



Jewish Life on the Border: The Cincinnati Conference

At the Southern Jewish Historical Society's 42nd annual conference this past November, attendees pondered the situation of Jews on the borderlands of the South—while also exploring the storied Jewish past of one particular border city, host Cincinnati.

We gathered at The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, on the campus of historic Hebrew Union College (HUC). Gary Zola, executive director of the Marcus Center, welcomed the crowd on Friday morning with a talk on Cincinnati Jewish history. He focused on the city as “the cradle of Reform Judaism,” the 19th-century boomtown where Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise established HUC (America's first rabbinical seminary, founded in 1875) and other institutions that served as the backbone of the Reform movement in America.

During his talk and the bus tour that followed, Zola related Cincinnati's critical national role to developments in the local Jewish community, which, for a time, was America's second largest. We walked the grounds of the Chestnut Street cemetery (1821), the oldest Jewish cemetery west of the Alleghenies. We visited the spectacular Plum Street Temple (1866)—a gem of synagogue architecture, inside and out—where generations of newly-minted HUC rabbis have been ordained before setting off to pulpits across the U.S. We learned of the Eastern European Jewish community, including the renowned Manischewitz family, who boasted “the largest matzo factory in the world.” After touring the Walnut Hills United Jewish Cemetery, final resting place of Wise and of American Jewish Archives founder Jacob Rader Marcus, we reconvened at the HUC chapel (1911), where rabbinical school director Ken Kanter discussed the seminary and its legacy.

Conference sessions kicked off Friday afternoon with a panel on “Questioning Region,” which explored the impact of Jewish networks and geographic mobility on notions of region and

community. In tracing the life of Abraham Jonas of Quincy, Illinois, Cynthia Gensheimer showed how far-reaching networks provided a social safety net that transcended region, enabling Jewish immigrants to extend their communities across great distances. David Katzman described how Jews in small-town Kansas built communities that persisted despite the comings and goings of individual families, who maintained ties to their places of origin. He called for an historical approach that links the experiences of Jews in different regions as an antidote to the limited New York-centric view of the American Jewish

experience. Mara Cohen Ioannides noted the arbitrariness of borders in examining Jewish life in the Ozark region, which straddles North and South. How people self-identified, she suggested, was more complicated—and more important—than the spot on the map that marked where they lived.

Afterward, SJHS vice-president Phyllis Leffler, of Charlottesville, spoke on how the white supremacist rally in August affected the local Jewish community. Many of the marchers paraded past Beth Israel, yelling “there's the synagogue,” as Shabbat services took place inside, with a hired security guard on watch. Worshippers felt vulnerable but were heartened by the supportive reaction of the Charlottesville citizenry. Local clergy offered assistance and

ordinary residents stopped by to express solidarity. Some volunteered to help guard the synagogue and others attended services. While the congregation appreciates the support, it now employs a full-time security guard.

After Shabbat dinner in the Marcus Center Reading Room, keynote speaker Hasia Diner spoke on philanthropist and businessman Julius Rosenwald, presented by the Beeber Family Speaker Series of the Helen M. Stern Memorial Fund. Diner's talk offered insight into the personality and motivations of the man whose funding of community schools transformed African American education in the South.

continued on page 4...



Plum Street Temple. Photos by Steven Krause (top), Dale Rosengarten (bottom). Tour group at Walnut Hills Cemetery. Photo by Steven Krause.



Officers and Board 2018

PRESIDENT

Dan J. Puckett

VICE PRESIDENT

Phyllis Leffler

SECRETARY

Eric Goldstein

TREASURER

Les Bergen

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Ellen Umansky

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron Bayor

Michael Cohen

Sharon Fahrer

Dana Herman

Jeremy Katz

Adam Meyer

Josh Parshall

Jim Pfeifer

Shari Rabin

Teri Tillman

Bernie Wax (emeritus)

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Shari Rabin

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

Bonnie Eisenman

Phone: 804.741.9010

bseisenman@comcast.net

President's Message By Dan J. Puckett



We are a few months removed from our meeting in Cincinnati. A full conference schedule that included visits to some of the city's historic sites, entertaining and informative speakers, a fantastic Helen M. Stern Cultural Encounter, plus an archives conference that followed, has me still trying to process all that we heard and saw in the Queen City. We were exposed to a great deal in a short amount of time, from the historic sights to the culinary delights of Cincinnati. For those who attended and did not try Graeter's Ice Cream, shame on you. Yes, I'm mentioning Graeter's Ice Cream once again. It's that good!

