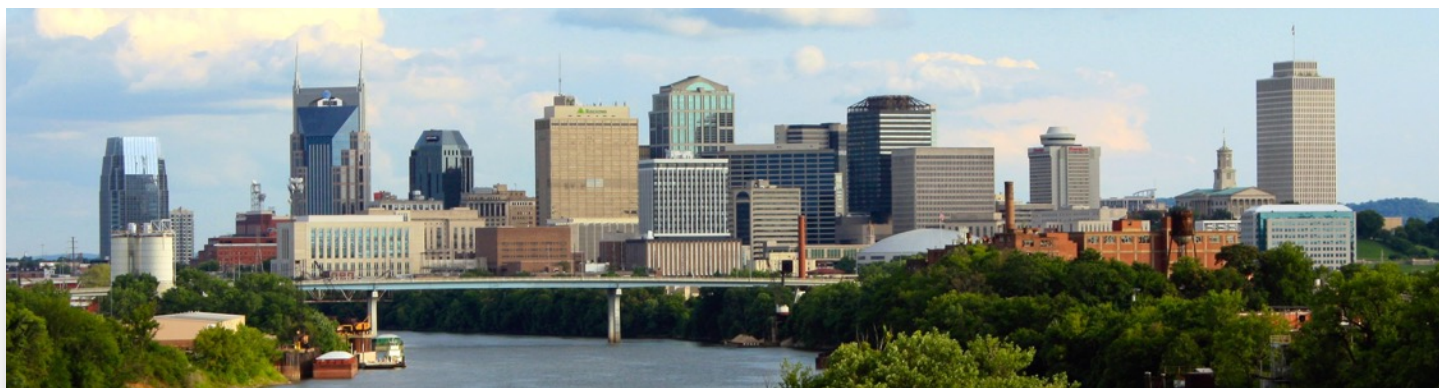




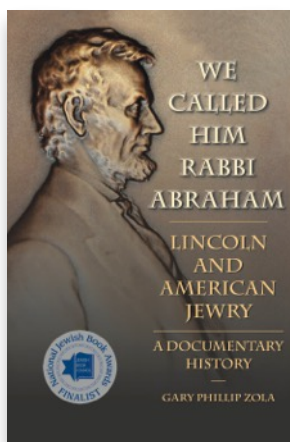
Nashville to Host SJHS Fortieth Annual Conference



“Jews in the Urban South” will be the theme when the Southern Jewish Historical Society gathers in Nashville, Tennessee, for its 40th annual conference from October 30 to November 1, 2015. Conference venues will include the Gordon Jewish Community Center, Vanderbilt University, and the conference hotel, Homewood Suites, located next to the Vanderbilt University campus.

Our traditional Friday morning narrated tour will highlight Nashville Jewish history and culminate at the Gordon Jewish Community Center for lunch and presentations. Friday evening dinner and services will take place at the historic Temple (Congregation Ohabai Shalom), hosted by Rabbi Mark Schiffan. During services, Rabbi Dr. Gary P. Zola will speak on Abraham Lincoln and the Jews of the South, based on his awarding winning book. Zola, prolific author and chair of the Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History (2004-2005), was the first American Jewish historian appointed to the academic advisory council of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He is executive director of the American Jewish Archives, Edward M. Ackerman Family Distinguished Professor of History at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and editor of the *American Jewish Archives* journal.

Saturday’s program will take place at the Vanderbilt University Hillel. Longtime SJHS member Rabbi Stanley Garfein will conduct morning services. We will gather Saturday evening at Congregation Sherith Israel, where the Society’s first Helen Stern Cultural Encounter will be a Southern-style concert of



Ira Sheskin

Chassidic, Israeli, folk, jazz, and klezmer music performed by a five-piece band featuring the synagogue’s Rabbi Saul Strosberg on keyboard. The rabbi will begin festivities with havdallah, and a dessert reception will follow.

