

Sights, Sounds, and Stories of the Jewish South Southern Jewish Historical Society • Thirty-sixty Annual Conference Columbia, South Carolina • October 27-30, 2011

This issue of *The Rambler* contains details about the SJHS Annual Conference in Columbia, South Carolina, next October. A registration form for the conference can be found on page six. Reserve your place today.

SJHS will join forces with the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina to present a weekend of sensational scholarship, photography, film, and music on the beautiful University of South Carolina campus in the state capital of Columbia. With generous support from USC's Jewish Studies Program, the Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, the School of Music, and McKissick Museum, we have designed a three-day immersion in the sights, sounds, and stories of the Jewish South.

The conference will kick off on Friday, October 28, with a bus tour to Sumter, SC, one of the state's earliest Jewish settlements. There we will see Temple Sinai's spectacular stained glass windows, tour the Sumter County Museum, and visit the Levi family's historic home and garden.

On Saturday, panel sessions will convene in the new Hollings Library next to the Thomas Cooper Library. Researchers and writers from near and far will explore the tricky and sometimes treacherous terrain trod by southern Jews. The afternoon will end with an "insider's tour" of the capital city led by noted Columbia historians, Belinda and Richard Gergel.

On Saturday evening, attendees are invited to the opening reception of an

exhibition of Political Collections and Judaica back at the Hollings Library. Sunday the venue switches to USC's School of Music for the conference finale. First comes a performance and discussion with composer Meira Warshauer, USC's Robert Jesselson, cello, and Janet Hopkins, mezzo soprano, and second, audio-video presentations by historians Bryan Stone and Jerrod Tanny, who ask the serious question, "What's so funny about Southern Jews?"

For more information and to register online, visit www.jhssc.org or follow the link on the SJHS homepage, www.jewishsouth.org.

Reserve your hotel room now. A special conference rate is available. The Inn at USC: 1619 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC. Phone **803.779.7779** Mention SJHS / JHSSC. Room Rates: **\$115.00 /night** plus tax, includes breakfast, parking, & free internet. Reservations must be made directly to the hotel. **Prices valid until 27 September 2011**



The Big Apple. Within the walls of this circa-1915 former synagogue-turned-black-nightclub was born the dance craze that swept the nation during the summer of 1937. Today, the Big Apple ranks as one of Columbia's favorite locations for weddings, parties, luncheons, meetings and special events.

Photo courtesy: Historic Columbia Foundation

President's Message



Steven Rochoff

In this issue of the *Rambler*, you will find details about our upcoming conference October 28 – 30th in Columbia, South Carolina. A joint meeting with the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC), the conference boasts a series of fascinating papers by a number of new faces in addition to historical tours of Columbia and nearby Sumter. Program co-chairs Dale Rosengarten and Phyllis Leffler have put together a rich and creative program that promises to be both entertaining and intellectually engaging. We hope that you will be able to join us. I encourage you to make your travel arrangements and register for the conference as soon as possible. You can register online by following the link on the SJHS website (www.jewishsouth.org), which will take you to the registration form on the site of the JHSSC.

In addition to conference preparations, the SJHS will be hard at work this summer remodeling and updating our website. We have signed a contract with a web designer to update and improve the look of our site. In addition to these aesthetic improvements, we will transform the site into a significant resource for those looking to study the history of the Jewish South. With an extensive bibliography of published work and a detailed guide to archival resources in the region, visitors will be able to use the site to guide their research. In addition, we will make the first three issues of our journal *Southern Jewish History* available online, greatly widening the potential audience for the outstanding articles published in the journal. For more recent issues, people will be able to purchase individual articles or the entire volume. I am pleased to announce that the SJHS has hired its first summer intern to help with these various projects. Garrett Wilkerson, a junior at Millsaps College,

will work closely with me and our web designer to create these new web-based resources. Garrett will work out of the offices of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, which has graciously donated its space and office equipment to the society for this summer. Our goal is to have the new and improved site launched by the time of our October conference.

