Temple B'Nai Israel, Spartanburg, S.C.

first racially integrated textile plant in the South. He brought with him his "team," including many Jews, which gave a huge boost to the Spartanburg Jewish community.

In the early 1990s, Congregation B'nai Israel became the first congregation in South Carolina to hire a woman rabbi. In 1994, after many years of belonging to the Conservative Movement of Judaism, B'nai Israel elected to affiliate with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Rabbi Samuel Cohon was the first Reform rabbi in Spartanburg.

As in many small southern Jewish communities, the old backbone of the Jewish community consisting of businessmen and merchants began to retire and close their stores. But Spartanburg has had significant growth rather than decline. With a hospital in the community, Jewish doctors have been locating here over the past decade. Recently, a major national hotel chain moved its headquarters to downtown Spartanburg, bringing a number of Jewish families to the area. Over 50 percent of the Jewish community arrived in the last decade, joined by children of previous generations who have returned to Spartanburg, creating a fascinating mix of new and old. As a result, the congregation continues to experience steady growth. Since 2000, Rabbi Ben Romer has served Congregation B'nai Israel's 135 member families.

For the first time since 1971, the temple is substantially expanding and enhancing its facilities. The renovation project is the latest facet of B'Nai Israel's long-range building plan. As the upstate city of Spartanburg grows, the Jewish community will continue to depend on services and events provided by the temple. SUMMER 2002 VOLUME VII - NUMBER 1

Names and Faces of Spartanburg

Descendants of our founders, Harry Price and David and Joseph Spigel, have remained active and generous supporters of Temple B'nai Israel over the past hundred years. Prices' Store for Men will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2003, although the store, previously known as Harry Price's Men's Store, has been in business even longer.

In 1913, Dr. Joseph Goldberger was drawn to the Spartanburg area by the mysterious prevalence of severe illness and early death among the mill workers. The disease was called pellagra, but at that time no one knew its cause. Dr. Goldberger opened a hospital on Church Street, where he treated mill workers and conducted research. He even used himself and his wife as guinea pigs for testing injections of body fluids taken from the sick. His

persistent research led to the discovery that malnutrition was the cause. Workers, forced to buy their food from company stores, had a diet restricted to corn meal, fat back, and molasses. Dr. Goldberger made his findings known and, despite difficulties with the local mill owners, he succeeded in ending pellagra in the Spartanburg area and across the nation. The story of Dr. Goldberger and his battle against pellagra is the subject of a book in progress by Dr. Charles Gershon of Asheville, North Carolina.

Dr. Rosa Gantt (1876-1935) was the first woman to graduate from South Carolina Medical School in 1901 and the first woman physician in Spartanburg. She practiced medicine there for 35 years, specializing in illnesses of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. A pioneer in public health, Dr. Gantt was active in the prevention of tuberculosis. As the only woman on the Draft Board during World War I, she advanced to a position on the District Advisory Medical Board of Appeals. Dr. Gantt was acting surgeon for the United Public Health Service and held a commission from the United States Department of Commerce as medical examiner of air pilots. She served as president of the Spartanburg branch of the American Medical Association for nine years and became president of the American Medical Women's Association in 1932



Photo: courtesy of Harry Price

Gantt received appointments from five governors of South Carolina and three United States presidents. A widely published author of medical works, she had numerous articles in The Southern Medical Journal. In 1916, Dr. Gantt was instrumental in the building of Temple B'nai Israel, Spartanburg's first synagogue, and helped found Temple Sisterhood B'nai Israel, known then as the Women's Auxiliary. Under her leadership, the Auxiliary raised funds for stained glass windows, pews, and flooring for the children's classrooms. She served many terms as president of the Sisterhood and negotiated for the first Jewish section of a local burial place, Oakwood Cemetery, in 1924.

Marion Feinstein has operated Miss Marion's School of Dancing for more than 50 years and

has trained most of the dancers in Spartanburg, including several "Miss Spartanburg" winners. Her yearly dance recitals at Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium have been major events. She has received numerous awards and has several times served as president of Dance Masters of America.

Continued on next page....

Marion Feinstein with daughter Lori F. Axelrod and granddaughters Shauna and Marisa Axelrod. Photo: Bill Aron, 2000

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JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Left: Wofford College President Dr. Benjamin B. Dunlap and members of the college's library and administrative staffs, with a portrait of Sandor Teszler. Photo: Bill Aron, 2000

Right: Charlotte Brenner Himber. Photo: Dale Rosengarten, 1997.



Names and Faces of Spartanburg

The Sandor Teszler Library at Wofford College, Spartanburg, South Carolina, is named in honor of Mr Teszler (1904-2000). Like Oscar Schindler, he saved the lives of hundreds of Jews by employing them in his factory in Hungary during World War II and giving them "indispensable" status His son, Andrew Teszler was CEO of Butte Knit and greatly advanced double-knit technology in this country. Butte Knit was of Spartanburg's leading industries in the 1960s and 1970s. Andrew contributed greatly to the building of the Education Building at Temple B'nai Israel, which is dedicated to his memory.

Matthew Poliakoff (1919-1979) was elected to seven terms in the South Carolina House of Representatives, was chief counselor to Senator Olin Johnston, and served as chairman of the Spartanburg County Democratic Party. A pioneer in environmental concerns, in 1944 he authored legislation to compel mill owners to clean up their chemical and dye pollution from streams He lobbied for an appropriation from the United States Senate to build the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport. Described as a "Southern Jewish Statesman" in Eli N Evans's *The Provincials*, Poliakoff served as president of Temple B'nai Israel.

Charlotte Himber (1907-1997) wrote How to Survive Hearing Loss, with an introduction by actor Richard Dysart, published by Gallaudet University in hardcover and paperback. The nationally famous Allof-a-Kind Family series of books written by her sister, Sydney Taylor, includes stories about Charlotte as one of the five young Jewish girls growing up in New York City's Lower East Side during the early 20th century.

Rabbi Max Stauber served as spiritual leader of B'nai Israel from 1955 to 1983, conducting services and officiating at all of life's passages for members of the congregation. With great expertise, he served as mohel at britot milah (circumcisions). and as shohet, or ritual slaughterer, he provided the community with kosher meat. Rabbi Stauber published Temple Topics, then known as The Bulletin, printing out the publication on a hand-cranked mimeograph machine. His parsonage on the temple grounds offered hospitality to all, with wonderful food prepared by Rebbitsin Phyllis Stauber. The rabbi was active in community affairs, including those of other denominations, and was a frequent guest on inter-faith radio programs. He struggled to have Temple B'nai Israel recognized by the Ministerial Association, and was so beloved by other clergymen that he subsequently became president The sanctuary of Temple B'nai Israel is named in his honor. His son, Ben Stauber, is currently the congregation's president.

Harold Cohen earned the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism in World War II, 50 years after the fact. A biographer of General Creighton Abrams found Harold Cohen's war record in the archives of the Library of Congress. It had been misplaced and was fire-damaged but still legible. Impressed with Cohen's extraordinary courage, Abrams submitted his findings to the State Department. Harold Cohen was then called to Washington and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award in the nation. His father, Max Cohen, was a founder of Temple B'nai Israel. Out of deep appreciation for the good life that he and his family led in the United States, Max Cohen urged son Harold to go to war and fight for this country.

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Award-winning playwright Marsha Poliakoff wrote Jacksey's Lawyer, a drama concerning the death penalty for the retarded and insane. The play ran during the month of August, 1984, in Spotlighters Theatre in Baltimore, Maryland. Based on her husband Matthew's first murder case as a court-appointed defense attorney, Jacksey's Lawyer received phenomenal reviews from the Baltimore Sun and played to a sold-out crowd for its last two weeks at Spotlighters. Poliakoff is a Hub City Writer and has been published in Hub City Christmas Collection as well as being awarded first place in the Hardegree Nonfiction Contest. She is historian for Temple B'nai Israel.

Gary Poliakoff, one of the Poliakoffs' sons, is an environmental attorney and was twice named Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year. Their other son, Andrew, following in the footsteps of both parents, is an attorney and author. He won the South Carolina Fiction Project and published a short story entitled "Midwifery," in Inheritance Selections from the South Carolina Fiction Project.

Did you know that Al Rosen, the Cleveland Indians' all-star infielder from 1947 to 1956, was born Albert Leonard Rosen on February 29, 1924, in Spartanburg, South Carolina?



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Mizrah (detail) made by Charlotte Humber's father, Morris Aaron Brenner, in Wisnicz, Austria-Ilungary, 1887-1891, Papercut painted with natural dyes. Collection of Susan II. Baker. A mizrah, meaning "east," is hung on the east wall of a house to indicate the direction for Jews to pray, facing Jerusalem.

Our State: The Jewish Experience

Past president of JHSSC, Jeffrey Rosenblum, suggested that a fact sheet should be compiled, detailing significant events and occurrences within the South Carolina Jewish experience. Sol Breibart of Charleston and Rabbi Ben Romer of Spartanburg have been called upon to compile these facts, representing events that took place in both the lowcountry and upcountry of the state. The search for these facts continues. If you have information that should be included in this listing, please send your suggestions to Sol Breibart, 251 Confederate Circle, Charleston, S.C. 29407 or e-mail to sbreibart@aol.com.

- Founded in 1670, South Carolina has had Jewish settlers since at least 1694.
- Francis Salvador, elected to the South Carolina Provisional Congress in 1775 and the South Carolina General Assembly in 1776, was the first professing Jew in the western world to be elected to public office
- Georgetown, the second oldest Jewish community in South Carolina, has had six Jewish mayors
- In 1841, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim of Charleston became the first Jewish Reform congregation in the United States.
- About two hundred South Carolina Jews fought for the Confederate cause in the Civil War.

Otes from Special Collections by Harlan Greene, Project Archivist

We of the archival processing and cataloguing team of the Jewish Heritage Collection are happy to report we have made great progress in our first seven or so months of work here at the College of Charleston We made our first report to the National Endowment for the Humanities (which is funding our project) in January 2002. We listed our progress. nearly sixty-five linear feet of manuscript collections processed (think of a piece of paper and how thin it is to get an idea of how much work that is!). Whereas a volume of business records, for instance, could be assessed in a few minutes, other information, such as a series of letters between engaged lovers in Walterboro and Laurens in the 1870s took more time to read and absorb. There were disparate handwritings to decipher (with some materials written by those just learning English) and mentions made to topics and objects long forgotten to be understood, among other obstacles. But that is part of the fun - peering into the lives of others.

After becoming familiar with the contents of a collection, we have to figure out how to establish intellectual control over it. Do we put everything in chronological order? Do ledgers and journals go side by side with cancelled checks? Where does the love poetry go?

As a general rule, archivists try to maintain the original order the creators of the records made, but if the collection is scrambled, we have to figure out the best way to put all those hundreds or thousands of papers in order – within folders and then boxes. Always bearing in mind the researchers who will use these collections, we arrange the series of diverse materials in a way that will support them physically – and intellectually. If someone is researching how Jewish merchants on King Street were impacted by boycotts in the 1960s, for example, he or she will not want to have to jump from box to box or folder to folder to find this out. We balance a number of concerns as, like Noah, we group like with like.

Once materials are physically in order, we face another challenge: using as few words as possible, we must give precise clues as to what these individual collections include We try to rank

what is important in the papers we have just read we have to provide toeholds in the mountain of materials so that people can get to where they want to be. We archivists - Zinnia Willits and myself write up in basic English a description of the collection, decide on name and subject added entries, and create hierarchical outlines, stating what types of materials are in each folder and box. Then Annette Blum, our cataloguer, marries two levels of archival description by first taking the collection summaries and translating them into a tagged, machine readable format so that computers will index the information in certain ways. She also does "authority work," making sure we cite a person or an organization in the appropriate way - a crucial thing in these days of computer searches.

This inputting of data in software packages is very technical and precise – almost like writing computer code. But once this is done and the data is sent off, the summaries are suddenly available not just in the College's on-line catalogue, but truly available all over the world, to anyone with an Internet connection Making these collections even more accessible is the fact that Annette links the inventories we have written to the collection summary.

So, for instance, if someone in Hong Kong is researching Palestine foreign relations, and puts that term into the right search engine, the Thomas Tobias Collection summary will eventually bob up. The researcher can then link to the Tobias inventory; reading all the folder descriptions, (or searching the display with a "find" command present in most software packages), he or she will then come to the diary that describes David Henry Mordecai's adventures as an aid to Edwin DeLeon in solving a diplomatic conflict there in 1858.

Such work is exciting. We are now doing the same level of cataloguing for many of the oral history records here – living resources that have a wealth of information to add to the field. We know that our work is bearing fruit, for more and more researchers are coming into Special Collections to look at the materials that have gone on-line, and email inquiries are growing by leaps and bounds

SUMMER 2002 VOLUME VII - NUMBER 1

Harlan Greene's most recent book is Mr. Skylark: John Bennett and the Charleston Renaissance. It is a biography of the writer and the city in the period when Charleston came into national prominence, waking from its silence after the Civil War and helping launch the Southern Literary Renaissance.

Can you help identify the people in the photograph to the right?

This image was donated to the Jewish Heritage Collection, but the subjects are unknown. The donor, Ella Levenson Schlosburg, suggests they might be from Camden, South Carolina; the clothing appears to be circa 1900 - 1910.

Please help us if you can.

If you have photos like these and would consider donating them to the archives, please contact the Jewish Heritage Collection. All items documenting Jewish life in the state are welcome.

If you have any questions, or comments, you can call us at 843.953.7428. We encourage you to browse at the College library's web page – www. cofc.edu/library. The web page for the Jewish Heritage Collection is www.cofc.edu/~jhc. That will show you the type of materials here in the archives, but to search for the record types we've just described, go to the library's catalogue.

Confirmation class at Tree of Life in Columbia, S.C., 1930s. Gift of Ruth Bass Jacobs. Left to right: Helen Kohn Hennig, Floyd Newman, Ruth Bass (Jacobs), Carolyn Halford (Green), Stanley Donen, Ruth Katz, Betty Jean Rosen(?) and Melvin Gergel. The rabbi is unnamed. At age 16, Stanley Donen left South Carolina and later became famous as a Broadway and Hollywood choreographer and director of such film classics as "Singin" in the Rain," "The Pajama Game," and "Damn Yankees."





The New Jewish Studies Center

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will take a giant step forward when it moves into the new Jewish Studies Center at the College of Charleston The Historical Society will occupy an office on the second floor of the new Center when it opens in August 2002. Located on the corner of Glebe and Wentworth Streets, near the heart of the College campus, the Jewish Studies Center's three million dollar facility will also house the Jewish Student Union/Hillel, the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, a Judaica Library, a Hebrew language lab, the Arnold Hall, a state-of-the-art conference room, and much more. The College of Charleston has been altogether supportive of this project and we are happy to have Samuel Hines, the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, as our third-floor neighbor.

The Jewish Historical Society was founded at the College of Charleston in 1994 as a result of a dynamic panel that featured Paul Siegel, Jack Bass, and Isadore Lourie discussing small town Jewish life in South Carolina. The overriding sentiment of those who attended was that an important era of southern Jewish history was passing, as Jews moved to larger cities and suburbs, with few Jewish merchants left in small towns. The Society was formed in part to make sure that this history was documented. In partnership with the College of Charleston and McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina, the Society inaugurated the Jewish Heritage Project and hired Dale Rosengarten to collect and record the state's Jewish history.

The Society has done amazing things in its short history. With four hundred dues-paying members, it is now the largest statewide Jewish organization in South Carolina. Since 1994, it has held two well-attended meetings each year, helped to create a nationally significant Jewish archives at the



by Martin Perlmutter



College of Charleston, co-sponsored a major museum exhibition, and developed a video on the South Carolina Jewish story called "Land of Promise," scheduled for release on public television this fall, with a shorter version available for classroom use The Society will now have a permanent home at the College of Charleston.

The Jewish Historical Society has pledged to raise a quarter of a million dollars for its new home. A major gift will entitle the donor to a significant naming opportunity at the Center

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the Arnolds, the Kareshes, the Zuckers, Michael Kogan, Terry Fisher, Rosenblum Coe Architects, Kahn Construction, Tom Ervin, Stanley Farbstein, and countless other individuals who have contributed to making this long-awaited project a reality. I would be remiss not to mention Sylvia and Henry Yaschik, who are at the heart of the Center and the Jewish Studies Program and whose memory lives on through our work.

WANTED: PILLARS

The JHSSC is seeking at least 20 "pillars." These donors will commit to a gift of \$1000 a year for five years, helping to provide office support to the JHSSC as it moves into the new Jewish Studies Center. This is an important transition. If you are able to help, please contact the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at \$43, 953.5682 or e-mail jwst@cofc.edu.

Above: Jewish Studies Center under construction.

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Left: Dean Samuel Hines and Martin Perlmutter in the director's future office Photos: Annette Godow, 2002

College of Charleston Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program

The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston is offering four courses for the Fall 2002 semester of special interest to those with a passion for Jewish history. In addition we offer Hebrew Language classes, Hebrew Bible courses, and an Introduction to Jewish Studies, Continuing education students are welcome.

JWST 300.002 Anatomy of an Exhibition **Dale Rosengarten**

Using as the core text the exhibition catalogue, A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life, we will explore the subject of southern Jewish history topically and chronologically. The class will visit the exhibit "A Portion of the People" at the Gibbes Museum of Art at least four times during the semester, the first time during installation at the beginning of September. Guest speakers will include museum director Lynn Robertson, curators Barbara Karesh Stender, Judith Weil Shanks, and Ellen Smith, conservators Catherine Rogers, Marion Hunter, and Marie Hollings, and photographer Bill Aron. Tu/Th 12:15-1:30 p.m., Library 301

JWST 300.090 The Southern Jewish Experience Jack Bass and Robert Rosen

This course will examine the distinctive history of Jews in the American South. Major themes of the course include Jewish accommodation and contributions to the dominant culture, one that is primarily Protestant, and the Jewish place in southern racial dynamics. Students will compare and contrast the culture, self-perceptions, and historic experience of Jews living in the South with the experience of Jews in other parts of the country. The Jewish experience in the South is a story of simultaneous adaptation and separation, and reflects the tensions of creating an identity that is both Jewish and Southern W 5:30-8:15 p.m., Ed. Ctr. 110

HIST 359.001 Modern Jewish History Stuart Knee

Developments in Jewish civilization from 1789 to the present. Topics include societal, economic, intellectual, cultural, political, and diplomatic developments. Treated in this course are international communities, including Israel, remnant communities in the Arab world, Latin America, North and South Africa, Europe, and the United States Prerequisites HIST 101-102 or 103-104 MWF 12:00-12:50 p.m., Maybank 303

300.001 The Jew in American Culture Larry Krasnoff

During the 20th century, Jews became prominent in all areas of American cultural life, helping to transform a mainly Anglo-American culture into a multi-ethnic, multi-religious one. In this class, we will examine how this happened, and how it has changed what it means to be an American. We will focus mainly on examples drawn from literature, comedy and film, but we will also pay close attention to the historical and sociological background of these examples Tu/Th 9:25 - 10:40 a.m., Bell 416

PAGER



JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Martin Perlmutter, Executive Director

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Elizabeth Keith, Editor Elizabeth Meny, Layout/Design Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424 NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE P - A - I - D CHARLESTON, SC PERMIT No. 437

If you would like to join the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, please fill out this form and return it to :

> JHSSC, Jewish Studies Program College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424

Please make checks payable to JHSSC.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: ()

E-MAIL:

Please check one of the following:

Individual/Family Membership \$36

___ Friend \$200

_ Sponsor \$350

Patron \$750

"Pillar" \$1000 a year for five years

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of South Carolina

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From ^{the} President Robert N. Rosen

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has been spectacularly successful in the last six months.

- The grand opening of "A Portion of the People" at the Gibbes Museum of Arts on September 12 was a memorable occasion. The black-tie event drew well over 400 guests, including Governor Jim Hodges, Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Attorney General Charlie Condon, and other dignitaries. Special thanks to Eve Berlinsky and Sandra Lee Rosenblum for heading up the magnificent effort. The party raised substantial funds to help the Gibbes cover exhibition costs. Another \$33,000 was contributed by community sponsors, with the Pearlstine Family Fund and the Jerry and Anita Zucker Family Foundation taking the lead.
- "A Portion of the People" drew record crowds at the Gibbes. Attendance in September exceeded the ten-year average for the month by 1,100 people. The show now moves on to the Center for Jewish History on 16th Street in New York City. The gala opening on February 6, 2003 features a keynote address by Eli Evans and a special viewing of the exhibition, which has been significantly redesigned for this venue. Sponsored by Yeshiva University Museum and the American Jewish Historical Society, the exhibit will remain on display through July 20, 2003.
- At the Society's fall meetings on October 12-13, 2002, upwards of 300 people came to hear talks by Jenna Weissman Joselit and Senator Joseph Lieberman. We joined in the dedication of the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center at the College of Charleston, which includes a new office for the Society.
- "Land of Promise" premiered at our annual meeting and aired Thanksgiving evening on SCETV. Many thanks to Jerry and Sue Kline and to Harriet Keyserling for their support, and hats off to Paul Keyserling. Bill Pendergraft, Steve Channing, Barbara Karesh Stender, and Meira Warshauer for their creative work.

We are looking forward to an interesting board meeting in April 2003 in Camden. We will combine that session with a retreat open to all members. The purpose of this one-day get-together will be to relax and discuss the direction of the Society. It will not be a regional meeting, and there will not be a program, but it will be a day set aside to reflect on what the Society has accomplished and what it hopes to accomplish in the next several years. More information on this will be forthcoming.

I am recommending to the board that the next annual meeting take place in Charlotte, North Carolina, on the weekend of September 14, 2003, to coincide with the opening of "A Portion of the People" at the Levine Museum of the New South. We will join with the Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina and other groups at the opening. This is tentative but in the works. Plans are already underway for October 28-31, 2004, when the Society will host the annual meeting of the Southern Jewish Historical Society in Charleston. Save the dates.

My goals for the Society in 2003 are 600 members (up from 540) and 25 pillars (up from 15). My longrange goals include backing a Center for Southern Jewish History at the College of Charleston and contributing to SJHS's journal, *Southern Jewish History*. My dream is for JHSSC to acquire the historic Hebrew Orphan Society Building on Broad Street. Any fellow dreamer with the means to help?

Your support has made possible the remarkable strides we've taken this year. Thank you for allowing me to lead the Society in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Rober Rose

President, Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

Cover photo: Sunday School class of Temple Beth Or, Kingstree, SC, c.1957.

from the collection of Sidney and Sylvia Dubin. Jewish Historical Society of SC helps dedicate its new home: at the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center



The new Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center



Senator Joseph Lieberman and Norman Arnold at the dedication ceremony.

Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik was one of the early supporters of the Jewish Studies Program. In fact, along with her husband, Henry, she conceived the Jewish Studies Program, supported it, and guided the Program through its first 15 years. The Program became one of her greatest joys in later life. A native New Yorker, Sylvia became a true Southerner when she moved to Charleston to marry Henry, her devoted husband for 60 years. She was committed to her family, and was a life-long supporter of Jewish and non-Jewish causes.

The dedication of the Center on October 13, 2002 was the concluding event of the Fall meetings of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. About 500 people attended the event, much of which was moved indoors because of the rain. Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut was the featured speaker.

The 12,000 square foot, three-story facility houses the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, the Jewish Student Union/Hillel, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, the Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Halls, the Rabbi Hirsch Levin Judaica Library, and much more. A permanent home for JHSSC is a major accomplishment. It gives the Society a place from which to operate. The Society has graduated from a drawer in a file cabinet to a fully equipped new office with some staff support.

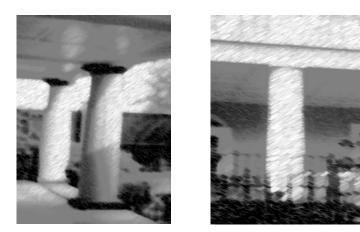
Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik and Henry Yaschik



Members of the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik and Henry Yaschik family dedicate the new Jewish Studies Center at the College of Charleston.

Come visit the JHSSC office in Room 215 of the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center at 96 W entworth Street (at the corner of Glebe) in downtown Charleston. Our phone number is 843.953.3918.

Pillars: Building a Strong Foundation

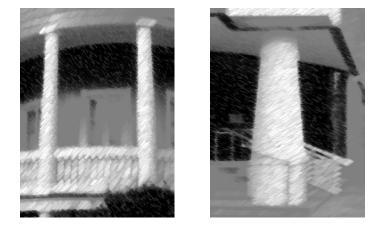


The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has made great strides in its brief history. Less than ten years old, it has sponsored a major national traveling exhibition, an excellent historical video, regular newsletters like this one, and well-attended and excellently programmed bi-annual meetings. In fact, the Society has already become the largest statewide Jewish organization in South Carolina with 540 dues-paying members. And this year, it moved into its permanent home at the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center at the College of Charleston. All of these are <u>major</u> accomplishments; each by itself would be a significant accomplishment for such a young organization.

The Society has no endowment yet. It will develop one, but that has not yet happened. And it needs an operating budget for <u>all</u> of its activities. Membership dues do not cover the Society's operating expenses.

The executive board of the Society decided on a "pillar campaign," with a goal of raising \$25,000 a year for each of the next five years. Those funds will pay for part-time staff, telephone, postage, supplies, and equipment. The Board is looking for 25 pillars to commit \$1,000 a year for each of the next five years.

By: Martin Perlmutter, Executive Director



Many thanks to those of you who have already come forward. It is such generous and gracious support that makes the Society so successful and my job as executive director so easy. Together we have done wonderful things and are building for the future. Please become a pillar and help sustain the Society. Please join this distinguished list.

Richard and Belinda Gergel, Columbia, SC Harvey and Mimi Gleberman, Spring Island, SC Mark and Judith Green, Charleston, SC Ruth Greenberg, Florence, SC Michael Kogan, Little Falls, NJ Ronald and Anne Krancer, Villanova, PA Rabbi Ted and Ina Rae Levy, Hilton Head Island, SC Jack and Frieda Margolies, Charleston, SC Rose Mark, Beaufort, SC Robert and Susan Rosen, Charleston, SC Steve and Harriett Steinert, Asheville, NC Gordan and Barbara Stine, Charleston, SC Mark Tanenbaum, Sullivan's Island, SC Bernard and Ann Warshaw, Walterboro, SC

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We had the pleasure of leading tours of "A Portion of the People" at the Gibbes Museum of Art this fall. Museumgoers included Charleston Jews, other Charlestonians interested in the show, Jews from many other towns in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and tourists from all over the country. With each tour, 300 years of South Carolina's Jewish history came alive. It was thrilling to watch the audience respond, emotionally and spiritually. People with an interest in America's past were fascinated by the interplay between Jewish history and southern history. The ceremonial, traditional, and everyday pieces on display elicited memories from the viewers of their own ethnic, ancestral yesterdays. Candlesticks in particular held great significance, and crossed the lines of history, functionality, and aesthetics.

The manner in which the exhibit is divided into three acts allowed us to take people into a living play. We felt like directors leading the participants through three centuries of life experiences.



Gerry and Jane Meyerson with Gerry's WW II Army Air Corps uniform

Act I was filled with beauty and the awe-inspiring tales of Jewish Carolina's "first families." Act II displayed happy times. Some spectators, especially Reform Jews, could imagine themselves taking part in the historic events of the 1830s and 1840s. The slavery issue and the tragic Civil War induced feelings of shock and wonder. Act III made people feel right at home. In "Little Jerusalem," Charleston's



Stanley Karesh at the Gibbes opening

immigrant neighborhood of the early 20th century, they recognized their own history. The artifacts that immigrants to South Carolina brought with them were poignant reminders of parents and grandparents in the not-so-distant past. The Holocaust brought Act III to a silent and mournful close.

Following this ride through 300 years of southern Jewish history, Bill Aron's photographs suffused the historical, emotional, and artistic themes of the exhibit with hope. His images portray the mosaic of the contemporary Jewish communities across South Carolina. They anchor the exhibition in the diversity and change that continue to characterize Jewish life in this state and region.

> "Unbelievable. I had no idea Jewish people lived in South Carolina so long ago and had <u>portraits</u>—never have seen portraits of Jewish people."

A Few Criticisms

Some visitors to the exhibition felt that the Orthodox and Conservative traditions were underrepresented. Curator Dale Rosengarten explained that the narrative proper stops in 1945, and since Emanu-El, South Carolina's first Conservative synagogue, did not appear until 1947, it figures only in the "epilogue" – Aron's photo essay.

Conservative Judaism also looms large in the section of the exhibition catalogue called "Palmetto Jews." Dale said she wished that more of the 19th-century records of Charleston's Orthodox congregation Brith Sholom had been preserved. Brith Sholom's earliest surviving docment — Rabbi Hirsch

Levine's notebook, written in Hebrew and Yiddish – was discovered in the course of the Jewish Heritage Project and is prominently displayed.

