



Exploring Southern Jewish History . . . in Cincinnati

When the SJHS gathers in Cincinnati for our annual conference on November 3–5, we will be visiting the oldest Jewish community west of the Alleghenies. But that's not the only reason Cincinnati is a fascinating place from which to consider southern Jewish history. As the home base of pioneering leader Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, Cincinnati became the institutional center of Reform Judaism in the 19th century, with important links to the South.

We will experience this legacy in several exciting events on and off the campus of Hebrew Union College (HUC). Founded in 1875, HUC is the oldest rabbinical seminary in the United States and has supplied generations of rabbis to southern congregations. In 1947, Jacob Rader Marcus founded the American Jewish Archives (AJA), which houses a treasure trove of sources documenting American and southern Jewish history (see article on page 4). Our Friday bus tour of Jewish Cincinnati will be led by notable southern Jewish historian Dr. Gary P. Zola, executive director of the AJA and HUC's Edward M. Ackerman Family Distinguished Professor of the American Jewish Experience. Zola will show us such sites as the famous Plum Street Temple, built in 1866 in a stunning Byzantine-Moorish style. In addition, early birds can attend Thursday's pre-conference tour of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.



Top left: The historic Plum Street Temple. Top right: Gary P. Zola. Bottom: The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives. *Images courtesy of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives*

As a crossroads between North and South, Cincinnati is an ideal place to consider our conference theme, "Borders and Borderlands of Southern Jewish History" (see program on page 3). Attendees will also hear a keynote address by two-time National Jewish Book Award winner Dr. Hasia Diner, presented by the Beeber Family Speaker Series of the Helen M. Stern Memorial Fund. Author of a new biography of Julius Rosenwald, Diner will speak about Rosenwald's career in business and as a transformative philanthropist in southern African American communities. Saturday's lunchtime talk by Dr. Leonard Rogoff will highlight another remarkable 20th-century leader, Gertrude Weil, a North Carolina native and leading advocate for women's rights and social justice.

On late Saturday afternoon, attendees will have the chance to "Meet the Authors," interacting with scholars who have recently published books in southern Jewish history. The Saturday night Helen M. Stern Cultural Encounter will feature "Is it True What They Sing about Dixie?," a musical program by Rabbi Ken Kanter, director of HUC's rabbinical school. Kanter, who previously served congregations in Tennessee, is an expert on Jews and popular music. All in all, the Cincinnati conference is shaping up to be an exciting event. If you haven't registered yet, now's the time—see page 8 for details.

SJHS Conference Hotel Information – Reserve Today!

The Marriott Kingsgate, located on the campus of the University of Cincinnati, will serve as the conference hotel. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel. To receive the SJHS/AJA rate of \$144/night, please go to the registration site, tinyurl.com/SJHS2017, or visit the Marriott website, marriott.com/cvgkg, and use the group code: **AJAAJAA**.

You may also make reservations by calling (888) 720-1299 and asking for the *American Jewish Archives Room Block* at Kingsgate Marriott. Reservations must be made by October 1, 2017 to receive the group rate.



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Cell: 678.428.3622

markkbauman@aol.com

JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Bryan Edward Stone

bstone@delmar.edu

JOURNAL FOUNDING MANAGING EDITOR

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RAMBLER EDITOR

Deborah R. Weiner

The Rambler welcomes submissions on news relevant to southern Jewry.

Send editorial inquiries to dweiner70@hotmail.com.

Send address changes to:

Barbara Tahsler

SJHS

PO Box 71601

Marietta, GA 30007-1601

barbarasjhs@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Jarrod Tanny

Phone: 910.962.7580

tannyj@uncw.edu

President's Message By Dan J. Puckett



One thing I hear about repeatedly as our meeting in Cincinnati approaches is the excitement of being at the American Jewish Archives. After I encouraged scholars to utilize the archives in my previous message, I've heard from many friends and colleagues, not only those who plan to do scholarly research, but also those who intend to conduct genealogical research in the AJA's rich collections.