One of the best qualities of the society is its family-like atmosphere. Our annual conference often feels more like a family reunion than an academic conference. The bonds of friendship forged at our conferences often become long-lasting. When there is a death or an illness in the family, we all like to know about it. Along those lines, two longtime leaders of the society have recently endured some health problems. Past-president and longtime supporter Beryl Weiner suffered a stroke several months ago, but I am pleased to report that Beryl continues to improve. Now residing at the Jewish Home in Atlanta, Beryl loves to read on his Kindle (history books no doubt), and especially enjoys visitors. His longtime secretary, Barbara Tahsler, continues to offer invaluable administrative support to the Society. Cathy Kahn, also a past-president and longtime leader of the society, recently spent several weeks in a New Orleans hospital after a difficult surgery. Thankfully, Cathy is now home and recovering and will hopefully bring her passion and verve to our upcoming conferences.

If you have read this far into my message, clearly you are a strong supporter of the SJHS. If you've read these before, you know that this is the part of my column in which I urge you to renew or increase your membership in the society. Most importantly, you can help us to expand our membership and our programs by encouraging your friends and family to join the SJHS. A gift membership is a great way to introduce them to the work of the society. At only \$35, it's a tremendous bargain. As we seek to revamp our website and develop new programs in addition to everything else we do, such increased support is crucial to our future success.

As always, I thank you for your support, and I look forward to seeing you in Columbia in October!

Where Are They Now?

Sheldon Hanft, SJHS President, 1992-1993



Former SJHS president Sheldon Hanft provides us with this update:

I'm not sure where to begin. I guess the most important change was that my wife Beryl of 49+ years had a stroke on January 9, 2007, and her suffering ended by the time the ambulance arrived at the hospital. It came with no warning. This was shortly after we had been to New York to hear her step-father conduct the Christmas Oratorio at a large church and welcomed in the New Year

with family in Pinehurst, North Carolina. It was such a surprise. I spent most of 2007 traveling to the homes of my daughters (Cleveland, Ohio; Pinehurst, North Carolina, and Laramie, Wyoming) trying to do what I could to aid their transition. They have all gotten on with their lives, but some had an easier time doing so than did others.

I read a helpful book called *Mourning & Mitzvot* (I did most of its exercises) and joined a bereavement group sponsored by the local hospice chapter. Slowly, I recovered and resumed walking with friends on our local "Greenway." I

accepted a three-year term on our local Arts Council Board. I rejoined our informal "Sunday movie club" (see a film & discuss it while having dinner out) and got involved in our local AARP chapter to the point that they elected me to the presidency. I'm sure you realize that no one else wanted the job, so it was no great honor, but it gave me another reason to be active and involved with a nice group of seniors.

I have been amazingly healthy though I've had several "age appropriate" illnesses which I have survived with aplomb, a pair, and an orange. Unfortunately my sense of humor has not improved, but I have come to really enjoy my retirement. I truthfully tell my former colleagues that had I known it could be so much fun I would have retired earlier. It is not just that I can indulge myself doing what I want, visiting grandchildren, doing nothing, etc., but I have been well enough to work at our local food bank, do a five-mile mountain trail hike with my youngest daughter and her husband, and write long, rambling emails like this one.

Please convey my warmest wishes to the many SJHS members and friends who made my association with the society so memorable and special. I felt that I made a number of friends in the SJHS who have "drifted away," and I hope this update might prompt them to renew contact. My contact information is: email (sheldonio@hotmail.com) and home phone (828-264-4576). Or, as I travel as frequently as these old bones allow, my cell phone (828-406-6026).

SJHS Contributions

The SJHS survives on generous contributions and memberships. While we have no paid staff, we do have significant annual expenses: Four issues of *The Rambler*, and our annual academic journal, *Southern Jewish History*, together cost over \$26,000. In addition, we want to promote the academic study of our history through grants and scholarships to graduate students and scholars, if funds are available.

\$5,000

Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, Inc.

