

“Mountain Jews: Creating Community in Appalachia” Southern Jewish Historical Society • Thirty-seventh Annual Conference Asheville, North Carolina • October 18-21, 2012



This fall, the SJHS Annual Conference will be held in Asheville, North Carolina, alternatively known as the “Land of the Sky” or the “Paris of the South,” from October 18-21. We invite everyone to see what drew Jewish settlers to establish communities (complete with kosher boarding houses and summer camps) throughout the Appalachians.

For anyone doubting that Jews played a part in the mountain culture of the past few centuries, it’s worth noting that Asheville alone was home to more than 435 Jewish retail businesses between 1880 and 1990 and that it had two synagogues that even Solomon Schechter could not convince to merge. SJHS offers conference participants a great opportunity to explore Jewish history and culture in the southern mountains, enjoy stunning fall foliage, and attend one of the premiere Jewish heritage festivals in the South. (A registration form for the conference can be found on page 6 of this issue of the *Rambler*. Reserve your place today.)

This year’s conference kicks off on Friday, October 19. In the morning, participants have several options: they can visit nearby sites related to presentations that will be given on Saturday, such as the Thomas Wolfe Memorial and Black Mountain College Museum and Art Center, and/or they can take a short walking tour of sites of Jewish interest offered by a local Jewish historian. Those who have registered for the optional Friday lunch and tour (\$35) will meet for a meal with local rabbis and then go on a trolley tour of “Asheville’s Jewish Museum Without Walls,” including a visit to the University of North Carolina at Asheville and its Ramsey Library’s Special Collections and Archives, which house superb materials on Western North Carolina’s Jewish Heritage (toto.lib.unca.edu/collections/jewish_life_wnc.htm). Friday concludes with a more official start to the conference: dinner and a brief Shabbat service at Asheville’s Jewish Community Center followed by a panel discussion on the history of the local Jewish summer camps and resorts that made this area the Catskills of the South.



Bimah of Beth HaTephila on Spruce Street in Asheville. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNCA.

Saturday features an array of presentations and panel discussions that examine the

Jewish presence in the Appalachian region. These include an exploration of the nearby Black Mountain College experiment and the role that Jews played there; a look at whether native son Thomas Wolfe’s notorious anti-Semitism was genuine; and synagogue life in Appalachia. Later on Saturday afternoon, we’ll visit the Asheville Art Museum for a discussion about being a Jewish artist in Western North Carolina and a reception that will feature music from the Bandana Klezmer Band.

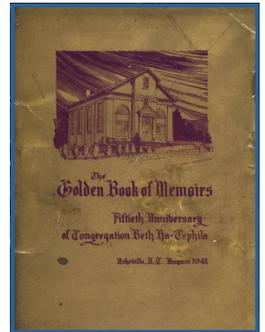
On Saturday evening, participants are invited to visit any one of Asheville’s great restaurants. (We strongly suggest dinner reservations, since our conference falls during the peak of our fall leaf-peeping season. A list of suggested restaurants can be found at www.exploreasheville.com/restaurants/by-neighborhood/downtown/).

Following dinner, we’ll offer a screening back at the hotel of a locally filmed motion picture, or participants can visit Asheville’s famous Malaprop’s Bookstore to attend a reading and book-signing by Rich Cohen, who has a new biography of Banana King Samuel Zemurray.

Following breakfast on Sunday, we offer one of SJHS’s most popular programs: a “Meet the Authors” panel featuring writers who have published a book relevant to Southern Jewish history during the past year. Those books will be on sale along with other works by local Jewish authors and of Southern Jewish interest. Although the conference officially adjourns after the Meet the Authors session, participants are invited to HardLox, Asheville’s 10th annual festival of Jewish Food and Heritage, which takes place at downtown’s Pack Square and attracts as many as 5,000 visitors each year. In lieu of our customary box-lunch sendoff, we’ll be providing vouchers for lunch at HardLox.

