

THE RAMBLER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2016 VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1

Nashville SJHS Conference Hums with Activity

There's a lot more to Nashville than country music. Attendees of the 40th annual Southern Jewish Historical Society conference, held Thursday, October 29, to Sunday, November 1, 2015, were treated to a varied program that ranged from murder and mayhem to scotch tape and staples (hint: don't use them to store documents).

Escaping the crowds on Music Row, the first conference event was literally off the beaten path. Down a country highway and right at the stop sign, the SJHS bus arrived on Thursday afternoon at the Rosenwald School in Cairo, Tennessee, one of thousands of schools across the South built by African American communities with funding from Jewish philanthropist Julius Rosenwald. Dan Brown, of the Tennessee Historical Commission, took the group inside the school, built in 1923, and told of efforts to restore it. Afterward, the group stopped at Fisk University for a look at the Julius Rosenwald Collection.

Friday began with the traditional SJHS bus tour of local Jewish sites. Colorful locals with lots of stories took the group around Nashville and through the Jewish cemetery, with a refreshing stop at the West End Synagogue. After snacks and a Q&A in the beautiful sanctuary, the group visited Nashville's Holocaust Memorial and its Jewish day school, Akiva School, both located on the Gordon Jewish Community Center campus. The tour left everyone with a good impression of the deep history and contemporary richness of Nashville's Jewish community.

Over lunch at the Gordon JCC, Vanderbilt University Chancellor



Top two rows, clockwise: Saturday Vanderbilt reception, Sunday panelist Marlene Trestman, Sunday session audience, browsing the conference book display. Photos by Steve Krause

Bottom row: Thursday visit to Fisk University. Photo by Dale Rosengarten

Nicholas Zeppos spoke about his school's successful effort to attract more Jewish students in recent years, part of a bid to increase diversity and raise academic standards. The conference's first academic session followed, with *Forward* journalist Paul Berger presenting his research on store clerk Samuel Bierfield, lynched in Franklin, Tennessee, in 1868 by a white mob who believed he had incited local blacks to violence. Berger described the twists and turns not only of Bierfield's story, but of his own search to uncover the facts of an episode shrouded in mystery.

Friday's late afternoon session focused on how networks of individuals and organizations helped German Jewish refugees from Nazism settle in the South. Jean Roseman told of Nashville businessman Jacob May, who, starting with his own relatives in 1934, helped some 50 to 200 Jews migrate from Germany to the U.S. Shira Kohn discussed German Jewish college students who arrived through the auspices of Jewish fraternities and sororities. Many came to southern campuses, and Kohn related the challenges they faced adapting to life in the U.S.

The Temple hosted a delicious Shabbat dinner as well as Erev Shabbat services. During the evening, Leonard Rogoff received the Samuel Proctor Award for Outstanding Career Scholarship, while Sumner Levine and Beryl Weiner were posthumously named the Society's first Honor Roll Awardees. Gary Zola addressed the gathering on "Lincoln and the Jews of the South," depicting Lincoln as a "quasi-Jew" and highlighting sermons offered by southern rabbis *continued on page 4...*



Find us on Facebook. Search for "Southern Jewish Historical Society." Visit our website: jewishsouth.org.

Officers and Board 2016

PRESIDENT

Ellen M. Umansky

VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT ELECT

Dan Puckett

SECRETARY

Phyllis Leffler

TREASURER

Les Bergen

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dale Rosengarten

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron Bayor

Perry Brickman

Michael Cohen

Bonnie Eisenman

Sol Kimerling

Peggy Kronsberg Pearlstein

Jim Pfeifer

Jay Silverberg

Jarrod Tanny

Teri Tillman

Bernie Wax (emeritus)

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Beth Orlansky

JOURNAL EDITOR

Mark Bauman

Phone: 678.828.7484

Cell: 678.428.3622

markbauman@aol.com

JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Bryan Edward Stone

bstone@delmar.edu

JOURNAL FOUNDING MANAGING EDITOR

Rachel Heimovics Braun

RAMBLER EDITOR

Deborah R. Weiner

The Rambler welcomes submissions on news relevant to southern Jewry. Send editorial inquiries to dweiner70@hotmail.com.