"The first positive Jewish exhibition we ever saw." -Antwerp, Belgium

Some museum-goers who opted for self-guided visits were confused by the organization of the show. As docents we believe it would be helpful to have an introductory panel at the entrance to each gallery describing each of the three acts of the exhibition narrative.

"This exhibit raises wonderful questions that I think Jews of today would benefit from dialoguing about—i.e. How is it that Jews embraced slavery when they understood with their collective history how bad slavery was for society?" - Westport, CT



Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges and JHSSC President Robert Rosen at the Exhibition's Grand Opening on September 12, 2002 at the Gibbes Museum of Art.



Eli, Sandra and Edward Poliakoff

Photos at right, top to bottom: "Pledging Allegiance" display Pincus Kolender Betty Montgomery and Morris Rosen



Dale Rosengarten and Barbara Radinsky



Psalms of the South: Museum Celebrates Charleston Culture

This article appeared in Jenna Weissman Joselit's column "The Wonders of America," in the Forward, November 8, 2002. Professor Joselit, who teaches at Princeton and New York Universities, recounts her experience as keynote speaker at JHSSC's Fall Meeting.

South Carolina is the land of promise, as one of its Jewish citizens, August Kohn, wrote way back in 1907, hoping to entice his co-religionists from up North to settle there. In South Carolina, he wrote, you can find a "good and peaceful home," "pleasant" weather and "help with all problems."

Having just returned from a trip to Charleston, where graciousness and hospitality seem to be as much a part of the natural order as palm trees, live oaks and balmy breezes, I now know just what Kohn meant.

I had come to Charleston to deliver a speech before the members of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, who had assembled over the Columbus Day weekend to participate in its annual meeting. Drawing hundreds of folks from around the state, the society's yearly get-together was also designed to coincide with two other local events: the dedication of the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center at the venerable College of Charleston and the opening at the distinguished Gibbes Museum of "A Portion of a People," an exhibition about the Jewish experience in the Palmetto state. Eight years in the making, "A Portion of the People" lovingly and painstakingly chronicles the history of South Carolina Jewry from its inception in the 18th century to the present. It takes its name — and sensibility — from a letter written in 1816 by Isaac Harby, a loyal son of Charleston and one of its leading intellectual lights, to then-Secretary of State James Monroe. The Jews, he wrote, "are by no means to be considered a Religious sect, tolerated by the government; they constitute a portion of the people. They are, in every respect, woven in and compacted with the citizens of the Republic."

Nothing if not a project of and for the people, the exhibition makes good on Harby's description — and then some. Instead of simply relying on extant museum collections, the exhibition's curator and guiding spirit, Dale Rosengarten, with a doctorate in the history of American civilization from Harvard University and an equally strong background in community organizing, canvassed the length and breadth of the state in search of objects that reflected the singularities of the Southern Jewish experience. She found ample evidence of the "compacted and woven" nature of Southern Jewish life: leather-encased miniatures and life-sized oil portraits of the Sephardic elite; sepia-toned photographs of those who by Jenna Weissman Joselit



had proudly served in the Confederate army; bracelets fashioned out of thimbles, and love letters composed in Yiddish from the pen of J.W. Mark, a cotton buyer from Burton, SC. More to the point, she found a profound and abiding awareness of history.

At every step," Rosengarten said, "I picked up a sense of urgency." South Carolina's Jews wanted their memories to survive.... More than anything else, they wanted to believe that their lives have contributed to Jewish survival."

Throughout my stay in Charleston, as I studied the hundreds of objects that make up "A Portion of the People" and chatted with proud American Jews whose ancestors had set down roots in Beaufort rather than Brooklyn, I was constantly being reminded of the expansiveness of the American Jewish experience and of the stories, large and small, that animate it. My real moment of awakening, though, came shortly before I was to deliver my speech.

Titled "Clio and the Jews," my address was designed to place the South Carolina Jewish experience in broad historical context. Invoking the name of Clio, the Muse of History, I intended to reflect on the relationship between American Jews and their past. Imagine, then, my consternation to learn only moments before I approached the lectern that many in the audience had come to my talk expecting me to speak not about the Muse of History (whom some had never heard of in the first place) but about the small South Carolina town (population: 1,000) of Clio!

Thanks to experiences like this one, I've come to realize that those of us who call the major urban centers of America our home are all too prone to forget that history is not the exclusive preserve of the metropolis or the multitudes. History is where we find it---even in Clio, SC.

Raphael Moses:

When the Civil War broke out, Raphael Moses was living comfortably on his estate in Columbus, Georgia, a property he named Esquiline after one of the seven hills of Rome. After years of struggling for financial stability, he had found success and fame as an attorney and orator.

A man well into his fifties, Moses was not obligated to serve in the field, but since he was a public figure and decidedly in favor of secession, Moses felt compelled to take an active role in the resistance effort.

Upon the urging of powerful Georgia politician Howell Cobb, Raphael began his field service in 1861 as Commissary Officer of Brigadier General Robert Toomb's Brigade. A year later he was promoted to Chief Commissary Officer of General James Longstreet's Corps, a position that saw him in contact with many of the most recognized and prominent soldiers of the Confederacy.

Several historic moments highlighted Moses' distinguished military career. He fought in the pivotal battle of Gettysburg, often referred to as the 'High Tide of the Confederacy." Right beside General Lee he "bided the pelting storm" that fell on the last night of fighting there. After the Confederacy's withdrawal, Moses led his troops on an arduous trip from Virginia to Tennessee where food was scarce for his starving and injured troops. With little hope of finding the wheat that had been hidden in the Tennessee hills, Moses and his men seized the sheep in the meadows and traded their wool for food.

Moses was also present at the final meeting of the Confederate government on May 5th 1865 in Washington, Georgia. It is a testament to his outstanding service that he was asked to carry out one of the final orders of the Confederate States of America, the delivery of ten thousand dollars worth of gold to the commanding officer of the Union Army in Augusta. This was no slight task.



Raphael Jacob Moses, Major C.S.A. 1812—1893

As he and his men were boarding a train with the gold, they were confronted by a large group of unruly former Confederate soldiers. In a post-war atmosphere that verged on anarchy, Moses and his men might have been killed by their fellow Confederates. They had to consider whether they were willing to die protecting gold in a war that was over.

Moses read his orders to the men, speaking quietly and directly, and explained that every dollar of the gold would go to feeding their fellow soldiers and caring for the wounded. He added further that if they killed him, it would be murder, and if he killed any of them; he would be justified on grounds of self-defense and in the name of the sacred duty that had been assigned to him.

Cooler heads prevailed as a number of men who knew Moses spoke up and assured the rest that he would not steal the money. The gold was successfully delivered to Augusta and Moses had carried out the Confederacy's final order.

Would you like to become a member of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina?

See back cover for more information.

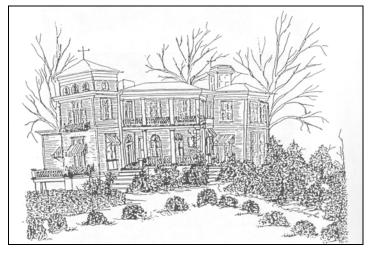
A Confederate War Hero

When the war ended, Raphael Moses returned to Esquiline in Columbus. The war had taken a heavy toll on his family. In addition to losing their son Albert, Raphael and his wife Eliza, lost three nephews and five cousins. Moreover, they had lost a way of life. But Moses did not withdraw from public service. He served in the Georgia Legislature in 1877 and was a vigorous opponent of the carpetbagger government. He was also a vehement defender of his Jewish tradition.

In the congressional race of 1878, the opposing candidates for office were a Mr. Tuggle and a Mr. Harris. Moses decided to endorse Harris and Tuggle responded by making Moses' religious heritage an issue, using the word 'Jew' in a derogatory light. In an open letter written August 28, 1878, Moses responded to Tuggle's attack:

"...At West Point (GA) during your congressional campaign, and my absence, you sought for me a term of reproach, and from your well-filled vocabulary selected the epithet "Jew".

I feel it an honor to be one of a race whom persecution can not crush, whom prejudice has in vain endeavored to subdue; who despite the powers and the combined antagonism of the combined world, protected by I. Harby Moses



ESQUILINE Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia

by the hand of Deity, have burst the temporal bonds with which prejudice would have bound them, and after nineteen centuries of persecution still survive as a nation, asserting their manhood and intelligence, and giving proof of the divinity that stirs within them by having become a great factor in the government of mankind.

Would you honor me? Call me a Jew."

Land of Promise: the Jews of South Carolina - a Review

Through the eye of the camera, "Land of Promise" takes viewers on a tour of South Carolina history, combining interview footage with commentary by local scholars, under the umbrella of Blythe Danner's soothing narrative voice. The filmmakers capitalize on the ability of video to travel freely between past and present, relating historical events and trends directly to contemporary experiences.

For example, in the first section, entitled "Jews Among Us," the story of a Russian Jewish family that immigrated to Charleston twelve years ago is immediately followed by a discussion of the first Jewish immigrants to arrive in Carolina at the onset of colonization in the 17th century. This strategy captivates the audience. Rather than jumping into past events that might seem distant or foreign to the viewer, the filmmakers use modern situations to hook the audience's attention, encouraging viewers to relate personally to the material covered.

by Danielle Ziff

The most powerful aspect of 'Land of Promise' is its discussion of Jewish involvement in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s. The narrative addresses the problems involved in reconciling the common experiences of slavery and discrimination shared by African-Americans and Jews with the fact that many Jews were slave-owners and fought fiercely in defense of the Confederacy.

Ultimately, the film points out, the Jews of South Carolina cannot be judged purely by their religious affiliation. Like the rest of the population, southern Jews operated very much within the confines of social and cultural norms, not as a "despised sect" but, as Isaac Harby so eloquently expressed it, as "a portion of the people."

Excerpts from a film review written for "Anatomy of an Exhibition," a College of Charleston course taught by Dale Rosengarten last fall, cross-listed in Jewish Studies and Arts Management.

Kingstree: The Lifecycle of a Small Jewish Community in South Carolina

by Sidney Dubin



The author outside Temple Beth Or in Kingstree, SC

In 1850, an attorney named M.I. Hirsch moved to Kingstree, SC, becoming the town's earliest known Jewish citizen. Fifty years later a migration of Jews flowed into Kingstree from northern cities and started a variety of businesses including clothing stores, drug stores, appliance stores, jewelry stores, a heating and plumbing company, and a car dealership. This influx reached its peak after World War II. At that time there were about 38 Jewish families living in Kingstree and its three neighboring towns, Lake City, Andrews, and Greelyville.

In 1948, Harry and Kitty Marcus donated a plot of land for a synagogue to be built and Temple Beth Or was born. It quickly became the hub of Jewish life in the area. There was an active congregation, a men's club and sisterhood, a yearly community seder, and frequent social events. Services were held every Friday night, conducted by William Marcus. Sidney Dubin, Jerome Moskow, and Leonard Grossman organized a Sunday school in 1951 and as the children began reaching Bar and Bat Mitzvah age, Dubin began teaching Hebrew. They received additional instruction from the conservative rabbi from Synagogue Emanu-El in Charleston who came to Kingstree once a month to conduct services. On the High Holy Days, the congregation hosted a student rabbi from a seminary in New York to conduct services and spend the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in Kingstree.

The Jewish Community integrated well into the larger Kingstree community. Congregation members became community leaders and were active in the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Masons, American Legion, and the Moose Lodge.

But as is typical of small Jewish communities after WWII, many of the congregation's children became professionals

and successful businesspersons and moved from Kingstree to larger communities. Of the original congregants of Beth Or, many are now deceased or have moved away. Still the congregation holds a service each month, now with a rabbi from Florence, and maintains its yearly High Holiday services with a student rabbi from New York. Of the Temple's original founding families, 20 remain in Kingstree. They carry on the Temple's proud tradition that they began 50 years ago.

These four towns and the people who lived there organized Congregation Beth Or in 1945, and built the synagogue in 1948 in Kingstree, which had the largest group of Jewish people.

Organizers of Temple Beth Or

Andrews Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Moskow Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moskow Mrs. Stella Richburg Mr. and Mrs. M. Stern Mr. Joe Weiner

Lake City Mr. Harry Bebergal Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Berger Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bess Mr. A.B. Brick Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Dubin Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dubroff Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Heiden Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Heiden Mr. Horace Nachman Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Libbert

Greelyville

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Fox Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Grossman



Sidney Dubin blowing the shofar at Temple Beth Or in Kingstree

Kingstree Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Adams Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Aronson Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Berman Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Blakely Dr. and Mrs. Allan S. Brenner Mr. Harry Cahn Mrs. Bernice Cole Mr. and Mrs. Moses Collis Mr. and Mrs. Charles Drucker Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Drucker Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Drucker Mr. and Mrs. Louis Drucker Mr. Max Drucker Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Drucker Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Dubin Mr. and Mrs. Sam Friedman Mrs. Tillie Gershman Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Goldstein Mrs. Pauline Goldstein Dr. and Mrs. David F. Grossman Mrs. Sadie Isquith Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jacobs Mr. and Mrs. Karol Kalisky Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Karesh Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lesselbaum Mr. and Mrs. David Marcus Mr. and Mrs. Harry Marcus Mr. and Mrs. Herman Marcus Mr. William Marcus Mr. and Mrs. Herman Mischner Mr. Samuel Moskow Mr. and Mrs. William Richburg Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schreiberg Mr. and Mrs. Max Schreiberg Mr. Morris Schreiberg Mr. Nathan Schreiberg Mr. and Mrs. Barney Schulman Dr. Leon Sigler Mr. and Mrs. David Silverman Mr. Louis Swetlitz Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tucker Mr. and Mrs. Lester Weinberg

The JHSSC wishes to thank the following people for their contributions to the W inter 2003 Newsletter, Volume VIII, No. 1 Newsletter:

Sean Evans, Stanley Farbstein, Jeri Perlmutter, Dale Rosengarten and Aaron Voelker.

Layout by Enid Idelsohn

Notes from Special Collections by Harlan Greene, College of Charleston Project Archivist

This is the third – and possibly last (!) – report on our Jewish archives project based in the College of Charleston Library. As reported in previous columns, we're operating with grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) – and with that, we've been able to achieve quite a lot.

It has been a remarkable project, with an incredible amount of work done; innumerable gems have been mined out of the ore of history - they've been polished up and put out in the cases, or computer screens around the world. In fact, a researcher from the University of Southampton in England, Gemma Romain, came to do post doctoral work here in the archives for the entire month of September (staff took her to services at a local synagogue, too!). She saw the wealth of what we had to offer via the Internet and came to use it for a study of "Port Jews" that is, Jews who settled in port towns around the world during the mercantile era. Her fellowship allowed her to work in the American Jewish Archives (AJA) in Cincinnati for a month, and in the Jewish Heritage Collection (JHC) in Charleston for a month. She reported at the end of her stay that she had found more material relevant to her subject here than at AJA!

As we wrote to the NEH last summer: Between January and July of 2002, we processed over 150 linear feet of manuscript material – meaning we went through countless letters, ledgers, financial records, photographs, and the like, and put them in a order that makes sense, labeled folders and boxes, and came up with inventories of each collection. Cataloguer Annette Blum then created MARC records (machine readable catalogue records) from our work – so you can find them on the Internet, as well as in the College's catalogue. Collections we finished include those of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (200 years worth!), the Keyserling family, Gordan B. Stine, Saul Alexander, the Pearlstine family, the South Carolina Association of B'nai B'rith, the B'nai B'rith Youth Collection, the National Council of Jewish Women, Charleston Section, the papers of the



I.D. Rubin's pawn shop, 130 Market Street, Charleston, SC Photo by D. H. Bahr, c.1910. Gift of Anna Blythe.

Southern Jewish Historical Society — along with many others.

For all books and archival materials catalogued, you can go to the college's web page (www.cofc.edu), click on library, then catalogue; put in "Jewish Heritage Collection" as a keyword search. You'll see that over 820 MARC records have been entered – some are 50-foot collections, some are single items; some are books and pamphlets, common and rare. The number also includes more than 75 oral histories – first person accounts from all over the state of South Carolina – with folks from Florence, Sumter, Camden, Aiken, Abbeville, Walhalla, Fort Mill, Dillon, Latta, Georgetown, Greenville, Rock Hill and elsewhere speaking of their experiences –

Notes from Special Collections continued

both good and bad, but for the most part good. A few people "who got away" and no longer live here were tracked down; one interviewer found her subject in Jerusalem – a former rabbi of Brith Sholom Beth Israel. Not only are the interviews catalogued, but excerpts from many appear on the JHC web page at www.cofc.edu/~jhc.

We are delighted to report that we've also become captive to our success; more and more people have heard about us and brought in family, business, and congregational papers. Archivist Zinnia Willits, with a background in museum management, has instituted rigorous policies to make sure that as new collections arrive their "paper trail" commences properly. We're proud to announce that the files Robert Rosen compiled while researching and writing his book, *The Jewish Confederates*, as well as other important collections, are now on our shelves awaiting processing.

Not content to have the world come to us, we have gone out to others. We have spoken about the Jewish archives project in several venues around the state. In October in Columbia, S.C., Annette Blum addressed the annual meeting of the South Carolina Archival Association about the project's use of Encoded Archival Description (EAD).

It's the newest way to present archival finding aids on the Internet. Other than Clemson University, the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston is the only institution in the state employing such sophisticated technology. So we're not just preserving history here, we are making it.

Annette joined Zinnia Willits, Special Collections Director Marie Hollings, and myself when we presented our project to the joint meeting of the South Carolina Library Association and Southeastern Library Association, in Charleston in October. We are not just drawing attention to our program, but helping others with theirs and advising still more.

And now – just as we are hitting our stride, as more is getting done and more is coming in – we, ironically, are on the point of shifting not into high, but low, gear. The funding that has kept us going for 18 months is reaching its end.

More and more people are learning of the wealth we have here. But we need something like a Hanukkah miracle to keep the momentum going; instead of just enough oil, or gelt, for one period of time, we need an infusion of more fuel – more collections, more staff, and more funding – not a Hanukkah menorah but a nair tamid.

We are seeking financial contributions for the Jewish Heritage Collection. If you can help,

please contact Marie Hollings Head of Special Collections,

College of Charleston Library

tel: 953.8016; e-mail: hollingsm@cofc.edu

Keep the eternal light burning in the temple of learning.

New and Noteworthy:



"*My Father's People*" \$22.50 by Louis J. Rubin "is a penetrating backward look at a remarkable Jewish family, as they put down roots in the South." ELIZABETH SPEN CER, author of *The Southern W oman*

TALES OF CLEMSON 1936 - 1940



T ales of C lemson 1936-1940by Arthur V. W illiams.A sequel to the author'srecollections of his youth inCharleston, "T ales of Clemson1936-1940" vividly and humor-ously recalls undergraduatelife in the years before W orldW ar II.\$15.00

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For more information on becoming a Pillar of JHSSC, please see page 4.

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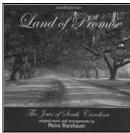


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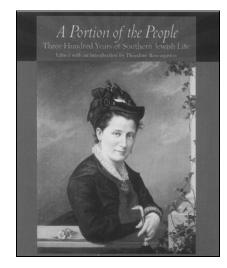
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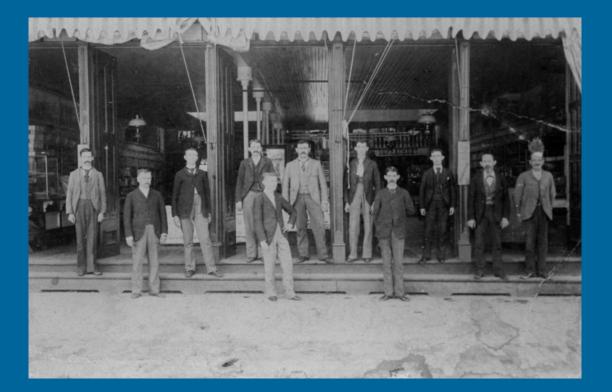
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THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of South Carolina

SUMMER 2003 VOLUME VIII - NUMBER 2



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From ^{the} President Robert N. Rosen

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina suffered an irreparable loss last month with the death of our Founding President, Isadore Lourie of Columbia. Senator Lourie not only had the vision to create the Jewish Historical Society, he also had the unique ability to inspire people to act on his vision. He virtually single-handedly created the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina and, together with Alex Sanders, former President of the College of Charleston, was instrumental in moving Jewish Studies to the forefront at the College of Charleston. There are many legacies left by Senator Lourie, but certainly the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is one of his great achievements. He is already sorely missed. May Susan, his children, and family find comfort among the mourners of Zion.

The Society had a small but enjoyable and productive meeting in Camden on May 4th. The congregation of Beth El synagogue allowed us to use their beautiful sanctuary, provided us with refreshments, and put on a program on Camden Jewish life. Special thanks to Marlene and Michael Mischner, Garry Baum, Barbara James, and Skip and Allan Sindler.

Much of our time in Camden was spent in a special retreat devoted to the Society's future. Many ideas were discussed including; promoting South Carolina Jewish history at our state's colleges and universities; producing a booklet of memories and recollections; reaching out to younger people; publishing a modern history of the Jews of South Carolina; developing a center for Southern Jewish history at the College of Charleston; providing displays on Jewish life suitable for museums, colleges, and community centers in the South Carolina region; offering grants to historians to work on South Carolina Jewish history; and many others. The members at the retreat felt the most important short term projects for the Society are to identify Jewish sites of interest throughout the state; to continue to collect oral histories and materials; to expand our website; to help fund archival work at Special Collections; to create an award for the best essay on South Carolina Jewish history; and to have the Society's Speakers' Bureau begin its outreach efforts.

The Board of Directors agreed to appropriate \$7,500 from the coming year's budget toward the Special Collections Program at the College of Charleston Library for the purpose of collecting and processing archival material. One of the most important missions of any historical society is to preserve the historical record. I will spearhead a campaign for eight additional pillars to fund the Jewish Heritage Collection for the next five years. Please join me as a pillar (see page 11.)

The Society's next major event will be in Charlotte, North Carolina on September 13 - 14, 2003. This will be a joint meeting with the Jewish Heritage Society of North Carolina in conjunction with the opening of "...A Portion of the People" at the Levine Museum of the New South. It should be a wonderful weekend. The Charlotte community is already energized.

2004 is the 350th anniversary of the arrival of a bedraggled band of Jewish immigrants from Brazil to New Amsterdam, today's New York City (June, 1654). Jewish organizations will be celebrating across the country throughout 2004. On October 28-31, 2004 the JHSSC and the Southern Jewish Historical Society will be having a joint meeting in Charleston. We will also be celebrating Brith Sholom Beth Israel's 150th anniversary. It should be a wonderful weekend.

I especially want to thank the pillars of the Society who have been instrumental in funding the Society's operations and the loyal members who have made the Society what it is. Hope to see you in Charlotte.

Rober Rose

President, Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

Cover photo: Baum Brothers' Store and its employees, circa 1890, Camden, SC

Isadore Lourie Founding President of the JHSSC dies at 70

With the passing of Isadore Lourie on April 24, 2003, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina lost its founding president and best friend. In 1993 Senator Lourie participated with Jack Bass and Paul Siegel on a panel on "Jews in Small Town South Carolina" that led to the formation of the JHSSC. He directed the Society's organizational efforts, served as its first president, and helped launch the Jewish Heritage Project.

Tirelessly, Lourie raised funds and made contacts to facilitate the collection of archival materials, the production of the exhibition "A Portion of the People," and the health and well being of the College of Charleston's Jewish Studies Program. He remained the Society's most prominent supporter as it blossomed to become the largest statewide Jewish organization in South Carolina. He was unanimously acclaimed as founding president five years ago, the only officer to be honored with a ceremonial title.

"Izzy was not only the founder of the Society, he was its moral compass. His passing leaves a permanent void. Izzy is irreplaceable," reflected Martin Perlmutter, JHSSC executive director. "He was also a wonderful human being."

Isadore Lourie was born August 4, 1932 in St. George, South Carolina, son of Louis and Anne Friedman Lourie, Jewish immigrants from Russia and Poland. The



Lourie's Men Store, Columbia, SC, 2000. l to r: Frank, A.M. (Mick), Joel, Isadore, and Louis Lourie Photo: Bill Aron.



Isadore Lourie addresses legislators during a 1993 public hearing. Photo courtesy The State.

youngest of six children, Lourie grew up in St. George living above the department store founded by his father. His mother continued to manage the household and business after her husband suffered a heart attack in 1939. When Isadore completed high school in 1948, his mother closed the St. George store and, with her two eldest sons, Solomon and Mick, opened Lourie's department store in Columbia, now a landmark in the capital city. In 1959 Isadore married Susan Reiner and together they raised three sons, Lance, Joel, and Neal.

With both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of South Carolina, Lourie was first elected to the state legislature in 1964 and served as a lawmaker for 28 years. He was a state representative (1965-72); state senator (1973-93); senate majority leader (1989-93); and organizer of the state chapter of the Democratic Leadership Council.

"During the turbulent time of the '60s Isadore was . . . the most meaningful voice that connected black people and white people," former College of Charleston President Alex Sanders told *The State* newspaper. "He was so great because he was so good."

Longtime friend Eli N. Evans remarked that "Isadore Lourie had a Jewish heart. His pride in the biblical roots of his people and their role in human history anchored him through the stormy years of the civil rights era in South Carolina, where he was a conciliator, a builder and a hardworking visionary on behalf of a better and more progressive state."

Among the causes Lourie supported in the legislature were political ethics standards, school integration, compulsory school attendance, home rule for counties, the one-cent sales tax for schools, early childhood education, and the restructuring of state government. Just a week before Lourie died, his son Joel, now a representative in the South Carolina House, helped pass a mandatory seat belt law, a crusade his father had begun 15 years earlier.

The Isadore E. Lourie endowment has been established by the JHSSC to fund programs in his honor.

A Short History of Camden's Early Jews

Camden was one of the first places in South Carolina, after Charleston and Georgetown, to attract Jewish settlers. As evidence of this early presence historians cite a will that Camden's founder Joseph Kershaw wrote in 1788 providing for a lot for a burial ground and place of worship for "God's ancient people, the Jew." While the lot was never claimed, the town's first residents included several prominent Jewish families, notably the DeLeons and the Levys. There were three Levy families in Camden in the early 19th century, connected by marriage but apparently of separate stock.

Born in Camden on the 4th of July 1787, Chapman Levy studied law and was admitted to the bar in Columbia in 1806. His career epitomizes the extraordinary social acceptance and acculturation experienced by Jews in the Midlands town. As elsewhere in South Carolina, Jews in Camden were elected to office, rose to high rank in militia units and Masonic lodges, and upheld local mores when it came to slavery and states' rights.

A militia captain during the War of 1812, Chapman Levy served afterwards in both the state house and senate from Kershaw County. While remaining Jewish, he is listed in 1808 as an "incorporator" of the Camden Protestant Episcopal Church. Attorney and legislator, Levy also operated a brickyard, where 20 of his 31 slaves were employed. In the late 1820s he returned to his hometown and formed a law partnership with his lifelong friend, William McWillie. He was active in the Masons, an authority on dueling, and argued vigorously against the right of a state to disobey federal law in the Nullification Convention of 1832. He served as a state representative from 1834 to 1838, ran for Congress in 1836, and was county sheriff in 1844.

At least four members of the DeLeon family made their homes in Camden: Dr. Abraham DeLeon, who on April 3, 1816 advertised his professional services in *The Camden Gazette*; his sisters Henrietta and Almeira (Mrs. Hayman Levy); and briefly his brother Dr. Mordecai H. DeLeon.

Worshipful Master of Kershaw Masonic Lodge No. 29, Abraham DeLeon was the recipient of a Grand Master's Jewel from General Marquis de Lafayette. Visiting America in 1825, Lafayette went to Camden to help lay the cornerstone of a monument, designed by South Carolina architect Robert Mills, to honor Revolutionary War hero Major General Baron DeKalb. The Marquis was so delighted to be addressed by Brother DeLeon in French, he impetuously removed the jewel and placed it around DeLeon's neck. After DeLeon's death, his son, Harmon Hendricks, gave the jewel to Charleston's Scottish Rite Friendship Lodge No. 9, which retains it to this day.

Simon Baruch came to Camden in 1855 at the behest of the Baum brothers, *landsmen* from Schwersenz, near Posen, Prussia, who had arrived five years before and opened a small general store (see cover photo and page 2 of newsletter). Baruch went to work for Mannes Baum as a bookkeeper. Mrs. Baum – an aunt of Isabelle Wolfe, whom Simon later married – persuaded Mannes to send the promising young man to South Carolina Medical College in Charleston, and later to the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. Fresh out of medical school, "without even hav



Sarah Moses Levy



Chapman Levy as a youth





Chapman Levy

Eliza Levy Anderson

A miniature portrait of Chapman as a boy appears pinned to his mother's bodice in a portrait of her—both shown here. Chapman sat again for a portrait, perhaps on the occasion of his departure for Mississippi in 1838. At about the same time a portrait was made of his sister Eliza Levy, who had married Dr. Edward H. Anderson. The artist who painted Eliza has not been identified; Camden-born Isaac B. Alexander is a possibility. Courtesy of the Jewish Heritage Collection, College of Charleston Library.