Register before August 15, 2012, and be entered to win a \$30 gift card to Woolworth Walk courtesy of the Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau. Woolworth walk is located at 25 Haywood Street in downtown and offers a selection of fine art and crafts from over 170 local artists and artisans. We’re glad the Southern Jewish Historical Society is meeting in Asheville! Be sure to visit ExploreAsheville.com to help plan your trip. Connect with us before you travel to get insider tips on ways to make the most of your time in the mountains: check us out on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

See inside this edition of the *Rambler* for a conference program and information on participants. More updated information will be available on the SJHS homepage, www.jewishsouth.org.



The Golden Book of Memoirs for the Fiftieth Anniversary of Congregation Beth HaTephila in 1941. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNCA.

Hotel Information

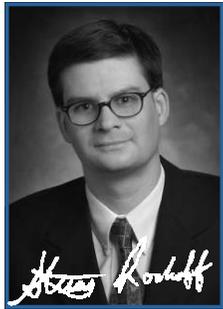
The headquarters for this year’s conference is the Four Points by Sheraton, located in the heart of downtown Asheville near restaurants, shops, museums, and several cultural sites including Asheville’s Urban Trail.

Reserve your hotel room now. A special conference rate is available. Four Points by Sheraton Asheville Downtown • 22 Woodfin Street • Asheville, North Carolina 28801 • Phone (828) 253-1851. Mention SJHS. Room Rates: **\$145.00/night** plus tax (single occupancy) and **\$150.00/night** plus tax (double occupancy), includes continental breakfast, parking, & free internet. Reservations must be made directly to the hotel. Prices valid until September 19, 2012.



Find us on Facebook! Search for “Southern Jewish Historical Society”

President's Message *By Stuart Rockoff*



Over the last several weeks, I have watched as the schedule for our upcoming conference in Asheville was being finalized. You can find a detailed listing of the papers and programs elsewhere in this newsletter. I say "watched" because I have had very little to do with the conference, which has been put together by program co-chairs Leonard Rogoff and Richard Chess in conjunction with a wonderful local committee headed by Sharon Fahrer. Hopefully all of you will enjoy the fruits of their labors when we gather in Asheville in October. In putting together the program, they have stressed the distinctive nature of western Carolina and Appalachia. Conference-goers will get to hear authentic Tar Heel klezmer music and learn about Jewish involvement in area summer camps and Black Mountain College. Our members will get to experience the remarkable quality of life that Asheville offers, which has turned this sleepy resort town into a thriving cultural center with a flourishing Jewish community. The conference promises to be one of the most unique and fascinating events we've sponsored in years. Please join us in Asheville on October 19 – 21.

I have been thinking a lot about the SJHS conference because I have been busy working on the upcoming conferences for 2013 and 2014. One of the interesting things about the SJHS is that the president helps to plan conferences that will take place during the tenure of his or her successor. Thus, my predecessor, Len Rogoff, deserves far more credit for the Columbia and Asheville conferences than I do. Right now, I am working with people in Birmingham to bring the SJHS to Alabama's "Magic City" in 2013. Also, I have had preliminary talks with people in Austin, Texas, about hosting the SJHS conference in 2014. In both cities there was great enthusiasm to host our conference.

Selling our conference was easy – we offer a unique mix of serious scholarship that can appeal to popular audiences with a warm, close-knit "hamish" feel. We host some of the biggest "names" in the field while also nurturing young scholars and laypeople. The conference is almost like a family reunion for many of our members, and yet it is not exclusive. Each year I see new participants welcomed into the family. Hosting a conference allows communities to highlight their local history, archives and institutions. It's a great way for them to reach the leading scholars in the field of southern Jewish history. For the SJHS, holding a conference in a community is an opportunity to attract new members and to learn about a different corner of the southern Jewish experience.

Putting these conferences together is not easy. It involves raising local money, handling a myriad of logistical details, and crafting an original and compelling program that will attract both members and new people. I'm not even going to mention the tyranny of fall college football schedules! We are lucky to have worked with a number of talented and committed people in each hosting community who have ensured that our conferences have been successful. Just know that when things appear seamless during a conference, they are the result of a lot of hard work and planning. If you think your community would like to host an upcoming conference, let us know. 2015 is wide open!