Phyllis Leffler

Thomas Lemann

\$1,500

Gale Foundation

May Lynn and Charles Mansbach

David and Shirley Orlansky

\$500 to \$1,000

Les and Jane Bergen

Maryann Kallison and Al Friedman

Scott and Donna Langston

Jay Stein

Leonard Rogoff

Robert Rosen

Elliot and Rosel Schewel

Samuel Shorstein

Laura and Richard Steel

Ellen Umansky

Bernie and Delores Wax

Hollace and Bruce Weiner

\$200 to \$499

Bruce and Linda Beeber

Mark and Sandra Bauman

Minette and Charles Cooper

David and Terri Frolich

Robert Gutman

Jerome Imburg

Ralph Kahn

Donald and Kaye Kole

\$101 to \$199

Belz Enterprises

Lawrence and Suzanne Fishman

Stuart and Susan Rockoff

Glen Rosenbaum

Milton Saul

Phillip and Joan Steel

Washington Memorial Library, GA

\$100

Stephen Alderman

R.L. Berkowitz

Barbara and Bernard Bernstein

Stephen and Tanya Bodzin

The William Breman Museum

Perry and Shirley Brickman

Maury Braunstein

Robert and Lucinda Bunnen

Jay and Ann Davis

Sharon Fahrer

Julius and Ellis Falkoff

Earl Ferguson

Barry Fine

Susan Finkel

Stanley Fox

Eve Gelfand

Martha Hauptman

Sandra Heller

Sigmund Hiller

Michal and Jack Hillman

Jacob Rader Marcus Center AJA

Catherine Kahn

Solomon and Rita Kimerling

Kirkland & Ellis Foundation

Herman Kohlmeyer

Esther Labovitz

Mathiel Leffler

Joan Levin

Elizabeth Levine

Sumner and Phyllis Levine

William and Betty Loewenberg

Charles Plesofsky

Susan and Bessie Proctor

Dan and Heather Puckett

Connie Shertz

Henry and Carolyn Simon

Stanley Srochi

David Stein

Harriet and T.N. Stern

Sybil Union

Sarah and Benton Warren

Lee Shai and Sharon Weissbach

Albert Wilkinson

Mark and Blanche Wine

Look for the SJHS Label

Take a look at your mailing label on this issue of the *Rambler*. If the year says 2010, it means that, according to our records, you have not made a membership dues contribution for 2011 and it also means this will be your last newsletter unless you renew. Please re-join the SJHS. 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.

Officers and Board 2011



PRESIDENT
Stuart Rockoff

VICE PRESIDENT AND
PRESIDENT ELECT
Dale Rosengarten

TREASURER
Les Bergen

SECRETARY
Phyllis Leffler

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Jean Roseman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandra Berman

P. Irving Bloom

Marni Davis

Maryanne Friedman

Margaret Anne Goldsmith

May Lynn Mansbach

Adam Mendelsohn

Jean Roseman

Harriet Stern

Lee Shai Weissbach

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Leonard Rogoff

JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Rachel Heimovics Braun

JOURNAL EDITOR

Mark Bauman

Southern Jewish History

2517 Hartford Dr.

Ellenwood, GA 30294

Phone: 404.366.3306

Fax: 404.756.4944

markkbauman@aol.com

The *Rambler* welcomes
submissions on news relevant
to southern Jewry.

Editorial inquiries to
Bryan Edward Stone
Dept. of Social Sciences
Del Mar College
101 Baldwin Blvd.
Corpus Christi, TX 78404
bstone@delmar.edu

Send address changes to
Barbara Tahsler
SJHS
PO Box 71601
Marietta GA 30007-1601
wydd@ix.netcom.com

MEMBERSHIP

Ellen Umansky
8 Baylor Circle, White Plains, NY 10605
Phone (h) : 914-428-0289
Phone (w) : 203-354-4000 x2065
eumansky@fairfield.edu

**The Post Office Box used by the SJHS has moved! Our new mailing address effectively immediately is
Post Office Box 71601, Marietta, GA 30007-1601**

Sights, Sounds, and Stories of the Jewish South

Joint Conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina

With support from the University of South Carolina's Jewish Studies Program, Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, School of Music, and McKissick Museum

THURSDAY, October 27

Arrivals/Registration, The Inn at USC

6:30 PM

SJHS Board dinner at the home of Richard and Belinda Gergel, followed by SJHS Board meeting at The Inn at USC

FRIDAY, October 28

Arrivals/Registration

Breakfast, The Inn at USC (included in room rate)

DAY TRIP TO SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Temple Sinai: Talk and tour of the sanctuary and its spectacular stained glass windows by Elizabeth Moses and Robert A. Moses

Sumter County Museum: Presentation of the museum's Jewish collections; box lunch outdoors

Home and garden tour – Dr. Wendell and Katie Levi

6:00 PM

Dinner and Services at Tree of Life

SATURDAY, October 29

Breakfast, The Inn at USC (included in room rate)

PANEL SESSIONS

Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, USC Campus

9:00 AM

Tolerance and Tensions

Allen Krause, "The Hazan, the Minister, and the Merchant: A 177-Year-Old Lesson from Charleston, S.C."