Program committee members Adam Meyer, Patricia Behre, Heather Hammond, Josh Parshall, and Lee Shai Weissbach are designing a fascinating, diverse, and thought-provoking program based on proposals from scholars in a variety of disciplines from across the country. Several proposals break new ground in the history of southern Jewish women and deal with the issue of identity in new ways. We will travel in time throughout the South, stopping in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Dr. Ira Sheskin will give the keynote speech on demographic trends of Jews in southern cities since 1950, bringing his findings up to the Pew study and beyond. Arguably the premier demographer of American Jewry, Sheskin is director of the Jewish Demographic Project of the Miller Center for Contemporary Jewish Studies and professor and chair of the University of Miami geography department. He has completed 42 major Jewish community studies, edits the *American Jewish Yearbook*, and compiles the annual article on Jewish demography for that publication.

Make plans early to greet old friends and new, explore a city rich in history and culture, and gain innovative insights into the study of Jews and Judaism in the South.

— Dan Puckett, Host Committee Chair, and Mark Bauman, Program Committee Chair



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



Last December, Dan Puckett (SJHS Vice-President), Phyllis Leffler (SJHS Secretary), and I went to Nashville to join Jean Roseman, SJHS Corresponding Secretary and long-time Nashvillian, in generating local interest, enthusiasm, and support for our upcoming conference in Nashville. Fifteen rabbis and lay leaders joined us for a meeting held at the Gordon Jewish Community Center (GJCC), in which we laid out some of our ideas and preliminary plans for the conference. Since then, many of those present, and others who weren't able to make the meeting but wanted to be involved, have worked with us to help insure that this fall's conference will give all of us a taste of Jewish Nashville (both literally and figuratively), past and present.

The last time that the Southern Jewish Historical Society met in Nashville was in October, 1998—almost 17 years ago! With a current Jewish population of more than 8,000 (the largest in Tennessee), both Nashville and its Jewish community have since undergone some major changes. New rabbis, cantors, and lay leaders have come to Nashville, and the number of synagogues, Jewish organizations, and Jewish programmatic initiatives has grown. The Akiva [Jewish Day] School moved from its small quarters at Congregation Sherith Israel to its own beautiful building in 1999, and the Nashville Holocaust Memorial, on land donated by the GJCC, was dedicated in 2006. Our Friday sessions will be at the GJCC, and the Akiva School and the Holocaust Memorial will be among the many sites we'll see on our Friday tour.

Since 2000, Vanderbilt University has deliberately and substantially boosted Jewish enrollment from an undergraduate Jewish population of 2 percent to 15 percent today. Vanderbilt's Schulman Center for Jewish Life, where we will hold our Saturday sessions, opened in 2002; the new Alpha Epsilon Pi house (Vanderbilt's Jewish fraternity) opened two years later. The Jewish Studies Program, in its infancy in 1998, now boasts a core faculty of seventeen, offices in the renovated Buttrick Hall, and an undergraduate major and minor and Master of Arts degree in Jewish Studies.

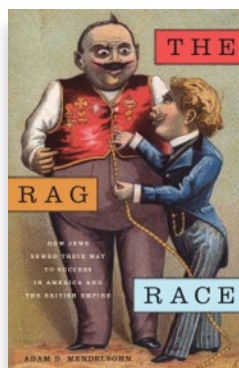
Among other Nashville sites worth visiting are the new home of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum (a \$37 million facility that opened in 2001) and the Music City Walk of Fame on Music Mile (2006), a landmark tribute to those from all genres of music who have made a significant contribution to the Nashville music industry and to the world "through song or other industry collaboration." Our Program and Planning Committees are hard at work. I hope you'll join us this October in Music City.



Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum

Mendelsohn Wins National Jewish Book Award

Congratulations to Adam Mendelsohn, *Southern Jewish History* website review editor, whose book *The Rag Race: How Jews Sewed Their Way to Success in America and the British Empire* won the Jewish Book Council's prestigious 2014 National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish Studies. *The Rag Race* is "an enthralling story" that "draws fascinating comparisons of the Jewish role in the garment industry in the United States and across the British Empire," the Council's website states.



The director of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture and associate professor of Jewish Studies at the College of Charleston, Mendelsohn is a longtime participant in SJHS conferences and activities. He notes that *The Rag Race* draws on his work in southern Jewish history: "Although global in scope, *The Rag Race* pays particular attention to the role of the South as an engine of the clothing trade—and as a field for Jewish enterprise—before and after the Civil War," he states. The book is available from New York University Press and amazon.com.