The annual conference is the largest program the society sponsors. While we do other things, including publishing a journal and supporting research and archives with grants, the conference is truly the heart and soul of the society. If you have never been, or if it's been several years since you attended, I would like to invite you to join us in Asheville. I hope to see you there!

JHSSC Spring Meeting a Resounding Success

By Rachel Gordin Barnett, JHSSC President

Tikkun Olam, which in Hebrew means repairing the world, expresses the ideal of every individual's responsibility to work for social justice. Since the days of Maimonides, Jewish law and custom have regarded public service as a noble venture and serving one's community as a mitzvah, a commandment. This was the premise behind the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina's spring meeting, "To Heal the World: Jewish South Carolinians in Public Service." Held at the College of Charleston's Jewish Studies Center on May 19–20, the conference focused on Jewish political involvement in our state and region.



JHSSC Keynote Speaker Hollace Ava Weiner, Charleston, SC, May 19, 2012. Photo by Max Hellman.

Robert Rosen and Richard Gergel, former JHSSC presidents and historians, opened the meeting with an engaging dialogue about Jews who helped shape history in South Carolina—from Francis Salvador to Edwin Warren Moise to Sam Rittenberg to Sol Blatt, Bubba Ness, Isadore Lourie, Arnold Goodstein, Nathan Rosen, and Harriet Keyserling. Hollace Ava Weiner's keynote lecture, "Fighting the Philistines: Southern Jews in High Places," looked more broadly at the record of southern Jewish

participation in national politics. In contrast to the high profile of Jewish politics at the local level, the numbers of southern Jews elected to Congress has been spotty at best.

On the Saturday afternoon panel, three women currently holding public office—Susan Alion Brill, Dyan R. Cohen, and Belinda F. Gergel—gave personal and insightful presentations about their experiences running for election and serving as council women or school board members. The day concluded with an elegant reception at the historic home of Susan and Robert Rosen.

A Sunday morning panel called "The Next Generation Speaks" featured four men who are the children of public servants, two of whom are currently serving in elected office themselves. Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling described his mother's unlikely election in 1977 to the South Carolina House of Representatives, a seat he filled after her retirement in 1993. Joel Lourie spoke about his father's 28-year career in the state legislature, and his own experience first as a representative and then as a senator. Ernie Marcus recalled his father's tenure as mayor of Eutawville, spanning 23 years, and explained how Harry Marcus's loyalty to family and community has influenced Ernie's efforts to build healthy communities through socially responsible real estate development. Benedict Rosen reminisced about growing up in Georgetown, where his father, Sylvan Rosen, served as mayor from 1948 to 1961. The panelists' comments were at times humorous but always respectful, even reverential, of the contributions and sacrifices made by their parents.

The response of conference attendees was unanimous: JHSSC's May meeting was thought provoking, convivial, and fun. You can hear Richard Gergel and Robert Rosen's "duet" online and access the Society's spring 2012 newsletter, with more information about the speakers, events, and stories of small-town Jews in the public realm, at www.jhssc.org.

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37th Annual Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference

Asheville, North Carolina, October 19-21, 2012

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THURSDAY, October 18

Arrivals/Registration, Four Points by Sheraton

6:30 PM

SJHS Board dinner at Four Points by Sheraton, followed by Board meeting at the hotel

FRIDAY, October 19

Breakfast, Four Points by Sheraton (included in room rate)

9:00 AM

Participants are encouraged to visit the Thomas Wolfe House and/or Black Mountain College Museum, and/or go on a 10 AM short walking tour of downtown Jewish Asheville. (Indicate number of participants on your conference registration form.)

12:15 PM

Optional lunch with informal panel of area rabbis at Olive or Twist Restaurant, followed by Trolley Tour of “Asheville’s Jewish Museum Without Walls,” including University of North Carolina-Asheville’s Jewish Archives (special registration required).