Hayman Levy, a prominent merchant and cotton factor, became a warden of Camden in 1835, "intendant" or mayor in 1843 and 1844, and director of the Bank of Camden from 1842 to 1854. Mordecai M. Levy at one time was a partner of Dr. Abraham DeLeon in the drug business. ing lanced a boil," as he used to say, Baruch joined the Third Battalion, S.C. Infantry in 1862 and became an assistant surgeon in the Confederate army. The uniform and sword he carried to war were a gift from his patron, Mannes Baum.





Photo: Dale Rosengarten

Hebrew Benevolent Association

The first formal organization of Camden's Jews began in 1877, at a time when Ulysses S. Grant was president and Reconstruction was coming to an end. Ex-Confederate Major General Wade Hampton had won the riotous 1876 election and become governor of South Carolina, with E.W. Moïse, a Jewish attorney recently settled in Sumter, as his adjutant general. On October 14, 1877, 24 Jewish men signed a petition addressed to the "Israelites of Camden" stating their intention to organize a benevolent association. Their first order of business was to purchase a cemetery and build a fence. Within a year the Association confronted the prospect of admitting women to membership. Dr. Baruch argued that the constitution made no distinction based on sex and a Mrs. Benjamen was dutifully elected a member.

In August 1878 the Association sold seats to raise money to hire a "gentleman" to officiate on High Holidays. A year later Belle Baruch spearheaded the organization of a Sabbath school for her own four boys, three Baum children, five Williamses, the Wittkowsky boys, Wolfe children, Roseva Heyman, Mary Samuels, and others.

In November 1880, as the Baruchs prepared to leave Camden for New York City, Simon Baruch formally resigned as member and president of the Hebrew Benevolent Association. He admonished his co-religionists to fulfill their duties as parents and Jews: "to educate your children, not only mentally but morally"; "to instill...the grand fundamental idea of Judaism, the belief in One, Great Omniscient, Omnipresent, Unchangeable God"; and to "teach the children to observe the Sabbath day inviolate."

M. H. Heyman's unpublished history describes the Association's tenacious efforts over the next two decades to sustain Judaism in the absence of a permanent house of worship or a rabbi. In 1881 members paid \$10 to rent a Torah and the grand sum of \$1 to purchase books for the Sabbath School. In July 1882 a special meeting was called for the purpose of subscribing to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, marking perhaps for the first time an affiliation with the Reform movement.

While Association members had considered purchasing a lot and building a synagogue as early as 1880, and indeed had acquired property on DeKalb Street and argued about construction plans through the turn of the century, it was not until 1921 that they acquired a house of worship.

Picturesque Temple Beth-El began life as a white clapboard Roman Catholic chapel built in 1903 on Lyttleton Street. By 1914 the Catholics had abandoned the structure for larger

quarters. The building remained unused for seven years until the Hebrew Benevolent Association purchased it from L. L. Block and renamed it Temple Beth-El. A star of David sculpture by local artist Allan Sindler graces the front lawn of this elegant Spanish Mission-style temple. Today the congregation meets in the old sanctuary only for the High Holidays.

Walk through the Association's historic burial ground chartered in 1878, and you will discover a monument in memory of Prussian-born Marcus Baum, aide to Confederate General Joseph B. Kershaw. Baum was killed by friendly fire at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 6, 1864. Gravestones bear the names of Camden's old Jewish families, including: Baruch, Baum, Block, Geisenheimer, Heyman, Hirsch, Karesh, Levenson, Lipman, Lomansky, Rich, Schenk, Schlosburg, Simmons, Smith, Tobias, Wallneau, Weinberg, Wittkowsky, and Wolfe. A plat map of the original cemetery and the Benevolent Society Minute Book can be found at the Camden archives, along with a significant collection on the Baruch family.



Hebrew Benevolent Association Cemetery, Camden, SC 2000. *l to r: Harold M. Aronson, Rose Louise Aronson, Carolyn Baruch Levenson, Ella Levenson Schlosburg, Deborah Baruch Abrams, Ann Briskin Baum, Bernie Baum, Cheryl Baum, Garry Baum, Faye Lomansky Levinson, and Arnold Levinson.* Photo: Bill Aron

PAGE 6

Fall Meeting in Charlotte

Saturday, September 13 Shalom Park in cooperation with the Carolina Agency for Jewish Education

> Temple Israel 4901 Providence Road Charlotte, NC 28226 704.362.2796

Saturday Morning ServicesThreeSaturday Morning ServicesHeavRabbi Murray Ezring9:30 am(please arrive no later than 10:00 am)9:30 am

Dale Rosengarten A Portion of the People: The Making of an Exhibition

Luncheon

Noon

Afternoon sessions will be held in Gorelick Hall at the Jewish Community Center 5007 Providence Road Charlotte, NC 28226 704.366.5007

Richard Gergel, Esq., Past Presiden Memorial Reflections on Isadore		"A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life"	
William Ferris Personal Reflections on the Sout	1:30 pm Thern Jewish Experience	The exhibition opens to the public Highlights from the Exhibition	Noon 1:00 pm
Coffee Break	2:30 pm	Eli N. Evans Dale Rosengarten	
Meet the Authors: Three New Books Explore the Sout Eli N. Evans, Moderator Emily Bingham, Mordecai: An Early Judy Goldman, The Slow Way Back Louis D. Rubin, Jr., My Father's Peop	American Family	Growing Up Jewish in the Carolinas Panel Discussion: Three Carolinians will reflect experiences growing up in small towns in the C SEE PAGE 7 FOR HOTEL INFORM	Carolinas.
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Phone: Fax: E-mail:		Please mail this form along with your check to: JHSSC, Jewish Studies Program College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424	
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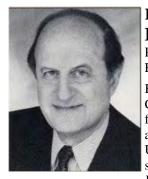
Saturday evening

Levine Museum of the New South 200 East 7th Street Charlotte, NC 28202 704.333.1887

Gala Reception for "A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life" *Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails will be served* 7:00 pm

Sunday, September 14Concurrent Meetings:8:45 amJewish Historical Society of South Carolina8:45 amJewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina9:45 amBagel Breakfast9:45 amEli N. Evans10:30 amKeynote Address:10:30 am

Seynote Address: *"This City is our* Jerusalem; *this Happy Land our* Palestine"



Keynote Eli N. Evans President, Charles H. Revson Foundation

Born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, Eli N. Evans earned degrees from the University of North Carolina and Yale Law School. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked as an aide and speechwriter in President Lyndon B. Johnson's administration. His first

book, *The Provincials* (1973), inaugurated the current renaissance in Southern Jewish letters. Reissued in a new edition in 1997 it is considered a classic in the field. Evans has written two other highly acclaimed works: *Judah P. Benjamin: The Jewish Confederate* (1988) and *The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Reflections of a Jewish Southerner* (1993). Since 1977, he has been president of the Charles H. Revson Foundation in New York City. In 2001 Evans was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in May 2003 he was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by the Jewish Theological Seminary.



Judy Goldman

Poet and novelist

Judy Goldman's first novel, *The Slow Way Back*, won the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction and the Mary Ruffin Poole First Work of Fiction Award. Author of two books of poetry (*Wanting to Know the End* and *Holding Back Winter*), she has received the Fortner Writer and Community Award,

which recognizes "outstanding generosity to other writers and the larger community." Her work has appeared in such literary journals as *Southern Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Ohio Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. A local commentator for National Public Radio, she teaches at writers' conferences throughout the Southeast, including the Duke University Writers' Workshop. Born and raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina, Goldman now lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

> You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. Special JHSSC rate (\$75 + tax for single or double) is available at : **Omni Charlotte Hotel** 132 E. Trade Street, Charlotte, SC 28202 704.377.0400 Easy walking distance to Levine Museum of the New South. **Rooms are limited, so reserve early. Be sure to mention "JHSSC"** for the special rate! Reservation deadline: Friday, August 22, 2003



William Ferris

Senior Associate Director, Center for the Study of the American South, University of North Carolina

Author, folklorist, filmmaker, and historian William R. Ferris has compiled a distinguished record of achievement and leadership during a career spanning nearly three decades. Before becoming chairman of the National Endowment for the Hu-

manities in November 1997, Dr. Ferris served for 18 years as founding director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. He has produced 16 documentary films and ten books, including the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. Ferris is a professor of history and folklore at UNC in Chapel Hill and serves as associate director of the University's Center for the Study of the American South.



Louis D. Rubin, Jr.

Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus

University of North Carolina

Editor, novelist, critic, essayist, teacher, and publisher Louis D. Rubin, Jr., has had an immeasurable effect on a generation of American writers and readers. Aptly termed "a living giant in the field of southern letters," Rubin has authored

52 books, including *The Golden Weather, Surfaces of a Diamond, Small Craft Advisory, The Mockingbird in the Gum Tree: A Literary Gallimaufry*, and most recently *My Father's People: A Family of Southern Jews.* Founding director of Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, he is Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at the University of North Carolina and a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers.



Emily Bingham

Independent scholar and historian

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Emily Bingham graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College, where she earned a prize for her undergraduate thesis in American history. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Returning to Ken-

tucky in 1995, she has taught at Bellarmine College and the University of Louisville. Ms. Bingham, who comes from a long line of distinguished newspaper editors and publishers, has written for both Louisville's *Courier-Journal* and for *The Raleigh News & Observer*. Bingham is the co-editor, with Thomas A. Underwood, of *The Southern Agrarians and the New Deal* (University Press of Virginia, 2001).

Pillars: Building a Strong Foundation



The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has made great strides in its brief history. Less than ten years old, it has sponsored a major national traveling exhibition, an excellent historical video, regular newsletters like this one, and well-attended and excellently programmed bi-annual meet-

ings. In fact, the Society has already become the largest statewide Jewish organization in South Carolina with 540 dues-paying members. Last fall we moved into our permanent home at the **Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center** at the College of Charleston. All of these are <u>major</u> accomplishments; each by itself would be a significant achievement for such a young organization.

The Society has no endowment yet. We need an operating budget to fund <u>all</u> of our activities. Membership dues do not cover the Society's operating expenses. The pillar campaign is designed to make up for the shortfall.

At its meeting in Camden in May, the Society allocated \$7,500 a year to help support the archival work of the Jewish Heritage Collection. Since 1997 the College of Charleston has absorbed <u>all</u> of JHC's expenses, with the Society as a huge beneficiary of the College's efforts. A "good faith commitment" to defray some of the expenses requires the Society to identify eight (8) additional pillars. Please help us reach our goal dedicated to the support of the Jewish Heritage Collection.

pillar photos by Enid Idelsohn

Name(s):		
Address:		
<i>City</i> :	State: Zip:	
Phone:	Fax:	
Email: Yes. I/we wa	nt to be a pillar of the IHS	SSC
Yes, I/we wa	nt to be a pillar of the JHS /we commit to a gift of \$5 of five years.	
Yes, I/we wa In doing so, I	/we commit to a gift of \$5 of five years.	

To date our list of pillars includes:

(parentheses indicate the year in which donations began)

John and Marcie Baker, Columbia, SC (2003) Alan Coleman, Charleston, SC (2003) Richard and Belinda Gergel, Columbia, SC (2002)

* Mimi Gleberman, Spring Island, SC (2002) Mark and Judith Green, Charleston, SC (2002) Ruth Greenberg, Florence, SC (2002) Michael Kogan, Little Falls, NJ (2002) Ronald and Anne Krancer, Villanova, PA (2002) Rabbi Ted and Ina Rae Levy, Hilton Head, SC (2002) Jack and Frieda Margolies, Charleston, SC (2002) Rose Mark, Beaufort, SC (2002) Susan Pearlstine, Park City, UT (2003) Benedict and Brenda Rosen, Myrtle Beach, SC (2003) Robert and Susan Rosen, Charleston, SC (2002) Jeffrey and Mickey Rosenblum, Charleston, SC (2002) Paul and Jayne Siegel, Walterboro, SC (2003) Steve and Harriett Steinert, Asheville, NC (2002) Gordan and Barbara Stine, Charleston, SC (2002) Mark Tanenbaum, Sullivan's Island, SC (2002) Bernard and Ann Warshaw, Walterboro, SC (2002)

SJHS to join JHSSC for October 2004 Meeting

Planning is underway for the Fall 2004 Meeting, when the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will host the Southern Jewish Historical Society. The meeting will celebrate Brith Sholom Beth Israel's 150th anniversary, as well as the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in America and the 10th anniversary of JHSSC.

The joint meeting will take place October 28-31, 2004 in Charleston. All three Charleston congregations will highlight the weekend with special services, meals, and other hospitality arrangements.

JHSSC's steering committee has already met several times, rooms have been reserved at three hotels, and a special concert is being planned for Saturday night at BSBI. Mark the dates on your calendar.

Committee members include Eve Berlinsky (KKBE), Leah Greenberg (Emanu-El), Enid Idelsohn, Sue Michalow, Martin Perlmutter, Robert Rosen, Sandra Rosenblum (BSBI), Dale Rosengarten, and Bernard and Ann Warshaw. If you want to help, call us at 953.3918.

^{*} Harvey Gleberman passed away this Spring in New York. May his memory be a blessing.

Jewish Revival at Georgetown's Temple Beth Elohim by Elizabeth Moses

Re-vI-val. Noun.

 An act or instance of *reviving*: the state of being *revived*: as *a*) renewed attention to or interest in something, *b*) a new presentation or publication of something old, *c*) a period of renewed religious interest. — *Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online*

Revival. Not quite the word, here in the Bible Belt, that one associates with Judaism, is it? That was my feeling when we asked the local paper to write an article about Temple Beth Elohim for publicity. The reporter used the word "revival" a half dozen times and I was aghast. Having grown up in the small town South, to me, "revival" had to do with tents, wailing preachers, and speaking in tongues. But according to the dictionary definition, that's exactly what is happening here in Georgetown, South Carolina.

Two summers ago, in June 2001, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC) held its regional meeting in Georgetown. It was a small, laid-back affair. The Kaminski House and the Jewish cemetery were open for tours. We attended services at Myrtle Beach's Temple Emanu-El, took a tour of Bernard Baruch's former plantation, Hobcaw Barony, and saw what sad shape Georgetown's Temple Beth Elohim was in.

The congregation had dwindled to five faithful members: Debbie Abrams, Rita Fogel, Alwyn Goldstein, Meyer Rosen, and Philip Schneider. These five came every Friday night for services. Alwyn, the only one with knowledge of Hebrew prayer, was affectionately known as "the rabbi." The service lasted 15 minutes, the Torah was not taken out, no songs were sung, no *oneg* was prepared. Yet they came. Every Friday night. To temple. To worship. To keep the faith.

People at the JHSSC meeting shook their heads sadly; this congregation was clearly on its way out. Assimilation, the lure of bigger cities and more lucrative careers, intermarriage — all the usual reasons were given to explain why their children and grand-children had moved away and why Beth Elohim was failing. One of the two Torahs was given to a synagogue in Texas. Discussions were held about selling the building and using the proceeds for perpetual care of the Jewish cemetery. Georgetown's Jews, with their long and influential history, were soon to be a memory.

But a revival happened. No wailing and crying, no baptisms and shouting preachers. Quietly. One step at a time. Renewed attention and religious interest from a new set of people. As we all know, the Grand Strand is booming and along with the general populace, many Jews are moving here too. And some of these Jews are seeking a Reform congregation. Scraps of paper surfaced, with the names and numbers of previous visitors to Temple Beth Elohim. Phone calls were made. Word began to spread, and people began to come.



Members of Temple Beth Elohim — Georgetown, SC, May 2003. Photo: Sylvia Cooper

In the fall of 2002, Temple Beth Elohim held six High Holy Day services, conducted entirely by lay leaders. Attendance at most of the services ranged from 25 to 35 people. A grand Break-the-Fast was put together, friends found friends, and most importantly, Jews found fellow Jews. New ideas came up in conversations and thinking began to shift. Perhaps this congregation could see a turn-around; perhaps there were enough people in the area who want to join a Reform congregation.

Shortly after Yom Kippur last year, Temple Beth Elohim began holding one full Torah service on the fourth Friday of each month, followed by an *oneg*. Attendance has been steady at 15-20 people at these services. Thousands of dollars have been donated to the temple and major grounds keeping done, the roof repaired, and a new heating and air conditioning system put in. The organ, which hadn't been used in 10 years, was repaired and we are slowly weaving songs and music back into the service. Lay leaders conduct services, teach Hebrew, and address religious and ritual questions. Our seder this year, catered at a local restaurant, drew a crowd of 52. Next year we will have to hold it at the temple since we have outgrown the restaurant.

For the first time in years, the temple will remain open for services over the summer. We will be re-listed in the telephone directory and we have launched a website. Most joyous of all, the congregation, founded in 1904, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2004. Come join us, we will *most certainly* be here. "Revivals" every Friday night at 7:30 pm!

For further information, please visit our website </www.templebethelohim.com>, or contact Elizabeth Moses at P.O. Box 5, Georgetown, SC, 29442, call 843-520-4833, or e-mail <embigblue@yahoo.com >.

Elizabeth Moses, a JHSSC board member, lives in Georgetown and is a member of Temple Beth Elohim. She is a researcher in the Marine Science Department at Coastal Carolina University.

Summer Reading





Mordecai: An Early American Family By Emily Bingham Hill and Wang, 2003 *Mordecai* is an intimate portrait of a Jewish American family in our nation's first century. Emily Bingham follows the generations as they define themselves as Southerners, Jews, and members of the

rising middle class. The Mordecai family recorded their struggles and triumphs in voluminous letters, diaries, newspaper articles, and books. Drawing on these rich sources, the book tracks national events through the relationships that speak most immediately to us – parent and child, brother and sister, husband and wife.



The Slow Way Back

By Judy Goldman William Morrow & Co., 1999 Tracing three generations of a Southern Jewish family, this remarkable debut novel peers into deeply rooted family secrets, explores the complex love between sisters, and celebrates the constant human struggle

to keep one's history alive. Set in the Carolinas, it tells the stories of three sets of sisters, each of whom shares a delicate closeness that is shattered by secrets and truths, by matters of faith, and by long-held resentments. This beautifully rendered novel raises penetrating questions about filial love, marriage, and belonging.



Chicken Dreaming Corn

By Roy Hoffman Hill Street Press, 2003 "In bursts of generosity, with all their warts and shortcomings visible, the characters seize their own lives and a piece of the reader's heart. Enveloped by his family, his friends, and his dreams, Hoffman's Morris Kleinman, of Piatra Neamt, Romania, and

Mobile, Alabama, is destined to join the ranks of fiction's immortals."– Sena Jeter Naslund, Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Louisville.

The JHSSC wishes to thank the following people for their contributions to the Summer 2003 Newsletter: Garry Baum, Rost Beyder, Stanley Farbstein, Susan Michalow, Kimberly Richey, Marlene Mischner, and Dale Rosengarten. — Design and Layout by Enid Idelsohn

national destseller The Ladies' Auxiliary



By Tova Mirvis W.W. Norton & Co., 2000 "A dash of *The Crucible*, a pinch of *The Golem*, a sharp eye, a keen ear, an engaging sense of humor, and an incomparable narrative voice render *The Ladies' Auxiliary* a small miracle. Tova Mirvis has transported the Salem witch hunt from

Puritan New England to a contemporary Orthodox Jewish community in Memphis, Tennessee, and the result is a highly original, wise and wonderful novel." – Binnie Kirshenbaum, author of *History on a Personal Note*.



Homelands: Southern-Jewish Identity in Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina By Leonard Rogoff

University of Alabama, 2000 *"Homelands* is the best monograph published thus far detailing the life cycle of small southern Jewish communities. Separating myth from reality, the book

does a marvelous job intertwining changes in community identity and demographics and providing insights into contemporary concerns for group continuity. This is a model community study." – Mark K. Bauman, editor of *Southern Jewish History*.



My Father's People: A Family of Southern Jews By Louis D. Rubin, Jr.

Louisiana State University Press, 2002 "In *My Father's People: A Family of Southern Jews* – his 52nd book – Louis Rubin returns to his origins.... In a ghostly scene in the prologue [he] revisits his Charleston family haunts and searches

again for the absent figures in the landscape. 'This book is not a eulogy,' he writes, 'but an effort to know.'...Here is the Jewish generational rise from storekeeping and immigrant poverty into the professions. The grandfather who writes fractured English yields to children who are journalists and playwrights. The grandson becomes a distinguished professor of American literature." – Leonard Rogoff, research historian at the Rosenzweig Museum and Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina, and editor of the *Rambler*, the newsletter of the Southern Jewish Historical Society.

Sumter Celebrates Jewish Heritage Days

Congregation Sinai and the Sumter County Museum co-sponsored Jewish Heritage Days on April 12-13, 2003 with an exhibition on "Sumter's Jewish Community in the 1800s" at the museum and displays of historical material in the archives of Temple Sinai. The program began during Friday evening Services. Led by Rabbi Robert A. Seigel.

Saturday morning Dale Rosengarten presented a slide show to an overflow crowd at the museum. Dale focused on Sumter contributions to the making of the exhibition, "A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life." Morris Mazursky followed with a talk on notable Jewish families of Sumter.

Participants then chose either to tour the Jewish cemetery or to watch Dr. Hannah Kirschenfeld mix, knead,



and bake challah. Everyone convened behind the museum where a homemade picnic lunch was served. The program ended back at Temple Sinai with a demonstration of *shofar* blowing and a wonderful performance

Picnic at Sumter County Museum Photo: Phil Moise

by Koleinu, the choir of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim of Charleston

Speakers' Bureau Up & Running

by Rabbi Robert A. Seigel

For the past several months a dedicated group of JHSSC members have been meeting regularly to develop a Speakers' Bureau. When it is ready to be fully launched, the JHSSC will be able to offer programs to every Jewish congregation and affiliate in the State as well as to civic organizations and church groups. The dual purpose of the Speakers' Bureau is to educate as many people as possible about the rich Jewish heritage of South Carolina and to increase the Society's membership base.

The program will begin slowly and grow. It will start with a pilot program in the Charleston area, then move to the Columbia area, and then throughout the entire State.

The Speakers' Bureau has been viewing the several chapters of the JHSSC video, *Land of Promise*, and discussing "talking points" so that a presentation might include a segment of the film followed by a discussion. In this way the Bureau can offer a variety of subjects to prospective audiences. A template on each segment of the video is being created to foster discus-

sion.

The Speakers' Bureau Committee consists of Jack Bass, Sol Breibart, Carolee Fox, Harlan Greene, Jeanne Lieberman, Morey Lipton, Martin Perlmutter, Klyde Robinson, Robert Rosen, Anita Rosenberg, Jeff Rosenblum, Dale Rosengarten, and Bob Seigel. We are actively seeking new recruits. To join the committee or suggest possible venues, please contact jhssc@cofc.edu..

Happy 100th Birthday to Hanna Pearlstine

- Born April 28, 1903 St. Matthews, SC
- B.A.: History, Converse College Spartanburg, SC, 1924
- History teacher, Columbia High School Columbia, SC 1928—1968
- pioneer member, Plantation Village, Wilmington, NC, 1988
- proud aunt to 44 descendents
- beloved senior member of JHSSC



age 4





age 21

age 100



Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program College of Charleston 96 Wentworth Street Charleston, SC 29424



HISTORICAL

Jewish Studies Program College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424 (843)953-3918 fax: (843)953-7624

> Martin Perlmutter, Executive Director

Officers Robert Rosen, President Bernard Warshaw, Vice-President David J. Cohen, Treasurer Arline Polinsky, Secretary Isadore Lourie, Founding President Richard Gergel Klyde Robinson Jeffrey Rosenblum Past Presidents

Board of Directors Irving Abrams, Greenville Gerty Sue Arnold, Columbia Eve Berlinsky, Charleston Jack Bloom, Greenville H.J. Brand, Greenville Sol Breibart, Charleston Leah Chase, Charleston Robert Dreyfus, Greenville Stanley Farbstein, Charleston Carolee Rosen Fox, Charleston Belinda Gergel, Columbia Ben Goldberg, Charleston Lyssa Harvey, Columbia Ruth Jacobs, Charleston Alan Kahn, Columbia Harriet Keyserling, Beaufort Michael Kogan, Charleston Harold Kornblut, Latta Mike Krupsaw, Anderson Theodore Levy, Hilton Head Mick Lourie, Columbia Jane Mendelsohn, Charleston Elizabeth Moses, Georgetown Harby Moses, Sumter Robert Moses, Sumter Sandra Rosenblum, Charleston Julian Schoenberg, Greenville Robert Seigel, Charleston

Jewish Heritage Collection Dale Rosengarten, Curator

ANNUAL DUES FOR THE SOCIETY (MEMBERSHIP RUNS ON A CALENDAR YEAR, JANUARY- DECEMBER)

Please join the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Fill out this form and return it to:

JHSSC, Jewish Studies Program, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424 *Please make checks payable to JHSSC*

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone: ()	Fax: ()
E-mail Address:		
(MEMBI	ANNUAL DUES FOR 2 ERSHIP RUNS ON A CALENDAR YEAR,	
	_ Individual/Family Membership	\$36
	_ Friend	\$200
	_ Sponsor	\$350
	_ Founding Patron	\$1000
	Pillar	\$5000 (\$1000 for five years)

2003 GIFT MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Enroll a friend or family member for an additional \$36. Please provide their information and we will inform them of your gift.

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of South Carolina

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Robert Rosen

From the Presidents

There is no greater honor than to be a *past* president of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Having said that, I can say in all sincerity, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve you and the Society.

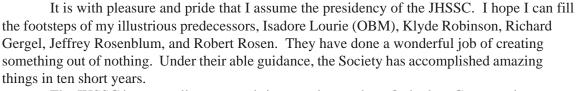
The last two years have been exciting. I promised to be a "party president" and during my term we did indeed put on great parties, notably the black tie gala at the Gibbes Museum's opening of *A Portion of the People*. I had the opportunity to see through to completion several projects begun by past presidents Lourie, Robinson, Gergel, and Rosenblum, notably our excellent documentary, *Land of Promise: The Jews of South Carolina*.

The major challenge facing the Society today is continued funding. The past presidents have agreed to serve as a fund-raising committee, but any of you may join this select group! It will take all of us to match the record of our founding president, Isadore Lourie, but I think we can do it.

The Society is now in the capable hands of its new president, Bernard Warshaw of Walterboro, its executive director, Marty Perlmutter, and a large and capable board of directors. I look forward to working with all of you in making the JHSSC the most vital statewide Jewish organization in South Carolina.

Rob T

Robert Rosen Past President



The JHSSC is an excellent way to bring people together. Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Secular, Reconstructionist, and Chasidic labels become unimportant in the context of our common history and heritage. Not even the size of your hometown matters, as evidenced by the fact that I am from Walterboro, and have been chosen to serve as your next president.

I'd like to say a few words about my vision for the Society. I am eager to begin more grassroots initiatives to get people working on history. With the College of Charleston's help we have compiled over 300 oral histories, hundreds of manuscripts, photographs, and genealogical records. Looking to the future, we need to collect photos of congregations, Jewish artifacts, cemetery records, and information on marriages and bar and bat mitzvahs. We need Jewish communities across the state to mobilize to conserve these materials.

JHSSC has a terrific central structure, unusual for such a young organization. We have a well-equipped office in the new Jewish Studies Center, headed ably by Enid Idelsohn; we publish two newsletters a year; with Paul Keyserling's help we produced an hour-long video for public TV; the College of Charleston Library has built a terrific archives on South Carolina Jewish history, and is following up its landmark exhibition, *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life*, with a "virtual" version for the Internet.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. We now need to recruit new members, especially among young people. We must increase the participation of our Board and our general membership and add to our list of pillars.

I am committed to being an active president and hope to continue the tradition of strong leadership that the Society has enjoyed since its inception. Feel free to call, write, or e-mail me. I am at your service.

12 shaw

Bernard Warshaw President



Bernard Warshaw

Cover photo: Glenn Springs, SC August 22, 1925

from the collection of Max and Jennie Garfinkel

See pages 4-5 for article and key to photo.

JHSSC Spring Meeting in Georgetown, SC March 20-21, 2004

Front Street, Georgetown, SC, 1917 with J.M. Ringel Department Store

on the left



by Elizabeth Moses

In the last JHSSC newsletter, I wrote about the revival taking place at Georgetown's Temple Beth Elohim. Things are still hopping here - our new membership list stands at 40 (individuals/families) - quite a change from the five members just a year and a half ago.