Nashville Jewry, Part I: The Temple that Graced Vine Street

By Jean Roseman

Editor's Note: Two Nashville congregations will play host to the SJHS during our October conference. In this issue, we learn a bit about the origins of the Temple; our next issue will offer a look at Congregation Sherith Israel.

When the first known Jews came to Nashville in 1795, the town was only 15 years old, an outpost on the perimeter of American civilization. Benjamin and Hannah Myers tarried just long enough to deliver a daughter, then moved on.

For the next fifty years a number of transient Jewish doctors, teachers, rabbis, clothing renovators, merchants, and peddlers passed through, offering services such as tutoring, dentistry, and surgery. As the town matured, Jewish merchants put down roots and a community formed. The first religious gathering of record was a minyan of ten worshippers at the home of Isaac Garretson on Summer Street, now 5th Avenue, in 1848. It was a hybrid group in age, nationality, and religious background and included the father of the eventual owner of the *New York Times*.

Diversity prevailed from the very beginning of Jewish settlement in Nashville, resulting in a number of start-up congregations. Local newspapers referred to the small Jewish community as “those quarrelsome Hebrews.” Those who came from Germanic backgrounds brought with them a developing concept of Reform Judaism influenced by the Lutheran movement. Other settlers, primarily from Eastern Europe, remained loyal to their more orthodox roots.

The first congregation, Ohavai Sholom, began in 1851 when a group of predominantly Germanic Jews organized themselves with a meeting place, a benevolent society, and a burial ground. The congregation thrived and in 1872 bought a tract of land on Vine Street, now 7th Avenue, for \$6,200. The cornerstone for a new temple was laid in an impressive ceremony in August 1874. Guests of honor included former President Andrew Johnson (once considered



Courtesy of Special Collections, College of Charleston Library



Left: Courtesy of Jean Roseman. Right: Courtesy of Annette Levy Ratkin Jewish Community Archives, Nashville



an archetypal antisemite), Tennessee Governor John C. Brown, and the venerable Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise of Cincinnati. A throng of over 1,000 well-wishers lined the streets as a procession made its way to the site from the congregation's rented space on Market Street (2nd Avenue).

On May 26, 1876, the Vine Street Temple opened its doors to congregants and the curious community as well. The exotic Byzantine temple featured nine domes in varying sizes. The 145-foot-high center dome was graced with overlapping leaves culminating with a large gilt crown and scepter. The interior concave ceiling was noted for acoustic excellence. The stained glass windows, solid doors, carved walnut furniture, wrought-iron spiral staircases, towering chandeliers, and carved walnut ark, which represented in miniature the exterior of the building, gave worshippers and visitors an impression of majesty and solemnity.

Often called “The Hebrew Church,” the Vine Street Temple prospered for almost eight decades. The R. E. Page family lived next door, and on the other side of their house was the Vine Street Christian Church, giving rise to the joke that the Page house was literally “the Page between the Old Testament and the New Testament.”

By the 1950s, the Jewish community had migrated to west Nashville and the building needed costly repairs. In 1954, the venerable Vine Street Temple was sold and razed to make way for a steel parking structure, and the congregation relocated to its present location in a sylvan setting in Belle Meade. Though its full name is now “The Temple,

Congregation Ohavai Sholom,” to most it is still simply The Temple—for those who know the history, a reminder of the glorious Temple that once graced Vine Street.

Jean Roseman is a retired teacher who researches Nashville Jewish history.

Reserve Your Conference Hotel Room Now!

The Homewood Suites, next to the Vanderbilt University campus, will serve as the conference hotel. For reservations at the SJHS rate of \$189/night, visit the Homewood Suites website: homewoodsuites.hilton.com/en/hw/groups/personalized/B/BNABHW-SJH-20151029/index.jhtml?WT.mc%20id=POG.