The anticipation of being back in Cincinnati recalls one of the most enjoyable experiences of my academic life. I was fortunate to receive an AJA Starkoff Fellowship that allowed me to spend a good part of the fall semester in 2012 working in the archives and living on the Hebrew Union

College campus. My days were spent immersed in the collections researching Alabama's Jews. While wrapping up my study of the World War II era, I also began to explore the civil rights era that followed, and came across Allen Krause's work for the first time. (As an aside, for those who have not had to listen to hours of scratchy and often poor recordings of a young Krause interviewing 14 southern rabbis in 1966, thank your lucky stars for *To Stand Aside or to Stand Alone*, and then shake Mark Bauman's hand.)

In the evenings, I would head down Clifton Avenue to Skyline Chili for dinner and to Graeter's Ice Cream for dessert, followed by quiet evenings in the dorm and Teller Lounge. Not only did I uncover material on which I continue to work, but those quiet evenings allowed me to complete my book manuscript on Alabama's Jews in World War II. Good memories, indeed.

While we won't have a semester to enjoy all that AJA, HUC, and Cincinnati have to offer, we will have a small opportunity to delve into the rich collections of the American Jewish Archives, one of the central repositories of American Jewish history in the United States. (See page 4 for an appreciation of AJA founder Jacob Rader Marcus.) The archives staff is top-notch, as anybody who has conducted research there will tell you. Don't let the opportunity pass you by.

See you Cincinnati!



Mickve Israel's Oldest Congregant Celebrates Her Centennial

This past July 15, Savannah's Congregation Mickve Israel, the oldest Jewish congregation in the South, celebrated its 284th anniversary on the same day its oldest member, Marion Levy Mendel, reached her 100th birthday.

Born in 1917 to Edmund Abrahams and Mildred Guckenheimer Abrams, Marion traces her lineage to original Jewish settlers of the Georgia Colony Benjamin and Perla Sheftall, who arrived aboard the ship William and Sarah on July 11, 1733, just five months after colony founder General James Edward Oglethorpe. Sheftall descendants have played a leadership role in Savannah and its Jewish community ever since. In fact, Marion's mother was one of the first five Girl Scout leaders when the national Girl Scouts movement



Marion Mendel, about a month before her 100th birthday. Courtesy Mickve Israel

was founded in Savannah in 1912.

Marion has continued this tradition of leadership. A mainstay of Congregation Mickve Israel, she became the first woman member of its board of adjuncta, served two terms as Sisterhood president, and was named a Sisterhood "Woman of Valor." She helped establish the congregation's museum

(and remains on the history and heritage committee), served as a docent for many years, and helped launch the Mickve Israel Food Festival. With a toothbrush and sense of purpose she regularly polishes silver Torah accoutrements and silver serving pieces at the temple.

Happy Birthday, Marion. May you continue to be part of Mickve Israel for many years to come!

Borders and Borderlands of Southern Jewish History

Southern Jewish Historical Society 42nd Annual Conference
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Cincinnati, Ohio, November 3–5, 2017

Gary P. Zola, Shari Rabin & Dana Herman, Program Chairs / Lisa Frankel, Coordinator

Friday, November 3

9 am – Conference registration at AJA

10 am – Bus tour of Jewish Cincinnati, led by Gary P. Zola, departs from AJA

- ▶ Noon – Stop at HUC-JIR for lunch and tour of campus
- ▶ 2–4 pm – Complete the tour of Jewish Cincinnati

4:15–5:30 pm – Questioning Region

Chair: Michael R. Cohen

- ▶ Cynthia Gensheimer, “A Migratory Perspective on the 19th-Century South”
- ▶ David M. Katzman, “Regional Approaches to American Jewish Studies: The View from Small-Town Midwestern Merchant Communities”
- ▶ Mara Cohen Ioannides, “Where Should the Jewish South Begin?”