As many of you know, Temple Beth Elohim is a sister congregation to Charleston's K.K. Beth Elohim. Jews migrated up to Georgetown from Charleston, arriving here by 1761 and establishing businesses. Georgetown's Hebrew cemetery was founded in 1772, making it the second oldest Jewish cemetery in the state.

The Jews of Georgetown worshipped in each other's homes and also at the Winyah Indigo Society. In1904, Congregation Beth Elohim was formally organized. They had over 100 members at that time and were served by KKBE's rabbis - first Barnett Elzas and later Jacob Raisin.

Georgetown's Beth Elohim was incorporated in 1921, and in1949 the current building was completed. The congregation is celebrating its centennial this year, beginning with the JHSSC meeting in March.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

You need to make your own hotel arrangements.

Hampton Inn, 420 Marina Drive Georgetown, SC 29440 843.545.5000

Rate is \$85.00 per night. YOU MUST book by Wednesday, March 3rd or the rate goes to \$109.00. (Includes DELUXE Continental Breakfast.) Mention **"Jewish Historical Society"** when you call.



Georgetown City Hall, 1950

Schedule of Events:

Friday March 19th -7:30pm - Services at Temple Beth Elohim (Reform) Saturday, March 20th -Tours of the Kaminski House run on the hour. Arrive 15 minutes prior to the hour and tell them you are from the JHSSC for a special rate. Afternoon programs at Temple Beth Elohim 12:30pm - 2:00pm Film: Trembling Before G-d 2:15pm - 3:00pm Film: For Every Person There Is A Name 3:00pm - 5:00pm - Panel Discussion: "Old Timers and Newcomers" 5:00pm - 7:00pm - Dinner on your own 7:30pm - 10:00pm - Cocktails at the Heritage Plantation Clubhouse on Pawleys Island Sunday, March 21st -9:30 - 11:00am - JHSSC Board Meeting at Temple Beth Elohim

Glenn Springs: A Mystery Partially Solved

by Sandra Lee Kahn Rosenblum





Irvin (Dunny) and Joseph Zalkin

Edward Melgood



Rivkah Leah Kirshstein Goldberg

Jack and Luba Kapler Brickman and Ida Goldberg Breibart

family and still going strong (see pages 6-7). We asked Harry Price, grandson and namesake of the founder, if he knew anything about Glenn Springs. He remembered his father going there on the streetcar and coming back with bottles of spring water, but he knew nothing of a Jewish connection.

The woman at the historical society was very helpful and gave me a thick folder with information about the resort. A brief history revealed that the spring was frequented as early as the 18th century and possibly visited by George Washington, but became a popular watering hole when the Glenn Springs Hotel was built in 1840. The mineral water, reputed to have great health benefits, was bottled and shipped across the country. In 1931 it was sent to Washington D.C. and made available in the Senate cloak rooms. The resort was well known, attracting visitors from near and far. The original beautiful wooden building burned in 1941, and the site remained vacant until the Boys' Home was built in the 1980s.

I asked Max Kirshstein, Jack and Fay Brickman, Sammye Solomon, and "Unc" Cohen, who all went to Glenn Springs as children, what memories they have of the place. They all remember the long trip by train or car. No one recollects exactly what was done about kosher food. Sammye recalls a market where they bought groceries. Jack remembers a large dining room. The return address on my father's letter is Marks House; perhaps it was a kosher boarding house that catered to the Jewish clientele.

Shortly after my mother's death in 1973, I found a letter among her belongings. It was written by my

father and sent to Baltimore where she had taken her new baby (me) to meet her family. The letter was written from Glenn Springs, South Carolina. I was so intrigued by my dad's romantic tone that I didn't wonder too much about what he was doing there.

Fast forward 22 years. While working with the JHSSC and asking people for old family photographs, I kept seeing pictures of families from Charleston taken at Glenn Springs in the 1920s and 1930s. Remembering my father's letter, I found Glenn Springs on the map about 12 miles from Spartanburg.

Two years ago my husband Raymond, sister-inlaw Caroline, and I drove up there. We found a charming crossroads with several handsome Victorian houses, an old abandoned post office, and a small grocery store. I went in the store and asked where the resort was located. They told me the Spartanburg Boys' Home was now on the site of the old hotel. We drove to the Home where a lovely lady, Helga Moglin, offered to show us the spring and the remains of an old bottling plant. Mrs. Moglin is Jewish but a relative newcomer to Spartanburg. She knew nothing about Jews coming to the resort and suggested we go to the Spartanburg Historical Society to get more information.

The Society is housed right up the street from Prices' Store for Men, established in 1903 by a Jewish

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From the photographs, it appears that the Jewish Charlestonians who frequented the resort were mainly recent immigrants, "uptown" Jews who had left Eastern Europe in the decades before and after World War I. They included a core group of Kalushiners – newcomers from Kaluzsyn, Poland – who in 1911 helped found Beth Israel, also known as "The Little Shul." Why were the "greenhorns" attracted to Glenn Springs? Perhaps they were familiar with the spas in Europe and came to "take the waters."

We would like to know if Jewish people from other parts of the South also vacationed there, if the resort actively solicited Jews, and who took all the photos.



Gittel and Jake Lerner



Rivka Goldberg, the Lerners, the Sokols, and ???



Photos (l to r) from the collections of Robert Zalkin, Dutch Cohen, Fanny Appel Rones, Mickey and Irving Sonenshine, Minnie and Morris Feinberg, Philip and Leah Chase, and Jeannie Sokol Rosner. Courtesy of the Jewish Heritage Collection, College of Charleston Library.

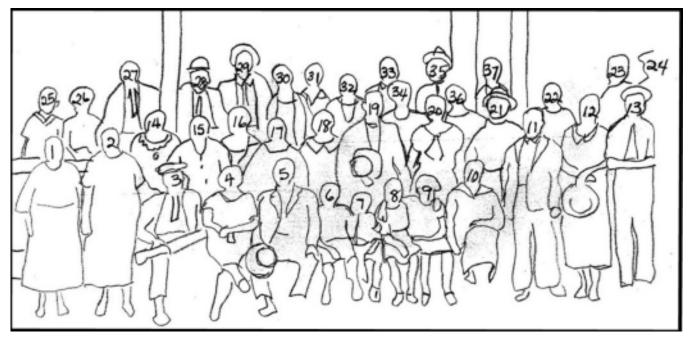
Ida and Morris Sokol

On the Cover - photo taken at Glenn Springs, SC - August 22, 1925

If you have any information about Glenn Springs or can identify anyone else in the cover photo (see key below), please contact me by phone: 843.766.9671, or by e-mail: srose707@aol.com. Reference the e-mail to Glenn Springs so I'll be sure to open it.

So far, we have been able to identify:

Mrs. Solomon (?) 2. Rivkah Leah Kirshstein Goldberg 3. Ben Zion Kaufman 4. Gittel Lerner 5. Jake Lerner
 Walter (Pugie) Solomon 7. Sammye (Notie) Solomon 11. Nathan Kirshstein 13. Izzie Altman 15. Devorah
 Gittel Kirshstein Kaufman 17. Yocheved Kirshstein Naimark 18. Mima (Aunt) Vittel Altman 19. Martin Zucker
 Noah Sokol.



A Good Fit for 100 Years

by Jeff Romig

Reprinted with permission from the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, January 5, 2003



1904

As 19-year-old Harry Price stepped off his train onto the Magnolia Street Station gravel in 1900, one trek ended and another began. Price hadn't just embarked on a 700-mile-trip from New York City to the South; he had set out in search of a new life just as his ancestors did when they left Lithuania for the United States three decades earlier.

His brother-in-law, J. J. Saul of Hartwell, Georgia, said Spartanburg was known as a "good town for business." So Price decided to ride the rails for another 90-mile stint in search of the ideal place to plant his roots. He set up his first men's clothing store on Morgan Square, dubbing it The New York Bazaar. The store was renamed Price's Clothing Store, and later Prices' Store for Men. It has remained a fixture in Spartanburg's central business district.

This year, the institution Price gave birth to turns 100 with his grandson Harry at the helm. "It wasn't such a stretch for a Jewish boy born in New York City to transform himself into a good ol' boy in Spartanburg," said the younger Price, who began working in the store after graduate school in the late 1970s and took over full time when his father Bill passed away in 1999.

Price never knew his grandfather, who passed away in May 1937, but he was told the stories of the elder Price's soft-spoken, self-effacing personality that was a key to his success. Another factor in his success was the commonly held notion that his store was one of the plaes to be in downtown Spartanburg.



2003

"They would sit around the pot-belly stove in Prices' under the one electric light, drink a little corn whiskey and swap stories," Price said. Price returned from his honeymoon in 1909 to find his store in shambles after it was gutted by fire. So he moved farther down East Main Street and settled in beside August W. Smith Co. Prices' then relocated twice in the 1930s before arriving at its current Main Street location in 1976.

During Prices' early years, the patriarch, a founding member of Spartanburg's B'nai Israel Temple, would stand in front of the store, shaking the hands of the passers-by and patting the heads of their children. Bill Price, who was born and educated in downtown Spartanburg, began working full-time for his father in 1929 and remained at the helm of Prices' for the next 70 years. Bill Price and his wife Miriam were two of the first people Mayor Bill Barnet met when he arrived in Spartanburg, and he became an instant fan of the family. "They believed in our central business district when it wasn't fashionable to do so," he said.

These days, Harry Price calls longtime customers by name before they get more than a foot inside his store. "I love a comfortable relationship with a customer," Price said. And his customers notice.

Twenty-five-year-old Robert Pickens IV, Aron Pickens, 23, and Jesse Pickens, 20, are the fourth generation of Pickens men to shop at Prices'. "He's so good to each one of them," said Paula Pickens. Their father Bobby, grandfather Robert Jr. and great-grandfather Robert Sr. all were regulars at Prices' over the past century. "Hopefully, a few years from now, we can have a fifth generation to shop at Prices'," Paula Pickens said.

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Strong customer relations have been part of Prices' since the store's inception, but it has adapted to the times. Harry Price now makes office visits and offers services such as order tracking and Federal Express delivery. But those services are nothing compared to what Price will begin offering in April. The store is part of an experimental program where a computer-imaging machine will scan a customer's body inch-by-inch to retrieve accurate measurements.

Fabric will then be selected and sent to a tailor. "In 10 days, you'll have a custom-made suit FedExed back to you," Price said. Price said each suit would cost between \$500 and \$700, which he said was less than the usual custom-made suit. It is innovation like this that Price believes will carry the store into its second century in the central business district.

"You don't stay in business without changing," he said. "We're changing every day."

Prices' has been known for being on the cutting edge of fashion over the years. Harry Price said a lady that moved to Spartanburg from Boston in the 1940s demanded that the store order Levi's jeans for her sons. They did, and were the first store in Spartanburg to carry the famous jeans.

The store was also the only place in Spartanburg during the 1960s where Bass Weejuns could be found.



"Everybody had a Weejun story," Price recalled. "People could remember when they got their first pair and what color they were."

Mrs. Ross (at front of car), 1912

Price is celebrating the store's 100th anniversary by holding a drawing each month for a wardrobe package. His only regret is that his father didn't live to see 2003. That regret is based partly in the landmark anniversary, but it's also based on the growth of downtown Spartanburg.

Price said his father was a Spartanburg boy who was pulling for downtown every step of the way. He would be wide-eyed with pride by the downtown's transformation, Price said.

"I think it's so appropriate that our store celebrates this important milestone as (downtown) Spartanburg starts to boom again, in much the same way my grandfather found it 100 years ago," he said.

Intercultural Studies at Presbyterian College

By Dr. Greg Henley



Friends of Klezmer at Presbyterian College, November, 2003

Presbyterian College's Southeastern Center for Intercultural Studies, in Clinton, South Carolina, has chosen as its theme for the 2003/04 academic year "Jews in the South." Founded in 2002 to address a pervasive issue in American higher education – the tendency toward provincialism and ethnocentrism – the Center aims to help students understand their place in the world and better appreciate the cultures, views, and faith of those who differ from the typical Presbyterian College student.

Dr. Terry Barr, Professor of English, spearheaded efforts to select the Center's first annual theme. Born in Alabama, the son of a Jewish father, Barr's interest in his heritage inspired him to write "A Shtetl Grew in Bessemer: Temple Beth-El and Bessemer's Jewish Community," published in the journal *Southern Jewish History* in 2000.

Early in November Drs. Ted and Dale Rosengarten of McClellanville, South Carolina, led a two-day symposium, including a meeting with Professor Barr's Holocaust Seminar, an all-campus convocation, and a trip to the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, North Carolina, where *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life* was on view. Earlier in the semester, Bill Aron's photographic exhibit, *Bagels and Grits*, was displayed on campus. A Jewish film festival, a performance by Friends of Klezmer, and a concert by South Carolina composer Meira Warshauer also were featured events.

Next year's theme will be the civil rights movement in South Carolina. For more information, contact Center Director Greg Henley at <ghenley@mail.presby.edu>

Pillars: From Strength to Strength



Since its inception ten years ago, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has succeeded in putting the Palmetto State on the map of American Jewish life – just in the nick of time. The year 2004 marks the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America, and commemorative activities are planned across the country.

Thanks to the two-year run of *A Portion of the People: 300 Years of Southern Jewish Life*, distribution of the JHSSC video *Land of Promise*, and a surge in scholarly interest in Southern Jewish history, South Carolina is getting a fair share of the limelight. We plan to turn up the wattage next October with our most ambitious meeting ever – a joint venture with the Southern Jewish Historical Society. Plan on joining us.

For ten years JHSSC has counted on the Jewish Heritage Collection to create an information network across the state and bring South Carolina's story to a national audience. Through a touring exhibition and a beautiful book, and an archival collection that won the first annual Governor's Archive Award, JHC has accomplished these tasks while garnering high praise from top scholars in the field of American Jewish history.

Yet our heritage work is just beginning. To deepen and sustain the impact of *A Portion of the People*, JHC has embarked on a project to develop a "virtual" online version of the exhibition. The Collection is accepting archival materials at an increasing clip and is committed to completing its South Carolina Holocaust Archives this year. In addition, College of Charleston library's Special Collections staff members have initiated several new Jewish Heritage publications and are consulting on two new exhibit projects.

All these activities cost time and money. JHSSC is looking for six new "pillars" who will contribute \$1,000 a year for five years, to fulfill the Society's annual pledge of \$7,500 in support of the Jewish Heritage Collection. We invite you to join our distinguished list of contributors. Your gift is an investment in cultural conservation and education that will reap high dividends for years to come.

We have added the following to our list of Pillars: Lee and Karen Ortner - Charleston, SC (2004)

Both Harvey and Mimi Gleberman of Spring Island, SC, two of our original pillars, passed away in 2003. May their memory be a blessing.

Name(s):	
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Vec I/we want to	be a pillar of the IHSSC

Yes, I/we want to be a pillar of the JHSSC. In doing so, I/we commit to a gift of \$5,000 over a period of five years.

Check enclosed \$_____



~ Membership Included ~

October 28-31, 2004 Charleston, SC



SAVE THE DATE!

Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center at the College of Charleston, home of the JHSSC.

There will be a joint meeting of the JHSSC and the Southern Jewish Historical Society in Charleston, SC, highlighting the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America and the 150th anniversary of Brith Sholom Beth Israel, the Orthodox synagogue in Charleston. It is also the tenth anniversary of the JHSSC. There will be talks, tours of historic Charleston, book signings, and a gala reception and concert. Hotels are already reserved, speakers are lined-up, so please join us for the festivities.

Pearlstine Distributors: A Brief History

The Early Years

The origins of Pearlstine Distributors stretch back to the turbulent years of this country's Civil War era. After arriving in America in 1854, Russian immigrant Tanchum "Thomas" Pearlstine and his son Isaac Moses Pearlstine traveled the rural South selling household goods and saving money to bring other family members to the United States. After the outbreak of the war, they continued their itinerant business style, selling home-made brass buckles and buttons for the uniforms of Confederate soldiers.

1862

During the war, the Pearlstines continued their itinerant business style, selling buckles, caps and corn-cob buttons for Confederate uniforms. Isaac also worked at Sullivan's Island on a project to extract salt from seawater. Salt was in short supply



ports. **1865**

Only a few weeks after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Isaac M. Pearlstine opened a small general store in the tiny community of Beech Hill, South Carolina. **1877**

due to the Union blockade of Confederate

With his sons Shep and Hyman, Isaac Pearlstine operated a carriage and buggy business in nearby Charleston.

1883-85

The Pearlstines opened a small grain business in Ridgeville, a company they closed two years later to open a wholesale grocery, hay and grain business in Charleston at 493 King Street.

1903

The Pearlstine's Charleston-based company moved to a three-story brick building and warehouse at 201-203 East Bay Street. In another building near the U.S. Customs House and Isle of Palms Ferry wharf, they sold hardware, wagons, tack, roofing and fencing.



Early 1900s

I.M. Pearlstine & Sons expanded to include wholesale and retail stores in Walterboro, Eutawville, Mount Holly, Hampton, Kingstree, Sumter and Florence.

1918

The family company purchased Farline Supply Company, a hardware firm that would evolve into a distributor for Bevo, a beerflavored soft drink developed by Anheuser-Busch in anticipation of Prohibition. Most of the satellite stores were sold within the next few years.

1933

Prohibition was repealed. Although Bevo production had ended years earlier, the Pearlstine company's affiliation with Anheuser-Busch continued. In 1933 I.M. Pearlstine & Sons was distributing Michelob beer and other products from the rapidly growing brewer.

1934

After the death of Hyman Pearlstine, control of the business went to a cousin, Sam Cohen, and to Shep Pearlstine's sons, Milton and Edwin Sr.

1950

The grocery lines were sold to allow the company to concentrate on beer distribution in seven South Carolina counties: Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton and Jasper.

1961

The company's two remaining satellite stores were sold and a branch distribution operation was established in Beaufort.

1970

Having outgrown its East Bay site, the company moved to a thenspacious new beer distribution facility on Gaynor Avenue in North Charleston.



1971

Pearlstine Distributors was incorporated and I.M. Pearlstine & Sons became a real estate and investment management firm.

1982

Palmetto Distributors was created as a Pearlstine Distributors subsidiary handling distribution of wines, soda, snack foods, liquor, mixers and bar supplies.

1995

Palmetto Distributors was sold and Pearlstine Distributors focused entirely on the distribution of beer.

1996

The fifth generation of Pearlstines assumed ownership positions when the majority of the company was purchased by Susan Pearlstine and Jan Pearlstine Lipov from their father Edwin Pearlstine Jr.



2003

In the Charleston region's East Cooper area, on Daniel Island, Pearlstine Distributors opened one of the region's largest and most advanced beer distribution facilities.



Bernard Mannes Baruch Financier, philanthropist, and presidential advisor

South Carolina's most famous Jewish son, Bernard Mannes Baruch, was born in Camden in 1870. His father, Simon Baruch, had fled conscription in Prussia and arrived in Camden in 1855; he served as a surgeon in the Confederate Army, and later pioneered techniques of appendectomies and hydrotherapy. Bernard's mother, Isabelle Wolfe, descended from a Sephardic ancestor named Isaac Rodriquez Marques who, on September 17, 1687, was made a freeman of New Amsterdam, now New York City.

Marques, according to Bernard Baruch's own account, was a ship owner engaged in both coastal trade and the infamous triangular route bringing African captives to the New World. "It is worth noting," Baruch wrote in *My Own Story* (1957, p. 15), "that whatever wealth came to Marques from the cruel traffic in slaves was paid for over and over again through the suffering and loss of life and fortune by his descendants both in the North and South during the Civil War."

Isaac's son Samuel moved to Charleston, South Carolina, in the late 1700s. His daughter Deborah married Hartwig Cohen, *hazzan* of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim. The Cohens' daughter, Sarah, was courted by Sailing Wolfe, a young merchant and planter from the upcountry town of Winnsboro. Among the thirteen children born to Sarah Cohen Wolfe was Isabelle – the

third child and first daughter – who would marry Simon Baruch and bear four sons.

In his memoirs, Bernard recollected his great-grandmother Cohen as a fastidious old lady of more than 80 years, with neat shawls and fingerless gloves. Her fondest memory was of dancing with Lafayette in 1825. She also remembered the War of 1812 and recounted her mother's tales of the British occupation of New York during the American Revolution.

The house on Broad Street where Baruch was born and raised was demolished in the 1950s and the property was acquired by the First Baptist Church.

Living in a three-story frame house on Broad Street in Camden, Baruch recalled, "was almost like living in the open country. Directly behind the house were a vegetable garden, stables, and barn. Beyond them stretched three acres of land which Father had turned into a kind of experimental 'farm'."

The family moved to New York City six months after Bernard's tenth birthday. At 19, he worked as an office boy and runner on Wall Street. At 25, he became a junior partner in the firm of A. A. Housman & Co., and by age 30 he was a millionaire.

Baruch credits his parents with steering him toward philanthropy. When he told his father he'd made a million, Dr. Baruch said he would take his son's word for it and continued with his conversation. "Of what use to a man are a million dollars," Bernard pondered in his memoirs (p. 177-8), "unless he does something worthwhile with them?"

In 1913 Baruch gave the City of Camden and County of Kershaw the gift of Camden's first hospital, in honor of his father. On February 4, 1921, a fire destroyed the main building of the hospital, and Baruch made a donation toward its reconstruction and the creation of the Camden Hospital Training School for nurses. He asked that the nurses' home be dedicated to his mother, who he recalled, had urged him not to forget his southern roots and stay in touch with the world he had known as a boy.



Indeed, in 1905 Baruch began acquiring large tracts of land on the South Carolina coast, piecing together Hobcaw Barony - a 17,500-acre estate just north of Georgetownas a winter residence and hunting retreat. There, during the 1930s and 40s. he and his daughter Belle entertained such



Belle W. Baruch, Bernard M. Baruch, Sir Winston Churchill, and his daughter Diana at the Hobcaw Barony dock, 1932

dignitaries as Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Irving Berlin, Jack London, and Claire Booth Luce.

In 1918 Baruch had been named to head the War Industries Board. The next year he attended the Versailles Peace Conference, conferring with President Woodrow Wilson on the economic terms of the treaty that ended World War I. An advisor to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Baruch also served in the Truman administration as counselor to fellow South Carolinian and Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. In 1946 Baruch was appointed as the American delegate to the United Nation's Atomic Energy Commission where he helped design policy for international atomic energy control.

Bernard Baruch was married to Annie Griffen and they had three children. Baruch died in New York City on June 20, 1965, at age 94.

Three days later the *Camden Chronicle* ran the headline, "Funeral Services Held Today for Advisor to Presidents" and referred to him as one of Camden's own.

Louis Loucheur, Sir Winston Churchill, David Lloyd George and Bernard M. Baruch, Paris Peace Conference at the Palace of Versailles, 1919



Baruch Plaques Saved from the Scrap Heap

— based on an article in the Newsletter of the Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum, April 2001

Four bronze plaques that once hung on the walls of Camden's first hospital were saved from the scrap metal heap by Harry Kline, owner of Camden Steel and Metal Company. The plaques commemorate the parents, friends, and cousin of Bernard Baruch. Likely they had been in storage five to ten years after an extensive remodeling of the current hospital. The contractor who had done the renovation could find no one at the hospital who wanted the markers, so in 1999 he sold them as scrap to Kline.



Jack Scheuer, M.D., Michael Mischner, Barbara James and Harry Kline holding the rescued plaques Photo courtesy of Marlene Mischner, Camden, SC

"I buy all kinds of different metals such as aluminum and brass for recycling," Kline says. When he read the inscription on the plaques and thought about what Baruch had done around town he decided, "I'll just keep these." He held onto the plaques for about a year. "In late September [2000] at Rosh Hashanah services we were talking at temple about Bernard Baruch. I mentioned that I had some plaques," Kline recalled. "At Yom Kippur services on October 9, I brought the plaques for everyone to see."

Marlene Mischner, who served as associate archivist at the Camden Archives and Museum in the early 1980s, was well aware of the Baruch material already at the Archives. She alerted Director Agnes Corbett and in December, 2000, the plaques were presented as gifts to the Archives.

The JHSSC wishes to thank the following people for their help with the Winter 2004 Newsletter: Rachel Bauer, Rost Beyder, Kimberly Richey, Marwa Shideed, Andrew Woods, and Dale Rosengarten.



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THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of South Carolina





Bernard Warsha

Cover photo:

Rabbi Benjamin G. Axelman leading a study group in the meeting room of A.Z.A. Chapter 143, on the corner of Burns Lane and King Street, ca. 1935. The women in the photo were members of the Council of Jewish Juniors, established in 1919 by the Charleston section of the National Council of Jewish Women.

Left to right, back row: Gus Simon, Isaac Jacobs, Harold Cohen, William "Billy" Baum, David "Rocky" Goldberg, Aaron Solomon, Alwyn Goldstein, Alex Garfinkel, Harold Jacobs; seated: Leon Banov, Jr., Madeline Karesh, Esta Solomon, Morris Yaschik, Sylvia Cohen, Irving Karesh, George Kaminsky, Beatrice "Beatsie" Bluestein, Aaron Prystowsky, Elmore Solomon, Walter Karesh, Solomon Breibart, Lena Feldman, George Breibart, Ralph Coleman, Gussie Toporek, Walter "Puggy" Solomon, Julius "Scruddy" Rosenblatt, Samuel J. "Sammy" Solomon, Rabbi Benjamin Axelman.

Photo: Gift of Solomon Breibart. Jewish Heritage Collection, College of Charleston Library.

From^{the} President Bernard Warshaw

This coming October when we meet in Charleston, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will celebrate its tenth anniversary. The Society has come a long way in ten short years. We have mounted a nationally traveling exhibition, produced an excellent hour-long documentary, developed the best archives on South Carolina Jewish history anywhere, published bi-annual newsletters, hosted well-attended meetings, and created a grassroots organization with more than 500 dues-paying members, a home base at the College of Charleston, and professional staff to oversee operations. Most important, we have put South Carolina's long and significant Jewish story on the map just in time for the national commemoration of 350 years of Jewish settlement in America.

The meetings in October promise to be outstanding. Many volunteers are working hard to plan activities, coordinate publicity, and collaborate on hospitality and citywide events. Leah Greenberg, Sandra Rosenblum, and Eve Berlinsky deserve special mention; they are as devoted and efficient as any volunteers I have ever seen. All three congregations in Charleston are joining the festivities, with Brith Sholom Beth Israel using the meeting to celebrate its own very significant 150th anniversary. The Southern Jewish Historical Society, our co-sponsors, expect their biggest attendance to date, and the national committee to "Celebrate 350" is highlighting the conference in recognition of the special importance of South Carolina Jewish history. Send in your reservations early—we're likely to have a sell-out crowd.

My prime goal as president is to make the Society reflect its strong grassroots support. To encourage each community to become engaged in preserving its history, I am implementing structures to coordinate local efforts. This special anniversary issue of the Newsletter is a beginning, with four articles from our members. Stanley Farbstein has done yeoman's work with the cemetery project, creating a model for documenting weddings, births, and other lifecycle events, synagogue architecture, and the like. I am in the process of restructuring the Society's Board of Directors to accord with the new focus.

I am proud to be your leader through these exciting times. Please join us in October for a memorable weekend and help us organize projects in your community. Do not hesitate to call me at <u>843.549.7404</u> or e-mail me at <u>Warshaw@lowcountry.com</u> if I can be of any help.

Sincerely,

Claeshaw

Bernard Warshaw President



In the barnyard at the Aiken colony

Happyville: A "Kibbutz" Grows in Aiken

by Marcia Savin

"We had 2,300 acres between a village, Montmorenci, and Aiken, South Carolina. We grew watermelon, cotton, corn, even grapes. Had our own pond. Let the water out once a year. We'd walk in and pick up catfish, pike, sunfish, smelt. Have a fish fry. We dammed the stream to power our cotton gin and sawmill. Lots of trees, lumber to sell. It was called Happyville."

Last year, I was listening to a 1982 tape¹ of my uncle Al Rothman, then 84, describing life in 1907—he was nine. The story fascinated me. My grandparents, Morris and Bertha, aged 39 and 30, respectively, Morris's brother, and eight other families started a communal farm down South. Newly arrived from Eastern Europe, Yiddishspeaking socialists, they left the hated New York sweatshops for a dream.

"One neighbor helped us," said Al. "One-Arm Taylor. Lost the arm in the War." *The Civil War!* "I'd say to him, how do you plant this and he'd give the information. Because my dad wasn't really a farmer. I don't think any of them was."

But Al described crops, a gin, lumber. . . . Why, in under three years, did it fail? "Some of the farmers," he said, "made it so terrible for us. Couldn't ship our lumber. No flatcars, no shipping. Because of how we treated the coloreds. We called them 'Mister Smith, Mister Jones.' When we'd go to town, we'd get flour or chewing tobacco they needed. That was one reason we had to leave."

I had so many questions but this was 2003. Al was dead. How about his younger sister Ida, still alive and sharp at 100?² Would she remember back to ages three to six?