6:30 PM

Dinner and camp-style Kabbalat Shabbat service at Asheville’s Jewish Community Center led by Rabbi Philip Bentley, followed by panel discussion: “Our Southern Catskills: Camps and Resorts,” moderated by Tom Rosenberg, Executive Director of Camp Judea, featuring former area campers and Stuart Rubin of Rubin’s Osceola Lodge.

SATURDAY, October 20

Breakfast, Four Points by Sheraton (included in room rate)

PANEL SESSIONS

Four Points by Sheraton

9:00 AM

Black Mountain College: A Jewish Avant-Garde In Appalachia

Moderator: Leonard Rogoff

Steve Whitfield, “Black Mountain and Brandeis: Two Experiments in Higher Education”

Wendy Fergusson, “Beyond New York: Jewish Refugees and Homosexuals at Black Mountain College, 1933-1956”

10:30 AM

Thomas Wolfe and the Jews

Moderator/Respondent: Ellen Umansky

Jay Jacoby, “What’s a Nice Jewish Boy Doing Reading *Look Homeward Angel?* Wolfe’s Real and Imagined Attitudes Towards Jews”

11:45 AM

Buffet Lunch at Sheraton Four Points, with welcoming remarks by Esther Mannheimer, Vice-Mayor of Asheville

1:00 PM

Judaism in Appalachia

Moderator: Lee Shai Weissbach

Sherry Zander, “In the Hall of the Mountain Shul”

Deb Weiner, “A Child’s Hannukah in Appalachia: Growing Up Jewish in the Coalfields”

Seth Epstein, “‘The Fair Sex and Your Guests Are Invited’: Jewish Identities at Asheville’s Congregation Beth Ha-Tephila’s Temple Club in the 1930s”

PANEL SESSION

Asheville Art Museum at Pack Place

3:00 PM

Jewish Artists of Western North Carolina

Moderator: Sebastian Matthews

Panel of local artists featuring --Rob Levin, contemporary glass artist and klezmer musician; Rick Chess, poet and essayist; and others on being a Jewish artist in Western North Carolina

4:30 PM

Reception at Asheville Art Museum at Pack Place with music by Bandana Klezmer Band

Dinner on your own (Reservations are highly recommended. A list of suggested restaurants can be found at www.exploreasheville.com/restaurants/by-neighborhood/downtown.)

7:30 PM

Participants are encouraged to attend a reading and book-signing at Malaprop’s Bookstore featuring Rich Cohen, author of *The Fish that Ate the Whale: The Life and Times of America’s Banana King*, or to view a screening of the film *Songcatcher* at the Four Points by Sheraton.

SUNDAY, October 21

Breakfast, Four Points by Sheraton (included in room rate)

PANEL DISCUSSION

Four Points by Sheraton

9:00 AM

Meet the Authors

Moderator: Mark Bauman

Panel of authors who have had books published within the last year — Rich Cohen, Marni Davis, Judy Goldman, Janice Rothschild Blumberg and others, followed by book signings and sales of books on Southern Jewish history by many different local and national authors.

11:00 AM

Adjourn

Participants are encouraged to attend the 10th annual HardLox (www.hardloxjewishfestival.org), Asheville’s Jewish Food and Heritage Festival in Pack Square (lunch vouchers will be issued).

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Rabbi Allen Krause (1939-2012) by Mark K. Bauman



Rabbi (Philip) Allen Krause (September 7, 1939 - March 3, 2012) passed away in his home in Mission Viejo, California, after a long battle with cancer. When I started to investigate southern Jewish history thirty-five years ago, one of the essential readings was Allen Krause's work on southern Reform rabbis and civil rights, his rabbinical thesis at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (1967). In the introduction to a volume I edited in the mid 1990s, I wrote that the topic began with Allen's pioneering essay that appeared in *American Jewish Archives*. *Mainstream* published his article "The Enigmatic Judah P. Benjamin." To me, Allen was a mythical figure.