5:30–6 pm – Phyllis Leffler, “Remarks on Charlottesville”

6–9 pm – Shabbat dinner at AJA

Keynote: Hasia Diner on philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, presented by the Beeber Family Speaker Series of the Helen M. Stern Memorial Fund

Saturday, November 4

8:30–9:30 am – Shabbat services at HUC-JIR

9:45–11 am – On Middle Ground: Jewish Life in the Border City of Baltimore

Moderator and Respondent: Leonard Rogoff

- ▶ Eric Goldstein, “Baltimore: Golden Door to the South?”
- ▶ Deborah Weiner, “Insiders and Outsiders in a Border City: Baltimore Jews between the World Wars”

11:15 am–12:30 pm – Jewish Organizations and the Trans-Local South

Chair: Gary P. Zola

- ▶ Jason Lustig, “Collecting at the ‘Jerusalem on the Ohio’: Jacob Rader Marcus’s Archival Vision of America’s Jews”
- ▶ Marlene Trestman, “The Religious Education of the Children of New Orleans’s Jewish Orphans Home, 1856–1946”
- ▶ Judah Bernstein, “American Zionism on the Jewish Frontier, 1898–1948”

12:30–1:45 pm – Shabbat Luncheon

Speaker: Leonard Rogoff, on suffragist Gertrude Weil

2–3:15 pm – Borderland Identities

Respondent and Chair: Shari Rabin

- ▶ Sarah Imhoff, “Playing Cowboys and Indians: Masculinity and the Jewish South”
- ▶ Mark Allan Goldberg, “On the Borders of American Jewishness: Jewish Latina/os and Historical Storytelling”

3:30–4:45 pm – Building the South

Chair: Ellen Umansky

- ▶ Mark K. Bauman, “Jews and the Economy during the Colonial Period in Georgia and South Carolina: A New Paradigm”
- ▶ Karen Kingsley, “Building a New South: The Architectural Designs of Samuel and William Wiener”
- ▶ Miyuki Kita, “Bringing ‘Tikkun Olam’ Across the Border: Mississippi Freedom Summer through the Eyes of a Queens College Student”

5–6 pm – Meet the Authors session

6 pm – Dinner on your own

7:30–9 pm – Helen M. Stern Cultural Encounter:

Rabbi Ken Kanter, musical program, “Is It True What They Sing about Dixie?”

Sunday, November 5

8 am – SJHS Membership Meeting

9–10:15 am – Making Southern Communities

Respondent and Chair: Dan J. Puckett

- ▶ Josh Furman, “Suburban Pioneers: Houston’s Jewish Family Moves to Meyerland”
- ▶ Gabriel Weinstein, “Zion on ‘The Hill’: A Social History of the Los Alamos Jewish Community, 1943–1957”

10:30–11:45 am – Creating Archives/Cultivating Southern Jewish Identities: The Jewish Kentucky Oral History Collection

Chair: Kevin Proffitt

- ▶ Beth L. Goldstein, “Introducing the JHFE Jewish Kentucky Oral History Collection”
- ▶ Janice W. Fernheimer, “Sharecropping Tobacco in Kentucky: A Narrative of ‘JewGrass’ Identity”
- ▶ Leslie Davis, “Hillel’s Progressive Image-Building During the Student Protest Era of the 1960s and 1970s”

12 pm – SJHS Conference ends and AJA Synagogue Archives Conference begins

Who Was Jacob Rader Marcus?

By the American Jewish Archives staff

Jacob Rader Marcus (1896–1995) was a scholar, professor, rabbi, and founder of the institution that now bears his name, The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives. He was the first historian to devote his scholarly energies full-time to the field of American Jewish history. During his long and productive career as an historian, institution builder, and teacher, he played a leading role in the development of American Jewish history as an academic discipline, earning the title “Dean of American Jewish Historians.”

Born in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, the son of a peddler and merchant, Marcus came to the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati at age 15 to study for the rabbinate. After taking a leave from his studies to serve in World War I, Marcus was ordained in 1920 and immediately joined the faculty of HUC as an instructor in Bible and Rabbinics. Soon after, he was assigned to teach courses in Jewish history. Feeling a need for advanced study, Marcus went to Germany, then the world’s center for Jewish historical studies, and received a Ph.D. from the University of Berlin in 1926.