Holocaust Ashes Memorial Unveiling at Durham Hebrew Cemetery

By Mirinda Kossoff

Shortly after the liberation of Dachau concentration camp, a U.S. soldier from North Carolina was walking through the camp when a former inmate scooped up an ashcake and gave it to him with the injunction to never forget what he had witnessed there.

The soldier was so affected by what he saw that he was never able to talk about it, but the ashes themselves bore witness. They remained safely hidden away in a drawer for nearly 70 years, until the soldier's son sought out a dignified burial for the remains. In an emotional service in May 2014, the ashes were interred in the Durham Hebrew Cemetery. It is the only place in the U.S. where concentration camp ashes are buried.

On Sunday, April 26, at 3 pm, Beth El Synagogue, the Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education for North Carolina (Holocaust Speakers Bureau), and Kehillah Synagogue will hold a service to unveil a memorial sculpture commissioned to mark the burial site. Noted



Above: At last May's ceremony, Durham Mayor Bill Bell (right) and others offer appreciation to Joseph Corsbie (seated), who sought a dignified burial for the ashes given to his soldier father. Left: Ashes are lowered into the grave. Courtesy of Sharon Halperin

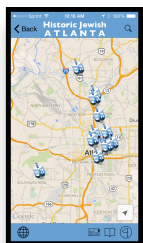
North Carolina sculptor Mike Roig created the memorial, a kinetic aluminum eternal flame in which visitors can see their reflections. The base of the sculpture is in the shape of a bridge, covering and protecting the burial site. On one leg of the bridge the Hebrew and English words for "Remember" are inscribed; on the other leg is a quote from Leviticus: "Do Not Stand Idly By." The inscription was chosen to encourage visitors to not only reflect upon the horrors of the Shoah but also learn from the past and act to prevent such atrocities from happening again.

The Durham Hebrew Cemetery is located across from 840 Kent Street, Durham, North Carolina. For information or to donate to the fund for the upkeep of the gravesite, please contact Sharon Halperin, co-founder and director of the Holocaust Speakers Bureau, at sharonhalperin88@gmail.com.

Mirinda Kossoff is an artist and freelance writer who lives in Durham, North Carolina.

Atlanta's Jewish History in Your Hand

By Jeremy Katz, Breman Museum



Thanks to the generous support of the Weiller family in memory of Margaret Strauss Weiller, the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum is now putting the history of Jewish Atlanta in your hand. The "Historic Jewish Atlanta" app, which can be downloaded for free on any smart phone or tablet by simply searching for "Historic Jewish Atlanta" in the app or play store, tells the story of Jewish Atlanta in a new, fun, and interactive way by utilizing photos from the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at the Breman Museum and articles written by professional scholars in the history community.

The Breman Museum's app is the first of its kind: no other city in the country has an app devoted to its Jewish history; moreover, additional historic sites will continually be added to the app to keep the content fresh and engaging. The museum also plans on mounting an online exhibition through the app in the near future. Download the app today!

Help Preserve Jewish Genealogical Information

JewishGen, Inc. (jewishgen.org), a nonprofit organization, hosts the primary website for researching Jewish family history. Its resources, free to all researchers, include more than 20 million records and numerous ways to connect with its 500,000 researchers around the world.

JewishGen is seeking assistance with two of its databases: JOWBR (JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry) and the JewishGen Memorial Plaque Project. JOWBR contains more than 2.3 million burial records from more than 100 countries. The Memorial Plaque Project, a new database, already has some 75,000 records from four countries. The purpose of both databases is to create a permanent searchable record of Jews buried throughout the world or memorialized through plaques and Yizkor lists. These records help to

further family research, connect family members, document Yizkor dates, and facilitate the mitzvah to "Honor thy father and thy mother."

JewishGen encourages synagogues, historical societies, cemeteries, and other organizations to contribute records to its databases. Donor

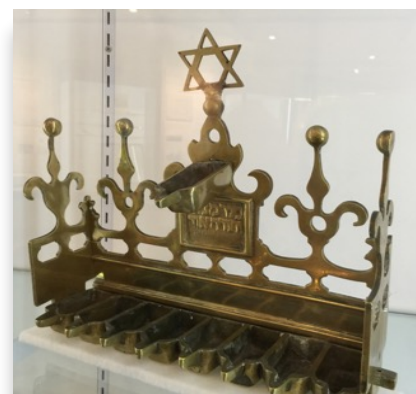


organizations receive credit on the Jewishgen website as well as referrals to their websites for additional information. To find out more, please contact Nolan Altman at NAltman@JewishGen.org.