Little did I realize that I would meet Allen, first through an email exchange and then in person about six years ago. After decades in the pulpit and adjunct teaching at two California universities, Allen decided to return to research. He was to appear on the program of the Southern Jewish Historical Society conference, and I contacted him about publishing an article in *Southern Jewish History*. A perfectionist, leery of an editor, Allen ultimately agreed to take his chances with me. Nicknamed "The Slasher," I did my usual job of requesting revisions but absolutely welcomed his work. His marvelous article on Rabbi Burton Pazoll of Charleston and civil rights appeared in the 2008 volume. Allen next wrote an essay on Rabbi Benjamin Schultz of New York and Mississippi that was published in the 2010 issue. In the two articles, he dramatically revised our analysis of the relationship between the rabbis, their congregations, and their positions in the black struggle for civil rights. Unlike these men, through his pulpit experiences Allen had learned about understanding one's congregation and community, and how best to lead effectively for positive change.

We wove bonds as collaborators and friends. During the SJHS conference in New Orleans, we discussed two different books he was writing. Last October at the Columbia conference, we discussed his progress. Allen had given a paper, and his presentation was not up to his expectations because of a new medication. He kept apologizing but the audience had rightly given him an ovation for a moving and

determined performance. His son Steve was constantly at his side, a marvelous tribute to how Sherri and Allen had raised him and the special love of the Krause family.

Allen earned an undergraduate history degree at UCLA and pursued graduate studies at the University of Chicago and the University of California, Berkeley. He studied at Harvard as a Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellow and received a Doctor of Divinity degree from HUC-JIR. The SJHS awarded him a grant to preserve and transcribe the interviews he had conducted of southern rabbis during the 1990s, and he served on the SJHS board at the time of his death.

Rabbi Krause served a congregation in Fremont, California, before moving to Temple Beth El of South Orange County in 1984, where he filled the pulpit until receiving emeritus status (2008). He inaugurated Jewish day schools in both locations. During the 1970s he worked on behalf of the Save Soviet Jewry movement and traveled to the Soviet Union in 1986 in support of refusenik families. A founder of the Ad Hoc Rabbinic Committee to Rescue Ethiopian Jewry, he led a national petition campaign that pressed for U.S. government action. He also assisted the Reform synagogue in Ra'anana, Israel. In 1994 he organized a local interfaith conference that brought people together for workshops and speakers for fifteen years, and co-founded the South County Interfaith Clergy. After 9/11 he expanded his ties to the Muslim community with the creation of the Living Room Dialogues at the Orange County Islamic Foundation Mosque in Mission Viejo. Krause presided over the Orange County Board of Rabbis and of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis as well as serving on the Executive Board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and chairing the CCAR Task Force on Rabbi/Cantor Relations. He lived the life of the social activist rabbi that drew his attention as an historian.

Allen had an indomitable spirit and extremely high standards. A week before he passed away, we spoke on the telephone about history and his writing. He never stopped working. Allen Krause was a mythical inspiration before I met him and an even more remarkable person in real life. He will be sorely missed and always remembered. His wife, Sherri Hofmann Krause, son Stephen, and daughter and son-in-law, Gavriella and Roger Youngs survive him. Contributions may be made to Rabbis for Human Rights (rhra.org), the Rabbi Allen Krause Scholar-in-Residence Program Fund at Temple Beth El, or any Campership Fund.

Conference Participants

Richard Chess is the author of three books of poetry, *Third Temple* (2007), *Chair in the Desert* (2000), and *Tekiah* (1994). His poems have appeared in many journals as well as several anthologies. An award winning and much-sought after teacher, he is the Roy Carroll Professor of Honors Arts and Sciences and Professor of Literature and Language at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. He directs UNCA's Center for Jewish Studies. He has been a member of the low-residency MFA faculties at Warren Wilson College and Queens College.