Hyman Rubin III, "South Carolina's Jewish Republicans during Radical Reconstruction"

Marni Davis, "Allies or Adversaries? Jewish and Irish Immigrants in the New South"

Rachel R. Bergstein, "A Tale of Two Rabbis: How David Marx and Tobias Geffen Imagined Judaism in the South"

11:00 AM

The Topography of Exclusion

Robert Gillette, "The Virginia Plan: William B. Thalheimer and the Resettlement of German Refugees"

Edward S. Shapiro, "Fighting the War: Southern Jewish Chaplains and the Evolution of American Jewish Identity during World War II"

Catherine R. Eskin, "Jewish Sacred Space in a 'City of Churches': Temple Emanuel in Lakeland, Florida"

12:30 PM

Lunch

PANEL SESSIONS, continued

1:00 PM

History and Memory

Joseph Butwin, "Old Countries: A Jewish Writer in the Southern Diaspora"

Laurie Gunst, "Exploring Taboos"

Ellen Solomon, "Creating Rachel Solomon: The Imaginatively Constructed Individual"

3:00 – 4:45 PM

CAPITAL CITY: Bus tour of Columbia led by Richard and Belinda Gergel

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Reception, Hollings Library

Guided "behind the scenes" tours on the half-hour, beginning at 5:30pm

Screening of *Carvalho's Journey*—video segments of a work in progress by producer/director Steve Rivo

Exhibits:

Political Collections—papers and campaign memorabilia of Isadore Lourie, Harriet Keyserling, Sol Blatt, Hyman Rubin, Inez Tenenbaum, others TBA

Judaica and Rare Books—from the collections of Thomas Cooper and South Caroliniana libraries

7:30 PM

Dinner on your own

SUNDAY, October 30

8:30 AM

Breakfast, The Inn at USC (included in room rate)
Concurrent: SJHS membership meeting and JHSSC board meeting

SESSIONS

Recital Hall, School of Music, USC

10:00 AM

Sounds of the Jewish South: The Music of Composer Meira Warshauer

Performance and panel with Meira Warshauer, piano, Robert Jesselson, cello, and Janet Hopkins, mezzo soprano

11:30 AM

What's So Funny about Southern Jews?: Performance Inside and Outside the Tradition

Bryan E. Stone, "Havah Nagilah, Texas-Style: Christian Zionism and the Cornerstone Church"

Jarrold Tanny, "From the Borscht Belt to the B'nei Mississippi: Jewish Humor's Encounter with the South"

12:30 PM

Box Lunch

1:30

Adjourn



Conference Participants

Rachel Bergstein is a PhD candidate in Modern Jewish History at Yale University. Her research focuses on American Jewish History with a particular emphasis on Jews in the South. She has an undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary Jewish Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and has studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education in New York. She is currently working on her dissertation entitled "From Leo Frank to Civil Rights: Jews in the New South City, 1915-1968."

Joseph Butwin is a professor of English at the University of Washington where he has taught since 1970. He has published studies of Victorian England and has written, in collaboration with his mother, Frances Butwin, a critical biography of Sholom Aleichem (Boston, 1978). His essay "Teveye on King Street" appeared in *American Jewish History* in 2007.

Marni Davis teaches at Georgia State University in Atlanta, where she specializes in American history, modern Jewish history, and the history of ethnicity and immigration in the United States. Her book, *Jews and Booze: Becoming American in the Age of Prohibition*, is forthcoming from New York University Press. Her article, "'No Whisky Amazons in the Tents of Israel': American Jews and the Gilded-Age Temperance Movement," appeared in the journal *American Jewish History*.

Catherine R. Eskin is an Associate Professor of English at Florida Southern College and the Archivist for the Temple Emanuel Archive. Active in early modern English literature pedagogies and, more recently, non-fiction writing, Eskin has been teaching on the college level for more than 20 years. She is currently working on an electronic oral history and image archive for Temple Emanuel, a conservative synagogue founded in 1932 in Lakeland, Florida. Her research interests include anti-Semitism, social relationships, and the politics of the American South.