Upon his return, Marcus rejoined the HUC faculty. Recognizing the emerging role American Jewry would play in the worldwide struggle for Jewish communal continuity and survival, by the early 1930s he began to focus his scholarly attention on the American Jew. Among the first trained historians to apply a modern critical methodology to the writing of American Jewish history (what he called “the scientific approach”), he would go on to publish more than 300 books and articles on American Jewry.

In 1947, Marcus—with the support of friend and classmate Nelson Glueck, the newly elected president of HUC—convinced the College’s Board of Governors to establish an

American Jewish Archives on the Cincinnati campus. As founding director, his inaugural statement about its mission stressed the need to study American Jewry as a “community.” This emphasis resulted in his collecting thousands of local and community records—synagogues, organizations, societies, as well as papers of community activists and leaders. As part of this effort, Marcus conducted the first-ever systematic collection of archival records from Jewish communities throughout the American South, making the AJA a major center for the study for southern Jewry.

Marcus directed the AJA until his death in 1995, overseeing its establishment as one of the world’s largest and most significant catalogued collections of archival material documenting the history of Jewish life in North America. When the AJA was only one year old, he launched a biannual periodical wherein he promised to publish “at least one article of scientific caliber,” as well as a listing of the important documents the AJA was acquiring. Today, the *American Jewish Archives Journal* is mailed to more than 6,000 individuals and institutions and is one of two

scholarly journals in the world devoted exclusively to articles on the entire scope of American Jewish history.

During the last half of the 20th century, Marcus called on American Jewry to meet its obligations as the world’s preeminent Jewish community. As an influential voice urging American Jewry to embrace its place in a new post-Holocaust world Jewish order, he played an important role in advancing American Jewish scholarship as a whole. More than 20 years after his death at age 99, Jacob R. Marcus’s career and scholarly contributions continue to shape the study of American Jewish history—and will do so for years to come.



Top: Jacob Rader Marcus in the classroom. Left: This Memphis document is just one sample of the AJA’s rich collection of items on southern Jewry. Images courtesy of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Twenty Years of Southern Jewish History

The editors of *Southern Jewish History*, the annual peer-reviewed journal of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, proudly announce publication of Volume 20. In honor of this 20th annual volume, the issue contains a retrospective by Stephen Whitfield outlining the career and influence of *SJH* editor Mark Bauman. Bauman has overseen production of the journal since its inception in 1998 and has been a stalwart member of the SJHS and a leading scholarly contributor to the field of southern Jewish history.

The volume also includes an article by Leonard Rogoff and Margaret Anne Goldsmith about the impact of an extended Jewish family on the history of Huntsville, Alabama. In the Primary Sources section, Hollace Ava Weiner and Lynna Kay Shuffield explore the changing meaning of a Fort Worth, Texas, memorial wall dedicated to Jewish World War I servicemen. Book, exhibit, and film reviews round out the issue.

Members of the SJHS receive copies as a benefit of membership and may purchase additional copies for \$15 each. Non-member or online purchases are \$20 and institutional purchases are \$40. Mailing outside the U.S. adds \$20 to the price. Back issues are available at jewishsouth.org for \$15 for individuals and \$40 for institutions. For more information, email journal@jewishsouth.org.

Community Collaborations in Southern Jewish History: A Four-State Round-Up

Around the South, Jewish organizations are collaborating with other institutions on projects to preserve southern Jewish heritage and to interpret the southern Jewish experience to a wide audience. Here are examples from South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Texas.

Sumter County Museum to Partner with Temple Sinai



Photo by Elizabeth Moses

Like many small-town southern congregations with dwindling numbers, the members of Temple Sinai (Reform) in Sumter, South Carolina, were concerned about the future of their historic Moorish-style synagogue if the congregation ceased to exist.

Fortunately, an effort spearheaded by temple members Roger Ackerman and Jay Schwartz has created the perfect solution: a partnership with the Sumter County Museum. The small but active

congregation will continue to use the temple sanctuary to conduct Friday night and holiday services. The museum will take over the adjoining social hall to create a permanent exhibit about Jewish history in South Carolina and Sumter. The exhibit will also devote a large section to the Holocaust and Sumter's ties to the Holocaust.