Send address changes to:

Barbara Tahsler

SJHS

PO Box 71601

Marietta, GA 30007-1601

barbarasjhs@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Jarrod Tanny

Phone: 910.962.7580

tannyj@uncw.edu

President's Message By Ellen M. Umansky



Those of us who worked on planning the recent SJHS conference in Nashville learned that it sometimes takes a village (or in our case, a city) to hold a successful conference. A city might be an exaggeration, yet one of the things that made our conference so memorable, I think, was the extent to which so many local individuals, organizations, and institutions worked with SJHS members in Nashville and elsewhere to make the conference a truly collaborative effort. From the outset, I was confident that with *Southern Jewish History* editor Mark Bauman and the diverse Program Committee he'd put together, the conference program would be terrific, which it turned out to be. Yet I was less confident about local arrangements. Without a local sponsor for the conference or a local volunteer to chair the Local Arrangements Committee, it wasn't at all

clear to me how we would raise necessary funding for the conference, where we would hold our sessions, who would cater our meals, be in charge of our Friday morning tour of Jewish Nashville, serve as conference treasurer, and coordinate the many on-site details that demanded our attention.

Yet those of you who attended the conference know that my fears proved to be unfounded. With Society Vice-President Dan Puckett agreeing to serve as Local Arrangements Chair (even though he lives in Alabama); SJHS Secretary Phyllis Leffler reaching out to members of the Jewish community that she met when she and her husband lived in Nashville; Corresponding Secretary Beth Orlansky offering to serve as conference treasurer (from her home in Jackson, Mississippi) and working seamlessly with Society Treasurer Les Bergen; and board member Jay Silverberg of Petaluma, California, undertaking what for us was an unprecedented, highly effective effort to market our conference to a wider audience, I became cautiously optimistic. This optimism continued as an increasing number of people in Nashville joined with Jean Roseman, Lewis Lavine, and other SJHS Nashville members to insure that the conference would be a resounding success.

Elsewhere in this issue, Deb Weiner describes much of what we saw and heard during our three-and-a-half days in Nashville. As you read Deb's summary, think about the many Nashville individuals, organizations, companies, synagogues, and universities—many of whom knew little if anything about the Southern Jewish Historical Society a year ago—who helped us. Literally, it may not have taken a city to execute our 2015 conference, but it did take an enthusiastic, generous, and geographically far-reaching community.



Left: Dan Brown speaks outside Cairo School. Right: Akiva School.
Photos by Dale Rosengarten

SJHS Website Bibliography Updated

The bibliography of southern Jewish history and life that appears on the Society's website has been updated and restructured. We have added well over 200 new entries, with all sections containing many new sources. The "Fiction and Drama" section, in particular, has greatly expanded and is now split into three: "Fiction and Drama—Primary Sources: Southern Jewish Writers," "Fiction and Drama—Primary Sources: Other Writers" (including both non-Jews and non-southerners), and "Fiction and Drama—Secondary Sources." Also, "Biographies," "Diaries/Letters," and "Memoirs (Oral History; Interviews)" have become separate categories. Additionally, we now have listings (although not many) under headings for Maryland and Missouri.

You can explore the bibliography at jewishsouth.org/bibliography. Please contact Adam Meyer at adam.s.meyer@vanderbilt.edu if you have corrections or additions.

CALL FOR PAPERS

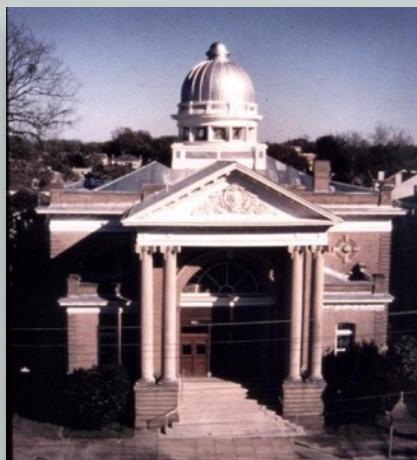
Jews in the Southern Hinterland

41st Annual Conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society

November 4–6, 2016

Natchez, Mississippi

In conjunction with the 300th anniversary of the founding of Natchez, Mississippi, the Southern Jewish Historical Society will hold its 41st annual conference there on November 4–6, 2016. The theme will be “Jews in the Southern Hinterland,” exploring the experience of Jews in the smaller cities and rural areas of the South. Possible topics might address the creation and development of Jewish communities in hinterland areas, Jews’ economic role and connection to regional and national trading networks, Jewish religiosity and religious practices in context of the small-town South, cultural assimilation to southern mores including notions of race and civil rights, and the impact of recent demographic



changes on small southern Jewish communities. Comparative studies of Jews with other southern ethnic groups are especially welcome.