For forty years, **Bob Gillette** was a public school educator. He was nationally recognized for his high school program OTO, Opportunities to Teach Ourselves, in Fairfield, Connecticut, and has written, spoken and consulted nationally on educational topics. He also directed religious education programs and created curricula in Jewish education. He is a graduate of Wesleyan University, earning a BA and an MAT, and studied at the Hebrew Union College. His recent book, *The Virginia Plan: William B. Thalhimer and a Rescue from Nazi Germany*, was published by the History Press in 2011.

Janet Hopkins, mezzo-soprano, currently Assistant Professor of Voice at the University of South Carolina, is a 16-year veteran of the Metropolitan Opera. She has recently performed the Verdi Requiem in Tulsa, Minnesota, and the Kennedy Center in an innovative version which links this masterpiece to its defiant performance by the imprisoned musicians of Teresienstadt. Hopkins formed the Operatopia Foundation to further music education and appreciation in South Carolina.

Robert Jesselson is a Carolina Distinguished Professor at the University of South Carolina where he teaches cello and plays in the American Arts Trio. He has received many awards and has performed in recital and with orchestras in Europe, Asia, South America, and the United States, as well as in music festivals at Nice, Granada, Santiago, Aspen, Spoleto, and the Grand Tetons. A former president of the American String Teachers Association, he initiated the National Studio Teachers Forums and the National String Project Consortium, which he currently serves as Executive Director.

Allen Krause (MAHL, D.D.) has done graduate work in American History at the University of Chicago and the University of California, Berkeley, and as the Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellow at Harvard University. His précis of his Master's thesis, "Southern Rabbis and the Civil Rights Movement in the South," was honored as one of the

"best...articles written...over the past forty years...in American Jewish history." Krause served as Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth El of South Orange County from 1984 to his retirement in 2008. He has been a part-time lecturer at the State University of California since 1972 in addition to teaching at the University of Santa Clara. He is currently working on a book on the role Southern rabbis played in the civil rights movement in the South.

Steve Rivo is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who has produced, directed, or written documentaries for PBS, MTV, TruTV/ Court TV, Discovery Channel, VH1, and independently. Selected credits include co-producer of the Emmy and DuPont award-winning, multi-part PBS series *New York: A Documentary Film* (directed by Ric Burns) and producer of two of Burns's Emmy-winning films for PBS's "American Experience" series, *Eugene O'Neill* and *Ansel Adams*. Steve is also Adjunct Assistant Professor in the department of Radio, Television, and Film at Hofstra University, teaching in Hofstra's MFA program.

Hyman Rubin III is Associate Professor of History at Columbia College, SC, where he has taught for twelve years. A native of Columbia, he graduated from Yale University with a BA in history in 1993. In 2001 he received his Ph.D. from Emory University in U.S. history with an emphasis on the American South. His research focus is on Reconstruction politics, and his book *South Carolina Scalawags* was published in 2006 by the University of South Carolina Press.

Edward S. Shapiro is professor of history emeritus at Seton Hall University and author of *A Time for Healing: American Jews Since World War II*, *Crown Heights: Blacks, Jews, and the Brooklyn Riot of 1991*, and *We Are Many: Reflections on American Jewish History and Identity*.

Ellen Solomon holds an Ed.D. from Harvard University and has taught writing and social science at Harvard College and Bard College. With co-author Victoria Steinitz, she created portraits of American adolescents for *Starting Out: Class and Community in the Lives of Working-class Youth*, published by Temple University Press, which won the 1986 Robert Park award for best sociological monograph on community. Ellen grew up in Charleston, South Carolina, and now splits her time between Gloucester, MA, and McClellanville, SC.

Bryan Edward Stone is the author of *The Chosen Folks: Jews on the Frontiers of Texas*. He is an Associate Professor of History at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas, and a Visiting Professor at the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches a summer course on Texas Jews.

Jarrold Tanny is Assistant Professor of History and the Charles and Hannah Block Distinguished Fellow of Jewish History at the University of North Carolina/Wilmington. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, focusing on Russian-Jewish history. Originally from Montreal, he completed an M.A. at the University of Toronto and a B.A. at McGill University. His forthcoming book, *City of Rogues and Schnorrers*, examines how the city of Odessa was mythologized as a Jewish city of sin, celebrated and vilified for its Jewish gangsters, pimps, bawdy musicians, and comedians.

