



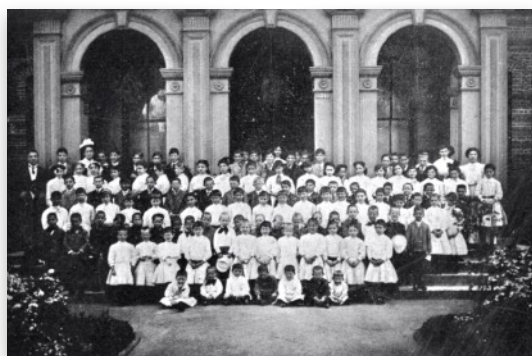
The SJHS in Mobile: A Sneak Preview of “Southern Jews, American Citizens”

A diverse group of scholars will gather to discuss the SJHS 2018 conference theme “Southern Jews, American Citizens” when the Society meets from October 26–28 in Mobile, Alabama. The program promises to inform, stimulate, and challenge our understanding of southern Jewish history—as you can see in this special sneak preview of the papers that will be presented. (Fuller descriptions can be found on the SJHS website.)

After our Friday tour of Mobile’s Jewish sites, sessions will kick off with three panelists speaking on **“Answering the Needs of the Community: Jewish Benevolence in the South.”** Independent scholar Cynthia Francis Gensheimer will discuss how letters between family members living in the South, Midwest, and East illuminate small-town Jewish life and demonstrate how a large kinship network operated in commerce and benevolence in her talk, “Dear Cousin Nettie: A Jewish Family’s 19th-Century Work in Commerce and Benevolence.”

In “The Ties that Bind: The Vital Relationship between New Orleans’s Jewish Orphans’ Home and Alabama’s Jewish Communities,” author Marlene Trestman will explore the Home as a philanthropic focus for Alabama Jews. Rosalind F. Hinton (Tulane University), “L’dor, V’dor, From Generation to Generation: Jewish Women and Their Impact on New Orleans,” will address intergenerational mentorship among Jewish women and highlight their impact on civil and women’s rights in New Orleans.

At lunch we are in for a real treat: Mobile’s own **Roy Hoffman**, well-known journalist and novelist, will reflect on growing up and living as a Jew in Mobile. His acclaimed novel *Chicken Dreaming Corn* features a Jewish immigrant family in Mobile during the first half of the 20th century.



Top: New Orleans Jewish Orphans’ Home, 1909. Fourteen of the Home’s 129 children were from Alabama.
Courtesy of the Jewish Children’s Regional Service.

Bottom: Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, 1920.

The panel **“Southern Jews as Advocates and Activists”** will follow lunch. Leah C. Burnham (Georgia State University), in “All Men are Responsible for One Another”: Atlanta Jews and the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary during the 20th Century,” will explore the involvement of Atlanta Jewish community members with Jewish inmates at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary from 1900 to the 1980s.

Fellow panelist Josh Parshall (Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life), in “Radical, Jewish, and American: Southern Arbeter Ring Members as Ambivalent Citizens,” will examine how southern Workmen’s Circle members maintained a critical perspective on American economic and political systems, even as they negotiated the opportunities and obligations of American (and southern) citizenship. Eric Morgenson (State University of New York at Albany), “Memories of Richmond: Murray Friedman in the South, 1954-1959,” will discuss how Friedman’s time in Richmond shaped

his thinking and reflected broader changes in Jewish intellectual development and the civil rights movement.

Late Friday afternoon, the **Mobile Christian-Jewish Dialogue Board**, one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the U.S., will discuss the work it is doing. After dinner at Springhill Avenue Temple, we will be honored to hear the **Beeber Family Speaker Series of the Helen M. Stern Memorial Fund** speaker, **Jeffrey Rosen** of The George Washington University Law School. Rosen will address “Louis Brandeis as a Southern Jew,” reflecting on how Brandeis’s Kentucky upbringing might have influenced his perspective and shaped his historical and contemporary legacy. (Arrangements for the appearance of Jeffrey Rosen made through Greater Talent Network LLC, New York, NY).

continued on page 4...



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President's Message By Dan J. Puckett



As our annual meeting draws near, I'm reminded of the brief time that I lived in Mobile. During my undergraduate years, I attended the University of South Alabama for a year while pursuing a degree in business. I did not finish my college career at USA (nor did I finish with a business degree), but I came to love the city of Mobile, with its relaxed, Caribbean-like atmosphere, especially its close proximity to the beaches of Gulf Shores and Dauphin Island. It was very different—and much more exciting—than Birmingham, where I had grown up. Only after I returned years later did I come to appreciate Mobile's rich history and its many traditions.

Founded as a French colony in 1702, Mobile became the capital of French Louisiana. The city subsequently became a British, then Spanish colony before becoming part of the United States in 1813. The oldest city in Alabama also hosts the oldest Jewish congregation in the state, Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim, founded in 1844. Today, Mobile has two congregations: Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim at the Springhill Avenue Temple (Reform) and Ahavas Chesed (Conservative). Since the mid-19th century, Mobile's Jews, while small in number, have played a large role in the development of the city, whether as politicians, physicians, businesspeople, or philanthropists, a fact made abundantly clear as I studied Mobile's Jewish community while working on my book about Alabama Jews during the Holocaust.