Working with design firm HW Exhibits out of Charleston, the museum and temple expect to open the exhibit in early 2018. To follow its progress, see sumtercountymuseum.org. For more information, contact museum executive director Annie Rivers, arivers@sumtercountymuseum.org, or Elizabeth Moses, emoses@sumtercountymuseum.org, or call 803-775-0908.

Savannah's Small Treasures Exhibit

In June, the City of Savannah invited Congregation Mickve Israel and other members of the Coastal Museums Association to participate in an exhibit featuring "small treasures" from their many collections. Mickve Israel contributed an original prayer book dating back to the 19th century, as well as a picture and campaign button of Herman Meyers, the first Jewish mayor of Savannah, elected in 1895. These "small treasures" are now on display at Savannah's City Hall, along with contributions from seven other museums. The exhibit opened in July and will be on display until December.

Kehillah: A History of Jewish Life in Greater Orlando

The Orange County Regional History Center is collaborating with the Greater Orlando Jewish Community to present the exhibition *Kehillah: A History of Jewish Life in Greater Orlando* at the History Center in downtown Orlando from November 12, 2017, to February 20, 2018. The 2018 centennial of the founding of Congregation Ohev Shalom was the springboard to compile, with other Jewish groups, a compelling story of initiative and achievement.

Jews arrived in Orlando by the end of the Civil War. In 1875, merchant Jacob R. Cohen helped draft the Orlando City Charter and was elected alderman. Dr. Philip Phillips settled in 1897 and amassed 5,000 acres to grow oranges, leaving a lasting philanthropic legacy. At the turn of the 20th century, five families comprised the Jewish community until a migration of Jews from Pittsburgh in 1912 doubled the number of Jewish households. Other families joined them and soon, religious services were being held in a citrus grove. Today, Orlando's Jewish population exceeds 30,000.

The exhibition features more than 500 photographs and artifacts covering Jewish life, institutions, and the impact Jews have had on Central Florida agriculture, business, professions, arts, education, civil rights, philanthropy, the defense industry, and more. A catalog accompanies the exhibition. For more information, please visit thehistorycenter.org.



Left: Sophie, Samuel, and Kalman Kanner in their downtown Orlando store, 1905. *Collections of the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, originated by Marcia Jo Zerivitz, LHD, Founding Executive Director*



Right: Orlando's earliest permanent Jewish resident was Dr. Philip P. Phillips, shown here c. 1926. He settled in 1897 and became a king of citrus. *Collections of the Historical Society of Central Florida, Inc.*

continued on next page...

TJHS Makes Grant to Preserve Synagogue



Courtesy of Fort Worth Jewish Archives

The Texas Jewish Historical Society donated \$25,000 toward maintenance of a 117-year-old, onion-towered synagogue in Corsicana, a rural county seat of 25,000 located 55 miles south of Dallas. It is the first grant the architectural landmark has ever received from a Jewish organization.

The Moorish-revival Temple Beth-El, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, needs more than \$400,000 to replace rotting wood, upgrade HVAC systems, and install fire sprinklers. Repurposed into a city-owned community center in 1987, Beth-El holds Shabbat services once a month. “The Temple is a monument to Judaism and to this small town,” Babbette Samuels, 89, the oldest surviving congregant, argued when the grant was approved following an emotional debate at the TJHS June meeting. The Corsicana Preservation Foundation (P.O. Box 1717, Corsicana, TX 75151) plans to tap Jewish individuals and groups to raise the rest of the funds. In past decades, the local community underwrote restoration through potluck suppers and fundraising drives.

Dallas Jewish Historical Society Joins Neighborhood Exhibit

The Dallas Jewish Historical Society is collaborating with the Dallas Mexican American Historical League and Remembering Black Dallas to present *Neighborhoods We Called Home*, an exhibition running in Dallas Heritage Village from September through December. The exhibition explores how Dallas residential districts evolved as distinct religious and ethnic groups migrated from one area to another over the city’s 150-plus-year history.