Wilmington native **Meira Warshauer** resides in Columbia, SC, and has spent most of her creative life in the South. Her southern, Jewish roots informed her score for the documentary, *Land of Promise: The Jews of South Carolina*, and large scale compositions *Shacharit (Morning Service)* and *Ahavah (Love)*, released on the Albany Records CD, *Streams in the Desert*. Her sense of place and love for the earth inspired her *Symphony No. 1 Living Breathing Earth*, just released on Navona Records along with *Tekeeyah (a call)*, her Concerto for Shofar, Trombone, and Orchestra. The recipient of the first Arts and Cultural Achievement Award from the SCJHS, Warshauer has served on the faculties of Columbia College, University of South Carolina, and Coastal Carolina University.



News and Notes

• Web Site Reviews

Southern Jewish History will begin publishing reviews of web sites in the 2011 issue. The journal is seeking reviewers who are familiar with the needs of researchers using on-line sources for scholarly research. Reviewers will evaluate web sites related to Southern Jewish history such as archival databases, on-line exhibits, and genealogical web sites. Dina Pinsky is the new website review editor. If you are interested in writing a web site review and/or if you would like to suggest web sites to be reviewed by the journal, please contact Dina Pinsky at pinsky@arcadia.edu.

• Jewish Genealogy Conference in D.C.



The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) will hold its 31st International Conference in Washington, D.C., August 14-19, 2011 at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel. Hosted locally by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, it will bring together 1,200 attendees from 17 countries and will feature more than 160 sessions, including several emphasizing Southern Jewish History. There will be several instructional workshops, a Resource Center with free online access to subscription databases and a wide variety of other references, and a Repository Orientation and Fair where local records facility experts will share their collections and expertise. Tours of Jewish Washington, a film series, and a translation service will also be available. Sara Bloomfield, the Director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, will deliver the keynote address. Information and registration is available online at www.dc2011.org.

• Southern Congregations on DVD

Two congregations in the South have recently produced DVDs. Congregation B'nai Israel of Baton Rouge recognized its 150th anniversary by sponsoring the production of "L'Dor V'Dor — From Generation to Generation" to memorialize its past and celebrate its survival. Members received copies, which were also distributed to Louisiana libraries and other institutions. Temple Beth El of Helena, Arkansas, closed its doors in 2006 after 140 years. The nine remaining members, wishing to recapture the worship services they could no longer attend, hired a filmmaker to record a series of Jewish services, with complete music and liturgy. They gather together each Jewish holiday to watch it.

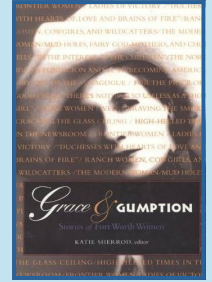
• Greenville Deli Fundraiser

The online magazine *Tablet* recently reported on the members of Hebrew Union Congregation in Greenville, Mississippi, who are keeping alive a 130-year-old tradition — a deli-style fundraiser luncheon. Once the largest congregation in Mississippi, it has lost membership in recent years and no longer supports a full-time rabbi. Even with declining membership, however, the deli tradition lives on. In 2009, they served 1,400 corned beef sandwiches to Jews and gentiles alike. The article, with podcast, can be found at www.tabletmag.com/podcasts/62851/deli-blues/.

• Fort Worth Women's History

More than a dozen diverse historians in Fort Worth have put together two anthologies about local women. The volumes, published by Texas Christian University Press, are titled *Grace & Gumption: Stories of Fort Worth Women* and *Grace & Gumption: The Cookbook*. The latter, published last year, includes a chapter by Hollace Weiner called "Let My People Eat." Drawn from primary source materials in local archives and augmented with oral histories, the chapter describes the

short-lived Women's Page of the *Texas Jewish Monitor*, a weekly that circulated in the 1920s. The chapter also describes preparations for the World War II Passover Seders the community hosted for Jewish soldiers stationed in the region. TCU Press has taken this series to far West Texas with a similar book, *Grace & Gumption: The Women of El Paso*, due later this year. That volume will include essays on Anglo, Latina, Jewish, and Native American women.