The credit for such a successful meeting goes to our host, the American Jewish Archives: Executive Director Gary Zola, staffers Dana Herman and Lisa Frankel, as well as the College of Charleston's Shari Rabin, who co-chaired the program committee and did so many of the little things that made the conference successful. The AJA's top-notch facilities, located at Hebrew Union College, provided a fantastic location for the meeting. Thank you all for making the conference a success!

At the meeting, we welcomed new members to the SJHS board of directors: Sharon Fahrer, Dana Herman, Jeremy Katz, Adam Meyer, Josh Parshall, and Shari Rabin. Many thanks go to Immediate Past President Ellen Umansky and the nominations committee for recruiting such qualified board members. I would also like to thank our outgoing board members for their service to the Society: Perry Brickman, Bonnie Eisenman, Sol Kimerling, Peggy Pearlstein, Jay Silverberg, and Jarrod Tanny.



Rabbi Ken Kanter speaks in historic HUC chapel, with Ben Shahn tapestry at left and 17th century ark at right.
Photo by Steven Krause.

While we ventured north for our meeting in 2017, we'll meet much farther south for 2018, this time in Mobile, Alabama, a charming city situated on the Gulf Coast. While it's the home of one of the oldest Jewish communities in the South, the SJHS has only visited once, way back in 1981. The chair of the local host committee will be Dr. David Meola, the Fanny and Bert Meisler Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of South Alabama, while SJHS Past President Scott Langston is chairing our Program Committee.

Here's to a successful 2018!

Meet the New SJHS Board Members

Here are the board members elected at the membership meeting in Cincinnati.

Sharon Fahrer, of Asheville, is an author and archivist whose works include *A Home in Shalomville: The History of Asheville's Jewish Community*. She chaired the host committee for the 2012 SJHS conference in Asheville.

Dana Herman, of Cincinnati, is managing editor of publications at the *American Jewish Archives* and was co-program chair of the SJHS Cincinnati conference.

Jeremy Katz, of Atlanta, is the archives director of the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at the Breman Museum. He participated in the archives panel at the 2015 SJHS conference in Nashville.

Adam Meyer, of Nashville, is associate professor in the Jewish Studies program at Vanderbilt University. He serves on the SJHS awards committee and has expanded the SJHS website's bibliography of southern Jewish history.

Josh Parshall, of Jackson, directs the history department at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life. He has presented at SJHS conferences and served on the Nashville program committee.

Shari Rabin, of Charleston, is assistant professor of Jewish Studies and director of the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture at the College of Charleston. She co-chaired the Cincinnati conference. Her new book just won a major award—see page 6!

CALL FOR PAPERS

Southern Jews, American Citizens

43rd Annual Conference of the Southern Jewish Historical Society

October 26–28, 2018, Mobile, Alabama

The Southern Jewish Historical Society will host its 43rd annual conference from October 26–28, 2018, in Mobile, Alabama. The theme will be, “Southern Jews, American Citizens.” The conference will focus on how Jews living in the American South negotiated their intersecting regional, national, and ethnic identities AND how they responded to the demands and expectations imposed by regional, national, and ethnic institutions, movements, values, and goals.

While the conference’s theme is inspired by the Mobile area’s long and deep connections with the military, as well as by commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, we invite presentations based on primary research that will explore the intersections of region, nation, and ethnicity in a variety of settings, especially as understood through the lenses of citizenship, public identity, or social consciousness.



Possible topics, broadly conceived, include: southern Jewish participation in and interactions with the military or other regional or national institutions; expressions of citizenship and public service reflecting how individuals and communities negotiated being Jewish, southern, and American; the impact of circumstances such as migration, immigration, naturalization, or citizenship-by-birth on the intertwined identities of southern American Jews; southern Jewish philanthropy; and southern Jews as patriots or subversives. In addition to these possible topics, we welcome all proposals dealing with any aspect of southern Jewish history.