The Blum House boasts gingerbread decoration, a large veranda, and a “witch’s hat,” standard features of homes of the Victorian era.

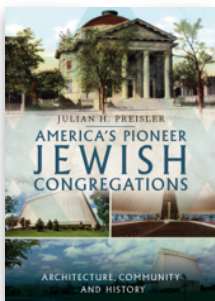
DJHS docents wearing period costumes will welcome visitors to Blum House, which represents how Jews lived when they first settled in Dallas during the early 1900s. The Queen Anne-style Victorian house is one of 20 historic homes moved from across the state of Texas into Dallas Heritage Village. Each winter, when Christmas activities are offered in

Heritage Village, Blum becomes the “Hanukkah House,” with festive decorations and docents who explain history, customs, and holiday foods to visitors.

Says DJHS Executive Director Debra Polsky, *Neighborhoods We Called Home* provides a further opportunity “to explain Jewish life in Dallas to students, adults, and families, so they will understand who we are and how we helped make our city what it was—and what it is today.”

NEWS AND NOTES

New Book Profiles Every State’s Oldest Existing Congregation



In October, Arcadia Publishing will release *America’s Pioneer Jewish Congregations: Architecture, Community & History*, by Julian H. Preisler. The well-illustrated history and travel guide will enable readers to learn about historic congregations coast to coast. The book profiles the oldest existing Jewish congregation in each of the 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each congregation receives a brief history accompanied by current and vintage images of the buildings

they have occupied. About half of the 195 images are in color and many have never before been published.

The price of the 144-page book is \$22.99 plus postage. Signed copies will be available from the author. To add your name to the mailing list for book purchases, contact Julian H. Preisler at jhp1963@yahoo.com.

Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience to Reopen

The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience is moving to New Orleans! The original MSJE, part of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, closed in 2012. While the ISJL continued to deliver history programming, a committee led by former ISJL chairperson Jay Tanenbaum set out to research how and where to open a new museum.

The committee’s work has come to fruition. The ISJL has officially “spun off” the museum into a new entity and a location in the New Orleans cultural and arts district has been identified. A private phase capital campaign is underway, with plans to open a broader public campaign by the end of this year.

The MSJE board, chaired by Tanenbaum, has named Kenneth Hoffman as executive director. He brings to the post 18 years of experience with the National World War II Museum, most recently as director of education. Gallagher & Associates, a global leader in museum design, will serve as exhibition designer.

The museum will offer an interactive, multimedia experience where visitors can learn about Jews in the South and develop a better understanding of what it means to be a southerner and an American. Plans are to open in early 2019. Visit msje.org to register your interest and to take a brief survey—and follow MSJE on Facebook.

Website Features 19th-Century Southern Jewish Family Letters



Courtesy Jay Silverberg

Letters written between Jewish immigrants in Louisiana and family members in Germany from 1855 to 1871 are accessible at meyerbrothersletters.com, a website managed by family descendant Jay Silverberg. The site provides the original letters, translations from German and Hebrew to English, an overview of the letters' contents, and a link to Silverberg's article "Louisiana Letters, 1855–1871: The Story of an Immigrant Jewish Family," published in *Southern Jewish History* in 2015.

The letters, housed in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collection at Louisiana State University's Hill Memorial Library, were used in Eliot Ashkenazi's groundbreaking 1988 study *The Business of Jews in Louisiana, 1840–1875* and will be featured in Michael Cohen's *Cotton Capitalists: American Jewish Entrepreneurship in the Reconstruction Era*, to be published this fall. With the library's permission, Silverberg created the website with the goal of making these primary materials more widely available to researchers. The site generates about 100 visits and 35-40 unique visitors per week.

JHSSC to Visit Baruch Retreat and Georgetown



Belle Baruch and turkey at Bellefield Plantation, c. 1936. Courtesy Belle W. Baruch Foundation, Hobcaw Barony

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina heads to Waccamaw Neck for its fall 2017 meeting. Saturday, October 14, will feature a tour of Hobcaw Barony, Bernard Baruch's 16,000-acre winter hunting retreat, preserved in perpetuity by his daughter Belle Wilcox Baruch for educational and research purposes. Now a world-class center of marine biology and forestry exploration, Hobcaw offers an unparalleled opportunity to interpret every era of human habitation in South Carolina.