Send a one-page proposal along with resume or curriculum vitae to Program Committee Co-Chairs Stuart Rockoff (srockoff@mhc.state.ms.us) and Michael Cohen (mcohen@tulane.edu). Full panel submissions are also welcome. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 2016.

Bus transportation from Jackson, Mississippi, will be provided to all conference attendees.

Left: Temple B'nai Israel, Natchez. Photo by Bill Aron, courtesy of Institute for Southern Jewish Life

SJHS Visit to Natchez in 2016

A Message from Our Conference Hosts

The Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life is excited to welcome the SJHS to the Deep South in 2016! We are planning a unique and memorable program which will immerse participants in the southern Jewish experience from the moment you set foot in Mississippi. Along with stimulating conference sessions, SJHS Natchez 2016 will include experiential learning opportunities exploring the streets, tasting the cuisine, enjoying the Natchez TriCentennial commemoration, and meeting the people of historic Natchez, Vicksburg, and Jackson. Check out isjl.org and templebnaiisraelnatchez.org for upcoming information.

Meet the New SJHS Board Members

The Society welcomes the following new members to the Board of Directors, elected at the Nashville conference:



Ron Baylor, Smyrna, Georgia: Emeritus professor at Georgia Tech, Ron specializes in urban, ethnic, and immigration history. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970 and is founding editor of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. He has won prizes for his writing, teaching, editing, and service to the field. His most recent book is *Encountering Ellis Island: How European Immigrants Entered America*.



Michael Cohen, New Orleans: Michael is an associate professor of Jewish Studies at Tulane University, where he holds the Sizeler Professorship. He earned his Ph.D. in American Jewish history from Brandeis University and is the author of *The Birth of Conservative Judaism: Solomon Schechter's Disciples and the Creation of an American Religious Movement*. His current research focuses on Jewish merchants in the post-bellum Gulf South.



Jim Pfeifer, Little Rock: A Little Rock native, Jim has an architecture degree from Cornell University and has worked as an architect and project manager. His great-grandfather came to Little Rock before the Civil War, helped found Temple B'nai Israel, and was its second president. Jim has served on the Temple's board and manages its extensive archives. He coordinated the SJHS 2006 conference in Little Rock, which garnered exceptional community support.



Teri Tillman, Natchez: A board-certified genealogist since 2007, Teri researches southern Jewish families, especially those with ties to Natchez, where she has lived since 1987. She has a B.A. from Vanderbilt and an M.A. from Washington University. A former local tour guide, Teri offers tours of Temple B'nai Israel and serves as one of the Temple's representatives on the Natchez City Cemetery Board.

Nashville Conference Report

continued from page 1...

After morning services led by SJHS members Rabbi Stanley Garfein and Rabbi Edward Cohn, Saturday's sessions at Vanderbilt's Center for Jewish Life kicked off with an exploration of Jews and civil rights. Steve Krause gave an inspiring account of Nashville's "Pistol-Packing Rabbi" William Silverman, who refused to stop advocating for civil rights despite a beating, a JCC bombing, and threats to himself and his family. The talk featured riveting excerpts of a 1966 interview of Silverman conducted by Krause's late father, Rabbi Allen Krause. Next, Dan Puckett discussed how the era's intolerant atmosphere encouraged antisemitic actions even against Jews who did not speak out. Focusing on the 1960 bombing of Temple Beth Israel in Gadsden, Alabama, he noted that the broader community rallied behind Gadsden's Jews, but an undercurrent of sympathy for the teenaged bomber undercut their support.

The theme of social justice continued in the next session. Detailing the Atlanta NCJW's late-1960s urban reform, civil rights, and education projects, Emily Katz charted the women's many successes, but also noted the limits of their ability to understand or address entrenched racism. Ellen Rafshoon profiled the life and work of Esther Kahn Taylor, raised in an Orthodox home, who became a leading founder of Atlanta's Planned Parenthood affiliate. Using her organizational skills and far-reaching connections, she succeeded in expanding access to birth control under the theme "every child a wanted child."