The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2018. Full panel or individual paper submissions are welcome. Send a one-page proposal along with resume or curriculum vitae to Program Committee Chair Scott Langston, s.langston@tcu.edu.

The Grave Mystery of the Chazzan’s Brother

By Merrill Shapiro

Gustavus Poznanski is sometimes referred to as the first Reform rabbi in America. As chazzan and spiritual leader of Charleston, South Carolina’s Kahal Kodesh Beth Elohim congregation, he advocated the use of an organ during synagogue services, more English translation, and other innovations. In 1841 he famously declared, “this synagogue is our temple, this city our Jerusalem, this happy land our Palestine.”

Poznanski was born in Storchnest (now Osieczna), Poland, around 1805 to Joseph and Sarah Poznanski. Little is known of his six siblings. His brother Gershom was born in Poland in 1818 and died in 1840. A family tree available at The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati states that Gershom was “killed by Indians” during the “Seminole War.”

Now, thanks to extensive research by Simone Broudy-Kilbourn presented recently to the St. Augustine Jewish Historical Society, Gershom Poznanski’s grave has been located in the Jewish cemetery in St. Augustine, Florida. She unearthed a February 19, 1901 article in the St. Augustine *Evening Record* that tells of a gravestone found in a “dense thicket” with the English inscription, “Poznanski, Storchnest, Duchy of Posen, who was killed by Indians while traveling from St. Augustine to Picolata” (a nearby town) in the year 5601, followed by “a lengthy inscription in Hebrew.”



Courtesy of Merrill Shapiro.

By providing the last name of the deceased, the article revealed a key detail toward solving a longstanding local mystery: who was Gershom ben Yosef, the peddler whose gravesite led St. Augustine’s Jewish community to establish its cemetery on the surrounding land in 1911? At some point, the original gravestone disappeared and was replaced with one currently in the cemetery, inscribed in Hebrew, “Here lies Gershom ben Yosef, may the memory of the righteous be for a blessing, murdered by the hands of Indians, approximately the month of Kislev in the year 5601 [December 1840]. In this land we establish his blood.”

The discovery of the Poznanski name led to an online search, which turned up the AJA’s family tree and the news that Gershom had an illustrious brother. But the family tree offered a mystery of its own: what is meant by the phrase “Seminole War?” Was Gershom’s death more than just the simple killing of a lone peddler, as had long been assumed? And other mysteries remain: most notably, who put up the original Hebrew stone? St. Augustine’s Jewish community wasn’t founded until 1895, decades after the murder. And so the research continues...

Rabbi Merrill Shapiro, who served congregations in Orlando, Florida, and Richmond, Virginia, is president of the St. Augustine (Florida) Jewish Historical Society.

Jewish Life on the Border: The Cincinnati Conference continued from page 1...

Saturday's first panel featured Eric Goldstein and Deborah Weiner, whose forthcoming book *On Middle Ground* delves into Jewish life in the border city of Baltimore. While the city's legacy of slavery and Jim Crow tied it to the South, its rise as an ethnically diverse industrial center paralleled northern cities. Their presentation described how this anomalous situation shaped the historical experience of the Jewish population economically, socially, politically, and culturally.

Conference goers then had the opportunity to experience HUC's training in action by attending Shabbat services in the chapel where countless generations of rabbinical students have led their first services. The student who capably conducted the service (with assistance from a cantor and rabbi from the HUC faculty) also guided a discussion of the weekly Torah portion and delivered a thoughtful sermon.

Saturday luncheon speaker Len Rogoff spoke on Gertrude Weil, "Jewish Progressive of the New South." Weil, of Greensboro, North Carolina, was a pioneering advocate for many causes, including women's suffrage and black civil rights (in her 80s, she desegregated a swimming pool by diving in headfirst). She was also a committed Jew who played a leadership role in organized Jewish life.

