



SJHS in Austin: Record-Breaking Crowd, Stimulating Program



Left to right: Conference crowd gathers outside LBJ Library, Ellen Umansky kicks off conference, Eli Evans and Caroline Light enjoy Saturday evening cruise on Lady Bird Lake. *Photos by Barbara Stone*

“Texas does things big,” declared SJHS president Dale Rosengarten as she welcomed Conference attendees to the LBJ Presidential Library on the University of Texas campus. The 39th annual SJHS gathering on October 24–26 was the largest ever with a turn-away crowd of 175 registrants.

Leaders of co-sponsoring organizations Robert Abzug, director of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas, and Debra Winegarten, president of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, also greeted the crowd at the Library. Davie Lou Solka of the TJHS and Lisa Cohen Quay of the Jewish Community Association of Austin did a stellar job as local hosts while Bryan Stone, Hollace Weiner, and Sally Drayer put together a stimulating program.

Befitting a program at a presidential library, the first panel focused on “In the Oval: Southern Jews and the Presidency,” with SJHS President-elect Ellen Umansky chairing. Claudia Anderson, LBJ Presidential Library archivist, traced Lyndon Johnson’s long history with Austin Jewry. She debunked claims that LBJ saved 42 Jews from Nazi Germany through an illegal “Operation Texas.” In fact, LBJ was a heroic agent of Jewish immigration in the thirties, but he worked within the law. In 1939 he made room in Texas work camps for Jewish refugees through the National Youth Administration. He helped young refugee conductor Erich Leinsdorf obtain a visa via Cuba and relentlessly lobbied the State Department on behalf of many other refugees.

Cecily Abram spoke of her uncle Morris Abram, a native of Fitzgerald, Georgia, who advised five presidents. The first Jewish Rhodes Scholar despite his thick country-boy accent, Abram embarked on a distinguished legal career after military service in World War II. JFK called on him to have Martin Luther King

released from an Atlanta jail and LBJ appointed him general counsel of the Peace Corps. He worked with Jimmy Carter on human rights and with Ronald Reagan on Soviet Jewry. His leadership of Jewish causes included stints as president of Brandeis University and the American Jewish Committee. University of Texas historian Don Carleton recounted the fascinating story of Bernard Rapoport, Texan, philanthropist, social justice advocate, and supporter of Israel. Raised in a leftwing Zionist household, “B,” as he was known, was an unabashed liberal who supported progressive Democrats and opposed the Vietnam War. Earning a fortune as an insurance underwriter for labor unions, Rapoport became a “capitalist with a conscience.” He met the young Bill Clinton while working with the McGovern campaign, and the two bonded. As president, Clinton phoned B almost daily seeking advice on appointments.

Steve Whitfield offered his usual wit and insight in portraying Bernard Baruch and Abe Fortas as Democratic presidential advisers. Both were backroom wheelers and dealers, masters of kibitz: Baruch as a speculator, Fortas as a fixer. As Jews, neither had much sense of faith or peoplehood, but they did not evade their Jewishness. Although anti-Semites like Ezra Pound saw FDR as Baruch’s puppet, Whitfield described Baruch’s reputation as self-propagated. Fortas helped LBJ steal the 1948 senatorial primary and was a trusted adviser. LBJ put him on the Supreme Court and later nominated him for chief justice, but Fortas was forced to resign because of his out-of-court relations with financier Louis Wolfson. Still, the courageously liberal Fortas opposed Japanese internment during the war, expanded justice as an attorney in the celebrated Gideon case, defended civil rights and antiwar demonstrators, and advanced Great Society legislation.

continued on page 4...