Demographer Ira Sheskin regaled the luncheon crowd with the challenges and fascinations of "counting Jews." He discussed the South's expanding Jewish population, noting the impact of small-town decline but the rise of urban areas, "exurbia," retirement communities, and hospital and university towns.

The first Saturday afternoon session returned to the 1960s. Janet Bordelon offered a fascinating glimpse into the Jackson, Mississippi, chapter of the Panel of American Women, a national organization that assisted local interracial, interfaith teams of women to hold frank discussions in public and private settings. Two SJHS members in the audience testified to the life-changing, powerful experience of participating in these panels. Dinah Weinstein spoke on "civil rights titan" Tobias Simon, a Miami attorney who took on unpopular causes, from defending civil rights and unions to opposing school prayer and the death penalty.



Top: Archive panelists Bonnie Eisenman, Jeremy Katz, Dana Herman. Photo by Eric Goldstein

Middle: Friday visit to the West End Synagogue. Photo by Shari Rabin

Bottom: Nashville's Holocaust Memorial. Photo by Steve Krause

A panel on civic engagement followed. Scott Langston discussed businessman Isaac I. Moses and family, who provided civic and political leadership to the Columbus, Georgia-Phenix City, Alabama area from the 1860s to 1930s. While family members benefited financially, so did the area: their "extensive and significant" impact included building schools, homes, public buildings, and bridges. Rosalind Benjet and Harriet Gross illuminated the surprising fact that Dallas has had three Jewish women mayors since the early 1970s: Adeline Harrison, Annette Strauss, and Laura Miller. The duo described the impact each had on the city, despite Dallas's "weak mayor" city manager system of government.

Following the sessions, attendees enjoyed a reception co-hosted by the Vanderbilt Jewish Studies program and other university departments. Saturday night brought a Havdalah treat at Congregation Sherith Israel with a performance of "southern-style" klezmer music by a band featuring the synagogue's Rabbi Saul Strosberg on keyboards. After a delicious dessert reception hosted by the Sisterhood, many conference-goers continued to feel the music, heading out to the clubs to enjoy Nashville's most famous product.

After Sunday morning's business meeting, a session on New Orleans explored southern Jewish identity. Patricia Behre revealed how 19th-century portrait painters exposed Jewish networks through their portrayals of the Sephardic community. Marlene Trestman discussed how communal leaders who ran the Jewish orphan home used the home's annual anniversary celebration as an opportunity to present the Jewish community to the outside world, as well as

instill Americanism and southern pride in their charges.

The final session featured a first for SJHS: a "how-to" panel aimed at helping local communities set up synagogue archives. Archivists Dana Herman, Jeremy Katz, and Bonnie Eisenman, guided by moderator Lee Shai Weissbach, engaged the audience in the "whys" and "hows" of collecting, preserving, and storing important historical materials, from discussing why it's so important to explaining how to do it (remove the staples!). It was a fitting end to a stimulating and enlightening weekend.

— Deborah R. Weiner, with help from Shari Rabin

Synagogues of the South: A Groundbreaking Online Exhibit

By Samuel D. Gruber

How well do you understand your synagogue building? And the ones that came before it? Did you know that the fanciful yet monumental Vine Street Temple of Nashville, featured in the Spring 2015 *Rambler*, was hardly unusual across the South? In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Jewish communities built big and bold. Erected in a wide range of styles, their often-forgotten synagogues provide a visual narrative of the identities, opportunities, and aspirations of southern Jewry.

To explore the history of synagogues in the American South, the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture is developing a new online exhibition, *Synagogues of the South*. It will feature about 100 postcards from the William A. Rosenthal Collection at the College of Charleston's Addlestone Library. Spanning a broadly-defined South from Maryland to Florida and west to Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas, most of the images date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries and document buildings either transformed for new purposes or demolished. A smaller number represent post-World War II synagogues in modern styles.

Synagogues of the South will use these historic views to bring together information about synagogue design, including data about Jewish architects and construction firms. The exhibit will contain essays and captions that cast the built environment in a new context. Never before have so many images of southern synagogues been presented together—a veritable visual feast.

Given that the Rosenthal postcards are not representative of all synagogues, we hope to add materials solicited from repositories and individuals across the

region—and for this aspect of the project we ask your help! The existing collection is biased towards urban congregations before World War I, when the most impressive buildings were Reform temples and the audience for postcards tended to be acculturated Jews. Images of small-town synagogues, Orthodox shuls, and post-

World War II suburban synagogues are underrepresented. Also, interior views—the essence of the sanctuary—are relatively rare.