"We had a tenant farmer's house...." Ida reminisced. "No door. Two rooms. My father was a nonbeliever but my mother was kosher. Not one bite of meat touched her mouth there. She washed clothes at the stream, hitting a rock. Tied a sack around my neck and told me to pick cotton. One family—One-Arm Taylor's—had us for lunch. Oh, what a beautiful house, with servants. So much food!"

They were also friends with a freed slave. "She took me to her home and showed me pictures on the walls. All from newspapers. Of one man. My father said, 'That's Mr. Lincoln.'"

I wanted to know more but Montmorenci wasn't even in my atlas. I googled "Happyville." A few sentences. "Montmorenci." Bingo! Annie's Inn. A beautiful restored 1820s house. I *had* to go. Owner Scottie Ruark said, "You'll need a car. There's nothing here, just a gas station. Not even a restaurant. Everything's in Aiken."

I reserved for May 2003 but my research went nowhere. I called the College of Charleston. Harlan Greene knew of Happyville! He sent Arnold Shankman's definitive article.³ Someone gave me Doris Baumgarten's name. "Happyville?" she said. "My pet project! Come down. I'll help." My friend Mary Stanton⁴ joined me. Doris was our indispensable chauffeur, guide, and resource in Aiken.

I hoped to learn about a trial Al described. At age nine, he was the star witness. He explained, "This farmer let his pigs come and root up our crops. My dad shooed them—there was six—in the barn and locked it. He wanted to get paid for the damage.

"The owner came over . . . told my dad to let them out. My dad wouldn't. My dad was standing by a tree stump. It held an ax to split wood. The man brought something out. My mother started screaming. She thought it was a knife or gun and dragged Dad into the house. The guy got the ax, chopped the lock off, and let his pigs out.



Morris Rothman, Oakland, California, 1915



Al Rothman in his World War I army uniform, 1919. Rothman served in France.



Ida (Arline) Rothman Knowlton and her mother Bertha Rothman, Oakland, California, 1937

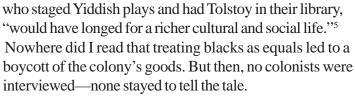
"We went to court about it. The judge says to me, 'You know what happens to little boys who tell lies?" I said, 'Yes, they go to hell. The devil gets them.""Young Al testified and the judge awarded my grandfather six dollars—one for each pig. "We won!" my aunt chortled at age 100. "We won!"

Amazingly, they did. On the word of a child. The child of Jewish outsiders and socialists. Did the neighbors cheer, or did they resent it? The Aiken library held no clue. What I did find was: "Aiken Colony Is a Success," Aiken *Journal*, August 13, 1907. "Happyville colony is remarkable...." Notices proudly invited the public to patronize the new cotton gin and saw mill.

A year later, it was over.

Ida's explanation: "My father worked dawn to dusk behind a plow. He wanted to prove they could make a go of it. The others dressed up and went to town. It made him so mad."

Shankman blames bad weather, internal dissension, lack of skills, poor soil, debt. And he says that intellectuals,



Happyville didn't last long, but "failure" seems the wrong word.

³ Arnold Shankman, "Happyville, the Forgotten Colony," *American Jewish Archives* 30 (April 1978): 3–19.

- ⁴ Author of *From Selma to Sorrow, The Life and Death of Viola Liuzzo* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1998).
- ⁵ Shankman, 19.



At the Russian colony in Aiken

¹ Interview of Al Rothman, 1982, recorded by Carol Morrison, daughter of Al's sister, Sara Rothman Rosenblatt.

² Ida (Arline) Knowlton (1902–2003).

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A Brief History of the Colony

In December 1905, ten families of Russian-Jewish immigrants left New York City's tenements to settle an agricultural colony near the village of Montmorenci in Aiken County. They were answering an invitation published by South Carolina's Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Immigration and translated into Yiddish, to come and buy "very fertile land" to be had "very cheaply." Desperate for workers to till large tracts of land abandoned during the Civil War, state officials decided that industrious Eastern Europeans would save its economy. The immigrants called the colony Happyville. It lasted less than three years.

E. J. Watson, a Columbia newspaperman active in the Chamber of Commerce, was hired to oversee the program. In New York, he enlisted Charles Weintraub, an idealist who had been a piano tuner in Russia. Weintraub was all enthusiasm. He purchased a 2,200-acre tract, seven miles from Aiken, forming the Incorporative Farming Association, and sold shares to his friends—socialists and intellectuals like himself. The land was poor, mostly forest, but had a stream, livestock, farm implements, and a few buildings. Soon the colonists were felling trees for lumber and making plans for a cotton gin and sawmill. More people came, eventually totaling around 50.

The weather the first year was terrible. A late frost damaged the cotton plants; heavy rains destroyed them. But the colonists' spirits were good. The second year, the weather cooperated and they were prospering. A school for their children opened. The public was invited to patronize their new ginnery and sawmill, powered by a 36-inch turbine using stream water. The small Jewish community in Aiken welcomed the colonists in spite of political and religious differences. The local paper pronounced Happyville an unqualified success.

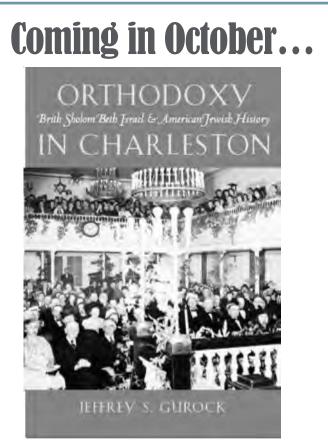
But by the middle of 1908, it was over. Many problems contributed: another harsh winter, heavy debt, lack of farming knowledge, internal dissension, and lack of patronage for their gin and mill. A rival ginnery was being built by nearby farmers. The colony auctioned off its land and equipment. The colonists—who had lost their money and hopes—left. Happyville was gone, leaving no trace.

Photo credits: Portraits courtesy of Marcia Savin. Landscape scenes courtesy of Winthrop University Archives.



Scene at the Aiken colony

Marcia Savin is an author and playwright. Her children's book, *The Moon Bridge* (Scholastic) deals with the challenge of prejudice to a friendship of two fifth-graders, one Japanese-American, during World War II. It is used in schools throughout the country. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. **Anyone with information about Happyville, please contact Marcia at msavin2@earthlink.net or 718.852.2867.**



Published by the College of Charleston Library in association with Brith Sholom Beth Israel. Signed copies will be available at the "Jewish Roots in Southern Soil" conference.



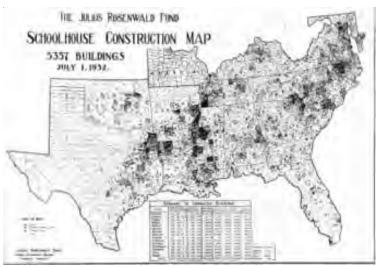
Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932) Jewish Philanthropist in the South by Doris Baumgarten

As the nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education, the landmark Supreme Court decision that overturned school segregation in America, it may be difficult to imagine just how dismal the prospects were for African-American children, at the height of the Jim Crow era, to get an education. In the rural South conditions were particularly bleak.

An important force for change came from an unlikely source. Chicago-born philanthropist Julius Rosenwald allied himself with Tuskegee Institute's Booker T. Washington for the purpose of building schools and libraries for black students across the region. Son of German-Jewish immigrant parents, Rosenwald made his fortune as C.E.O. of Sears, Roebuck, and Company. Between 1917 and 1932, the Rosenwald Foundation provided seed-money for more than 5,300 schools in 15 states, including 500 in South Carolina. By 1928, one in every five schools for rural black children was a Rosenwald School, educating onethird of the school-age population.

Rosenwald not only contributed financially but also concerned himself with the construction details. He wanted the best designs for natural lighting and ventilation. Health and hygiene were not overlooked and plans included specifications for wells and privies.

Rosenwald felt strongly that the success of the schools depended on local involvement. Communities were required to share the costs of construction and equipment, as well as upkeep and maintenance of the buildings. Cost-sharing could be monetary, in-kind, or "sweat-equity"—that is, contributions of labor. The foundation's seed-money amounted to as little as onefifth of the total cost; the rest came from local school boards, businesses, and residents, white and black.





Oak Grove School OAK GROVE SCHOOL built in 1924 on four acres of land as a one-teacher school.

Total cost		\$1,670
Contributions:	Negroes	\$70
	Public	\$1,200
	Rosenwald	\$400

None of these three Rosenwald Schools built in Aiken County, South Carolina, is still standing

School photographs courtesy of the Fisk University Archives. Portrait from the Dictionary of American Portraits (Dover Publications, 1958). Map courtesy of Tom Hanchett.

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Seivern School

SEIVERN SCHOOL built in 1923-24 on four acres as a twoteacher school.

Total cost		\$2,708
Contributions:	Negroes	\$1,142
	Public	\$66
	Rosenwald	\$800

Raised in Springfield, Illinois, young Julius had joined the fledgling Chicago concern named Sears, Roebuck and Company in 1897. Capitalizing on the Rural Free Delivery system instituted the following year by the U.S. Post Office, he helped Sears become the world's largest retailer with the publication of the "Wish Book" distributed to thousands of rural households. Through this thick, enticing catalog, anyone could order household goods and farm supplies, from clothing to canning equipment, medical supplies to tractor parts, seeds, chickens, and even an entire build-it-yourself house.

Rosenwald credited Chicago's Sinai Congregation, which he attended as a youth, for instilling in him the Jewish values of Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam. He supported many Jewish and non-Jewish causes, including the Federation of Jewish Charities, Hull House, and the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, and black YMCAs and YWCAs in cities across the country.

REFERENCES

Peter Ascoli. Address given to South Carolina Preservation Society, Columbia, S.C., April 10, 2003.

Fisk University Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Mary S. Hoffschwelle, *Preserving Rosenwald Schools* (Washington D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, n.d.).

Allen Riddick, *Aiken County Schools* (Aiken, S.C.: Rocket Publishers, 2004).

Website: www.rosenwaldplans.org



Aiken Graded School

AIKEN GRADED SCHOOL built under the 1924-25 budget and outfitted for nine teachers.

	\$33,500
Negroes	\$3,500
Whites	\$1,500
Public	\$27,000
Rosenwald	\$1,500
	Whites Public

According to grandson and biographer Dr. Peter Ascoli, Rosenwald's Jewish heritage gave him a particular affinity with African Americans. "The horrors that are due to race prejudice," Rosenwald wrote in 1911, "come home to the Jew more forcefully than to others of the white race, on account of the centuries of persecution which they have suffered and still suffer."

The philanthropist refused to allow his name to be used on any of the schools he helped bring into being, preferring that their names reflect community pride. Poignantly, most of the remaining schools, whether abandoned or converted to other uses, today are referred to as "Rosenwald Schools" by people living nearby.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

James Anderson, *The Education of Blacks in the South*, *1860–1935* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988).

Edwin Embree and Julia Waxman, *Investment in People: The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1949).

Adam Fairclough, *Teaching Equality: Black Schools in the Age of Jim Crow* (Athens: University of Georgia, 2001).

Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," *North Carolina Historical Review* LXV: 4 (October 1988).

Louis Harlan, *Separate and Unequal: Public School Campaigns and Racism in the South States, 1901–1915* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1958).

Alicestyne Turley-Adams, *Rosenwald Schools in Kentucky*, 1917–1932 (Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Council and the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission, 1997).

Jewish Burial Grounds Across the State by Stanley Farbstein

Over one hundred years ago, Rabbi Barnett Elzas of KKBE in Charleston began a survey of Jewish burial grounds across the state. This work continued for over a decade and resulted in surveys of cemeteries in Camden, Charleston, Columbia, Georgetown, Orangeburg, and Sumter. These books are not just simple lists of who was buried where and when, but also provide information about the deceased, including family, places of origin, occupations, and honors. Now largely unavailable except in archives, Elzas' books continue to serve as a valuable source on Jewish life in South Carolina in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Unfortunately, this survey by Rabbi Elzas was the last comprehensive survey of Jewish cemeteries in South Carolina. Now, a hundred years later and in the 350th year of Jewish settlement in the United States, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC), as a part of its mission to collect and record the Jewish history of the state, has undertaken to survey Jewish cemeteries, including the burial grounds of some South Carolina Jews in Savannah and Augusta, Georgia. Bernard Warshaw, president of the JHSSC, has asked that I plan and organize this survey. A number of individuals have already agreed to participate in the project. (See "List of Local Contacts.")

This cemetery project of the JHSSC is not a simple effort. A lot of work is required and completion is projected to take at least three years. To date, Jewish cemeteries have been identified in 14 locales across the state: Aiken, Anderson, Beaufort, Camden, Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Hilton Head Island, Orangeburg, Spartanburg, Sumter, and Walterboro. Columbia and Charleston have multiple cemeteries. There are a reported 13 Jewish burial grounds in Charleston, including two now covered with asphalt.

There may be other Jewish cemeteries in the state that should be surveyed. Suggested possible additional sites are Darlington, Lancaster, and Myrtle Beach.



Beth Israel Cemetery, Beaufort, SC Photos by Paul Keyserling.

The survey of each cemetery will be a separate effort, planned and conducted by local residents, and the result at each location will be published in a report for that area.

Copies will be distributed locally and placed in various archives in the state. Work is already underway and two of the reports should be issued late this year.

Volunteers are needed to help to organize and carry out this project. It offers the opportunity for involvement in community service by local youth groups, confirmation classes, students at colleges and universities, and retirees. When the project is completed, we expect the JHSSC to compile and publish the results.

Those interested in participating should contact : Stanley Farbstein 14 Lockwood Drive, Apt 11H Charleston, SC 29401 phone: 843.722.6608 e-mail at <u>stan-farb@worldnet.att.net</u>. **Please help us with this important project.**

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A Search for Information

A survey of the Beth Israel Cemetery in Beaufort has been underway for about 18 months, and the report is now in draft form and being edited. There have been 156 burials in the cemetery with the earliest in 1912.

Obituaries and biographical information on over 85 percent of those buried in the cemetery have been located. However, little or no data has yet been found for the other burials. If you have information on any of these five, including where they were when they died, please contact Stanley Farbstein.

- Betty Donen (date of birth unknown, died 6/1/1953): Widow of Isaac Donen who died in 1914. A son or grandson, Stanley Donen, once lived in Columbia and later in Hollywood and directed the movie, "Singing in the Rain."
- Meir Jaffa (1866–1923): Mr. Jaffa was awarded a PhD. He is reported to have lived at Dale, and been a genius.
- Phillip "Uncle Phil" Kohn (1870–1943) and Anna Kohn (1867–1943): It is believed that they had no children and had a store on Bladen Street near Bay.
- Tessie Reinstein Weinberg (1878–1963): Wife of Joseph Weinberg; a native of Ridgeland.

Also, we are trying to learn more about Rabbi Jacob Silber (1845–1933) and his family who came to Beaufort from Russia in the last quarter of the 19th century. Rabbi Silber served until at least 1911 in Beaufort and several surrounding towns. His family included his wife Esther (1856–1933), daughter Rose (1890–1975), sons Mendel (or Mendall) and Raphael, both of whom, by 1911, were rabbis in other American cities. Daughter Rose married Max Citron of Columbia in Beaufort in 1911.





List of Local Contacts

So far our cemetery project has recruited the following volunteers:

Aiken: Doris Baumgarten Anderson: Mike Krupsaw Beaufort: Stanley Farbstein Charleston: Sol Breibart and Ruth Jacobs Columbia: Bernard "Nard" Fleishman Joe and Nancy Lipton Greenville: H. J. "Hy" Brand Hilton Head: Paul Isaac Orangeburg: Rhetta Mendelsohn Sumter: Robert and Clara Keilwert Moses Walterboro: Bernard Warshaw





Jewish Roots in Southern Soil:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

8:00 AM - 9:00 PM REGISTRATION at Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center 96 Wentworth Street (JSC)

- 8:00 AM 6:00 PM All day bus tour of Savannah, Georgia (pre-registration required)
- 6:00 PM JHSSC Board Meeting at JSC, Arnold Hall
 - SJHS Board Meeting at JSC, Library, Room 209
- 7:00 PM Reception at the Historic Mordecai/Prenner House
- (JHSSC Board Members and invited guests)
- 7:30 PM Jewish Film Program at the JSC, Arnold Hall

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

4:00 PM

8:00 AM -	9:00 PM	REGISTRATION at Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center
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- 9:00 AM 10:45 AM Bus Tour of Charleston Jewish Sites (pre-registration required)
- 10:00 11:00 AM JHSSC Membership Business Meeting at JSC, Arnold Hall
- 11:00 AM 12:45 PM Bus Tour of Charleston Jewish Sites (pre-registration required)
- 12:00 PM Lunch on your own
- 12:00 PM SJHS Membership Meeting at KKBE meeting room, 90 Hasell Street.

ALL AFTERNOON EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim

- 90 Hasell Street (between Meeting and King)
- 1:00 PM Welcome: Society Presidents and Special Guests
- 1:30 PM Keynote Address: Hasia Diner (New York University), "Wandering Jews, Peddlers, Immigrants, and the Exploration of New Worlds"

Generously supported by Bornblum Judaic Studies Program, University of Memphis

2:30 PM **Concurrent Panel Discussions:**

Panel A Bending Boundaries: Southern Jewish Women

Karla Goldman, Jewish Women's Archives, Chair/Comment Linda Borish (Western Michigan University), "Jewish Women, Athletics, and Social Change in Southern Jewish History and American Culture" Hollace Weiner (University of Texas at Arlington; Research Fellow, Jewish Women's Archives), "The Jewish Junior League: The Council of Jewish Women, Springboard to Secular Status in Fort Worth"

Judith Shanks (Independent scholar; Associate Curator, "A Portion of the People"), "Stitching Together an Ordinary Life: Rebecca Isaiah Moses (1792–1872) of Charleston"

Panel B Fiction as History/History as Fiction
 Phyllis Leffler (University of Virginia), Chair
 Roy Hoffman, Mobile Register, author of Almost Family and Chicken Dreaming Corn
 Judy Goldman, author of The Slow Way Back and Early Leaving
 Tour of Special Collections at the new Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library,
 College of Charleston, with Dale Rosengarten, Curator, Jewish Heritage Collection

6:00 PMSJHS Dinner in Alumni Hall, Randolph Hall, College of Charleston (behind the Cistern)6:00 PMShabbat Evening at Local Synagogues: BSBI, KKBE, and Emanu-El in West Ashley7:30 PMKeynote Address at KKBE: Gary P. Zola (Hebrew Union College/

American Jewish Archives), "What Have We Wrought?: Reflections on 350 Years of American Jewish History"

Charleston, SC - October 28-31, 2004





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

8:00 AM - 9:00 PM **REGISTRATION at Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center**

ALL MORNING & AFTERNOON EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM **Concurrent Panel Discussions:**

Panel A Jewish/Christian Encounters

Scott Langston (Southwest Baptist University), Chair
George R. Wilkes (Cambridge University), "Renewing the Study of
Southern Jewish-Christian Relations: The Private Diary of Rabbi David Marx"
Lawrence G. Charap (University of Rhode Island), "A Spiritual Gulf': Rev. Charles
A. Allen and Jewish-Christian Dialogue in Turn-of-the-Century New Orleans"
Natalie Ornish (Independent Scholar), "Rabbi Henry Cohen of Galveston"
Ellen Umansky (Fairfield University), Comment

Panel B The How-Tos of Oral History Projects

Dale Rosengarten (College of Charleston) and
Marcie Cohen Ferris (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Co-Chairs
Mary Lynn Mansbach (Jewish Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South)
Alan Stein (New Orleans Public Library)
Jayne Guberman (Jewish Women's Archives)
Sponsored by the SJHS State and Local Historical Liaison Committee

10:30 AM Panel Jewish Geography David Goldfield (University of North Carolina, Charlotte; editor, Journal of Urban History), Chair/Comment Stephen Whitfield (Brandeis University), "Is Florida Part of Southern Jewish History?" Elliot Ashkenazi (Independent Scholar), "Jewish Bankers/Financiers and Family Ties Across National and International Boundaries, 1870–1915"

12:15 PM Luncheon - Jerome M. Gumenick Keynote Lecture: Marc Lee Raphael, College of William and Mary

Introduction by Lee Shai Weissbach (University of Louisville) Generously supported by Jerome M. Gumenick Family Foundation

2:15 PM Walking Tour of Jewish Sites (pre-registration required)

Joint Conference: SJHS and JHSSC

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 continued

ALL AFTERNOON EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim

- Jewish "Racial" Identities in the Urban Pre-Industrial South 2:15 PM Panel Leonard Rogoff (Jewish Historical Foundation of NC), Chair/Comment Holly Snyder (Brown University), "Jews and the Race Question in Early Savannah, 1733-1831" Gemma Romain (National Archives, Surrey, U.K.), "Race, Ethnicity and Whiteness: Constructions of Identity within the Diaries of the Antebellum Community of Charleston" **Stephen Brown** (Albany [NY] Academy for Girls), "The Lynching of Leo Frank: Defining the 'Racial' Jew in the American South, 1913–1915"
- 3:45 PM The Conservative Movement in Charleston and the South Panel Eric Goldstein (Emory University), Chair/Comment David Starr (Hebrew College, Boston), "Solomon Schecter and the Conservative Movement in the South" Peggy Pearlstein (Library of Congress), "With an Eye Toward Zion: Macey Kronsberg and the Origins of Charleston's Conservative Synagogue Emanu-El and Zionism"

5:00 PM Dinner on your own

ALL EVENING EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT Brith Sholom Beth Israel 182 Rutledge Avenue (between Radcliffe and Morris)

- Lama Lo! Concert 8:15 PM
- **Dessert Reception** 9:45 PM



Celebrate 350 Jewish Life in America 1654~2004



Beth Elohim

Brith Sholom Beth Israel

Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM INFORMATION at Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center

ALL MORNING EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT Brith Sholom Beth Israel

Meet The Authors 9:00 AM

Ronald Bayor (Georgia Institute of Technology; editor, Journal of American Ethnic History), Chair Alan Kraut (American University), "Goldberger's War: The Life and Times of a Public Health Crusader" Ray Mohl (University of Alabama, Birmingham), "South of the South: Jewish Activists and the Civil Rights Movement in Miami, 1945–1960" Co-sponsored by the American Immigrant and Ethnic Historical Society

10:00 AM Brunch

Keynote Address: Jeffrey S. Gurock (Yeshiva University), 11:30 AM "A Commentary on a Synagogue History: Brith Sholom Beth Israel and American Jewish History"

Introduced by David Patterson (University of Memphis) Generously supported by Bornblum Judaic Studies Program, University of Memphis

150th Anniversary 12:45 PM **Rededication of BSBI**

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM The celebration moves to the center of Charleston. Join us for the festivities in Marion Square Park. **RELIGIOUS HARMONY:** A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY See bottom of page 14 for more information.



7:30 PM Rabbi Gerald I. Wolpe will speak at Synagogue Emanu-El The famed Rabbi Gerald Wolpe of Philadelphia will offer his thoughts on Stephen Fried's page-turner, The New Rabbi. Rabbi Wolpe plays a starring role in this book that has taken the Conservative rabbinate by storm.



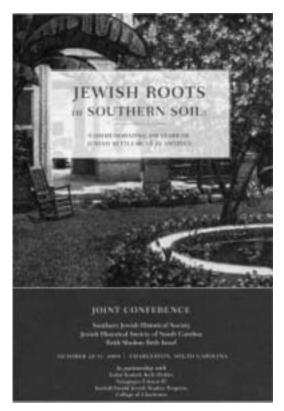
Hasia Diner Friday, October 29 1:30 pm

Friday, October 29 7:30 pm

Marc Lee Raphael Saturday, October 30 1:00 pm



Sunday, October 31 11:30 am



Charleston boasts one of the oldest Jewish communities in America. Just 40 years after a boatload of refugees from Recife, Brazil, sailed into the port of New Amsterdam, Jews began making their presence felt in the young colony of Carolina. In 1697, four Jewish men secured the rights of citizenship; in 1749, Charles Town's Jews founded Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim; and by 1800, the port city counted more Jews than any place else in the United States.

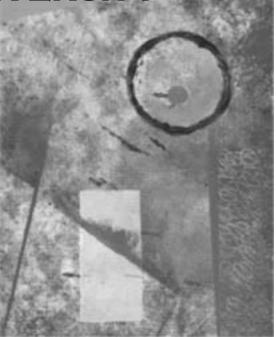
This landmark conference commemorates both the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America, and the 150th anniversary of Charleston's Orthodox congregation Brith Sholom Beth Israel. The weekend also marks the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. The Southern Jewish Historical Society and JHSSC have put together an extraordinary array of scholarly and social events. Charleston is proud of the close working relationship among its synagogues and rabbis. KKBE, BSBI, and Emanu-El are all participating in the programs. Offerings include tours of Charleston and Savannah, lectures and panel discussions featuring prominent scholars, Shabbat services, book signings, and a gala musical concert. The weekend will conclude on Sunday with a rededication of BSBI, and a community block party at Marion Square.

RELIGIOUS HARMONY A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

MARION SQUARE PARK SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2004 1:30 - 5:00pm FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FEATURING:

LAMA LO!, THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON GOSPEL CHOIR, NA FIDLIERI, JEWISH CHORAL SOCIETY, CHARLESTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS, ARTS AND CRAFTS, FOOD VENDORS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND MUCH MORE.



JOINT CONFERENCE: SJHS AND JHSSC OCTOBER 28-31, 2004 CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2004.

Last Name	First			
Spouse/Friend				
Address				
City	State	Zip		
Phone ()	E-mail			
I request meals that are: [] Vegetarian [] Strictly Kosher.			
Name(s) on name tags				-
I WISH TO MAKE RESERVAT	IONS FOR THE FOLLOWING:			
(fees are per person; advanc	e reservations are mandatory)			
Thursday, Savannah, Georgi	a Tour with lunch	\$	96	
Friday, Charleston Bus Tour	9:00 AM	\$	10	
Friday, Charleston Bus Tour	11:00 AM	\$	10	
Saturday, Charleston Walkir	ng Tour	\$	5	
Friday Shabbat evening acti	vities (no additional charge):			
BSBI services & dinner				
KKBE musical service 8	a oneg			
Emanu-El dinner (tran	sportation provided)			
SJHS dinner at Randolph Ha	II, CofC (prior to KKBE service)			
Registration fee: current JHS	SSC/SJHS member (circle one)	\$ per	150 perso	n
Additional fee for non-memb	pers (per family)	\$	35	
SPECIAL PACKAGE - BSBI ON	NLY	\$	125	
LATE REGISTRATION FEE (af	ter 9/15/04)	\$	25	
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: JHSSC Jewish Studies Center College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424				QUESTIONS: Enid Idelsohn 843-953-3918 IdelsohnE@cofc.edu www.cofc.edu/~jwst

Temple Beth Israel – Then and Now by Beatrice K. Rogol

"To unite the Hebrews of Florence and surrounding country into a fraternal and benevolent association and to assist needy Israelites."

"The purchasing and maintaining of a suitable burying ground."

These were the two objectives of the Florence Hebrew Benevolent Association, stated in the organization's constitution and by-laws in 1887. Today the fraternal and benevolent association continues under the name Beth Israel Congregation. The methods of operating may be different, but the intended purposes of the original constitution remain the same.

Situated in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina, Florence has seen great change over the past 117 years. As the city grew, so did the Jewish population - from the Lyons and Jacobi families, who were the earliest known Jewish settlers in town, arriving before 1865, to a total of approximately 70 families living in Florence and surrounding towns today.

Travelers to the city a century ago could find a comfortable bed and a hearty welcome at the Jacobi house, which was a well-known hotel located on what is now Front Street. In 1881, the only Jewish children in Florence were those of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Cohen, Bea and Edna. To receive a Jewish education, they traveled to Darlington, where worship services also were held.

As more Jewish families settled in Florence. the need arose to reach out. So, on October 26, 1887, D. Sternberger, J. Dejongh, S. Elias, and Harris Joseph applied for a charter for a charitable and religious association to be known as The Florence Hebrew Benevolent Association, with a capital of 25 shares at \$10.00 each, for the purpose of "creating and maintaining an Israelites' burial ground, and for education and religious purposes." Leadership was provided by Chairman D. Sternberger, Secretary-Treasurer J. Dejongh, and Director E. Salmonsen.

A cemetery lot was soon purchased for \$50.00 from the Northeast Railroad. In the tradition of his father, Charles Insel, Secretary-Treasurer, Herman Insel



Groundbreaking for addition to Temple Beth Israel, Florence, SC, February, 1969. Left to right: Herb Levy, Nat Rosenfeld, Ray Wolpert, Herman Insel, Arthur Siegal, Rabbi Charles Lesser, Eric Heiden. Photo courtesy of Lois & Ray Wolpert.

scrupulously maintained the records of the cemetery. After Herman Insel's death in 1999, Mark Schemel took over the task of record keeping.