• Stained-Glass Window Tour

A city-wide "Stained-Glass Window Tour," sponsored during spring break by Historic Fort Worth, Inc., included a stop at Beth-El Congregation, the city's Reform temple. More than 75 visitors went on guided tours of the synagogue, which has stained glass murals crafted in 1948, 1979, and 2000. Also on the city-wide tour were churches, train stations, botanic gardens, and hospitals.

• Jewish History in Gainesville, Texas



Synagogue of the United Hebrew Congregation, Gainesville, TX. Constructed 1885. After the congregation dissolved in 1922, the building was used by a Protestant congregation.

When Stuart Rockoff arrived in Gainesville, Texas, to conduct research for the ISJL's online Southern Jewish Encyclopedia, a stranger was waiting for him at the city's Morton Museum. The gent introduced himself as the last local descendant of Gainesville's United Hebrew Congregation, which dissolved in 1922. What's more, the man had in hand the congregation's last minute book. It covers meetings from May of 1905 to Nov. 5, 1922, when the congregation finalized the sale of its handsome building for \$1,000, payable over a four-year period at 7% interest.

Rockoff alerted the Texas Jewish Historical Society about this rich primary-source document. The TJHS began making plans to host its fall board meeting, Oct. 14-16, in Gainesville, located about sixty miles north of both Fort Worth and Dallas. The city, a county seat six miles south of Oklahoma, thrived around the turn of the twentieth century when it was a frontier cattle town on the road to Indian Territory. With Oklahoma statehood in 1907, business began to slip. After the county voted in Prohibition in 1910, business definitely dried up. Jewish families involved in saloons and the wholesale liquor trade departed.

The TJHS's Gainesville meeting will include a panel discussion—with Stuart Rockoff, Sherry Zander, and Bryan Stone—analyzing the reasons why small-town congregations die. Also on the agenda is a cemetery tour, during which TJHS members dressed in period clothing will give monologues about the dearly departed, many of whom are eulogized in the congregation's minute book. Hollace Weiner is program chair.

To view the Gainesville congregation's minute book, which is on a website hosted by Texas A&M University/Commerce, go to dmc.tamu-commerce.edu and search for "United Hebrew Congregation." To register for the TJHS conference in Gainesville, contact Vickie Vogel, arrangements chair, at vvogel@cvctx.com or go to the TJHS web site at www.txjhs.org.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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



SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND STORIES OF THE JEWISH SOUTH

The Southern Jewish Historical Society • The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina
 Joint Annual Conference • Columbia, South Carolina • October 27-30, 2011

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Spouse/Friend _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

All meals will be Kosher-style. I request meals that are: [] Vegetarian [] Strictly Kosher (Must be pre-ordered).

Name(s) on name tags _____

I WISH TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING (Fees are per person; advance reservations are mandatory):

Registration for **FULL program including all meals:** \$150.00 per person \$ _____
 Registration for **Optional Tour to Sumter, SC:** \$50.00 per person \$ _____

Separate attendance at select events:

Saturday Events including Evening reception: \$100.00 per person \$ _____
 Saturday Evening Program only: \$50.00 per person \$ _____
 Sunday Program plus meals: \$50.00 per person \$ _____

Conference Sub-total: \$ _____

You must be a member of either JHSSC OR SJHS to attend.

**Information about this Conference is available online at www.jhssc.org/events and www.jewishsouth.org
 Register online using **Visa** or **MasterCard** at www.jhssc.org**

JHSSC Dues		SJHS Dues	
_____ Individual / Family Membership	\$36	_____ General Member	\$36
_____ Individual-Family or General Joint Membership to both JHSSC and SJHS		_____ Patron / Institutional	\$70
_____ Friend	\$200	_____ Century Club	\$100
_____ Sponsor	\$350	_____ Cedar	\$500
_____ Founding Patron	\$1,000	_____ Sycamore	\$1,000
_____ Pillar (\$1,000.yearly / 5 years)	\$1,000	_____ Magnolia	\$2,500
_____ Foundational Pillar (\$2,000 yearly /5 years)	\$2,000	_____ Student (Individual)	\$15
		Dues Sub-total:	\$ _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO JHSSC AND RETURN WITH THIS FORM TO:
 JHSSC
 Jewish Studies Center
 College of Charleston
 Charleston, SC 29424

QUESTIONS?
 Enid Idelsohn
 843-953-5682
 IdelsohnE@cofc.edu

Conference and Dues Total: \$ _____