Recognizing these historical limitations, the Center for Southern Jewish Culture (CSJC) is launching an ambitious effort to better document the region's Jewish built heritage. The project team will collect physical and digital resources and assemble a database of relevant materials held by other repositories. We will solicit related printed matter such as anniversary brochures and other ephemera, and maximize online access by scholars, students, and the general public. The Center will collaborate with other institutions as well as private collectors, and will take care to credit the source of all items.

For more information or to share images and information about synagogues and other Jewish buildings across the South, please contact Exhibit Curator Samuel Gruber at samuelgruber@gmail.com or CSJC Director Dale Rosengarten at rosengartend@cofc.edu.

Dr. Gruber previously co-curated the online exhibition *Life of the Synagogue* (lifeofthesynagogue.library.cofc.edu) for the Addlestone Library, and delivered a keynote talk at SJHS's 2014 annual meeting in Austin. *Synagogues of the South* is funded by CSJC, with contributions from Raymond Lifchez, the Texas Jewish Historical Society, and the Addlestone Foundation.



William A. Rosenthal Judaica Collection, Special Collections,
College of Charleston

New Issue of Southern Jewish History Is Published

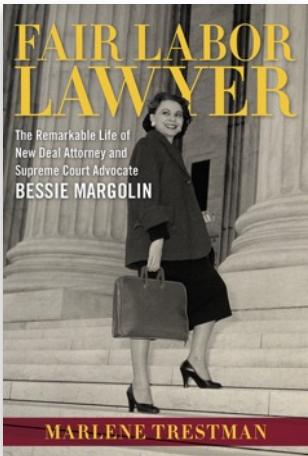
The editors of *Southern Jewish History*, the annual peer-reviewed journal of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, announce publication of Volume 18. The journal has been published each fall since 1998.

SJHS members receive individual copies as a benefit of membership. They may purchase additional copies for \$15 each; the price for nonmembers is \$20 per copy. Institutions may purchase the issue for \$40 per copy plus \$20 for mailing outside the U.S.

Back issues of the journal are available at \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers, and \$40 for institutions. For information and purchasing, email: journal@jewishsouth.org.

NEWS AND NOTES

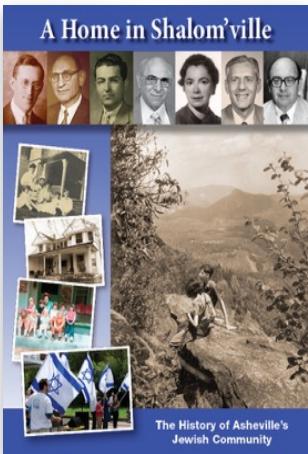
Biography: Labor Lawyer Bessie Margolin



Fair Labor Lawyer: The Remarkable Life of New Deal Attorney and Supreme Court Advocate Bessie Margolin profiles one of the 20th century's most influential American Jewish woman lawyers. Lawyer-turned-author Marlene Trestman traces the fascinating and improbable journey of this legal trailblazer, Nuremberg war crimes attorney, and reluctant feminist from the New Orleans Jewish orphanage where Margolin grew up to the Supreme Court, where she won 21 of 24 arguments she presented as the U.S. Labor Department's champion for American workers.

Prominent historian Alice Kessler-Harris, author of *A Difficult Woman: The Challenging Life and Times of Lillian Hellman*, praises *Fair Labor Lawyer* as "an inspiring read." The book is available from LSU Press, lsupress.org, 800.848.6224. For review copies, contact Jennifer Keegan at jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu, 225.578.6453.

Read About Asheville's Colorful Jewish History

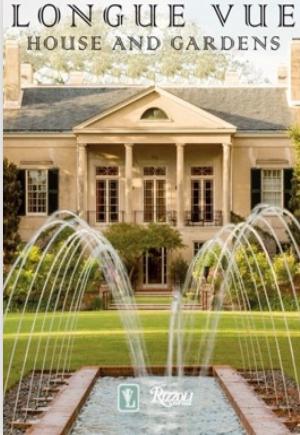


A Home in Shalom'ville: The History of Asheville's Jewish Community, by historian Sharon Fahrer, offers a new perspective on the North Carolina town's development.