On June 2, 1889, A. A. Cohen made a motion to "order Sunday School books, that a Sunday School be established and all children of Israelite parents, who were or were not members of this association, were cordially invited to send their children to participate in the exercise of the Sunday School lessons and that also the parents be invited to attend." That was the beginning of a religious school that continues today, providing for more than a hundred years the Judaic foundation for our area young people.

A Certificate of Incorporation was filed with the State of South Carolina on September 27, 1912, establishing a congregation to be known as Beth Israel, with B. Patz, M. Rosenfeld, and I. Silverman signing as trustees.

During the years 1906 to 1922, a small number of Orthodox Jews found their way to Florence. They held services, conducted by Rabbi Silver, in various places around the city. Then, sometime around 1922, a compromise was reached between the Orthodox Jews of Florence and those who chose to follow Reform Judaism.

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The two groups decided to hold Reform services and Sunday School classes monthly, and Orthodox services on the High Holy Days. The latter took place in the homes of Orthodox Jews of the community and were conducted by lay leaders, including Louis Greenberg, father of Dr. S. A. Greenberg. Rabbi Jacob Raisin of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim in Charleston was hired to conduct Reform services in various halls, beginning over what was then Zeigler's Drug Store, better known as the store on the corner of Dargan and Evans streets. Rabbi Raisin remained a spiritual leader of Beth Israel for 25 years. Sam and Hannah Semless of Philadelphia, grandparents of Nathaniel Rosenfeld, donated the first Torah in honor of Nat's parents, Maurice and Mae Rosenfeld.

Around 1927, congregants decided to build a synagogue. Land on East Elm Street was purchased for that purpose, but was subsequently sold to the city for the erection of Florence High School. In the meantime, Reform services continued in the Rainwater Building, moved to the YMCA before World War II, then to the Masonic Temple, and finally, in 1947, returned to the YMCA. During these itinerant years, the president's car trunk served as storage space for prayer books and the Torah.



Junior choir with Rabbi Avery Grossfield, 1956. Photo courtesy of Beth Israel.

In February 1949, congregants began discussing construction of a new religious facility on land located on Park Avenue, donated by Dr. Michael M. Morse. Dr. S. A. Greenberg, Dr. Morse, and Isadore Stein were appointed to a committee to manage construction. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations provided building plans and the facility was completed in July 1949. In September Rabbi Philip Frankel of Charlotte, North Carolina, presided over a formal dedication.



Religious school, 1971. Left to right: Sheryl Fram, Bari Heiden, and Beth Sopkin. Photo courtesy of Beth Israel.

Religious services in the new building continued on a monthly basis, led by rabbis from Sumter and Columbia, South Carolina, and from Charlotte. At that time, Beth Israel's 25 families could not afford to hire a full-time rabbi. However, in 1953, with more Jewish families moving into the area, Rabbi Fabian came to serve as the congregation's first full-time spiritual leader.

Rabbi Fabian helped reorganize the Sunday school and began conducting weekly services on Friday nights. Rabbi Morris Clarke followed, bringing music to the congregation. Rabbi Avery Grossfield came next, introducing Hebrew into the Sunday school and holding adult education classes. He performed the first bar mitzvah services in the Temple. When Rabbi Grossfield left, student rabbis Jay Krouse and then Paul Kushner from the seminary in New York began making the trip to Florence every two weeks for weekend services, Sunday school, and Hebrew classes. Next came Rabbi Gottesman, a circuit-riding rabbi who traveled in a bus outfitted as a mobile shul. He served until 1961, when Rabbi Charles B. Lesser arrived and stayed until 1970.



Plaque commemorating addition and renovation of Temple Beth Israel, 1969. Photo courtesy of Beth Israel.



Confirmation, 1974. Left to right: Patrice Horinbein, Bonnie Sopkin, David Lovit, Rabbi Howard Folb, Cathy Cohen, Marcy Wolpert, and Ann Radin.

The congregation continued to grow, and during Rabbi Lesser's tenure, made plans for expansion. In 1967, Beth Israel bought two houses close to the Temple and a year later undertook to remodel the original building, adding a kitchen, classrooms, and social hall. The houses were demolished and a building committee was appointed, consisting of Chairman Dr. Eric Heiden, Nathaniel Rosenfeld, Dr. S. A. Greenberg, Herman Insel, and Dr. Raphael Wolpert, who also served as chairman of the Future Expansion Fund. Spring 1969 saw a groundbreaking ceremony, and the building was completed in June 1970. The congregation's new rabbi, Howard Folb, was present for the dedication ceremony. and led High Holy Day services in the new structure.

Rabbi Folb remained for about 11 years, followed by Rabbi Sidney Strome, who served five years. Rabbi Lawrence N. Mahrer replaced Strome and stayed for ten years, succeeded by Rabbi Marc Kline. Rabbi Kline left in 2003, after which a student rabbi, Malcom Cohen, was hired on a part-time basis.

In 1986, Temple Beth Israel underwent another change. With Dr. Eric Heiden spearheading a committee made up of Dr. S. A. Greenberg, Ruth Greenberg, Herman Insel, Dr. Raphael Wolpert, Melvin Siegel, Patricia Siegel, Sandra S. Levy, Selig Levine, and Rabbi Lawrence Mahrer, the sanctuary was renovated and the pulpit remodeled.

During these years of growth and expansion, Temple Beth Israel's Sisterhood and Men's Club came into their own. The Sisterhood's precursor, known as the Beth Israel Ladies Aid Society, began in 1922. Concerned with Sunday school and community activities, the 13 original members served as a nucleus. Mrs. Abraham Schafer, elected as the first president of the new Sisterhood in 1928, saw to it that the Society became affiliated with the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. Monthly meetings were held in members' homes until 1949, when the group moved to the new Temple Assembly Room, presided over by Mrs. Chester Heimlich.

Sometime around 1958, the Men's Club was established with Marvin Fine as president. The club affiliated with the National Federation of Brotherhoods and, like Sisterhood, became a vital fund-raising arm of the Temple, as well as organizing social activities for the men of the congregation.

In 1973, because the work of Sisterhood and the Men's Club overlapped, the decision was made to merge the two organizations, and The Affiliates was born. While each group kept its own identity with the two National Federations, members of The Affiliates shared equally in its leadership and work, alternating between a male and female president and vice president. Frederick Levy served the first presidential term, and Patricia Lovit the second. Beth Israel's Affiliates was a pioneer in the merger of Sisterhoods and Mens Club—indeed it was the first organization of its kind in the nation. At a convention in Savannah, Georgia, circa 1975, the two presidents reported on its success. Today, The Affiliates continues to raise funds and sponsor social activities.

In recent years, Temple Beth Israel was the beneficiary of two significant mergers. The Darlington congregation, whose membership was slowly diminishing, decided to join Beth Israel. Then, in 2000, Dillon's Ohav Shalom, whose numbers also were declining, decided to unite with Beth Israel. This merger took place during the tenure of Rabbi Marc Kline. With the incorporation of the two nearby congregations, Beth Israel's membership grew to 100 family units, and many committed and active people came under the Temple's umbrella.

Today, the congregation draws from Florence, Darlington, Marion, Dillon, Kingstree, and Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, and Laurinburg, North Carolina. The expanded religious school is turning out young people with a well-rounded Jewish education. A choir enhances services. The Affiliates is a mainstay of the Temple. A fullservice house of worship has become the center for Judaism in the Florence area.

Pillars: Our Campaign Continues

Pillars are the backbone of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Our pillars fund *all* the operational costs of the Society, except for printing and mailing expenses, which are covered by membership dues. Pillars also provide essential supplemental funds for the Jewish Heritage Collection, the ongoing research archives at the College of Charleston Library.

Pillars commit \$1000 a year for five years. Membership to the JHSSC is included in the gift.

Please join this distinguished list. (Parentheses indicate the year in which donations began.) See membership form on the back page.

John and Marcie Baker, Columbia, SC (2003) Norman and Eve Berlinsky, Charleston, SC (2004) Alan Coleman, Charleston, SC (2003) Richard and Belinda Gergel, Columbia, SC (2002) Mark and Judith Green, Charleston, SC (2002) Ruth Greenberg, Florence, SC (2002) Michael Kogan, Little Falls, NJ (2002) * Ronald and Anne Krancer, Villanova, PA (2002) Rabbi Ted and Ina Rae Levy, Hilton Head, SC (2002) Susan Lourie, Columbia, SC (2004) Jack and Frieda Margolies, Charleston, SC (2002) Rose Mark, Beaufort, SC (2002) Albert and Robin Mercer, Owensboro, KY (2003) Lee and Karen Ortner, Charleston, SC (2004) Susan Pearlstine, Park City, UT (2003) Benedict and Brenda Rosen, Myrtle Beach, SC (2003) Robert and Susan Rosen, Charleston, SC (2002) Jeffrey and Mickey Rosenblum, Charleston, SC (2002) Paul and Javne Siegel, Walterboro, SC (2003) Steve and Harriett Steinert, Sullivan's Island, SC (2002) Gordan and Barbara Stine, Charleston, SC (2002) Mark Tanenbaum, Sullivan's Island, SC (2002) Bernard and Ann Warshaw, Walterboro, SC (2002) Jerry and Anita Zucker, Charleston, SC (2004)

* Anne Krancer, a devoted member of JHSSC and an original pillar of the Society, passed away in April. She will be sorely missed. May her memory be a blessing.

Additonal photography by E. B. Heston, Dale Rosengarten, and Gordon H. Scheck Jr. Postcard images from the collections of Rabbi William A. Rosenthall and Leah D. Greenberg. Thanks to Rost Beyder, Rachel Garrett, Marwa Shideed, Andrew Woods, and especially Dale Rosengarten, for their help.

Rabbi Wolpe Remembers Pastoring in the Pee Dee

--from a letter by Rabbi Gerald I. Wolpe to JHSSC, April 14, 2003.

"I received the Winter 2003 Newsletter of the Historical Society. All of it was very interesting but I was particularly intrigued with the Kingstree story. I was the Conservative rabbi mentioned in the article. Once a month, Cantor Renzer and I would travel over 300 miles. First we would go to Kingstree where the congregation consisted of people from Kingstree and Lake City. The visit would consist of a class with children and then a short service for adults and children. Then he and I would go on to Dillon and Myrtle Beach where the same program took place. We returned late at night, exhausted but with a feeling of great satisfaction.

There were so many wonderful stories that accompanied the tour. I found it fascinating to see how Northern Jews – who came to the area during WWII – adapted to their new surroundings. Some assimilated to the degree that their Southern accent was more extreme than the natives. Others hated every moment and yearned for their return to the shtetls of Baltimore and New York.

I became the rabbi of the area and was called for many secular communal events. That put me in touch with the non-Jewish community. It was the volatile period of the desegregation battle and I had to walk a narrow path when speaking to Lake City Kiwanis or Dillon Lions. It was a trying but meaningful period of reaching out to so many who were in the midst of possible violence. One week, for example, there was the shooting of a Black minister in Lake City for his activism. The tension was brutal and I was warned to skip the visit that month.

I remember meeting a man who was an official of the Carolina Baptist Church. He was a sophisticated urbane physician who showed me his impressive library. He showed me a collection of Mahzorim and the sermons of Isaac Leeser. His ancestress' name was in it. He was a bachelor and he asked for the name of a Jewish institution to which he could give them. I suggested the Seminary Library and he sent them there. He gave me the Leeser books, which I still cherish."

Rabbi Gerald Wolpe and his wife, Elaine, will return to Charleston in October. Emanu-El discovered Rabbi Wolpe <u>long</u> before he became nationally known as rabbi at Har Zion in Philadelphia and the "hero" of Stephen Fried's just published *The New Rabbi*. Emanu-El's conference weekend begins with a Shabbat dinner on Friday, October 29 at 6:00 pm, and concludes with Rabbi Wolpe's reflections on Fried's book on Sunday, October 31 at 7:30 pm.



JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BOUTH VARDIANA

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THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of South Carolina

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Bernard Warshaw

From^{the} President Bernard Warshaw

I am happy to report that our joint weekend with the Southern Jewish Historical Society in October was a resounding success. "Jewish Roots in Southern Soil" commemorated three anniversaries—350 years of Jewish settlement in America, Brith Sholom Beth Israel's 150th birthday, and JHSSC's 10th year of operation. Sunday's outdoor festival at Marion Square, called "Religious Harmony: A Celebration of Diversity," began with a speech by Charleston's Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr., and brought together people of all faiths participating with song, dance, and food. Many great compliments were received, and my hat is off to Marty Perlmutter, Enid Idelsohn, and a terrific steering committee comprised of Eve Berlinsky, Leah Chase, Susan Garfinkle, Leah Greenberg, Sandra Rosenblum, Dale Rosengarten, and Ann Warshaw.

As you know, my project for my term as president is to turn the Historical Society into a "grassroots movement." In pursuit of this goal, we traveled to the upstate on January 28th to honor Spartanburg's Temple B'nai Israel's 100th anniversary and celebrate Shabbat at Beth Israel in Greenville. Unfortunately, freezing rain and snow caused the cancellation of Saturday and Sunday's events, but the musical revue and children's festival have been rescheduled for the end of February. Many thanks to Hy Brand, Rabbi Dov Rubin, Rabbi Yossi Liebowitz, Michael and Nancy Yoffe, Marla and Hank Steinberg, Jay Wachs, Mike Krupsaw, Harry Price, and Marsha Poliakoff for all of their hard work.

Next on the agenda is Beaufort on April 1st and 2nd to help Congregation Beth Israel commemorate its 100th anniversary (see page 8–9 for weekend schedule). Then on to Columbia, September 9th and 10th, for another 100th anniversary celebration—this time at Beth Shalom.

The grassroots project is really underway, and we are getting to meet our fellow Jews from the lower, middle, and upper parts of the state.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Blacshau

Bernard Warshaw President

On the cover: Beth Israel Synagogue, Beaufort, SC. Photo by Paul Keyserling, 2004.

Jewish Families of Orangeburg: Links in a Chain

by Rhetta Aronson Mendelsohn

In 2002, in connection with the exhibition "A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life," the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina published a wonderful brochure entitled *A Guided Tour of Jewish Community Life, Past and Present.* Towns from Beaufort in the lowcountry to Rock Hill in the upstate were listed as places with sites of Jewish interest. All the synagogues in South Carolina also were listed.

Jewish residents of Orangeburg were quick to note, however, that no mention was made of their town, and their synagogue was not on the list. In actuality, Orangeburg has a long and illustrious Jewish history. Founded in 1735, the town was named for William, Prince of Orange, and settled by German-speaking immigrants who were coming to South Carolina for economic opportunity as well as religious freedom. Apparently by the mid 1800s, Germanor Yiddish-speaking Jews felt comfortable in Orangeburg and even smaller towns nearby—maybe because there was no language barrier.

Today, the Hebrew Cemetery, adjacent to Sunnyside Cemetery on Summers Avenue, bears quiet testimony to more than 130 Jews who lived and worked in Orangeburg and vicinity.

The Sunnyside Cemetery Company was organized on April 13, 1886, with the Hebrew Benevolent Society named as part of the organizing group. At some point, the Benevolent Society withdrew from the organization and operated its burial ground independently. Today the entire 15 acres is maintained by the City of Orangeburg as a city cemetery.

The first Jewish burial was Hirsh (Herman) Marcus, who died June 25, 1890, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Solomon (Hanna) Link. A native of Posen, Germany, he had been in America for only 11 years. Mrs. Link buried her husband in December of that same year.



Grand Purim Masquerade Ball, Hebrew Benevolent Society, Orangeburg, SC. Prize winners of 1901: Julia Peterkin, who later would win a Pulitzer Prize for her vernacular novel, Scarlet Sister Mary, is seated second from the left. Courtesy of David S. Ross.

There are at least ten other people with the name of Marcus in the cemetery, including Miss Evelyn Marcus, who in 1920 became the first woman admitted to the South Carolina Bar. Milton Marcus, a retired merchant, still resides in Orangeburg.

The Marcus family seems to be tied to the Rich family through the marriage of Hannah Rich to Mitchell Marcus. Hannah came from Prussia as a girl of 13 with her parents Lipman and Eva Rich. By 1855, they had arrived in Charleston, where they joined the newly established "Polish and German" congregation, Berith Shalome. Lipman and son Philip were elected officers of that synagogue in 1860 and 1865, respectively, but it appears that parts of the family had moved on to St. Matthews and Orangeburg by that time.

Hannah's other brother Moritz and his wife Bertha had five children, and one of those children, Isadore, married Reka Brown, who bore six more Riches. Needless to say, there are many members of this family buried in Orangeburg. Sadly, in January of 2004, my mother Rose Louise Rich Aronson became the fourth generation of this family to be laid to rest in Sunnyside Cemetery. Several descendants of the Rich family now live in Charleston, including Reka Rich DeMasi, Carol Aronson Kelly, and the author.

... continued on page 4

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Other names in the cemetery include Wald, Gilman, Kahnweiler, Kohn, Baum, Wolfe, Bamberg, Nussbaum, Benjamin, Goldiner, Kline, Jarecky, and Pearlstine. The early German Jews clearly were joined by Jews from Poland and Russia in the 20th century.

Through marriage, the Jewish families from Orangeburg have ties to Jewish families all over South Carolina—the Baruchs and Hirschs of Camden, the Aronsons of Kingstree, the Furchgotts of Charleston, to name a few. As elsewhere, most heads of these households were merchants, but their numbers also included lawyers, doctors, dentists, musicians, cotton brokers, bankers, soldiers, and teachers.

One Confederate soldier, Theodore Kohn, is of particular note, having fought at Morris Island, Secessionville, Battery Wagener, and Ft. Sumter in the "War for Southern Independence," as it was called in the Orangeburg newspaper in 1902. In his obituary that year, Kohn was extolled as "one of Orangeburg's most prominent and useful citizens." He had been an alderman of the city, an organizer of the Edisto Bank, and the "father of the Orangeburg Graded Schools." He served on the school board until his death.

In 1980, when Joseph Jerome Miller, the only Jewish person in Elloree, South Carolina, passed away, he had not a relative in the world. At his funeral in

Voices of Savannah



Voices of Savannah, published in 2004 by the Savannah Jewish Archives (SJA), combines photographs from the archives and narrative from more than 100 oral history interviews to create a unique picture of Savannah in days gone by. Local Jewish residents tell their own stories in their own

words, illustrated by lively images that supplement SJA's previous publication, *The Jewish Community of Savannah* (Arcadia Press, 2002). Founded in 1994, SJA is housed in the Georgia Historical Society and funded by the Savannah Jewish Federation. All proceeds from *Voices of Savannah* will go to support the archives' work.

For more information or to order copies, contact the Savannah Jewish Archives at 912.651.2125.



Left: Lipman Rich, 1855. Right: Lipman Rich (named for his great uncle) and Henrietta Block Rich, Orangeburg, SC, April 1945.

Orangeburg, many citizens of Elloree, both white and black, came to show their respect. He left money to many Jewish organizations and also to every church in Elloree.

When Edward Mirmow died at the age of 95 in 1995, he was eulogized as a founder of the Orangeburgbased First National Bank and the instrumental force behind the organization of American Legion Baseball. He lettered at the University of South Carolina in baseball and football. He was married to Rebekah Blatt of Blackville, sister of Solomon Blatt, who served in the state legislature for 54 years and as Speaker of the House for more than three decades.

In the mid 20th century at least 15 stores on the main street in Orangeburg were owned by Jewish families. Today those stores are all closed—some victims of their own success. The children of these merchants went away to college and did not return to Orangeburg. This, of course, is the story of many Jewish families in small towns across the South and the nation.

Orangeburg's Temple Sinai, built in the 1950s and still in use today, has never had a regular rabbi, but visiting rabbis and local residents, including the late J. J. ("Jimmy") Teskey, conducted services and taught the religious school for many years.

Perhaps through this article, Orangeburg will gain a rightful place in South Carolina's Jewish history. Hopefully the remaining Jewish residents of Orangeburg will be proud to be recognized as an important link in the story.

Written with gracious and plentiful help from the Orangeburg County Historical Society and dedicated to the memory of Hugo Ackerman, history teacher at Orangeburg High School and founder of the Historical Society.

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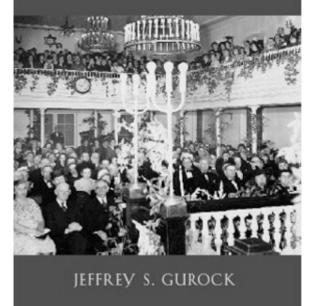
Writing Congregational History Brith Sholom Beth Israel Celebrates 150th Anniversary

by Jeffrey S. Gurock Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University, New York City

What more could a historian ask for? Minute books covering decades of congregational deliberations, synagogue correspondence, files documenting generations of membership discussions, an almost complete run of 40 years or more of shul newsletters, and a bank of memories recorded in more than 300 oral history interviews, all housed in a first-class college library, organized and maintained by an extraordinarily talented and engaging locally-based historian and her staff of archivists. Such was my fortunate lot when I arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, in October 2003. My mission initially was to gather enough information to deliver a keynote address in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of that city's Congregation Brith Sholom Beth Israel at the 2004 Southern Jewish Historical Society meeting in the Palmetto State. I soon realized that there was a book in this cache of materials on file in the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston.

I quickly understood that if I did my work well, I would be able to do more than just reassure my friendly hosts that their local history had been worth preserving. Rather, BSBI's story could flesh out some of the national trends that historians of American Jewry, myself included, have been writing about recently. I also thought that this project could show those who love American Jewish history how a team of historians and archivists working in concert with a committed cadre of local volunteers could produce quality volumes.

What emerged from our labors was a reminder of how early and diverse East European Jewish incursions were into this country and how quickly newcomers conformed to American ways, often to the chagrin of later arrivals from the same parts of the Old World. We also learned from the Charleston experience much about the social factors that split communities into Orthodox and Conservative factions after World War II. But above all, through BSBI's history, we were sensitized to the difficulties Orthodox rabbis faced from the mid-19th century to the present day in their efforts to instill traditional Jewish observances in locales far removed from the New York base. For me, this "Southern exposure" deepened my ORTHODOXY Brith Sholom Beth Israel & American Jewish History IN CHARLESTON



understanding of both life in this region and Orthodoxy in the United States.

Dedicated to Rabbi David and Mrs. Barbara Radinsky and published in no small measure thanks to the largesse of the Sisterhood of BSBI, with a supplemental grant from SJHS, *Orthodoxy in Charleston: Brith Sholom Beth Israel and American Jewish History* appeared in time for the joint meeting of SJHS and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina last October. I trust the book will accomplish the goal of projecting this synagogue's significance to students of the larger American Jewish experience. There could be no greater gift to a congregation as it celebrates its 150th anniversary and to all of us as we commemorate 350 years of Jewish settlement in this country.

An earlier version of this article appeared in The Rambler, The Southern Jewish Historical Society Newsletter, VII:2 (Summer 2004).

New & Noteworthy: Holocaust Archives Project

A Joint Venture of the Jewish Heritage Collection and the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust

Five years ago, a generous grant from the Jerry and Anita Zucker Family Endowment enabled the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston Library to begin soliciting archival material from survivors of the Shoah and liberators of the concentration camps who live in the Charleston area. In a short period of intense effort, field researcher Sheila Rodin-Novak gathered an extraordinary collection of images and documents from Eastern Europe before World War II; correspondence between Jews in Europe and family members in South Carolina; photographs taken inside concentration camps before and just after liberation; audio and videotaped interviews with survivors; albums, scrapbooks, and artifacts.

Some of these objects and images were donated outright to the college library, and some were loaned for reproduction. With the help of archivist Harlan Greene and photographers Bill Struhs and Rick Rhodes, we made copy photos of everything, and either returned the originals or gave donors good quality prints.

by Dale Rosengarten

In 2003, we extended the range of our collection across the state and broadened our funding base. In partnership with the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust, we hired Melissa Jane Taylor, a graduate student in history at the University of South Carolina, to continue the fieldwork. The depth and richness of what she uncovered astonished us: memoirs by survivors, inquiries from people tracing lost families, letters to a "hidden child," and two extraordinary collections of photographs documenting the last days of the war and its aftermath—one taken by an American soldier, the other by a nurse stationed at the 113th Evacuation Hospital in Germany.





Left: Regina Kaver with her cousin Ruchel Liebhaber, her brother Eleazar, and her sister Maria, Warsaw, Poland, ca. 1930. Courtesy of Samuel Greene.

Right: Dientje Krant with her father Phillip Krant and mother Evaline Krant-Hamel, taken in front of their home at 24 Hoogeweg, Bussum, Holland, 1939. Gift of Dientje Krant Kalisky-Adkins.

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Karoline Goldstein and Armin Fingerhut, Budapest, Hungary, 1938. Courtesy of Katherine Goldstein Prevost.



David Grabinski (later Grabin), standing at the far right, with a group of friends, Slesin, Poland, 1937/38. Courtesy of David Grabin.

This winter our attention shifts to the upcountry. We are soliciting materials not only from survivors and liberators of the camps, but also from refugees and witnesses. Researcher and editor Karen Tannenbaum, of Greenville, South Carolina, has agreed to spearhead the effort and already has found a collection of original photographs and artifacts from Dachau.

Our Holocaust archives will be a windfall for historical research. It will support major curriculum initiatives in Holocaust education at the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina. The collection will be described in an online catalog mounted on the websites of both the college library and the South Carolina Council on the Holocaust.

Our goals are twofold: First and foremost, we want to preserve recollections and artifacts from survivors, liberators, refugees, and witnesses so that they will know that the tragedy of the Holocaust will not be forgotten. Second, we will make their memories and memorabilia accessible to students, scholars, and other researchers, and encourage use of the materials in public programs, exhibitions, and school curricula.

If you can help us locate South Carolina residents with links to European Jewry before and during the period of the Holocaust, or if you would like to contribute financially to this effort, please call Karen Tannenbaum at 864.232.4480, or e-mail: <u>ktann@charter.net</u>.

We thank the following for supporting this important work: South Carolina Council on the Holocaust; Coastal Community Foundation (donor-advised funds)—Sam and Regina Greene Family Fund, Lieberman Family Endowment, Zucker Family Endowment; Private donors—Anonymous, Sylvia & Robert Dreyfus, Joe Engel, Bruce & Lilly Filler, Karl & Margo Goldberg, Max & Trude Heller, John Hipp, Pincus Kolender, Henry & Minda Miller, Selden & Dorothy Smith, Mark C. Tanenbaum.



Francine Ajzensztark, along the Seine, Paris, France, 1945. First photo taken after the war. Gift of Francine A. Taylor.



Buchenwald, near Weimar, April 1945, about two weeks after the camp was liberated. Gift of Charles C. Cross.



102nd Division meets Russian troops in Gardelegan, Germany, May 1945. Courtesy of Ethel Jorgensen Stafford.



Renee Fuchs (later Fox) and her brother Michael arriving in New York, January 1947. Photograph by Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. Courtesy of Pincus Kolender.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Beth Israel sanctuary window frames the Beaufort Arsenal window next door.



The Ten Commandments on the bima.



View of Beth Israel looking east to the bima. Photos: Paul Keyserling.

Special thanks to Rost Beyder, Conner Chilton, Rachel Garrett, and Beth Stephenson.

JHSSC Meets for 100th Anniversary

This year, Beth Israel Congregation in Beaufort is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the signing of its charter. The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has scheduled its spring meeting in Beaufort for the weekend of April 1–3 to be on hand for Beth Israel's rededication and other festive events. There will be lots of activities commemorating the anniversary, with families using it as an opportunity to hold reunions, thereby highlighting the central place that Beth Israel has played in the life of the Beaufort community for the last hundred years.

Jews have resided in Beaufort since as far back as the 1760s. In the latter half of the 19th century, as the town's population grew, Jews from the vicinity gathered to worship in various locations: in homes, in apartments over stores, in

View of the vaulted ceiling looking west to front entrance.



the Masonic Hall, and then in a room on the second floor of the Beaufort Arsenal on Craven Street.

By 1905, members of the Jewish community decided that their numbers justified construction of a synagogue. A lot was available at 401 Scotts Street, directly adjacent to the Arsenal. State law required that an organization have a charter to jointly buy and hold title to land.

As a result, a group calling itself Beth Israel Congregation applied for incorporation, and on October 16, 1905, the Congregation was granted a charter by the State of South Carolina. This states that the purpose of the Corporation is "Religious, and to buy a lot and build a synagogue."

The lot was purchased, money was raised, and a synagogue was built and dedicated on June 14, 1908. Beth Israel Congregation has been worshipping together in the same white clapboard building on Scotts Street ever since.