Seth Epstein is a PhD candidate in the History department at the University of Minnesota. His dissertation, "The Political Economy of Tolerance in the Jim Crow South: Asheville, North Carolina, 1876-1960," examines changing practices of racial and religious tolerance in Asheville. His essay, "From Objects to Agents of Tolerance: Jews, Public Space, and Political Culture in Asheville, North Carolina, 1926-1950," was awarded the 2012 Goldenberg Prize for Outstanding Essay in Jewish Studies from the University of Minnesota Center for Jewish Studies. His research focuses on the changing space, landscape, and significance of the central civic square in the city's downtown.

Wendy Fergusson holds an MA in Anthropology and Museum Studies from George Washington University and other MAs from Brandeis University in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Women's and Gender Studies. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Public and Jewish History from Ohio State University. She has taught at a number of universities in the Midwest, curated several major exhibitions, and served as the director of the Ann Loeb Bronfman Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Jay Jacoby is Professor Emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he also served as chair of the Departments of English and of Visual Arts. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Most of Professor Jacoby's scholarly publication has been in the fields of composition studies and pedagogy, but he has taught courses in literature of the immigrant experience, Jewish American literature, and Hebrew Bible.

Rob Levin is an internationally known glass artist who lives and works near Burnsville in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, he received his BFA from Denison University and his MFA from Southern Illinois University. He was formerly the Resident Glass Artist at Penland School of Crafts, and has lectured, taught, and led workshops throughout the US, in Ireland, and in New Zealand. He has exhibited widely in the US, Europe, Japan, and the former Soviet Union. He also plays guitar for a local Eastern European Jewish music group, Bandana Klezmer.

Deb Weiner received a PhD from West Virginia University, where after many years in the community development field in Chicago, she pursued her career goal of combining community work with history. At WVU she became fascinated with Jewish Appalachian communities. Her book, *Coalfield Jews: An Appalachian History* was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2006. Since 2002, Deb has been Research Historian and Family History Coordinator at the Jewish Museum of Maryland.

Stephen Whitfield holds the Max Richter Chair in American Civilization at Brandeis University where, in 1993, he won the university's Louis D. Brandeis Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Professor Whitfield has served as visiting professor at several institutions and was awarded two Fulbright Fellowships. He is the author of eight books, including *Voices of Jacob*, *Hands of Esau: Jews in American Life and Thought*, *American Space*, *Jewish Time*, and *In Search of American Jewish Culture*.

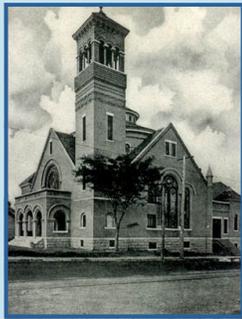
Sherry Zander, the 2005 -2006 Rabbi Theodore S. Levy Tribute Fellow of the American Jewish Archives, completed a BS in Art Education in at the University of Wisconsin and went on to do graduate work in the Master's program in Applied Arts at Iowa State University. In 1990 Ms. Zander began photographing synagogues in small towns across America. With her background in architectural history, visual arts, and her well-honed interviewing and writing skills, she chronicles small-town Jewish America, past and present.

Asheville Tourism Video

The Asheville Convention and Visitors Bureau has produced a short video, "Asheville: Come for Work, Stay for Play," which describes many of the sites and facilities available in our host city. Watch the video on YouTube by going to www.youtube.com and searching for "Asheville Work Play."

News and Notes

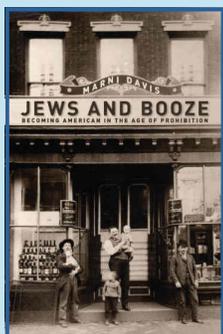
• Archival Help from Local University



Temple B'nai Israel in Little Rock will soon celebrate its 150th year. The Temple has moved to only two locations after the initial temple building was constructed, and the leadership kept its documents along the way. An Arkansas State Historian has called the Temple archives "the most complete and possibly the most important religious archive in the State." Acknowledging this, the Temple recently constructed a climate-controlled archive room for storage and display of its documents and artifacts. Archival boxes and file folders were purchased. The material has already provided answers for many people and has aided academics in preparing papers and books. Typical of a large facility with only volunteer help, however, much of the material remains unprocessed.