How did a small percentage of citizens make contributions well beyond their numbers? How did Asheville native and North Carolina governor Zebulon Vance elevate Jews from a persecuted people to respected citizens? How did the community come together to oust William Dudley Pelly, the self-proclaimed American Hitler, from town in the 1930s? Who did Asheville native Thomas Wolfe immortalize as having "golden nuggins of teeth" and a Yiddish accent in the novel *Look Homeward, Angel?* The answers and many more stories can be found in this colorful, photo-filled book.

Drawing on materials from several archives, *A Home in Shalom'ville* commemorates the 75th anniversary of Asheville's Jewish Community Center. The JCC's openness to the entire Asheville community has long made it a vehicle for people of various beliefs to meet each other as neighbors. The book can be purchased at jcc-asheville.org; proceeds will benefit the JCC.

Book Brings Longue Vue House and Gardens to Life



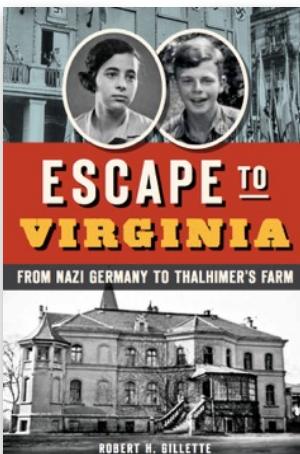
Longue Vue House and Gardens: The Architecture, Interiors, and Gardens of New Orleans' Most Celebrated Estate, showcases the Classical Revival masterpiece Longue Vue House and Gardens, built for prominent New Orleans businessman Edgar Stern and his wife Edith Rosenwald Stern around 1940. As intended by the Sterns, their home was converted to a museum in 1980 and remains one of America's truly great 20th century estates.

Published by Rizzoli, the book features lush photography by Tina Freeman and architectural drawings that bring the main

house, 24 fountains, and 16 garden areas to life. The text, by Charles Davey and Carol McMichael Reese, establishes Longue Vue as a symbol of its creators' vision to building a just society. The Sterns' many philanthropic interests included New Orleans cultural institutions, education and health care for African Americans, and voting rights.

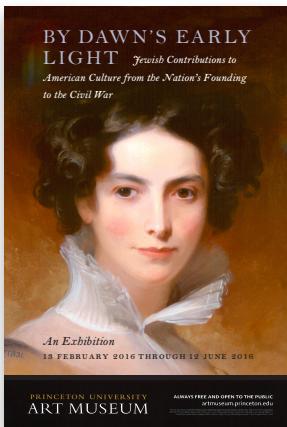
Proceeds from the book's sale will support educational programs at Longue Vue. It is available from the Longue Vue shop and online at longuevue.com.

From Nazi Germany to Rural Virginia: Book Tells Dramatic Tale



Escape to Virginia: From Nazi Germany to Thalhimer's Farm, author Robert H. Gillette tells the harrowing story of Jewish teenagers Eva and Töpper, who fled the stranglehold of 1930s Germany and found refuge on a Virginia farm. In their desperate search for escape, they both studied agriculture at the Gross Breesen Institute, hoping to secure visas. They succeeded, landing at the Burkeville, Virginia, farm created as a safe haven by Richmond department store owner William B. Thalhimer.

Escape to Virginia traces its protagonists' lives from the emotional torture of their adolescence in Germany to their inspiring journey to freedom and life in a new land. Suitable for young adult and adult readers, it is available from The History Press and on Amazon as a regular book and e-book. A teachers' and readers' guide is under preparation, which will be available for free through a website currently under construction.



By Dawn's Early Light Opens at Princeton University

For Jews, a tiny minority in the early Republic, freedom was both liberating and confounding. They were free to participate in the new nation's political and social life, but with America's dawn came the twilight of a more disciplined age. Constraints that maintained social cohesion loosened, boundaries became porous, and synagogues were challenged by indifference and individualism.

The Princeton University Library opens *By Dawn's Early Light: Jewish Contributions to American Culture from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War*, at the Princeton University Art Museum on February 13, 2016. Co-curated by SJHS stalwarts Adam Mendelsohn and Dale Rosengarten, the exhibit includes substantial material from the American South and features the work of Charleston-born artists Theodore Sidney Moïse and Solomon Nunes Carvalho. Among more than 170 objects on display are some of the earliest novels, poems, religious works, paintings, photographs, newspapers, and scientific treatises produced by Jews in the U.S.