Officers and Board 2015

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

Steve Bodzin

Perry Brickman

Bonnie Eisenman

Bob Gillette

Gil Halpern

Sol Kimerling

Peggy Kronsberg Pearlstein

Beth Orlansky

Jay Silverberg

Jarrold Tanny

Bernie Wax (emeritus)

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Jean Roseman

JOURNAL EDITOR

Mark Bauman

Phone: 678.828.7484

Cell: 678.428.3622

markkbauman@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

Jarrold Tanny

Phone: 910.962.7580

tannyj@uncw.edu

President's Message By Ellen M. Umansky



I am humbled and excited to begin my two year term as president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society. At our recent conference in Austin, a member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society who did not know me looked at my name tag and, seeing that I live in White Plains, New York, quizzically asked, "What are you doing here?" I've been attending SJHS conferences for over 20 years and have never asked myself that question. One of the things I like best about the Society is the diversity of our members—southerners and northerners (although I confess that we northerners are in the distinct minority); Jews and Christians; academics, journalists, graduate students, southern Jews interested in local Jewish communities and/or in tracing their own genealogy, filmmakers, archivists, curators, and members of regional Jewish historical societies who attend one of our conferences and decide to become members.

I attended my first SJHS conference sometime in the 1980s, when I was teaching at Emory University in Atlanta. Soon after, I met future SJHS President Sumner Levine, who enthusiastically encouraged me to continue attending conferences, participate in the program as a presenter or moderator, and think about serving on one of our committees. In the ensuing years, I served on the Society's board of directors, the editorial board of our journal *Southern Jewish History* (in fact, after many years off the board, I'm now back on it), and the membership committee (on which I served for over eight years, more than six as chair). At every step of the way, Sumner was there to help me and gently prod me to do more. He tried to get me to consider serving as SJHS president long before I was ready to do so. I never imagined that when I finally became president a few months after his death, Sumner would no longer be with us. I hope that I fulfill his expectations and merit the incredible support that so many members have already given me.

I am fortunate to be succeeding Dale Rosengarten as president. Her rebranding of the Society through a beautiful new logo and journal cover design, along with her predecessor Stuart Rockoff's work in redesigning our web site, have helped us better communicate who we are and what we do. Under Dale's hard-working leadership, we have continued to thrive. Our Austin conference this past fall was a great success and I am confident that our next one, which will take place in Nashville from October 30 – November 1, 2015, will be as well.

Viener Prize Awarded in Austin

The Society presented its Saul Viener Award for Outstanding Career Service in Southern Jewish History to Rachel Heimovics Braun at the Austin conference. A past president and longtime board member of the Society, Rachel was the founding managing editor of the Society's annual journal, *Southern Jewish History*, for 18 years until her "retirement" in 2014. Dozens of authors attest to her diligence and editorial skill, which improved their work and helped make the journal a distinguished publication. She continues to work on journal correspondence and business matters as a volunteer. Rachel also co-authored the *Florida Jewish Heritage Trail*. Her service to the Society and broader profession epitomizes the legacy of Saul Viener, a founder of the SJHS, its first president, and perhaps its biggest booster.



Rachel Heimovics Braun and Mark Bauman.
Photo by Barbara Stone

Meet the New Board Members and Officers

At our Sunday business meeting in Austin, SJHS President Dale Rosengarten passed the gavel to Ellen Umansky, and Dan Puckett succeeded Ellen as vice-president/president-elect. Meanwhile, Jarrod Tanny took over Ellen's role as membership chair. We also welcomed two new board members:

Peggy Kronsberg Pearlstein headed the Hebraic Section of the Library of Congress from 2007 until retiring in 2013. She holds an M.S. in library science from Southern Connecticut State University, an M.S. in Jewish Studies from Baltimore Hebrew University, and a Ph.D. in American Studies from George Washington University. She edited *Perspectives on the Hebraic Book* (2012) and curated the exhibit "Words Like Sapphires: 100 Years of Hebraica at the Library of Congress, 1912-2012."

Peggy has contributed to many publications, including the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, *Jewish Women: a Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*, and *American Women: A Library of Congress Guide for the Study of Women's History and Culture in the United States*. She has also written for *Southern Jewish History*, *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, and *Jewish Political Studies Review*. She is past president of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington and the Research, Archives, and Special Collections Division of the Association of Jewish Libraries.