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in Beaufort - April 1-3, 2005 of Beth Israel Congregation

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEKEND:

	<u>FKIDAY, APFILI</u>
	Beth Israel Synagogue, 401 Scotts Street
7:15 pm	Rededication of Synagogue
8:00 pm	Shabbat Services
9:00 pm	Oneg Shabbat hosted by Beth Israel Sisterhood
	<u>SATURDAY, April 2</u>
	Beth Israel Synagogue, 401 Scotts Street
10:00 am	Shabbat Services
	Beaufort Arsenal & Museum, 713 Craven St
	Annual Meeting of JHSSC begins
12:00 pm	Welcome by Bernard Warshaw, President, JHSSC
12:15 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm	The Jewish Community of Beaufort in 1905
_	and the Founding of Beth Israel
	Congregation
	Helen Goldman and Stephen Schein
1:45 pm	Break
2:00 pm	Beaufort in Context: The Jewish History of
•	Small Town America
	Lee Shai Weissbach, University of Louisville
3:15 pm	JHSSC Cemetery Survey Project and
1	Survey of Beth Israel Cemetery
	Stanley Farbstein and Dr. Cyndi Levy
6:30 pm	Beaufort Yacht & Sailing Club
	30 Yacht Club Drive
	off Meridien Road, Ladys Island
	(transportation provided)
	Reception & Dinner
	Rabbinic Reminiscences of Beaufort
	Rabbi Harvey Tattelbaum
	<u>SUNDAY, April 3</u>
	Beaufort Arsenal & Museum, 713 Craven St
10:00 am	Struggling, Growing, and Reaching New-Old
	Conclusions
	Rabbi Harvey Tattelbaum
11:00 am	JHSSC Board and Membership Meeting

1:00 pm Tour of Beth Israel Cemetery





Lee Shai Weissbach

Rabbi Harvey Tattelbaum

[HSSC Meeting] **Beaufort, South Carolina** April 1-3, 2005 NAME(S) ADDRESS PHONE____ E-MAIL_____ CITY

STATE ZIP

The cost for this weekend is \$50 per person not including hotel accommodations.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ Return form to: JHSSC / Jewish Studies Program 96 Wentworth Street Charleston, SC 29424

Check if kosher food is requested

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2450 Boundary Street Beaufort, SC 29902 Ph. 843.379.4000 Fax 843.379.4020

RATE: \$79/night

Special rate available until March 2 You must make your own reservations

(request a room in the "Jewish Historical Society room block.")

JHSSC's Statewide Cemetery

Early in 2004, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina embarked on a survey of burial places of South Carolina Jews. The goal of the project is to learn who is buried in each cemetery, collect biographical information on those individuals, and organize and archive the findings so they can be readily accessed by descendents, historians, and researchers.

We draw inspiration from the work of Rabbi Barnett Elzas of Charleston's Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim who, between 1900 and 1910, surveyed all then existing Jewish cemeteries in South Carolina. He published the information gathered in a series of books. These publications continue to serve as a major source of information on the early Jewish residents of the state. No such comprehensive survey has been undertaken since Rabbi Elzas's day.

It is fitting that 100 years later — when we commemorated the 350th anniversary of the first arrival of Jewish settlers in North America and the tenth anniversary of our society—JHSSC picked up where Rabbi Elzas left off. The Cemetery Survey Project is the Society's first endeavor calling upon the energy, labor, and skills of its more than 500 members from across the state and beyond. Leaders have volunteered for a majority of the locations where there are Jewish burial grounds. These team leaders, working with local volunteers, will plan and carry out the surveys, research the appropriate biographies and prepare reports on their findings. More volunteers are needed. Call 843.953.3918 to sign up.

Locations of Cemeteries and Surveys in Progress

So far, the project has identified 20 cities and towns in South Carolina with Jewish cemeteries. Charleston and Columbia have more than one Jewish burial ground. South Carolina Jews were also buried in Savannah and Augusta, particularly before cemeteries were established closer to



Entrance to Beth Israel Cemetery, Greenville. Photo: Hy Brand.

their home towns. Some South Carolina Jews are also buried in Charlotte and other North Carolina locations.

The following list identifies the 20 cities and towns where Jewish burial grounds have been located. For cemeteries where survey work has begun, the people organizing the local effort are identified. Aiken-Doris Baumgarten Anderson – Mike Krupsaw Barnwell Beaufort-Stanley Farbstein Camden Charleston – BSBI cemeteries – Ruth Jacobs Charleston - KKBE cemeteries - Sol Breibart Charleston-Synagogue Emanu-El Columbia - Nard Fleishman Darlington Dillon-Maxine Koss Florence Georgetown Greenville-Hy Brand Hilton Head – Paul Isaac Kingstree Marion Myrtle Beach Orangeburg - Rhetta Mendelsohn Spartanburg Sumter – Clara and Robert Moses Walterboro – Arlene and Lewis Harris



Gravesite of Bessie Katzif, Beth Israel Cemetery, Beaufort. Photo: Paul Keyserling.

Survey Project

by Stanley Farbstein

Tasks Toward Completion

Those buried at each location will be identified and biographic information will be collected. That is a difficult task, but it is a task that is less difficult now than it will be in the future. Time is not on our side.

The information collected at each burial ground will be incorporated into a report for that cemetery and prepared for archiving. Copies of the report and other collected material will be placed in several locations including the Jewish Heritage Collection at the new Addlestone Library at the College of Charleston, the Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina and at the library in the county where the cemetery is located. As initial reports are drafted and edited, they will be available to show the kinds of information that should be included and possible formats that can be used.

Current Status of Work

In locations where work is already underway, some surveys are nearing completion while others are still in the planning and organizing phases. For the cemeteries of Aiken and Beaufort, the final report has been drafted and will probably go to layout and printing this spring. For five additional locations, lists of burials have been prepared. In some of these, biographical information and photographs also have been collected. We anticipate that at least two of these five will be in the final stage of report drafting and publication by the end of 2005.

Meanwhile, thanks to the timely assistance of Dr. Cyndi Levy, we are developing a computerized database that will include Jewish burials in all cemeteries in the state, and eventually burials of South Carolina Jews in other locations (see sidebar).

Further Support Needed

We need people with a variety of interests, skills, and abilities to help collect data, take photographs, and write, edit, and proofread survey reports before they are published. Please join us in this intriguing and important collaborative effort. Not only is it the first major grassroots effort of the JHSSC, it is the highest form of mitzvah because the dead will not be able to repay us for our efforts.



Sons of Israel Cemetery, Aiken. Photo: Dale Rosengarten.



Tombstone of Abrham Isaac Patla, Brith Sholom Cemetery, Charleston. Photo: Dale Rosengarten.

Making the Cemetery Survey Useful – A Computerized Database

As the initial lists of burials and biographical information began to be assembled, we realized we needed some method of storing the material so that it could be readily utilized.

Then along came Dr. Cyndi Levy, a computer maven and daughter of Ina Rae and the late Rabbi Theodore Levy, a founding member of the JHSSC. Cyndi recently joined the Society Board, and when she heard of the need to develop a database, she volunteered to join the group working on the Cemetery Survey Project.

Cyndi has begun designing the database and entering data so that the information collected statewide can be searched by name, dates, and places of birth and death, cemetery location, maiden names, and a number of other subjects called "fields" by the computer literate. The data base she is developing will have the capacity for over 10,000 names, each linked to the biographical information that has been gathered. So we have room to grow.

Past success leads to another request for assistance in developing biographical information on burials

The fall 2004 issue of the JHSSC bulletin included an article on the Beth Israel Cemetery in Beaufort. When a survey of this cemetery began in 2003 as part of planning for the 100th anniversary of the charter of Beth Israel Congregation in Beaufort, there was no current list of burials and no map of where specific graves were located. Several people worked to develop and refine such information based on physical surveys, and we have identified and charted 160 burial sites.

But we soon recognized that little or nothing was known about many of those buried there. Thus began a search for biographical information. Obituarities on microfilms of old newspaper files in Beaufort, Charleston and Savannah libraries provided information on about 70 percent of the burials. Relatives, other newspaper files, and distant libraries have resulted in more information, so we now have significant biographies of more than 90 percent of those buried in the cemetery.

With the success of previous requests in this newsletter in mind, we are now requesting information on Bessie Katzif, and further information on Tessie Weinberg.

■ Bessie H. Katzif died in March 1912 and was the first person buried in the new cemetery in Beaufort. Her husband Joseph died in February 1922 and is also buried in Beth Israel Cemetery. The couple had a son, David Katzif who died in April 1954 and was buried in the cemetery. We think that Bessie and Joseph also had a daughter who lived in Savannah.

■ We need information about the later years of Tessie Reinstein Weinberg, who was born in Ridgeland in 1878. After the death of her husband, Joseph, in 1930, she left Beaufort. Where did she live until her death in 1963 when she was buried in Beaufort? In 1930, when Joseph died, there was an obituary for him that said that there were four daughters and one son. Louis is buried in the Beaufort National Cemetery. The two married daughters in 1930 were Mrs. David R. Gordon of Tampa, Florida, and Mrs. W.L. Rand of New Orleans, Louisiana; the unmarried in 1930 were Miss Daisy Weinberg of New Orleans and Miss Josephine Weinberg of Staunton, Virginia.

Finding information on the later years of Tessie Weinberg is particualrly diffficult because we know only the year of her death and not the day and month, and do not know where she was living at her death. This makes searches in newspaper files almost impossible. One report is that she lived in Florida. If so, it is possible that she was in the Tampa area where her daughter, Mrs. Gordon, lived 33 years earlier.

If you can provide any information about these two women, or if you have any questions about the SC Cemetery Project, please contact Stanley Farbstein, 14 Lockwood Drive, Ashley House, Suite 11-H, Charleston, SC 29401. Telephone: 843.722.6608. E-mail address: <u>stan-farb@worldnet.att.net</u>

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is pleased to announce its third annual Arts and Cultural Achievement Award. Previous winners are Dale Rosengarten and Meira Warshauer.

This year the award will be presented to an individual of any faith in South Carolina (native-born or resident) who exemplifies and demonstrates exceptional leadership, support, and/or prowess in fostering and preserving Jewish Arts and Culture in South Carolina.

This individual can be:

A presenter, coordinator, or patron of the arts

■ An individual who is involved in visual, literary, theatre, media, or performing arts, or music. The award will be presented at the fall meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina held in Columbia, SC, September 9–10, 2005.

The deadline for nominations is June 1, 2005. For more information contact: Lyssa Harvey at 803.920.0707.

Yearlong Celebration Marks 100th Anniversary of Beth Shalom in Columbia, SC

1 mikvah, 2 cemeteries, 10 (or more) rabbis, 50 presidents, 68 years of Sisterhood, 350 family members and 100 years of mitzvahs. Beth Shalom of Columbia, South Carolina, will mark its centennial with a year of inspiring events. Distinguished speakers and guests will join our congregation throughout the year to remember the past and to envision the future of Beth Shalom Synagogue. The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will hold its fall meeting in Columbia to honor the congregation. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!



"The Big Apple," Beth Shalom's first synagogue, now on Park Street.

September 9–10, 2005: Joint Shabbat Weekend with JHSSC

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will join us in Columbia to continue the 100-year celebration. Weekend events include Shabbat services, historical lectures and panels, trolley rides, a guided tour of the Whaley Street Cemetery, and dedication of a marker on Assembly Street commemorating the site of Columbia's first synagogue, which was burned by General W. T. Sherman's forces during the Civil War. A reception at "The Big Apple" on Saturday, will feature a special musical event. On Sunday, JHSSC will hold a business meeting and elect new officers. Co-chairs: Lyssa and Jonathan Harvey

Beth Shalom's second synagogue on Marion Street, demolished some time ago.

November 6, 2005: Time Capsule Ceremony

Our yearlong celebration will end with a family event at "The Big Apple." A time capsule filled with memorable items contributed by members of the congregation will be given to a family that is designated as "keeper of the capsule"– to be opened in 50 years. Co-chairs: Jane and David Kulbersh

For more information call Lyssa Harvey at 803.920.0707 or e-mail her at scartandplay@hotmail.com.

Schedule of Events

Co-chairs of Centennial Celebration: Lily and Bruce Filler

February 5-6, 2005: Kickoff Centennial Weekend featured a Shabbaton at the synagogue. Co-chairs: Heidi and David Lovit

March 12, 2005: Centennial Gala Celebration

Saturday evening gala celebration at Embassy Suites. A documentary video produced in honor of Beth Shalom's 100th anniversary will be premiered. All guests will be given a keepsake book featuring an account of Beth Shalom's history illustrated by pictures of the past, photographs of present members, and well wishes from the community. It will be an evening to remember. Chair: Rachel Levinson

PAGE 14JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINASJHS-JHSSC October 28 - 31, 2004



WINTER 2005 VOLUME X - NUMBER 1

Building a Strong Foundation: Society Seeks Pillars



The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has been remarkably successful in its tenyear history. The Society's anniversary meeting last October displayed just how far it has come, with a major academic conference, more than 400 paid registrants, and a festive weekend celebration. JHSSC operates on a

modest budget, funded largely by the generosity of its leadership members, the Pillars. Pillars provide the foundation for our work through a commitment of \$1,000 a year for five years. We are fortunate to have 29 current Pillars. To sustain our operations and provide for new growth, the Society needs additional support.

Please consider becoming a Pillar of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Each gift is taxdeductible and will directly fund the Society's efforts in cultural conservation and education. For more information about giving to JHSSC, please contact Martin Perlmutter at 843.953.5682 or <u>perlmutterm@cofc.edu</u>



Rabbi Theodore (Ted) S. Levy, founding member of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, passed away on November 11, 2004. Rabbi Levy was a formative voice for the Society, was on its board since the Society's inception, and was a Pillar of the Society for many years.

Rabbi Theodore Levy z"l

Rabbi Levy was a longtime leader in Syracuse's Jewish community, serving for 27 years as rabbi of Temple Society of Concord, Syracuse's oldest synagogue, where he was an outspoken advocate for racial, religious, and social equality. Rabbi Levy was the founding rabbi of Temple Beth Yam when he moved to Hilton Head in 1991 and was its leader for many years.

May Ina Rae, Seth, Cynthia, and Jonathan find comfort among the mourners of Zion.

The Pillars of the Society (2005)

John and Marcie BakerColumbia, SCNorman and Eve BerlinskyCharleston, SCBernice (Bunny) BernsteinMt. Pleasant, SCIn memory of Anne and Samuel Richman

of Manning, SC Alan Coleman Harriette Kraft Ehrlich Meri Gergel **Richard and Belinda Gergel** Dr. Mark and Judith Green Ruth B. Greenberg Michael Kogan Ronald Krancer Cynthia J. Levy Ina Rae Levy Susan Lourie Frieda and Jack Margolies Rose Mark Dr. Albert and Robin Mercer Leon and Karen Ortner Susan Pearlstine Klyde and Claire Robinson Benedict and Brenda Rosen Robert and Susan Rosen Jeffrey and Mickey Rosenblum Paul and Jayne Siegel Steven and Harriett Steinert Dr. Gordan and Barbara Stine Mark C. Tanenbaum Bernard and Ann Warshaw Jerry and Anita Zucker

Charleston, SC Jacksonville, FL Columbia, SC Columbia, SC Charleston, SC Florence, SC Little Falls, NJ Villanova, PA Hilton Head, SC Hilton Head, SC Columbia, SC Charleston, SC Beaufort, SC Owensboro, KY Charleston, SC Park City, UT Charleston, SC Myrtle Beach, SC Charleston, SC Charleston, SC Walterboro, SC Sullivans Island, SC Charleston, SC Sullivan's Island, SC Walterboro, SC Charleston, SC

Yes, I/we want to be a pillar of the JHSSC. In doing so, I/we commit to a gift of \$5,000 over a period of five years.

Name(s):	
Address:	
City:	State: Zip:
Phone:	Fax:
Email:	
Check enclosed \$	(includes annual membership)



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Join or renew JHSSC online. Go to www.cofc.edu/~jwst/ Enroll your friends and relatives for an additional \$36 each. Send us their information and we will inform them of your gift. *Please make checks payable to JHSSC*

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CHARLESTON, SC PERMIT No. 437

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of South Carolina

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Do You Remember?



Bernard Warshaw

On the cover: House of Peace on Marion Street Columbia, SC

Courtesy of Congregation Beth Shalom

From^{the} President Bernard Warshaw

We had a magnificent weekend, April 1–3, in Beaufort. If you were not there we missed you and you missed an interesting 100th anniversary. The entire program was exceptionally well planned and well executed, from the rededication prayers at Beth Israel Synagogue on Friday night and Shabbat services Saturday morning (thanks to Cantor Feinberg) to the dinner at the Yacht Club Saturday evening.

We were fortunate to have had outstanding speakers during the weekend, including both local talent—Helen Goldman and Stephen Schein—as well as two distinguished keynoters. Saturday evening Rabbi Harvey Tattelbaum recalled his tenure, some 45 years ago, when he served as chaplain at Parris Island and rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation in Beaufort and Temple Mt. Sinai in Walterboro. Sunday morning he gave us a preview of his forthcoming book, tentatively titled *Tales of the Village Rabbi*. Both talks were warm, loving, philosophical—altogether excellent.

Dr. Lee Shai Weissbach of the University of Louisville set Beaufort's Jewish history in the context of the experience of Jews in other small towns America, the subject of his new book, *Jewish Life in Small-Town America*, just published by Yale University Press.

We wrapped up Saturday afternoon with lively discussions and informative reports from Stanley Farbstein and Cyndi Levy, who, along with other committee members, are doing a superb job documenting Jewish burial grounds across the state.

On Sunday morning, the JHSSC Board Meeting was held at the Beaufort Arsenal, where the Jews of Beaufort worshipped before the synagogue was constructed. Thanks to Marty Perlmutter, Enid Idelsohn, Dale Rosengarten, and incoming president Belinda Gergel for their contributions to the agenda.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the celebration and looks forward to returning to Beaufort for more warm hospitality. Our hats are off to Joan Schor, president of Beth Israel Congregation, Rose Mark, Stanley Farbstein, Cantor Sheldon Feinberg, Paul Keyserling, and the many volunteers who made up the host committee.

Please mark your calendars for September 9, 10, and 11, 2005, to help Beth Shalom in Columbia celebrate its 100th anniversary and enjoy a weekend full of events (see page 9 for schedule of programs). Come join the excitement!

Sincerely,

reshau

Bernard Warshaw President

Country Roads and Country Stores by Stanley Farbstein



Keyserling family papers, Special Collections, College of Charleston Library.

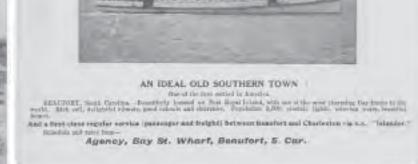
In today's era of paved roads, telephones, cable and Internet communication, with a cell phone in everyone's pocket, it is hard to visualize how difficult it was a century ago for people in Beaufort County who didn't live in the county seat to get about, buy food and other necessities, communicate with family and friends, or even go to school.

One hundred years ago, most roads were unpaved, made hazardous by ruts and sand in dry weather, deep mud when wet. Rivers and creeks were crossed by ferries; the first bridge between Beaufort and Lady's Island was completed in 1927. No road traversed the Combahee River between Gardens Corner and Jacksonboro until about 1935. Travel by car to Charleston was by way of Walterboro. In 1939, the road to Hunting Island stopped at Coffin Point. The thin strip of asphalt ended at Frogmore, after which, all was sand in dry weather and mud when it rained.

The easiest way to get from Beaufort to Yemassee was by the C&WC railroad, with stops at Burton, Seabrook, and Sheldon. From Yemassee, trains ran to Charleston and Savannah on the Atlantic Coast Line and Lobeco on the Seaboard Air Line. The other way to get to Savannah or Charleston was by boat. In 1914, there were three trips a day from the Bay Street dock in Beaufort to Savannah on the screw-propelled *Clivedon* and the side-wheeler *Pilot Boy*. You could leave Beaufort in the morning, shop in Savannah, and return to Beaufort before dark. To make the voyage more pleasant, the *Clivedon* hired a piano player and other musicians to perform en route. On some trips, the boat stopped at Port Royal, Hilton Head, Daufuskie, and possibly Bluffton. Regular service to Charleston was on the *Islander*.

Country stores served the needs of rural residents. They provided subsistence farmers with items that could not be raised in their fields, gardens, and chicken yards. The country store frequently included a post office and was possibly the only place to contact the sheriff or doctor or family members living elsewhere. In country stores, farmers might arrange to sell their crops and animals surplus to family needs.





78.001

S.S. "Islander" (Capt. John Ferguson)

Courtesy of South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.

From about 1890 until 1919, Jacob and Rachel Shindel Getz ran a country store on Parris Island and raised nine children over the store. For Parris Island farmers, the Getz family provided credit "on the book" with a page for each customer. Debts were settled when the crop "came in." Supplies for the store came mainly on a ship from Baltimore that anchored in Port Royal harbor where cargo was unloaded onto a lighter owned by Jacob Getz. The ship made regular trips between Baltimore and Savannah.



Getz store on Parris Island, SC, ca. 1900. Courtesy of Stanley Farbstein.

At this time, Parris Island had no school. As the Getz boys got older, they were sent to school in Savannah. They left the island by boat on Sunday afternoon, lived with a Jewish family in Savannah during the week, and returned to Parris Island on the Friday afternoon boat. Schooling for girls didn't get as much attention back then; the girls traveled to school in Port Royal each day by a cutter that crossed Port Royal harbor.

In the early years, Parris Island was a coaling station for U.S. Navy ships and later a naval disciplinary barracks. Port Royal Harbor was the deepest natural harbor south of Norfolk. In 1898, Jacob Getz carried supplies to the sailors on the Battleship Maine while it loaded coal prior to departure for Havana, Cuba. In 1915, the Marine Corp Recruit Depot was established. In 1919, the federal government bought all private property on the island, and the Getz family moved to Beaufort. Many other country stores in Beaufort County were operated by Jewish shopkeepers, who typically lived and raised their families "over the store." Here are a few store locations and proprietors that come to mind:

- Israel and Celia Keyserling had a store with a post office at Dale. They also sometimes provided room and board to the teacher of the school at Dale.
 Later, their son, King, and his wife, Polly Keyserling, operated the store at Dale.
- Michael and Rosa Levy Keyserling operated a store and post office at Seabrook. They had four children, Harold, Bertram, Leonard, and Sara Dena.
- Mark Keyserling operated a country store at Sams Point on Lucy Creek near the Coosaw River. The store was located near where Sams Point Road now crosses the creek. Mark would find it hard to believe that the road is now a divided four-lane highway.
- Samuel Schein and his wife, Esther Mark Schein, ran a store on land that is now part of the Beaufort Marine Corp Air Station. Their son, Morris, married Sadie Garber of Williston, South Carolina, and brought her to Beaufort where they operated a store on Bladen Street downtown.
- After their marriage, David and Annie Schein built a store and home on Cabin Bridge Road on Saint Helena Island.



Mark Keyseling with family and friends at Mark's Corners. Keyserling family papers, Special Collections, College of Charleston Library.

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Mark Keyserling's store and dock at Sams Point, ca. 1935. Keyserling family papers, Special Collections, College of Charleston Library.

- Esther Schein's brother, Joe Mark, had a country store near Burton. His bride, Lena Mae Banisch, came from her home in Poland by way of New York to Yemassee where Mr. Mark met her. As far as is known, the Mark's four daughters and son Ernest spent their early years at the store near Burton on what is now shown on county maps as "Joe Mark Road."
- Aaron and his wife, Betty Lipsitz also had a store in Burton. Aaron previously had a store on Bladen Street, but wanted to move to the country, as do so many of today's city dwellers.
- In the early part of the 20th century, Sam Lipton arrived in Beaufort as a bachelor and operated a store at Grays Hill. After serving in the U.S. Army in France during World War I, Lipton returned to Beaufort and ran the cobbler shop on Parris Island.



Downtown Beaufort, ca. 1935. Keyserling family papers, Special Collections, College of Charleston Library.

He married Helen Stern from Charleston and they raised their three sons in Beaufort.

- Isaac and Betty Donen had a country store in Tomotley near Yemassee. They had four children.
- Moses S. and Pauline Mittle Epstin set up shop in Port Royal before the turn of the 20th century, but perhaps it should not be called a country store because Port Royal residents would not agree that their town was "in the country." After all, Port Royal was the eastern terminus of the C&WC Railway, had the deepest harbor on the Atlantic coast south of Norfolk, and boasted regular ship traffic to and from Europe.

All the families named here except the Epstins are buried in Beth Israel Cemetery in Beaufort. As far as is known, all were members of Beth Israel Congregation, and many of the earlier residents were charter members. At least four served as president of the congregation at one time or another.

Life in the country was not easy. In fact, between 1914 and 1922, Isaac Donen, Samuel Schein, and Aaron Lipsitz were murdered during robberies in their country stores.

There were many other Jewish-owned country stores in South Carolina, and no doubt some in Beaufort County that were missed in this article. If you know of other stores or have pictures or stories or anecdotes about the family life of country storekeepers, please send such information to:

> Stanley Farbstein 14 Lockwood Drive Apt.11-H Charleston, SC 29401

Any documentation we gather will go into the archives of the Jewish Heritage Collection at the Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library and/or be put on display at the Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center at the College of Charleston. If you would like to have your pictures returned, please so indicate and they will be copied and the originals returned.

Beth Shalom's Centennial: Early Synagogues



I think I know why I joined the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Originally, my idea was to preserve the present by celebrating Jewish cultural arts. Toward this end, I helped organize JHSSC's Council for Jewish Culture, which encouraged and publicized concerts, film festivals, theatrical performances, award ceremonies, and exhibitions

around the state. But looking more closely at the history of my congregation, Columbia's Beth Shalom, I realize that we also need to work to retrieve our past, that we have already sustained significant losses of our Jewish heritage. Columbia's first synagogue and one of Beth Shalom's earlier sanctuaries burned to the ground, and another was demolished and replaced with a parking lot. Why? How did this happen?

The Jewish community in Columbia has existed since the early 19th century. As in other early American cities, many of the town's first Jewish settlers were Sephardic, with ancestors from Spain or Portugal. In 1846, Columbia's first congregation was organized and given the name Sharit Israel—the same name that religious traditionalists in Charleston had adopted a few years prior, when they broke from Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim in opposition to certain reforms.

Columbia's Sharit Israel met in a building on Assembly Street, upstairs from the Hebrew Benevolent Society, founded 20 years before. One of the nation's earliest Jewish Sunday schools convened in the basement. In 1865, the structure burned to the ground, as General W. T. Sherman and his troops occupied the city.

Columbia's Jewish community declined sharply after the Civil War, and then slowly grew with an influx of new immigrants from Eastern Europe. Henry Steele, who would become the first president of the Tree of Life, and Phillip Epstein, who would become the founding president of the House of Peace (later renamed Beth Shalom), were among the individuals who met together for services.

The group tried to compromise between Reform and Orthodox practices, but by 1905 the Orthodox families began conducting services in a separate space and, two years later, filed a lawsuit against the trustees of the Tree of Life. (See Epstein v Berman, 78 S.C. 827, 1907.) The Orthodox minyan met in a small house on Park and Lady Streets, and decided to call itself House of Peace. Congregants moved across Park Street into their first real shul, and in 1912 they received a state charter.



Sanctuary of second synagogue built on Park Street, later called "The Big Apple."

In 1915, Beth Shalom's sanctuary burned to the ground—the city's second synagogue lost to fire. The Torah scrolls were rescued by Isadore Gergel, who ran into the burning building to save them.

A larger structure was erected on the same site in the old style, with a bima in the center of the sanctuary. The second Park Street synagogue still stands today, moved from its original location to the corner of Park and Hampton. Known as the "The Big Apple," named for a dance craze that was popular at the time, the building operated as a night club. The former Beth Shalom has been restored by the city of Columbia and is listed in the National Registry of Historical Buildings.

PAGE 7

A Year of Celebration Lost Forever

The congregation's first rabbi, David Karesh, who began leading services in 1908, served for 50 years as the "everything rabbi"—cantor, kosher butcher, mohel, and Hebrew teacher. With the growth of Columbia's Jewish population, he and his flock felt a bigger space was needed. They bought a lot on Marion Street, but, in the midst of the Great Depression, with monthly dues of \$2.50, the congregation could not afford to begin construction until 1935.

M. B. Kahn, a member of Beth Shalom and one of Columbia's leading contractors, constructed the new building in a style typical of synagogue architecture in the '30s and '40s. It was an imposing brick structure, with steps leading up to an arched entrance. (See cover photo.) Inside there was a raised pew at the back and a balcony, which turned out not to get much use. In 1935, shortly before the new synagogue was dedicated, the board of directors proposed a momentous change: to allow women to sit downstairs. The synagogue sisterhood, called Daughters of Israel, voted unanimously in favor of this new policy, while many members were staunchly opposed.