In looking at possibilities for additional help, Temple leaders contacted Philip Spivey, a history professor at the University of Central Arkansas, who gained university approval to establish a student internship in the Temple archives for credit toward graduation. Hannah Pearson of Conway, Arkansas, just completed a semester of internship in the archives. Among other things, she processed a collection of letters documenting the actions of the Little Rock Jewish community to assist immigrants during World War II. She also managed groups of volunteers on "archive marathon" and "mitzvah days." Temple B'nai Israel and the University of Central Arkansas hope to continue the arrangement in future years.

• Marni Davis, *Jews and Booze*



At the turn of the century, American Jews and prohibitionists viewed one another with growing suspicion. Jews believed that all Americans had the right to sell and consume alcohol, while prohibitionists insisted that alcohol commerce and consumption posed a threat to the nation's morality and security. The two groups possessed incompatible visions of what it meant to be a productive and patriotic American — and in 1920, when the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution made alcohol commerce illegal, Jews discovered that anti-Semitic sentiments had mixed with anti-alcohol ideology, threatening their reputation and their standing in American society.

In *Jews and Booze*, Marni Davis examines American Jews' long and complicated relationship to alcohol during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the years of the national prohibition movement's rise and fall. Bringing to bear an extensive range of archival

materials, Davis offers a novel perspective on a previously unstudied area of American Jewish economic activity — the making and selling of liquor, wine, and beer — and reveals that alcohol commerce played a crucial role in Jewish immigrant acculturation and the growth of Jewish communities in the United States. But prohibition's triumph cast a pall on American Jews' history in the alcohol trade, forcing them to revise, clarify, and defend their communal and civic identities, both to their fellow Americans and to themselves. NYU Press (nyupress.org)

• Jewish Music in New Orleans



On March 3-4, 2013, the Jewish Music Forum will hold a concert and conference at Tulane University in New Orleans. Important scholars will discuss Jewish music transplanted from Europe to America and especially to New Orleans. The event is sponsored by Tulane's new Department of Jewish Studies and the Newcomb Department of Music, as well as the American Society of

Jewish Music and the Jewish Music Forum. Further information will be available in the fall at tulane.edu/liberal-arts/jewish-studies.

• "Darkness into Life"

In 2007, Becky Seitel and Mitzi J. Levin created an exhibit that has forever changed the communities it has visited. Featuring twenty Alabama Holocaust survivors, "Darkness into Life: Alabama Holocaust Survivors Through Photography and Art" uses photography, art, narratives, and maps to record these personal journeys and teach the history of the Holocaust. It is presented by the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center (BHEC).

Established in 2002, the BHEC is one of four regional divisions of the Alabama Holocaust Commission (AHC) dedicated to Holocaust remembrance and education. Inspired by Alabama Holocaust survivors who remind us of the injustices in their past, the BHEC is committed to preserving their memories and continuing their legacies.

Darkness into Life will be featured at the three campuses of Troy University between October 2012 and April 2013. The BHEC offers this exhibit free to Alabama communities and charges only a small fee for those outside the state. To view the exhibit in its entirety or for more information on borrowing the exhibit, please visit the BHEC website: www.bhamholocausteducation.org.

• Virginia Veterans

In May and June, the Peninsula Jewish Historical Society (PJHS), serving the Virginia Peninsula, Hampton, Yorktown, Williamsburg, and Newport News, Virginia, honored Jewish veterans by playing tapes recorded by the PJHS of Jewish World War II veterans. They also presented the film "Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Grey: Faith Under Fire in the Civil War." Both were on display at the United Jewish Community Center in Newport News.