Jay Silverberg is co-manager of Silverberg Communications in Petaluma, California. His firm assists businesses and nonprofits with public policy, the media, crises and crisis planning, corporate social responsibility, government and community relations, and other issues. A native of Thibodaux, Louisiana, Jay worked for the town's daily newspaper, owned by his family. After graduating from the University of Missouri in 1975, he held editorial positions for increasingly larger publications before entering the public affairs field. He is a former board president of the Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) in Petaluma. He also has served on the board of the Osher/Marin Jewish Community Center and the Polly Klaas Foundation.

Interested in family history since his teen years, Jay has been piecing together the lives of his ancestors who were among the thousands of German Jewish immigrants to Louisiana in the mid-1800s. He and his wife, Janet, have two children and one grandchild.

CALL FOR PAPERS

"Jews and the Urban South"

40th Annual Conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society
Co-Sponsored by the Jewish Studies Department, Vanderbilt University
October 30–November 1, 2015 Nashville, Tennessee



Gordon Jewish Community Center, Nashville.
Courtesy of Gordon JCC

The Southern Jewish Historical Society will hold its 40th annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee, October 30 – November 1, 2015. The theme is "Jews and the Urban South." Proposals outside of the theme are also welcome. Possible topics include Jews as mayors of southern cities; Jewish interaction with other immigrant/ethnic minorities including black-Jewish relations; ethnic politics and civic activities; Jews and urban education, arts

and culture; Jews and urban business; Jews and mobility (e.g. in and out migrations, movement within cities, ethnic clustering and movement of those clusters, suburbanization, and socioeconomic mobility); and Jewish religion and religious practices. Proposals comparing and contrasting the Jewish experience in southern cities with the Jewish experience in other cities are also welcome.

Paper proposals should include the individual's name, contact information, one-paragraph academic bio, presentation title, and one-page description indicating basic themes, relationship of findings to appropriate historiography, and nature of primary sources used. Session proposals from two or three presenters, possibly including a chairperson and/or commentator, may also be submitted. In addition, the conference typically features a "meet the authors" panel. If you have a book concerning southern Jewish history published in 2015 and would like to be included, please contact the program chair.

Please submit proposals by March 15, 2015, to Program Committee Chair Mark K. Bauman (markkbauman@aol.com) and committee members Heather D. Hammond (heatherdhammond@gmail.com), Adam S. Meyer (adam.s.meyer@vanderbilt.edu), Josh Parshall (josh.parshall@gmail.com), and Lee Shai Weissbach (lee.weissbach@louisville.edu). Mark Bauman will be happy to respond to questions.

Austin Conference Report *continued from page 1...*

On Friday afternoon, attendees viewed artifacts from the TJHS at the Briscoe Center for American History and then visited the Harry Ransom Center, which displayed holdings from Jewish writers such as Isaac Bashevis Singer, Bernard Malamud, and Allen Ginsberg and offered an exhibition on the filming of *Gone with the Wind*. Shabbat dinner at Congregation Agudas Achim featured kosher barbecue. A lively Friday night service was led by Rabbi Neil Blumofe, whose cantorial renditions spanned the globe. Keynote speaker Samuel Gruber, president of the International Survey of Jewish Monuments, gave an illustrated talk on "Saving Synagogues," using as a case study the Orthodox synagogue of Brenham, Texas, which is being moved to the Dell Jewish Community Campus. Gruber's interest went beyond that of the architectural historian, as his family helped found the Brenham Jewish community.

Saturday morning kicked off on the Dell Campus with concurrent sessions. In the panel "The Atlantic Highway: Four Centuries of Jewish Migration," Dale Rosengarten traced the historiography of port Jews, who gave rise to a cosmopolitan, transnational Jewish identity. "Trade routes mattered more than national boundaries," she observed. Planters, linked to a global market for crops, did double duty as traders. South Carolina served as a colony of Barbados, with Low Country cuisine, economy, and place names following those of the West Indies. Keith and Nancy Atkinson presented 350 years of history in 20 minutes. Nancy, a proper Londoner, has traced a family history, largely hidden from her, which goes back to the Nunes Carvalho families. From the Inquisition the Carvalhos scattered to France, Italy, and Amsterdam, and from there to New York, Barbados, Charleston, Baltimore, and London. School teachers and hazans in Charleston, the family was entrepreneurial and creative, especially noted artist Solomon Nunes Carvalho, who served as photographer on Fremont's expedition to the American West. Over generations the family evolved from passionate Jews martyred for Judaism to Atkinson's own Carvalho grandmother, who was hostile to her Jewish roots. Anton Hieke, author of *Jewish Identity in the Reconstruction South*,