B'nai Abraham cemetery, Hagerstown, Maryland. Photo by Dianne Feldman

“New” Mickve Israel Museum Recreates Savannah Jewish History

By Jane Kahn



On display at the Mickve Israel Museum: circumcision kit brought to Georgia in 1733 by first Jewish settlers; Byck family wedding, 1901; Chanukah menorah used by crypto-Jews in 16th century Spain or Portugal (it folds so it can be hidden). *Courtesy of Mickve Israel Museum, object photos by Jane Kahn*

Congregation Mickve Israel in Savannah, Georgia, the third oldest Jewish congregation in the United States, unveiled its completely remodeled Lawrence and Nancy Gutstein Museum in March. While the museum is, in effect, brand new, it tells a compelling story that is 282 years old.

The museum features important artifacts brought to the new colony of Georgia in 1733 by 41 Jewish settlers aboard the *William and Sarah*. A model of the three-masted ship is on display. With ceremonial accoutrements transported by settlers and collected through the years, historical records of the places Jews worshipped and were buried, photographs and documents of life cycle events, and stories of Savannah's Jewish families through the ages, the museum depicts the extensive activities of the first Jewish community in Georgia.

“From the beginning, we were here,” proclaims the opening words on a timeline introducing the exhibit. “Since the birth of the colony of Georgia and through today, the Jewish community and Congregation Mickve Israel have held a place in the economic, cultural, social, political, and religious life of this region. We proudly share our story....”

The timeline traces the congregation's history back to the Jews' expulsion in 1492 from Spain and to 34 Jews who fled Portugal for England in 1726. Many of them became associated with London's Bevis Marks Synagogue, which sponsored the trip to the New World in 1733, just five months after the colony of Georgia was established.

The timeline weaves events in Mickve Israel's history with larger historical events: in 1788, for example, Georgia became the fourth state and Mickve Israel was chartered two years later. In 1820 Mickve Israel erected Georgia's first synagogue building, borrowed an organ, and used instrumental music in an American Jewish Sabbath service for the first time. In 1861 Georgia joined the Confederacy and was readmitted to the Union in 1870; six years later, construction began on Mickve Israel's current sanctuary.

Mickve Israel's two prized Torah scrolls—documented to be the oldest in the United States—are the centerpiece of the Museum, and indeed are displayed in the middle of the space. Believed to have been handwritten on deerskin in the 1400s, they arrived in 1733 and 1737 with the first settlers. Recently conserved, cleaned, and patched by a professional conservator, the two scrolls are rolled to display four

and five columns at a time and will be rotated periodically to protect them from light. Every July, at the Congregation's anniversary observance, the 1733 scroll is used in services. The 1737 scroll was on loan for the opening of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Other notable museum displays include the Sheftall diaries, personal records of one of the first families (descendants of two families still live in Savannah today), the congregational seal and charter, and the hand-scribed original minute book. Artifacts on view also include a circumcision kit brought by the original settlers, a Chanukiyah probably smuggled from the Spanish Inquisition, and a Megillah attributed to the 15th century.

Historically significant items range from a list of passengers aboard the *William and Sarah* (42 left England, 41 arrived in Savannah in 1733) to a copy of the first letter President George Washington wrote to an American Jewish congregation, the Hebrew Congregation of Savannah, in 1789. The 1876 cornerstone from the current sanctuary is mounted at the museum entrance.

Of current (started 80 years ago!) significance is a sterling silver Confirmation chain, the links engraved with more than 400 names. Additionally, the museum has entered the digital age, with two touch screens expanding on the items in the cases.