By Dawn's Early Light continues through June 12, 2016 and is open to the public free of charge. An accompanying 345-page catalogue contains 12 essays and 73 color illustrations. For more information contact Darlene Dreyer, 609.258.5049, ddreyer@exchange.princeton.edu.

Florida Oral History Project Grows with SJHS Support

By Cat. Eskin

Every community begins with a pioneer narrative. The first Jew arrived in the town of Lakeland, in central Florida's Polk County, in 1909 and marveled at the clear waters of Lake Mirror. Though our pioneer, Cy Wolfson, did not become a communal leader, he made no secret of who he was. A congregation soon called Temple Emanuel was founded in 1932. Many traveled long distances to attend: at its height it served Polk and nine surrounding counties. Lakeland now boasts a population of around 100,000, but Polk County (which added a second synagogue in 1982) has a shrinking affiliated Jewish population.

Temple Emanuel Archive (TEA, founded in 2007) seeks to preserve the congregation's history as well as the larger Jewish narrative of the region. Its "Growing Up Jewish" project formally began in 2014. As the temple's "part-time" archivist (and full-time English professor at Florida Southern College), I proposed to collect oral histories focusing on ethnic and religious identity among Jews who grew up in Polk County and its environs.

Building on interviews I started conducting in 2009, I collected more than 80 oral histories—yet most were not transcribed. Turning to the organization that had inspired me, I applied for a Scott and Donna Langston Archival Grant from the SJHS. My application noted that the TEA's emerging collection differed from the most significant oral history collection on the Jewish South,



Top: Hilda and Jerry Weiner dance at his bar mitzvah, Temple Emanuel, 1963. *Weiner Collection, TEA Archives*

Bottom: Temple Emanuel confirmation class, 1953. *Greenbaum Collection, TEA Archives*

held by the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL). Most ISJL oral histories are of individuals who remained in southern Jewish communities. The TEA's narratives are predominantly from people who left the region. Some subjects are no longer practicing Judaism; others are inactive in Jewish life. Our goal is to add perspective and make more southern Jewish voices audible.

The SJHS Grants Committee granted our request, funding transcriptions in July. Thanks to its members' encouragement, I also applied for a Florida Humanities Council mini-grant. I am pleased to announce that the Council funded "Growing Up Jewish" for more transcriptions, more interviews, archiving and cataloguing consultancy, and programming. In recent months, 30-plus new interviews have been conducted. Also, a panel presentation entitled "Our Jewish Communion: Religious Identity and Growing Up Jewish in Polk County" was set for February 21, 2016, at Florida Southern College, with University of Florida Jewish Studies Director Jack Kugelmass as respondent.

I cannot express enough my personal gratitude—and that of the Temple Emanuel community—for the generosity of the SJHS. That generosity is more than financial: the Society has provided intellectual and structural support, offering opportunities to celebrate southern Jewish identity through programs, publications, and genuine dialogue. L'dor v'dor!



SJHS NEWSLETTER
PO Box 71601, Marietta, GA 30007-1601
www.jewishsouth.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit.Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 80
Jackson, MS

Join the Southern Jewish Historical Society

Your membership will help support the SJHS in its efforts to study, preserve, and present the Jewish experience in the American South. The SJHS awards prizes and research grants, publishes scholarship, supports exhibitions, and holds an annual conference. Members receive *The Rambler, Southern Jewish History* journal, and special conference rates.



You can now join the SJHS online at jewishsouth.org/store/annual-membership.

Or, send below form and check payable to Southern Jewish Historical Society to:

Southern Jewish Historical Society, PO Box 71601, Marietta, GA 30007-1601

Please mark "Membership" or "Endowment" in the memo line of your check.

Check here if you would like your email and phone listed in the SJHS directory.

Rates:

Student (individual only) \$15

Individual or family membership:

General member \$36

Patron \$50

Century \$100

Cedar \$500

Sycamore \$1,000

Magnolia \$2,500

To support research, scholarship, and exhibitions pertaining to southern Jewish history, I wish to make a donation to the SJHS Endowment of \$_____ in honor/memory of _____.

Name_____ **Title**_____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Phone_____ **Email**_____