described the Atlantic Ocean as a two-lane highway with traffic back and forth. Southern Jews returned to Germany to find spouses, educate themselves, or take a temporary sojourn. Tragically, this reverse migration resulted in some 30 southern Jews dying in the Holocaust. Moderator Mark Bauman concluded that southern Jews were extremely cosmopolitan. Their internationalism calls into question the strength of their southern identity, while their history as professionals counters the stereotype of Jews as storekeepers.

Concurrently, the panel "Zionism in the South: Religion, Race, and Reaction," moderated by Marni Davis of Georgia State University, revealed that southern Jews' responses to Zionism were complex and diverse. Lee Shai Weissbach of the University of Louisville recounted the experiences of his grandfather, Morris Frieden, who emigrated from Lithuania to Norfolk in 1904. After several years in Virginia and North Carolina, Frieden decided to act on his Zionist beliefs, moving with his family to Palestine in 1921. He maintained connections to the South and demonstrated through his actions how southern Jewry was part of the transnational narrative of Jewish migration. Peggy Pearlstein, formerly of the Hebrew section of the Library of Congress, spoke about her father Macey Kronsberg, who participated in the Zionist movement in Charleston before the Second World War. After wartime service in the Navy, Kronsberg traveled to Palestine and redoubled his Zionist activism upon his return to Charleston. Allison Schottenstein of the University of Texas recounted a platform of principles released by Houston's Congregation Beth Israel in 1943. The platform declared Beth Israel's rejection of Zionism, as well as its assertion that American Jews were "Caucasian," proclamations that angered both American Zionists and the mainstream Reform leadership.

University of Texas anthropologist Suzanne Seriff hosted the mid-morning panel "A Foot in Two Worlds:

Transnationalism and Southern Jews." Sebastian Klor, an Argentinian post-doc at the Schusterman Center, noted that South American Jewish communities re-created the European kehillah as largely ethnic and secular, in contrast to the North American model. In the 1960s, economic change and political instability led to an outmigration of South American Jewry, and today more than 100,000 Latin Jews live in the United States.

continued on next page...



Photo by Barbara Stone



Photo by Dale Rosengarten



Photo by Barbara Stone



Photo by Samuel D. Gruber

Top to bottom: Saturday panel on Black-Jewish genealogy. LBJ Presidential Library Archivist Claudia Anderson at Friday panel. SJHS Program Co-Chair Hollace Weiner and TJHS President Debra Winegarten greet crowd outside LBJ Library. Austin Chabad Rabbi Yosef Levertov and TJHS member Leon Toubin at Sunday's B'nai Abraham groundbreaking. Toubin and his wife Mimi were key figures in saving the synagogue.

continued from previous page...

Josh Parshall of the University of North Carolina traced the presence of the Arbeter Ring (Workmen's Circle) across the South. Immigrants with backgrounds in the Bund, socialist Zionism, and Russian revolutionary movements organized some 16 southeastern chapters. They were *heimische* socialists who hosted libraries, lectures, and performers. They avidly read the *Forverts* and participated in the transnational conversations about Jewish issues. Trinity University professor Alan Astro, author of *Yiddish South of the Border*, spoke on Texas Yiddish writers Rabbi Alexander Ziskind Gurwitz and poet Chaya Rochel Andres. Journalist Jay Silverberg traced the journey of his ancestors, the Meyer brothers of Louisiana, through a cache of letters held by Louisiana State University.