Afternoon panels commenced with "Jewish Organizations and the Translocal South." Jason Lustig discussed how Jacob Rader

Marcus's beliefs influenced the collection policy of the American Jewish Archives. A "hemispheric vision of American Jewish history" led Marcus to focus his collecting priorities around

certain themes—for example, synagogues as centers of Jewish culture, Jews as builders of America, and the importance of Jewish life outside of New York—while other topics, such as the role of the state, received little attention. Marlene Trestman described the educational policies of the New Orleans Jewish Orphans Home, showing how they were influenced by larger trends in Jewish education through the years. Judah Bernstein noted the "surprising resonance" of Zionism for rural and small-town Jews in the first half of the 20th century. They joined Zionist groups in greater proportions than city Jews, a phenomenon that puzzled Zionist fundraisers.

In "Borderland Identities," Sarah Imhoff offered examples of Texas Jews' fascination with the Wild West. By comparing Jewish customs to those of Native Americans and exploring western archetypes such as the *charro*, Jews fashioned notions of whiteness and masculinity in ways that enhanced their claim to a western American identity.

Mark Allan Goldberg drew on his family's experience in discussing the intersecting identities of Latina/o Jews who moved to Houston in the 1980s. He showed how border crossers use stories from songs and folklore to define and express different aspects of their identity.



Top: Teri Tillman and Jay Silverberg do some research in the AJA Reading Room. Bottom: University of Kentucky students and profs in front of their poster session. Photos by Dale Rosengarten.

Postings from the AJA Synagogue Archives Conference By Hollace Weiner



Hollace Weiner and Kevin Proffitt.

Immediately following the SJHS gathering, the American Jewish Archives hosted "Going Beyond Memory, A Conference on Synagogue Archiving." Nine SJHS members were among the 50 people from across the continent drawn to the two-day gathering of synagogue archivists—a largely unpaid, unsung cadre of volunteers who toil in temple basements to catalogue records and memorabilia about their Jewish communities.

"The conference brings together people who may be feeling isolated, to share ideas and give them ideas to take home and to know they aren't alone," said conference coordinator Lisa Frankel, the AJA's director of educational outreach. The gathering was the fifth since Gary Zola became AJA executive director in 1998. Attendees hailed from the small southern Jewish communities of Asheville, Birmingham, Little Rock, and Natchez as well as from Atlanta, Dallas, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Toronto, and Washington, D.C. Remarkably, Zola and AJA senior archivist Kevin Proffitt knew each person by name and were familiar with their research.

The two-day meeting featured lively exchanges of ideas and frustrations during workshops titled "Garbage Is Garbage," "What to Do When It Doesn't Fit in the Box," "Creating Order out of Chaos," "Taking Archives out of the Archives," and "The Care of Digital and Electronic Records." Keynote speaker Dina Herbert, a social-media expert with the National Archives and Records Administration, suggested convening Wikipedia Edit-a-Thons to increase each synagogue's online presence.

The panel “Building the South” ranged widely in time and topic. Mark Bauman described the “vertical integration” of Jewish business in colonial Georgia and South Carolina, noting that contrary to stereotype, Jews were heavily involved in agriculture, owning plantations that complemented their varied economic pursuits. Karen Kingsley highlighted the impact of architects Samuel and William Wiener, sons of German Jewish immigrants, who brought Bauhaus modernism to a surprisingly receptive Shreveport in the mid-20th century with their designs for homes, municipal and commercial buildings, and Jewish communal structures. Miyuki Kita showed us Mississippi Freedom Summer through the eyes of Queens College students, drawing on the rich Queens College archives to explore the experiences of young Jews who came South during the civil rights movement, including the martyred Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner.

On late Saturday afternoon, conference goers had a chance to meet and purchase the books of the many authors who published on southern Jewish history in 2017. Later that night, versatile rabbi Ken Kanter led a rousing sing-along of hits by Jewish songwriters in his Helen M. Stern Cultural Encounter presentation, “Is it True What They Sing about Dixie?” Kanter supplied a running commentary on songs about the South that ranged from the well-known to the obscure.