The exhibit is organized into five sections: Building for a Congregation, Colonial Congregation, American Congregation, Congregation for Generations, and Modern Congregation. The museum's design reinforces “the history of what we are part of,” says John Kohn, parnas (president) of Congregation Mickve Israel. From “the landing of the *William and Sarah* through (our) Sabbath services every weekend, this is a living, continual, vibrant congregation.”

Located near historic Monterey Square in downtown Savannah, the Congregation Mickve Israel Lawrence and Nancy Gutstein Museum is a member of Georgia's Coastal Museums Association. Last year it welcomed more than 8,800 visitors. Docent-led tours of the museum and the synagogue's historic neo-Gothic sanctuary are available on weekdays. For hours and group information, contact Debbie Owen at 912.233.1547, or go to mickveisrael.org.

Jane Guthman Kahn is a freelance writer and a lifelong member of Congregation Mickve Israel.

A Statement from the SJHS Membership Chair

It is with great pleasure that I assume the role of chair of the SJHS Membership Committee. Although I am a Canadian by birth and a historian of Russian Jewry by training, I have been an active member in the Society for four years, ever since I started teaching at UNC Wilmington. I have learned and gained a great deal from the first rate scholarship produced by its members, the dedication of its staff, and the sense of community provided by everyone involved. My understanding of southern Jewry has been enriched by colleagues I have gotten to know and the friends I have made.

As committee chair, I will work on strategies to increase and diversify our membership base. I will reach out to the vibrant Jewish

community in my own corner of North Carolina and seek out those who can help us establish connections elsewhere at the regional and national levels. Membership stands at 386, roughly the same as last year. Retention remains strong. In 2014, 17 new members joined the SJHS.

Jewish studies continues to be a burgeoning field in America and abroad. Our Society's success is a testament to the critical role the South has played in Jewish history and the merit in imparting our knowledge and sharing our resources within academia and the wider community. I look forward to the coming year.

— Jarrod Tanny

SJHS Receives Bequest from Atlanta's Helen Stern

Helen Stern (of blessed memory) was the epitome of a southern Jewish lady. Daughter of an executive at Rich's, Atlanta's flagship department store, she possessed a mild southern lilt, gracefulness, a sense of community, culture, and a deep sense of loyalty.

A personal banker by occupation, Stern was a serious student of Jewish studies. In work toward a master's degree she conducted original research into the Temple bombing in Atlanta, including numerous in-depth interviews. Awarded for her volunteer work with

the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, she was also active at the Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, Hadassah, and other organizations.

Helen Stern passed away at age 58. An unrestricted gift from her estate totaling \$5,400 has been made to the Southern Jewish Historical Society in honor of her friends Bruce and Linda Beeber. This contribution is directed through a bequest of the late Helen Stern by her lifelong friend and executrix, Debbie Levinson.

— Bruce Beeber, Past-President, Southern Jewish Historical Society

In Memoriam: Raymond Mohl

Raymond Mohl, a prolific historian of the urban experience and past president of the Urban History Association, passed away on January 29. Ray's historical interests were widespread, and he was a major figure in studies of the urban South, race relations, the civil rights movement, Black-Jewish relations, ethnicity, and recent Latino immigration to the South. His interest in American Jewish history in regard to Miami led to his excellent and pioneering study *South of the South: Jewish Activists and the Civil Rights Movement in Miami, 1945-1960*, which reveals the role of Jewish women and local activism in the struggle for equal rights. He shared this work at the SJHS conference in Birmingham in 2013.

Ray received his Ph.D. from New York University in 1967 and taught at Indiana University Northwest, Florida Atlantic University, and the University of Alabama, Birmingham, where he served as chair and retired as Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus.