Ted Rosengarten's luncheon talk explored the continuing legacy of the Civil War. He focused on the conflict between two Confederate diplomats of Jewish origin, Judah Benjamin and Edwin DeLeon. Confederate Secretary of State Benjamin's advocacy of freeing and arming the slaves went unheeded. DeLeon was entrusted with the mission of enlisting the European powers in support of the Confederacy, but the slavery question proved to be a greater obstacle than the economic benefits of southern cotton. With the South boycotted, the unintended consequence was to enhance the global cotton market as the English found new sources in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

The early afternoon panel featured documentary filmmakers whose work has addressed southern Jewish history. Panelists Aviva Kempner (*The Rosenwald Schools*) and Cynthia and Allen Mondell (*West of Hester Street*) screened selections from their films and discussed the challenges and opportunities the medium affords for depicting historical topics.

In the afternoon panel "Blacks and Jews: The Genealogical Record," two African Americans with Jewish roots discussed their colonial Jewish heritage. Anthony Cohen's interest was tweaked by his Jewish surname, only to discover that his mother was a Sheftall tracing to early Savannah Jewish families. His Sheftall ancestors, documents show,



Photo by Samuel D. Gruber



Photo by Barbara Stone



Photo by Dale Rosengarten



Photo by Barbara Stone

Top to bottom: Abby Rapaport of the Jewish Community Association of Austin speaks at groundbreaking. A packed session audience. SJHS VP Dan Puckett and presenter Anthony Cohen. TJHS members Vickie Vogel and Jan Hart on Lady Bird Lake.

acknowledged their black progeny. While conducting research on the Underground Railroad, Cohen was startled to discover that one ancestor was the escaped slave Patrick Sneed. He has followed Sneed's fugitive trek by foot, rail, and river from Georgia to haven in Canada. Sadie Day Pasha's mother was a "secret Jew," performing family rituals like candle-lighting, which Pasha was able to trace to her Sephardic ancestor Abraham Cohen of Georgetown, South Carolina. Cohen, records indicate, had lived with Margaret "Free Peggy" McWharter, a free woman of color.

An evening cruise on Lady Bird Lake featured a Tex-Mex buffet and a sail around the Congress Avenue bridge, where we saw and heard the famous fluttering bats dramatically fly from their nesting grounds. The boat ride offered balmy weather under the bright lights of the Austin skyline and featured a spirited Havdalah service led by host Debra Winegarten. The more adventurous among us concluded with a visit to the music and beer haunts of downtown.

The traditional finale, our Meet the Authors panel, included Caroline Light, author of *That Pride of Race and Character: The Roots of Jewish Benevolence in the Jim Crow South*, and Kay Goldman, author of *Dressing Modern Maternity: The Frankfurt Sisters of Dallas and the Page Boy Label*. Light traced her interest to growing up in Roanoke in an interfaith family when her parents joined a country club that excluded Jews and blacks. Given the marginal status of Jews, she discovered, Jewish philanthropy was motivated by "self-preservation" as well as "altruism." Kay Goldman described the three Frankfurt sisters as "wily women" who were accomplished in business. Combining talents as engineers, stylists, and publicists, they turned their Page Boy maternity clothing line into an international sensation.

Also on Sunday, conference goers had the opportunity to witness the groundbreaking for the historic B'nai Abraham synagogue, which is being moved from Brenham to the Dell Campus. The simple wooden structure was to be cut in two for the journey and reassembled on site. It will serve as home to an Orthodox congregation.

Submitted by Leonard Rogoff, with assistance from Marni Davis.

SJHS Grants Go to Diverse Projects

Congratulations to our successful 2014 grant recipients. The Grants Committee awarded funds for book completion, travel, exhibits, and archival needs. The breadth of projects demonstrates not only the vitality of southern Jewish history, but also the impact the Society can have on fostering such worthwhile projects.

Mark Bauman is bringing to publication the work of Rabbi Allen Krause of blessed memory. Rabbi Krause interviewed rabbis with southern pulpits about their experiences during the civil rights movement. The book, to be called *A Moment in Time*, will receive a publication subvention. By presenting primary source materials never before published, it will make a major contribution to our understanding of the role of rabbis during the 1960s.

Shira Kohn received a grant to cover travel expenses to two southern universities for research for her book *From German Jews to Jewish Greeks: Student Refugees in American Universities, 1933-1945*. She is studying the role of fraternal organizations at American colleges in welcoming and acclimating German student refugees.