Top: Len Rogoff, Eric Goldstein, and Deb Weiner discuss Baltimore as a border city. *Photo by Sam Gruber.*
Bottom: Gary Zola and the founder of American Reform Judaism. *Photo by Dale Rosengarten.*

Sunday morning’s membership meeting was followed by the panel “Making Southern Communities.” Gabriel Weinstein described the Jewish community of Los Alamos, New Mexico, the instant town created by the U.S. military’s nuclear program during World War II. With nicknames such as “Nuclear Suburb” and “Levittown on the Mesa,” Los Alamos grew much like a postwar American suburb despite its unusual origins; organized Jewish life, as elsewhere, focused on passing Jewish heritage on to the young. Josh Furman’s paper (read by Shari Rabin in his absence) traced the history of Houston’s postwar Jewish suburb, Meyerland. A product of the city’s tremendous growth, Jewish upward mobility, and “white flight,” Meyerland was hard hit by Hurricane Harvey just weeks before the conference, giving the presentation added resonance.

The final conference panel featured a multimedia look at the Jewish Kentucky Oral History Collection. Beth Goldstein described the University of Kentucky project to transcribe, index, and digitize oral histories of the state’s diverse Jewish residents. Jan Fernheimer excerpted and discussed the interview of Sam Halpern, son of a Jewish immigrant family who sharecropped tobacco. UK student Leslie Davis showed how oral histories can be contextualized in

her talk on the UK Hillel’s response to 1960s–1970s student protests. Outside the auditorium, a poster session organized by other students profiled several Jewish oral history subjects.

— *Deborah R. Weiner, with assistance from Dianne Feldman*

JHSSC and Partners to Hold Conference on Minorities and Public Memory

Monuments, memorials, and historical memory have been much in the news lately. In Charlottesville last August, white supremacists rallied to oppose the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee. The tiki-torch-brandishing crowd paraded through the city, chanting “You will not replace us, Jews will not replace us.” These slogans chillingly alerted Jews and African Americans alike that neo-Nazi ideology is once again targeting anyone not considered “white.”

With their histories of racial victimization, Jews and African Americans share an urgent need to confront this resurgence. Join the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina as it partners with the College of Charleston’s Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World, African American Studies Program, and the Charleston branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life & History on April 28–29 for a conference on the history of minority exclusion and white supremacy in South Carolina, the monuments that enshrine public memory, and the ethics of cultural tourism.

Saturday’s events will begin with the panel “Shared Memories; Equal Justice?” followed by talks on how communities pay homage to loss, or raise high their heroes, in heavily politicized environments. The keynote speaker will be Michael Arad, the celebrated Israeli-American architect of the 9/11 memorial in Lower Manhattan, who has been selected to create a permanent memorial at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. Sunday’s session will address how to present “difficult history” to tourists at slave-labor plantations in the American South and Nazi concentration and death camps in Europe.

NEWS AND NOTES

Mickve Israel's Presidential Letters



When George Washington was elected President, Levi Sheftall, the *parnas* (president) of Savannah's Congregation Mickve Israel, sent him a congratulatory letter. Washington's letter of thanks in return was the first presidential letter sent to an American Jewish house of worship. In 1820, when the congregation's first synagogue was dedicated, Dr. Jacob DeLamotta of the Board of Adjunta (Trustees) sent letters notifying James

Madison and Thomas Jefferson of the special occasion. Letters of congratulation from both were received.

These historic letters marked the beginning of the congregation's collection of 14 presidential letters, now permanently on view in the Mickve Israel museum. For more on the museum, see mickveisrael.org.

JHSSC Mounts Jewish Merchant Project



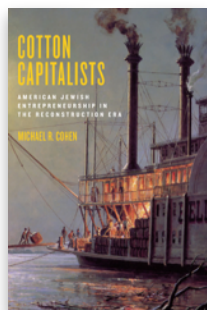
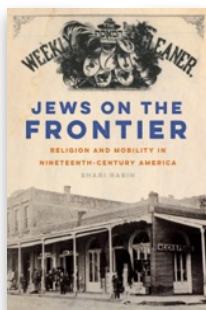
Sam Breibart Groceries, Charleston, circa 1930. Courtesy of JHSSC.