Look for the SJHS Label

Take a look at your mailing label on this issue of the *Rambler*. If the year says 2011, it means that, according to our records, you have not made a membership dues contribution for 2012, and it also means this will be your last newsletter unless you renew. Please re-join the SJHS, which you can do with your conference registration. As you know, we are a nonprofit organization with intense dedication to preserving the history of Southern Jews, and we need your support. If you have questions regarding your membership status, contact Ellen Umansky at emumansky@gmail.com or 914-428-0289.

..... SJHS Contributions

The SJHS survives on generous contributions and memberships. While we have no paid staff, we do have expenses: *The Rambler* newsletter and our annual journal, *Southern Jewish History*, together cost over \$24,000, about 70% of our budget. As funds become available, we want to improve our website, increase grants for the study of our history, and provide funds to sponsor prominent annual conference speakers. Members who gave at least \$100 in 2011 through grants, contributions, higher level memberships, or gift memberships are listed below. We urge you to consider increasing your membership level, or considering a larger gift to our endowment or a naming opportunity. For details, contact SJHS treasurer Les Bergen at lesbergen@verizon.net or 703-931-6419.

\$5,000

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\$1,000 to \$1,500

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Joan and Philip Steel, Jr
Ellen Umansky
Bernard and Dolly Wax

\$100 to \$200

Stephen Alderman
Mark and Sandra Bauman
Belz Foundation
Adele and Saul Blumenthal
Ilene Engel
Mollie and J.M. Fried, Jr
Margaret Anne Goldsmith
Bettie Kaston
Stuart Rockoff
Glen Rosenbaum
Harriet W. Stern
Donald and Marilyn Tam
Lee Shai and Sharon Weissbach

\$100

Bertram and Gladys Cohen Aaron
Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives
Stephen and Tanya Bodzin
Perry and Shirley Brickman
Maury Bronstein
Robert and Lucinda Bunnen
Congregation Ahavath Chesed
Minette and Charles Cooper
Earl Ferguson
David Frolich
Allan From
Ralph and Barbara Goldstein
Max and Ann Hellman
Sigmund Hiller
Catherine Kahn
Paul and Leah Katz
Nancy and Herman Kohlmeyer, Jr
Mary Lynn and Nick Kotz
Esther Labovitz

Matiel Leffler

Thomas Lemann
Sumner and Phyllis Levine
William and Betty Loewenberg
Jerome and Evelyn Makowsky
Sylvia Marks
Rosie Moosnick
Arthur Obermayer
Beth and Steven Orlansky
National Library of Israel
Ruth Rosenthal
Ann Salky
Milton Saul
Samuel Shorstein
Carroll and Charlotte Weinberg
Eleanor Weiner
Hollace and Bruce Weiner
Sieglinde and David Weiss
Albert and Linda Wilkinson

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“Mountain Jews: Creating Community in Appalachia”

37th Annual Southern Jewish Historical Society Conference

Asheville, North Carolina • October 19 - 21, 2012

Name _____

Spouse/Friend _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Registration for FULL program including all meals: (SJHS members only) \$150.00 \$ _____

OR

Register for select events only: (members or non-members)

Friday morning walking tour (No charge) Indicate number of people _____

Friday lunch and bus tour: \$35 per person \$ _____

Friday night dinner and presentation: \$70 per person \$ _____

Saturday, including lunch and reception: \$100 per person \$ _____

To join or to renew your membership in SJHS, write your membership level/amount here:
 \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

New or renewing SJHS annual dues:	
General member	\$36
Student	\$15
Patron	\$50
Institutional member	\$50
Century Club	\$100
Cedar	\$500
Sycamore	\$1,000
Magnolia	\$2,500

Deadline for registration is October 3, 2012. Registrations received before August 15, 2012 will be entered in a drawing for a \$30.00 gift certificate to Woolworth Walk, a local art gallery.

Hotel accommodations at the Four Points by Sheraton Asheville Downtown must be made separately. See hotel information on Page 1.

QUESTIONS? Contact Sharon Fahrner. 828-777-1014. fahrner@charter.net



Please make checks payable to **SJHS-Asheville** and return with this form to:
 Sharon Fahrner
 333 Montford Avenue
 Asheville, NC 28801