Two public history grants were awarded. One went to award-winning filmmaker Aviva Kempner, who is completing a film on the

Rosenwald Schools, funded by Julius Rosenwald, which served African Americans throughout the South during the era of segregation. The Harrison County Historical Society in Marshall, Texas, received a grant for a permanent exhibit module on Jewish culture and history.

The Scott and Donna Langston Archival Grant will support the transcription of oral interviews at the Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta. These interviews focus on 20th-century Jewish history, with considerable attention to the civil rights movement. Transcribing them will make them readily available to scholars researching this important period in American history.

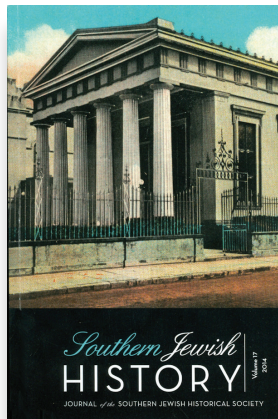
None of these projects could be supported without dedicated funds for grants. We are thrilled to have so many worthy projects, but would welcome additional charitable contributions to support even more work in the area of southern Jewish history and culture.

The deadline for the next grant cycle will be June 2015 (details will be posted on the SJHS website). Grants committee members include Hollace Weiner, Marni Davis, and Cathy Kahn.

Submitted by Phyllis Leffler, Committee Chair

New Southern Jewish History Volume Released

The editors of *Southern Jewish History*, the Society's annual peer-reviewed journal, announce the publication of Volume 17. With articles that outline revisionist approaches to Jewish slaveholding, abolitionist politics, and military service in the Civil War, the volume shows "the tremendous depth and growth in the field of southern Jewish history," states Mark K. Bauman, editor. In addition, primary source articles illuminate Yiddish-speaking Arbeter Ring societies in southern cities and Jewish involvement in the NAACP during the civil rights era. A discussion with Bernard Wax, an SJHS founder, offers background on the Society.



Guided by outgoing Society President Dale Rosengarten, the look of the journal has been transformed with an inviting new cover design. This year also marks the passing of the baton from Rachel Heimovics Braun, founding managing editor, to Bryan Edward Stone.

Southern Jewish History is a benefit of membership in SJHS and is also available for sale. To order this issue or back issues, or to purchase electronic versions of articles, visit the SJHS website at jewishsouth.org or e-mail journal@jewishsouth.org. **The journal is now accepting submissions for Volume 18.** Please direct queries to Mark K. Bauman, Editor, at MarkKBauman@aol.com.

SJHS Seeks Submissions for Quadrennial Book Prize

The Southern Jewish Historical Society (SJHS) announces a prize for the book that has made the most significant contribution to the field of southern Jewish history published during the last four years. This round of submissions is for books published between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2014. The winner will receive \$500. In case of a tie, the prize will be divided.

Books must focus on Jewish history within the southern United States, defined for this competition as the former Confederate states as well as the border states. Works examining the history of southern Jews within the broader history of the South, or within American Jewish history in general, will also be considered.

All submissions must be nonfiction, standard monographs and biographies. They must be original and written in English. Works outside the field of history, as well as memoirs, anthologies,

reprints, reissues, or updated versions of earlier works will not be considered.

Publishers or authors should submit copies of books meeting the above criteria to the award committee members:

Ronald Bayor, Chair, 3236 King Springs Road, Smyrna, GA 30080
Janet Bordelon, 4915 I-55 N., Ste. 100-A, Jackson, MS 39206-0528
Jeffrey Gurock, 408 West 260th Street, Bronx, NY 10471

All submissions must be received by March 31, 2015. Submissions cannot be returned to the applicant. The winner will be announced in advance of the SJHS's annual conference in Nashville next fall.

For more information or to offer nominations, contact Dr. Ronald Bayor at ronald.bayor@hts.gatech.edu.