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC) has partnered with Historic Columbia and the College of Charleston to undertake a statewide survey of Jewish merchants past and present. A major product of the survey will be a database available on the JHSSC's website. The

database will capture the impact of Jewish businesspeople on communities large and small while illuminating the networks of family and friends that led Jewish men and women to call South Carolina home.

To learn about the project and participate in the survey, visit jhssc.org/resources/merchants/. For more information contact Katharine Allen, kallen@historiccolumbia.org.

SJHS Board Members Publish Important New Books



Shari Rabin's new book, *Jews on the Frontier: Religion and Mobility in Nineteenth-Century America*, has won the prestigious National Jewish Book Award for best book in American Jewish Studies. Describing how American Jews forged a distinctive religious culture on the road and in small towns across the continent, she argues that mobility was pivotal to the development of American Judaism. Frontier Jews created religious life from scratch, expanding and transforming Jewish thought and practice. The book "vividly recounts the story of a neglected era in American Jewish history," states the Jewish Book Council. "By focusing on everyday people, we gain a more complete view of how American religion has taken shape."

Michael R. Cohen's *Cotton Capitalists: American Jewish Entrepreneurship in the Reconstruction Era* traces how Jewish merchants occupied a vital niche in the nation's most important industry—cotton—and emerged at the forefront of its expansion after the Civil War. Their status as a minority fueled their success by fostering ethnic networks that funneled credit and goods to the war-torn South. Says historian Rebecca Kobrin, the book "reminds us that we cannot fully understand the South's economic revival . . . without looking at the critical role played by immigrant Jewish merchants." Both books can be purchased at NYUPress.org and amazon.com.

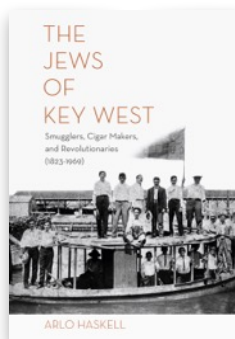
Fort Worth Monument Receives Award



A World War I honor roll, inscribed with names of 81 local Jewish soldiers who served in the Great War, received a Preservation Achievement Award this past fall from Historic Fort Worth, Inc. Dedicated with pomp and circumstance in 1920, the marble monument had weathered and faded after decades outdoors, rendering the soldiers' names difficult to read.

The Award recognized the work of military veteran Bob Sumien, the Catholic landscaper at Fort Worth's Congregation Ahavath Sholom, who volunteered to restore the honor roll for the April 2017 centennial anniversary of the U.S. entry into WWI.

The Jews of Key West



The Jewish presence in Key West, Florida, goes back to the 1820s. In *The Jews of Key West: Smugglers, Cigar Makers and Revolutionaries (1823-1969)*, author Arlo Haskell tells the colorful story of the Jews who settled in this isolated and beautiful locale. Haskell fills his social history with detailed sketches of individuals and families, bringing their accomplishments to life through personal letters, newspaper articles, and archival photos. Published by Sand Paper Press, the book is available at jewsofkeywest.com.

Knoxville Exhibit Celebrates Noted Leader



The Archives of the Jewish Community of Knoxville and East Tennessee has created an exhibit honoring Milton Collins (1915-1972), the first full-time and longest-serving director of Knoxville's Jewish Community Center (1942-1963).

Though stricken with muscular dystrophy, Milton expanded the Center's activities multifold and became a beloved fixture to young and old. Lectures, concerts, plays, and preschool burgeoned during his tenure. Day camp began in 1950 and Sunday Funday became a regular youth program. With only

a high school education, Milton became a social worker and counselor, and served as local representative of the Jewish Welfare Board for those in service. During World War II, he wrote personal letters to every service member who received the Center's newsletter and retained the letters they sent back; a few are part of the exhibit. After his death the day camp was named for him.

Located in the Schwarzbart Gallery of Knoxville's Arnstein Jewish Community Center, the exhibit will run until early spring.