A modest, friendly individual, Ray was always willing to help and inspire other historians. A font of knowledge about history and bibliographies, he was a consummate historian who published an amazing amount of important books, articles, and book reviews. He was a highly respected figure in the profession whose numerous awards included the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Florida Historical Society. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

— Ron Bayor, Georgia Tech

Atlanta Event Celebrates Historic MLK Banquet



In January, the Atlantic History Center hosted a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic 1965 banquet honoring Martin Luther King Jr. for receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. Termed "a night that changed Atlanta," the banquet saw black and white civic, religious, and business leaders dine together for the first time. Nearly one-fifth of the dinner's sponsors were Jewish, led by Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, a key organizer. Panelists at the January commemoration included (left to right): former Mayor Sam Massell, former SJHS President Janice Rothschild Blumberg, Billye Aaron, and former Ambassador Andrew Young. The moderator (at podium) was Hank Klibanoff. *Courtesy of the Atlanta History Center*

NEWS AND NOTES

GI Jews: South Carolina Goes to War

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE-Day at its May 2-3 meeting in Charleston. The conference, "GI Jews: South Carolina Goes to War," will include presentations by historians Dan J. Puckett, Allan J. Lichtman, and Theodore Rosengarten. On Saturday, family members will retell war stories recorded by their relatives, and on Sunday, the offspring of Holocaust survivors will reflect on their mothers' and fathers' experiences. Ann Meddin Hellman, recipient of the Order of the Jewish Palmetto, JHSSC's highest award, will be honored at a gala reception. The weekend will conclude with a screening of *Raise the Roof*, a new documentary about the reconstruction of a lost synagogue at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, and a look at the stunning new online exhibit, *The Life of the Synagogue*, based on the William A. Rosenthal Judaica Collection at Addlestone Library, College of Charleston. For program details, to register, or to view the Society's spring newsletter, visit jhssc.org.



Lt. Earl Mazo of *Stars and Stripes*. Somewhere in France, 1944. Photo courtesy of David Butwin

Acclaimed Author Examines his Southern Jewish Roots



Alan Lightman, acclaimed author of *Einstein's Dreams*, has published a memoir of his Memphis Jewish family, *Screening Room: Family Pictures*. Weaving fact and fiction, family lore and Memphis history, Lightman chronicles his return to Memphis in an attempt to understand the origins he left behind forty years earlier. As aging uncles and aunts reveal family stories, Lightman rediscovers his southern Jewish roots and reexamines his perceptions of his father and his powerful grandfather, owner of a chain of movie theaters. The result is a family saga that extends from 1880 to

the present, set against a throbbing century of Memphis—the rhythm and blues, the barbecue and pecan pie, the segregated society—and including personal encounters with Elvis, Martin Luther King Jr., and E. H. "Boss" Crump. Available from Pantheon Books and amazon.com.

Wilmington Jewish Film Festival Offers Exciting Lineup



The second annual Wilmington Jewish Film Festival, in association with the United Jewish Appeal of Wilmington, North Carolina, is serving up a range of dramas, suspense thrillers, romantic tales, and stirring documentaries to Wilmington filmgoers from April 20 to 29. Enlarged from last year's debut, the Festival includes six award-winning feature films and selected shorts that offer unique perspectives on Jewish identity, customs, and history as well as contemporary global politics.

A special feature of this year's Festival is the appearance of producer Nancy Spielberg, sister of Steven Spielberg, at the April 26 screening of *Above and Beyond*, her documentary about the creation of the Israeli Air Force and the prominent role of American Jewish fighter pilots. Other films explore love in different cultures, paintings as spoils of war, a boy's efforts to survive during wartime, and more. All events are being held at historic Thalian Hall and catered receptions for filmgoers follow the two Sunday screenings. For more information, visit wilmingtonjfff.org or email wilmingtonjewishfilmfestival@gmail.com.

Eighteen Artifacts: A Story of Jewish Atlanta

Jews played a role in every significant event in Atlanta's history and were instrumental in creating many essential social, business, and educational organizations. A new exhibition at the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum explores Atlanta Jewish history through the display and interpretation of eighteen artifacts that each represent an integral moment in the growth of a people and a city.

In addition to the eighteen artifacts, the exhibition includes a timeline on the history of Atlanta and the Jewish community, an interactive display allowing visitors to scroll through 100 digital images of Jewish Atlanta, and an iPad and video display so that visitors can experience the new Historic Jewish Atlanta app. The exhibition is on view from March 29 through December 31, 2015.



Metal mess cup engraved with the names of the towns, villages, and cities that Henry Birnbrey entered as a member of the 531st Anti-Aircraft Artillery during World War II. Gift of Henry Birnbrey

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 _____