A compromise was reached permitting women and children to sit on the far right hand side of the sanctuary where two front rows were removed to make sure they were separated from the men and the ark. In 1946, the House of Peace became a member of the United Synagogues of America, officially affiliating with the Conservative movement, as many congregations across the nation did in the years following World War II.



Trenholm Road Synagogue Trilogy Celebration, January 1993. l-r: Bill Stern, president; Carol Bernstein and Rose Kline, co-chairs; and Ben Stern, past president.

by Lyssa Kligman Harvey



Wedding of Helen Greher and Sol Kahn,1936 —first marriage performed in Marion Street synagogue.

I remember this synagogue quite well. My family regularly attended Friday night services and all the High Holidays services. I remember walking around the Marion Street block during yizkor services for Yom Kippur, and running around in the downstairs social hall during kiddush luncheons. I was four years old when the congregation celebrated its Golden Jubilee. In 1955, land had been purchased in the area of town where many Jewish families were relocating. Plans were to build a Jewish Community Center, an education building, and eventually a new synagogue. My sisters and I attended Hebrew school and Sunday school at the new Beth Shalom education building on Trenholm Road. In 1968, twelve of my classmates and I celebrated our bat mitzvahs at the Marion Street shul.

In 1971, a third synagogue was built on additional land purchased less than two miles from the JCC and education building. The congregation adopted the name Beth Shalom and dropped its English translation, House of Peace. This structure, where we worship today, is a contemporary concrete design in a wooded lot in suburban Columbia. An education wing was built in 1980. In this synagogue, the Harvey/Kligman family have witnessed many family weddings, brisses and naming ceremonies, and bar and bat mitzvahs.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

My family has played an active part in Beth Shalom's history by taking leadership roles and helping to make policy changes for the congregation. My grandfather, Louis Kligman, was on the board of directors of the Marion Street synagogue. My father, Melton, has been on the board of directors at the present synagogue and served for many years as chair of the ritual committee. My mother, Helene, and my sister, Heidi Lovit, both have been Sisterhood presidents. My brother-in-law, David Lovit, recently served as president of the congregation.

For three generations, family homes have been located close to the synagogues. My grandfather, Louis Kligman, had a dry-goods business on Assembly Street and lived close to the Park Street shul. My father's office and my parents' first home after they married were quite close to the synagogue on Marion Street. When Beth Shalom moved to Trenholm Road, the Kligman family moved a mile and a half away, and my husband and I settled within a two-mile radius. Living in walking distance, when my children were little we walked to shul. It is comforting to know that the synagogue is close by. Its proximity reflects its importance in my life.

What became of the Marion Street synagogue? The property was sold and the building demolished. Where Beth Shalom once stood is now a parking lot. The chapel in the present synagogue houses the old Marion Street pews and eternal light, as well as the doors of the ark and Torahs from the old synagogue. It is reassuring to be among these familiar relics. When I drive by Marion Street and see nothing where the old synagogue used to be, I get nostalgic and angry. Razing a building that embodies a part of history causes irrevocable loss to the community. At the dedication ceremony of the Marion Street synagogue in 1935, Governor Olin D. Johnson remarked, "As I look at this handsome structure, I am reminded of the many sacrifices, the labor of love that devoted members of this congregation have put into its successful completion." Our synagogue today stands strong because of the dedication of this continued lay leadership in our congregation.

As I get older, I want to remember and preserve the past. Preserving our heritage is too big a task for any one person. Being a member of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has made me grateful for individuals who are curious about our history and anxious to record it. Beth Shalom has a vital, active group of archivists and historians: Helen Kahn, Florence Levy, Henry Hammer, Sol Silver, Helen Copland, Melton Kligman, Leon Spotts, Alan Kahn, Rose Kline, Dean Bernstein, Belle Jewler, Aaron Smalls, Toby Drucker, Henry Ray Wengrow, Jerry Kline, Shelley Kriegshaber, and many more.

Belinda and Richard Gergel's history of Columbia's early Jews, *In Pursuit of the Tree of Life*, includes an account of Beth Shalom's beginnings. Laurie Baker Walden is in the process of writing a full-scale congregational history, as Beth Shalom enters its second century. These individuals, along with the Historical Society, will ensure that we do not lose any more of the culture embodied in our historic buildings, artifacts, or in the stories we tell. I am grateful that Beth Shalom's history and our present Jewish life will not be lost for future generations.

The major source of historical information for this article is the Beth Shalom Centennial Celebration keepsake book (2005).

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA ARTS AND CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is pleased to announce its third annual Arts and Cultural Achievement Award. Previous winners are Dale Rosengarten and Meira Warshauer.

This year the award will be presented to an individual of any faith in South Carolina (native-born or resident) who exemplifies and demonstrates exceptional leadership, support, and/or prowess in fostering and preserving Jewish arts and culture in South Carolina.

This individual can be:

 \triangleright A presenter, coordinator, or patron of the arts

An individual who is involved in visual, literary, theatre, media, or performing arts, or music. The award will be presented at the fall meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina held in Columbia, SC, September 9–11, 2005. The deadline for nominations is August 15, 2005.

For more information contact: Lyssa Harvey at 803.920.0707.

JHSSC Meets in Columbia, SC Sept 9-11, 2005

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, September 9th

- 6:30-7:30 pm Shabbat Services at Beth Shalom 5827 North Trenholm Road
 Sermon: "Writing Beth Shalom's History," Laurie Baker Walden
- 7:30-8:30 pm Dinner in the Social Hall
 Panel Discussion: "The Future of Beth Shalom," moderated by Moss Blachman

Saturday, September 10th

- 10:00 am 12:00 noon Shabbat Morning Services Welcome: Jack Swerling, President of Beth Shalom Proclamation Presentation from Governor Mark Sanford by Bernard Warshaw, President of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina
- 11:00 am First Keynote Address
- 12:00-1:30 pm Kiddush Luncheon
- Afternoon open
- 6:00 pm Reception at *The Big Apple* Formerly a Beth Shalom Synagogue
- 8:00 pm Concert by "**Brio**," an internationally renowned early sephardic music quartet, at the USC School of Music

Sunday, September 11th

- 9:30 am The First Columbia Synagogue Historical Site Commemoration on Assembly Street
- 10:30 11:30 am Second Keynote Address
- 11:30 am 12:30 pm Jewish Historical Society Board Meeting
- 12:30 pm Whaley Street Cemetery Tour Conducted by Aaron Small



Beth Shalom Synagogue, 2004.

JHSSC Meeting Columbia, South Carolina

September 9-11, 2005

NAME(S)_____

ADDRESS

PHONE_____ E-MAIL

CITY______ZIP_____

The cost for this weekend is \$65 per person not including hotel accommodations. Total Amount Enclosed \$____

> Return form to: JHSSC / Jewish Studies Program 96 Wentworth Street Charleston, SC 29424

COLUMBIA HOTEL INFORMATION:

The Whitney Hotel

700 Woodrow Street Columbia, SC 29205 Phone: 803.252.0845 or 800.637.4008

RATE: \$99/night

Special rate available until August 10, 2005 You must make your own reservations (request a room in the "Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina room block.")

From Halfway around the Globe Miedzyrzecki Family Reunites in Charleston

by Harlan Greene and Warren Kohn

In Polish, the term Miedzyrz means "between two rivers." In southern parlance, "between two rivers" can only refer to the peninsula between the Ashley and the Cooper Rivers. It was here, in Charleston, South Carolina, at the end of December 2004, that members of Miedzyrzecki family of Kaluszyn, Poland, held the first reunion in their history. Not only had most never been to Charleston, but many, coming from all over the U.S.A. and as far away as Australia, had never met before, scattered by the Holocaust and divergent life paths after the war.



Eleazar Miedzyrecki, ca. 1920

Eleazar, a tallis maker, and his wife Rivka Ruchel Miedzyrzecki, had five children in Poland. Their descendants now number 186. Two of the Miedzyrzeckis' sons came to America in 1913. Abraham became Abraham Goldberg in Paterson, New Jersey, where he was a textile merchant. His brother Isaac settled in Charleston and became Isaac Cohen. Isaac was followed by his wife and children in 1920—Yehudis Cohen, who married Abe Kirshtein, and Alter (Albert) Cohen, who became Albert Kohn. Albert's son Warren is the family member who organized the reunion.



Opening reception of the reunion, Charleston, SC, December 2004.

A daughter of Eleazer and Rivka Ruchel Miedzyrzecki, Yehudit Miedzyrzecki, settled in Charleston and married Elozer (Louis) Toporek. Their daughter, Rosalee (Toporek) Gellman, resides in Savannah, Georgia.

Another daughter, Kayla, married Moses David Kawer, and perished in the Holocaust. Her daughter and son-in-law, Regina and Sam Greene, survived and settled in Charleston in the late 1940s. Regina's sister, Maria, also survived and eventually settled in New Jersey, marrying a Miedzyrzecki cousin there.

The fifth child of Eleazer and Rivka Ruchel Miedzyrzecki, Tauba, married Motre Liebhaber in Poland. They had four children, two of whom perished in the Holocaust. The surviving children eventually immigrated to Argentina and Australia and descendants of that branch of the family were in attendance at the 2004 reunion.

From halfway around the globe, and down seven generations, cousins came together in the hospitable American South to affirm their connection to each other and to life.





Warren Kohn holding Miedzyrzecki family tree.

Jewish Genealogy on the Web

Have you been wondering who your ancestors are? What shtetl did they come from? Is there a record of where they are buried? Do you have relatives you don't know about? Do you have access to a computer and the Internet? Then you must log on to <u>www.jewishgen.org</u>, JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy, an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

JewishGen[®], Inc. is the primary Internet source connecting researchers of Jewish genealogy worldwide. Its most popular components are the JewishGen Discussion Group, the JewishGen Family Finder (a database of 350,000 surnames and towns), the comprehensive directory of InfoFiles, ShtetLinks for over 200 communities, and a variety of databases such as the ShtetlSeeker and Jewish Records Indexing-Poland. (See adjacent box for more information on these programs.) JewishGen's online Family Tree of the Jewish People contains data on more than three million people.

Through these and other databases and discussion groups, researchers have found numerous ancestors and living family members. There are databases from archives in Eastern Europe, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, Great Britain, Scandinavia, Israel, South Africa, and America, with additions added all the time. There are databases that can provide answers to questions such as, what is the English name for Chaim? There is a database pertaining to Holocaust victims and survivors. There is a link



The Meddin/Berlinsky/ Hellman family tree.

to the Ellis Island web site that can help you find when your ancestor arrived in the United States, what boat he/she traveled on, where it embarked and where it disembarked, and other information listed on the ship's manifest.

Technical information for this article was acquired from <u>www.jewishgen.org</u>. Access to the website is free. Jewishgen accepts donations, but no membership is required. JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) connects people who are looking for the same ancestral towns and surnames. (Through this particular site, I personally reconnected with a family member that I had not seen in many years.)

<u>Family Tree of the Jewish People</u> (FTJP) compiles family trees of Jewish researchers.

<u>ShtetlSeeker</u> helps people search for towns in Central and Eastern Europe, using exact spelling or the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex system. Want to find out how far your ancestors lived from each other? This search will display latitude and longitude for each location, the distance/direction from the country's capital city, and a link to a map.

Unfamiliar with the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex system? It is a system to unify the numerous spelling variants of the same basic surname or shtetl. The Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System was created by Randy Daitch and Gary Mokotoff of the Jewish Genealogical Society because they concluded the system developed by Robert Russell in 1918, and in use today by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), does not apply well to many Slavic and Yiddish surnames. It also includes refinements that are independent of ethnic considerations.

The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) consists of over 450,000 entries from cemeteries and burial records worldwide, from the earliest records to the present. As we in the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina undertake our statewide survey of Jewish cemeteries, we can add our own database of burials to the extensive files that are already available on Jewishgen.

Have YOU researched your family tree?

New and Noteworthy: Early Scrapbooks and Journals of Jacob S. Raisin by Solomon Breibart

For 29 years, Jacob Salmon Raisin (1878–1946) served Charleston's historic Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim faithfully and with dedication as rabbi and for two years as rabbi emeritus. He was the longest tenured religious leader of the congregation and first to be honored as rabbi emeritus. He was a recognized Hebraist and scholar, author of several books and many published articles and essays, and, withal, a community leader. But the road to Charleston and Beth Elohim had not been an easy one.



Jacob S. Raisin, ca. 1900.

Jacob Raisin began his career in 1900, fresh from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. At the age of 22, barely eight years after he came to America with his family from Russia, bursting with energy, he took the pulpit at Gemiluth Chesed Synagogue in Port Gibson, Mississippi, a congregation which had been organized in 1875 and whose building was erected in 1891.

Port Gibson was, at that time, a small, typically southern town of about 3,000 people, with the usual southern attitudes on social issues, especially the race question. Raisin deplored the racial bias he witnessed in Mississippi, hated what it did to people of color, and had to restrain himself on the subject.



Synagogus Gemiluth Chassed Congregation,

Engraving of Synagogue Gemiluth Chesed, Port Gibson, MS., from The Owl, New Orleans, LA., August 1902.

With a congregation of only 50 members, his duties were not demanding. Most of the time, he was bored to distraction and spent hour upon hour reading and writing. He boarded in a house of one of the townspeople, occupying a small but fairly comfortable room in the attic. He kept a diary, which he later bound into a volume called *My Life's Tragi-Comedy.* He missed intellectual discourse and congenial people. Frequently, to improve his command of English, he would go to the synagogue and read aloud passages from the works of famous clerics.

Raisin was anxious to start a family and have a home of his own, but few opportunities presented themselves and his compensation would not allow it. Despite the fact that he was "held in high esteem by the entire community—Christian as well as Jewish," he saw no future for himself in Port Gibson and, almost from the beginning, sought desperately a more lucrative and stimulating environment.

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He was, his diary reveals, a very troubled young man who began to doubt his choice of a profession, especially after his relentless search for a new position from New Orleans to Philadelphia, and many small places in between, proved unsuccessful. He did manage to leave Port Gibson in 1905, and served later in pulpits in Butte, Montana; Las Vegas, New Mexico; and Troy, New York.

It is not my intention in this article to write more about Jacob Raisin; that will come later. Here, I want to acquaint our readers with the treasure trove of information contained in the new addition to the Raisin papers, recently donated by Mordenai Raisin Hirsch and Rachel Raisin to the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston. The brief account above is based on items from a scrapbook kept by Raisin and a portion of one of the diaries he maintained while at Port Gibson. Fascinating stuff!

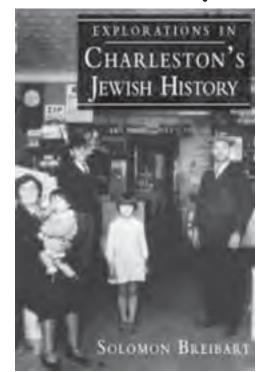
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Letter pasted into Rabbi Raisin's Port Gibson diary.

The collection contains his published books, manuscripts of works both published and unpublished, and monographs on a variety of issues, Jewish and general. The scrapbooks, covering approximately 50 years, are replete with clippings from newspapers and magazines, and articles in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish. Besides shedding light on the career and life of Raisin, they also reflect the Jewish experience in the communities he served and visited, including the town where he settled down and stayed, Charleston, South Carolina.

All illustrations from the Jacob S. Raisin papers. Gift of Mordenai R. Hirsch and Rachel M. Raisin. Special Collections, College of Charleston Library.

Explorations in Charleston's Jewish History



In its over three hundred years of history, Charleston, South Carolina, has been known for many things. One of the most intriguing aspects of its past and present—is its dynamic Jewish community.

Documented in the Lowcountry since the 1690s, Charleston Jews have contributed to the region, the nation, and the world. In 1800, the city boasted the largest and wealthiest Jewish population in the country, and Charleston has been continually shaped by this significant group of men and women, both religious and secular, humble and heroic.

Here are their stories—old and new intermixed with tales of historic buildings, congregations, religious movements, and cemeteries, wonderfully told by preeminent Charleston Jewish historian, Solomon Breibart. Collected from a lifetime of work, these explorations offer the reader a wealth of material: essays of historic significance, biographies, lists and chronologies, and telling vignettes that together suggest the rich mosaic of Jewish life in Charleston and the Lowcountry.

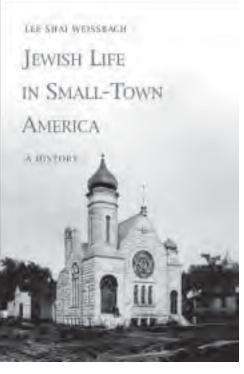
It is a tale told nowhere else, and no one could tell it better, or in such a lively way, than Solomon Breibart.

The History Press, 2005, \$24.99

PAGE 14

Other Books of Interest: Jewish Life in Small-Town America: A History

In this book. Lee Shai Weissbach offers the first comprehensive portrait of Jewish life in American small towns. Exploring the history of communities of 100 to 1000 Jews, the book focuses on the years from the mid-19th century to World War II.



Weissbach examines the dynamics of 490 communities across the United States and reveals that smaller Jewish centers were not simply miniature versions of larger communities but were instead alternative kinds of communities in many respects.

The book investigates topics ranging from migration patterns to occupational choices, from Jewish education and marriage strategies to congregational organization. The story of smaller Jewish communities attests to the richness and complexity of American Jewish history and also serves to remind us of the diversity of small-town society in times past.

"Unquestionably the most thoroughly researched of all books on small Jewish communities, this volume will stand for many years as the definitive work on the subject."

— Jonathan Sarna, author of American Judaism

Lee Shai Weissbach is professor of history at the University of Louisville.

Yale University Press, 2005, \$45.00

The German Officer's Boy



What really happened on that infamous afternoon in November 1938, when a young Polish Jew named Hershel Grynszpan walked into the German embassy in Paris and shots rang out? The immediate consequence was concrete: Nazi Germany retaliated with the "Night of Broken Glass,"

recognized as the

beginning of the Holocaust. Lost and overlooked in the aftermath is the arresting story of the confused teenage assassin, whose murder of Ernst Vom Rath was used to justify Kristallnacht.

In this historical novel, award-winning writer Harlan Greene may be the first author to take the Polish Jew at his word. Historians have tried to explain away Grynszpan's claim that he was involved in a love affair with Vom Rath. Greene, instead, traces the lives of the underprivileged and persecuted boy and the wealthy German diplomat as they move inevitably towards their illfated affair. In spare, vivid, and compelling prose, Greene imagines their world, their relationship, and their last horrific encounter, as they tried to wrest love and meaning from a world that would itself soon disappear in a whirlwind of violence and madness.

The son of Holocaust survivors, Harlan Greene is the author of several books of nonfiction and two earlier novels. He is currently project archivist of the Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston.

University of Wisconsin Press, 2005, \$26.95

A Small Temple with a Big Heart: Beth Or, Kingstree, South Carolina

by Miriam Drucker

In 1988, as I prepared to enter Temple Beth Or for the very first time, I was full of apprehension. My husband and I had recently returned to his hometown to live, and we were attending our first Sabbath services in Kingstree. Much to my surprise everyone welcomed me with open arms. I instantly felt at home in this congregation.

Many of these people had been members of Beth Or since the synagogue was founded in 1948. Thanks to their hard work and determination, the temple was able to offer lots of the amenities of a larger congregation. Even before the building was constructed, members conducted Friday night services in private homes, and some of the adults and older children taught Hebrew to the younger children. The Men's Club and the Sisterhood sponsored a range of activities, including an annual trip to Poinsett State Park, womanless weddings, Purim festivals, clothing donations to Israel, Passover seders, fund raising bazaars, Chanukah parties, religious school classes, and holiday break-fasts. The temple quickly became the center for Jewish life in Kingstree and surrounding communities.

Each year a student rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City traveled to South Carolina to conduct Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Often these young rabbis spent the entire High Holiday period in Kingstree. Most of them had never experienced Judaism in the rural South. For some it was the first time they had driven a car in years. Others enjoyed the incredible meals they were served in the members' homes. The visits proved to be educational experiences for everyone, and many of the student rabbis would return for a second visit.

For 56 years the temple was operated successfully, despite the congregation's dwindling numbers. Our dedicated members persisted, but finally we agreed there were just too few of us to continue. In 2004, for the first time since 1948, High Holiday services were not held in Temple Beth Or. As my family sat in Beth Israel in Florence, I found myself overcome with emotion. Although I had been a member of Beth Or for only 16 years, I felt as if a part of me was missing. I can only imagine the void it has left in those who have been members since the founding of the congregation. Its demise leaves us all with sadness in our hearts.



Temple Beth Or, Kingstree, SC. Courtesy of Miriam Drucker.

On February 17, 2005, the final papers were signed for the synagogue to be sold. The local Catholic Diocese needed a larger place of worship and our building was a perfect fit. For various reasons the paperwork for the closing of the temple had been delayed many times—perhaps because the temple would be needed for one last service. Funeral services for Jerry Drucker, my father-in-law, were held on February 16, the day before the closing.

A menorah, a kiddush cup, a tallit, a mezuzah, a yarmulke, the flag of Israel, a plat of the temple property, and books from the religious school have been placed in the Williamsburg County Museum. I hope that people will remember Temple Beth Or as I do, as a small temple with a big heart.



The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina Newsletter is published twice a year, in winter and summer.

Enid Idelsohn	Design and Layout
Dale Rosengarten	Editor

We wish to thank the following for their help with the production of this newsletter: Ryan Chesley, Paul Keyserling, Jeri Perlmutter, and Joseph Rubin.

> JHSSC College of Charleston Charleston, SC 29424

Moïse Family Spans Four



Reunion participants assembled in the yard behind the Sullivan's Island home of Loren and Mindelle Ziff, June 2004. Courtesy of Phil Moïse.

The reunion began with a Friday afternoon pilgrimage to the Coming Street Cemetery, a "viewing of the ancestors," as it became known. Established in 1764 by Congregation Beth Elohim, the Coming Street Cemetery is the oldest surviving Jewish cemetery in the South. In 1841, when Beth Elohim became the first reform congregation in the United States, its orthodox members seceded and established their own cemetery right beside the Coming Street burial ground, walled off from their reform-minded neighbors. The two congregations reunited following the Civil War, and the wall came down. In 2004, wars and divisions long forgotten, Moïse family members mingled in the warmth of a summer afternoon, taking each other's pictures in front of fading tombstones.

Friday evening found the family in Shabbat services at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, the family's religious ancestral home. This is the second oldest synagogue building in the United States, and the oldest in continuous use. It was entered into the National Historic Register in 1980. Many of the Moïses had never worshiped in a synagogue. However, regional and religious backgrounds were quickly forgotten when the services ended and the family joined the congregation in the reception that followed. Long known for their sociability, the Moïses outlasted the congregation and stayed until the tables were cleared and the lights went out.

In June 2004, over a warm Father's Day weekend in Charleston, South Carolina, 150 Moïse family members from 16 states gathered to celebrate their history in America. That history began in 1791 when Abraham and Sarah Moïse landed in Charleston from Santa Domingo (now Haiti), driven from their sugar plantation by bloody slave uprisings that eventually freed the island from French domination. They arrived with nothing but four children, a small chest of valuables, and the clothes on their backs, completing an odyssey that began years earlier in Strasbourg, France. Abraham was 55; Sarah, 29. They would have five more children over the next 10 years.

The refugees were welcomed by members of Congregation Beth Elohim, established in 1749, the fourth oldest Jewish congregation in the United States. While the family began its life in America as faithful Hebrews ("Moïse" is French for "Moses"), as years passed descendants migrated and intermarried. By the time the family reunited in 2004, it had assimilated into a vibrant mix of Jews, Catholics, Protestants, and those of other persuasions. Judaism took center stage, however, as family members from outside South Carolina reacquainted themselves with their roots.

Centuries in South Carolina

The American Diaspora had forever changed the face of the family, but for that weekend the scattered faithful returned to the Holy City.

Saturday was spent exploring Charleston and gathering at the home of Scott Moïse and Bailey Crump, which became reunion headquarters. There, family histories were shared and gaps in the genealogical chart were filled as family members traced their ancestries through Abraham and Sarah's nine children. On Saturday walking tours created by Ann Moïse and Anita and Ira Rosenberg showed family members where Moïses lived and worked in the early 1800s.

In keeping with the Moïse family's legendary interest in cooking and eating-there are two cookbooks of family favorites-the highlight for many was Saturday night dinner at the home of Loren and Mindelle Ziff on Sullivan's Island, overlooking one of Charleston's world famous salt marshes. The main course was Frogmore Stew, the unofficial seafood dish of South Carolina. Reportedly invented about 60 years ago by a National Guardsman from Frogmore, a small town by that name on St. Helena Island near Beaufort, it consists of shrimp, sausage, and corn on the cob boiled in whatever the cook finds flavorful. The cook that night-lowcountry chef extraordinaire Ben Moïse-never revealed what he put in the water, but it was sufficient to have most diners return for seconds and thirds. Grilled flounder and other delicacies were also provided for those not indulging in the celebrated stew.

by Phil Moïse

Even giving him his full due for the wonderful meal on Saturday night, Ben's main contribution to the family reunion was hosting a Sunday cookout on Moïse Island, on the Intracoastal Waterway north of Charleston. Purchased by Ben in 1985, the Island is about 1/5 of an acre at high tide, just large enough for a one-room cabin, open cook shed, outhouse and campfire area, well-guarded by two cats and a flock of guinea fowl. Swept clean by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Moïse Island was rebuilt and now is scene to a multitude of Charleston gatherings both sacred and profane. A flotilla of boats carried the party from Isle of Palms Marina to the Island, where the family feasted on hamburgers, hot dogs, and an impressive array of side dishes and desserts brought to be shared, in true southern style.

Fond farewells were exchanged back on the dock at Isle of Palms, bringing to a close one of the most memorable events in the long history of the Moïse family. While the family again scattered to their homes across America, they left a legacy—the Moïse Family Preservation Fund, with donations to be invested in preserving the family's history in Charleston.

Penina Moïse comes home

Sol Breibart, Anita Moïse Rosefield Rosenberg, Ira Rosenberg, and painting conservator Catherine Rogers pose with the partially restored portrait of Penina Moïse (1797-1880) on an easel in Ms. Rogers's studio, April 2005. The Rosenbergs recently acquired the painting from a family member living in Texas. The canvas, attributed to Penina's nephew, Theodore Sidney Moïse, depicts the renowned poet, teacher, and hymnalist against a background of the 1838 fire that destroyed the first synagogue of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim. Photo: Dale Rosengarten.



Looking Back with Pride by Martin Perlmutter, JHSSC Executive Director

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is entering its second decade with an impressive history of its own. Over the past ten years, the Society has grown to its current status as the largest statewide Jewish organization in South Carolina. We are proud to have had a hand in the production of "A Portion of the People," McKissick Museum's nationally traveling exhibition on 300 years of Southern Jewish life, and the Jewish Heritage Collection, a world-class archives housed in the Addlestone Library at the College of Charleston. We published a brochure highlighting sites of Jewish interest in South Carolina and helped underwrite a number of scholarly books. Our frequent meetings and semi-annual newsletters have generated a groundswell of enthusiasm and grassroots activity across the state.

The Society has put the important history of South Carolina Jewry on the map for everyone to see, so much so that the New York–based American Jewish Historical Society has invited the College of Charleston to host its next biennial Scholars' Conference, scheduled for June 5–7, 2006. JHSSC will time its spring meeting to coincide with this august gathering of historians and graduate students. A roundtable on the subject of regionalism, a session on southern Jewish cuisine, featuring a banquet of local specialties, and the cultural offerings of the city's 30th Spoleto Festival guarantee a high level of fun and excitement. Save the date.

Being on the map, however, comes with responsibilities. As the Society extends its reach and ambitions, its expenses also grow. Among our new initiatives are the documentation of Jewish burials across the state and the creation of a computerized cemetery survey accessible on the Internet. The Society also has promised annual support to the College Library's Jewish Heritage Collection.

As history is the lifeblood of the Jewish people, our Pillars are the Society's lifeblood. Each Pillar pledges to give at least \$1,000 a year for five years, to help cover our operating expenses and fund our activities. Please consider adding your name to our list of distinguished supporters. Become a Pillar and help us make the Society's second decade even more fruitful than our first.

The Pillars of the	Society (2005)
John and Marcie Baker	Columbia, SC
Doris Baumgarten	Aiken, SC
Norman and Eve Berlinsky	Charleston, SC
Bernice (Bunny) Bernstein	Mt. Pleasant, SC
In memory of Anne and Samuel Ri	chman
of Manning, SC	
Alan Coleman	Charleston, SC
Harriette Kraft Ehrlich	Jacksonville, FL
Meri Gergel	Columbia, SC
Richard and Belinda Gergel	Columbia, SC
Dr. Mark and Judith Green	Charleston, SC
Ruth B. Greenberg	Florence, SC
Michael Kogan	Little Falls, NJ
Ronald Krancer	Villanova, PA
Cynthia J. Levy	Hilton Head, SC
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Susan Lourie	Columbia, SC
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