On Sunday, the meeting will convene at Temple Beth Elohim in Georgetown, South Carolina's third oldest town. The state's second oldest extant Jewish cemetery (after Charleston) testifies to the Jewish community's longevity. A slide lecture, "From First Families to Front Street," will be followed by a panel of former and current residents from some of the city's prominent Jewish families. Tours to area historical sites will round out the day. Space is limited. To register, please visit jhssc.org.

New Home for Center for Southern Jewish Culture

The Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture has had an exciting few months. This summer it moved into a spacious corner office in the College of Charleston's Jewish Studies building, and director Shari Rabin headed off to Jerusalem to participate in the World Congress of Jewish Studies. In August, historian Jenna Weissman Joselit spoke on the southern stories in her new book, *Set in Stone: America's Embrace of the Ten Commandments*. On tap for September was Jeffrey Rosen, president of the National Constitution Center and contributing editor to *The Atlantic*, speaking about his book *Louis Brandeis: American Prophet*. Born in Louisville, Brandeis was the first Jew named to the Supreme Court and was widely known for his opposition to monopolies, his support of workers' rights, and his brilliant defenses of freedom of speech and the right to privacy.

Meet JHSGW's New Executive Director



The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington is delighted to announce the appointment of Kara Blond as the Society's new executive director. She will lead day-to-day operations and the planning, design, construction, and programming of the Lillian & Albert Small Jewish Museum in a new building adjacent to the Capitol Crossing Project under construction in downtown Washington.

Blond brings nearly 15 years of experience managing complex, transformational exhibitions as part of significant construction projects at major institutions. At the National Zoo she served as exhibition developer and project manager on the Asia Trail and Elephant Trails. As director of exhibitions at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, she oversaw the development of experiences such as the National Fossil Hall and Deep Time Initiative. Blond succeeds Laura Apelbaum, who led the Society from 1994 to 2016.

Birmingham Holocaust Education Center Archivist Needs your Help

Archivist Melissa Young, a University of Alabama Ph.D. student, is conducting research for her dissertation on Jewish women and their immigration work during World War II. She is looking to speak to individuals who know about refugee assistance or any other activity Jewish women in the American South pursued between 1935 and 1955 to respond to Nazi persecution in Europe. Her work focuses upon Birmingham, but other regions, especially in Alabama, are relevant to her study.

If you have information about this topic, please contact the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center at 205.795.4176 or info@bhamholocausteducation.org. Thank you!

Save the Date: Kentucky Jewish History Symposium

The University of Kentucky will host the Kentucky Jewish History Symposium on April 12–13, 2018, details to appear in the next *Rambler*. For information contact Dr. Janice W. Fernheimer, Zantker professor and director of UK's Interdisciplinary Program in Jewish Studies, at jfernheimer@uky.edu.



Conference Registration Information

Borders and Borderlands of Southern Jewish History

42nd Southern Jewish Historical Society Annual Conference
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Cincinnati, Ohio, November 3–5, 2017



Register online today!

Registration for the SJHS conference is available online at the SJHS website, jewishsouth.org/upcoming-conference. The conference fee of \$155/person includes the Friday tour of Jewish Cincinnati, Friday lunch/dinner, and Saturday lunch. Conference registrants must be members of the SJHS. If you are not a member or wish to renew, please do so at the SJHS website, jewishsouth.org/store/annual-membership.

For more information about the conference, please contact Mr. Jody Solomon at j.solomon@huc.edu or 513.487.3017.

Hotel must reserved separately. See front page for information.

Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund

As this issue goes to press, the Gulf Coast of Texas is experiencing catastrophic flooding. The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston has opened an emergency relief fund to aid families and individuals affected by Hurricane Harvey. If you would like to make a donation, the fund can be accessed at houstonjewish.org.