NEWS AND NOTES

Book Explores Alsatian Immigration



Carol Mills-Nichol's new book traces 638 French Jewish immigrants from the Bas-Rhin who settled in Louisiana over two centuries. She begins by explaining the special pitfalls of Jewish genealogical research, shows how to use French and English online records, and offers case studies on how to tackle genealogical brick walls. The book then follows Jews who left Alsace to live in cities such as New Orleans, Alexandria, and Baton Rouge or small towns such as Opelousas, Donaldsonville, Waterloo, Livonia, Mansura, Hohen Solms, Berwick, Big Cane, Bayou Goula, and Morgan City. It also follows some who settled on plantations as storekeepers.

While many prospered in the new world, others suffered unspeakable tragedies, struck down by yellow fever, typhus, or tuberculosis. A few were murdered or committed suicide. Whatever their story, the reader cannot help but be caught up in the drama of immigrants who risked everything to start anew. *Louisiana's Jewish Immigrants from the Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France*, is available from Janawaygenealogy.com, as well as through amazon.com.

Breman Museum Puts Cecil Alexander Papers Online



With generous support from the Alexander family, the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at the Breman Museum has accomplished its goal to digitize and display online the papers of renowned Atlanta architect and activist Cecil Alexander. The

Cecil Alexander Papers are the first manuscript collection from the Cuba Family Archives to become available online. Researchers from all over the world can now explore Alexander's military service as a dive bomber during World War II, his career as an architect helping to design such buildings as the Coca-Cola headquarters and the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, his involvement in the civil rights movement, or his work to revise the controversial state flag of Georgia. Alexander truly influenced the physical appearance, as well as the political, social, and racial structure of Atlanta.

To access the Cecil Alexander Papers, visit the finding aids section of the Breman Museum website (thebreman.org). Scroll down the page to Mss 250, Cecil Alexander Papers. The collection inventory contains all the hyperlinks to text searchable digital surrogates.

Soviet Jews Create New Lives in Richmond: New Exhibition at Beth Ahabah



From the late 1970s to early 2000s, more than 850 people from the former Soviet Union found their way to Richmond, a city unknown to almost all of them. They found support from a broad coalition of Richmond organizations, synagogues, and volunteers.

A new exhibition at Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives describes how Richmond's Jewish community united to help these Russian Jews become American Jews. Documents, photographs, and artifacts illustrate personal accounts of the newcomers' lives behind the Iron

Curtain, their experiences upon arriving in Richmond, and their reflections after 25 years or more.

The exhibition, on view to December 2015, is the final component of "Draw Back the Curtain," a three-year project created through the generosity and cooperation of the University of Richmond, Jewish Family Services, Richmond Jewish Foundation, University of Richmond Hillel, and Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives. The project included exhibitions at the University of Richmond, an on-campus symposium, and a documentary film, "Draw Back the Curtain."

Visit the Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives and follow this amazing journey to a new home, language, culture, and future. For information, call (804) 353-2668 or contact Bonnie Eisenman, administrator, at bama@bethahabah.org.

In Memoriam: Dr. Joseph Cohen

Former SJHS board member and distinguished professor Joseph Cohen of New Orleans passed away on Thursday, September 25, 2014. Born in 1926 in Central City, Kentucky, Cohen served in the army during World War II as a Japanese interpreter and earned his Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Texas in Austin. He studied under Harry Ransom and later established the Wilfred Owen War Poetry Collection at UT's Harry Ransom Center. He served as professor at Sophie Newcomb College at Tulane University from 1955 to 1991, where he founded the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women.

Cohen founded the Jewish Studies Program at Tulane in 1981 and served as its director until 1987. He also established the Gulf South Jewish Historical Archive, currently housed in the Tulane Rare Book Collection. He published four books and numerous scholarly articles on topics ranging from World War I literature to Israeli literature. He also relished collecting and selling antique books, and was one of the top literary appraisers in New Orleans. He is survived by wife Theodora Sternberg Cohen and three children, Susan Cohen Levin of Metairie, Louisiana, Cynthia Cohen Larner of Manchester, Missouri, and Jeffrey Daniel Cohen of Austin, Texas. Memorial gifts are suggested to the Jewish Studies Program at Tulane University, the Center for Research on Women at Newcomb College, and the Joseph Cohen Collection of World War I Literature at the University of South Carolina.

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 _____