Dallas JHS Hosts Exhibits and Events



The Dallas Jewish Historical Society has a lot going on. In October, David Passman opened a four-part Genealogy Workshop series with a session on "The Transmigrant Experience." He focused on his namesake ancestor, a 1981 emigre from Minsk, to illustrate collateral expansion of a family tree. The series is offered in conjunction with the Dallas Genealogical Society Jewish Special Interest Group. In November, Rabbi Kenneth D. Roseman presented part one of his new video lecture series, "The History of the

Jews in America." A popular educator and speaker, Roseman formerly served congregations in Dallas and Corpus Christi. More than 50 attended this special event.

The DJHS also mounted two displays at the Jewish Community Center. The first featured historical wedding photos from the albums of local community members. The second (now on display) presents menorahs of all kinds—old and modern, traditional and fanciful, from stately silver to old-fashioned tin. It includes pieces on loan from DJHS members plus several from the DJHS collection.

The Jew Store Is Now a Musical



Courtesy of Jay Kholos.

The Jew Store, Stella Suberman's acclaimed memoir about growing up in the only Jewish family in a small Tennessee town, has been adapted into a musical by Nashville playwright-director Jay Kholos. The production premiered in Cincinnati last May and closed out 2017 with a weekend run at Nashville's Gordon JCC in a benefit for the Akiva School.

Like the memoir, the musical uses humor to tackle difficult subjects, Kholos noted in a press report. He took "many creative liberties" in transferring the story to the stage and was "extremely pleased and frankly relieved" that Suberman loved the musical when she attended the premier. She passed away in October at age 95.

Plans are underway to bring the show to Atlanta, the Chicago suburb of Skokie, South Florida, and New York. For information, visit jewstorethemusical.com.

Pearlstine/Lipov Center Announces Spring Events

The College of Charleston's Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture will offer public talks by its two current Research Fellows. Journalist Sue Eisenfeld will describe her project, "A Yankee's Journey through the Jewish South," on January 21, and University of Virginia graduate student Brian Neumann will discuss his research on the nullification crisis of the 1830s on March 7.

On March 14, Michael R. Cohen, Jewish Studies chair at Tulane University and author of *Cotton Capitalists: American Jewish Entrepreneurship in the Reconstruction Era*, will give a talk that sets the stage for a major conference, "Freedoms Gained and Lost: Reinterpreting Reconstruction in the Atlantic World," hosted by the College's Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World program. Visit jewishsouth.cofc.edu for information.

Rosenwald and Carvalho Films Now Available

Two documentaries relevant to southern Jewish history have become available on DVD from the National Center for Jewish Film. *Carvalho's Journey*, by Steve Rivo, tells the story of Charleston-born daguerreotypist Solomon Nunes Carvalho, who took some of the earliest photographs of the Far West as part of explorer John Fremont's 1853 westward expedition to California. Aviva Kempner's award-winning *Rosenwald* depicts the philanthropist who joined forces with African American communities in the Jim Crow South to build more than 5,300 schools in the early 20th century. Orders can be placed at jewishfilm.org.



SJHS NEWSLETTER

PO Box 71601, Marietta, GA 30007-1601

www.jewishsouth.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Become an SJHS Member

The SJHS advances the study, preservation, and presentation of the Jewish experience in the American South. We award prizes and research grants, publish original scholarship, support exhibitions, and hold a stimulating annual conference. Members receive the quarterly *Rambler* and our annual journal, *Southern Jewish History*. You must be a member to attend the annual conference.



Our major source of funding is membership dues. To join online or to send a check by mail, visit jewishsouth.org/store/annual-membership for details. Please join us today!

SJHS 2017 Grants Announced

The SJHS awarded grants to 12 worthy projects in 2017, a larger-than-usual number. Grants were awarded in three categories:

- Project Completion Grants to facilitate the completion of projects related to southern Jewish history, such as books, catalogues, or exhibitions.
- Research/Travel Grants to assist individuals with travel and other expenses related to conducting research in southern Jewish history.
- Scott and Donna Langston Archival Grants, which encourage the preservation of archival materials related to southern Jewish history.

To see a list of the grantees and to learn how to apply for a grant, visit jewishsouth.org/sjhs-grants-applications.