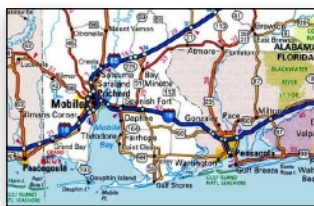
While Mobile was not devoid of the racism and racial turmoil of other southern cities, it managed to avoid the violent clashes that marked the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s, a "city too busy to hate," as one historian noted. This is also where one of our long-time members, Rabbi Irv Bloom, served during that tumultuous time. In fact, Steve Krause will discuss his father Allen's 1966 interview with Rabbi Bloom, which can be found in the recently published *To Stand Aside or to Stand Alone*.

We have an exciting program on tap. Make your plans to attend in October and come experience Mobile's history and charm. You won't be disappointed!



Digital History Workshop to Follow Mobile Conference

SJHS conference participants are invited to extend their weekend with a digital history workshop held at the University of South Alabama on Sunday afternoon, October 28. The workshop is free to attend, and refreshments will be provided.



Attendees will work together to produce an online map that visualizes Mobile's Jewish history over several decades. For local historians, this is an opportunity to learn more about creating online, public facing resources. For college instructors, it is an opportunity to explore digital history as a pedagogical tool.

Josh Parshall (Institute of Southern Jewish Life), Nora Katz (Institute of Southern Jewish Life), and Elijah Gaddis (Auburn University) will lead the event. Professor David Meola is assisting with logistics, and the University of South Alabama Department of Earth

Sciences will provide the space. We will coordinate transportation from the conference site when we have determined the number of participants.

Please RSVP to Josh Parshall (jparshall@isjl.org) by October 1!

SJHS Conference Hotel Information – Book Soon!

The conference hotel is the Admiral Hotel Mobile, Curio Collection by Hilton. Reservations must be received by September 28 to receive the special conference rate of \$119 per night. The rate is available for Thursday through Saturday night, October 25–27, and includes breakfast. It does not include taxes/extra fees.

To book at the conference rate, go to the SJHS website, jewishsouth.org/upcoming-conference, or call 1.800.445.8667. The group code is MOBCUQ.

Southern Jews, American Citizens

Southern Jewish Historical Society 43rd Annual Conference

Mobile, Alabama, October 26–28, 2018

Scott Langston, Program Chair

Friday, October 26

Sessions to be held at Spring Hill College

8–9 am: Registration at Admiral Hotel

9–10:30 am: Bus Tour of Mobile's Jewish Sites

11 am–12:30 pm: “Answering the Needs of the Community: Jewish Benevolence in the South”

Chair: Diane Vecchio

- ▶ Cynthia Francis Gensheimer, “Dear Cousin Nettie: A Jewish Family's 19th-Century Work in Commerce and Benevolence”
- ▶ Marlene Trestman, “The Ties that Bind: The Vital Relationship between New Orleans's Jewish Orphans' Home and Alabama's Jewish Communities”
- ▶ Rosalind F. Hinton, “L'dor, V'dor, From Generation to Generation: Jewish Women and Their Impact on New Orleans”

12:30–1:45 pm: Luncheon

Speaker: Roy Hoffman, journalist and novelist

2–3:30 pm: “Southern Jews as Advocates and Activists”

Chair: Ellen Umansky

- ▶ Leah C. Burnham, “All Men are Responsible for One Another”: Atlanta Jews and the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary during the 20th Century”
- ▶ Josh Parshall, “Radical, Jewish, and American: Southern Arbeter Ring Members as Ambivalent Citizens”
- ▶ Eric Morgenson, “Memories of Richmond: Murray Friedman in the South, 1954–1959”

3:45–4:15 pm: Presentation by Mobile Christian-Jewish Dialogue Board

5:45 pm: Shabbat Services at Springhill Avenue Temple

**6:30 pm: Dinner at Springhill Avenue Temple
Keynote Address, Beeber Family Speaker Series of the Helen M. Stern Memorial Fund**

Jeffrey Rosen, National Constitution Center, “Louis Brandeis as a Southern Jew”

Saturday, October 27

Sessions to be held at University of South Alabama

9:30–10:30 am: “Balancing Local and Jewish Identities: Two Jewish Communities”

Chair: Michele Strong

- ▶ Philip Spivey, “Concordia: Gender, Race, and Class Conflicts Outside and Within Arkansas's First Jewish Social Club”
- ▶ Kyle Stanton, “Houston, Not Jerusalem: Congregation Beth Israel's Challenge to Reform Judaism and American Jewish Identity”

10:45 am–12:15 pm: “A Chosen Calling: Three Mensches of Mobile”

Chair: Demetrius Semien

- ▶ Susan W. Thomas, “Captain Leon Schwarz: Citizen Soldier, Civic Leader, and Consummate Patriot in Turn-of-the-Century Mobile”
- ▶ Dana Evan Kaplan, “Rabbi Alfred G. Moses of Mobile, Alabama and the Development of Jewish Science in the Early 20th Century”
- ▶ Steve Krause, “Mobile, Alabama—in the Land of the Almost Possible: Notes from a 1966 Interview with Rabbi P. Irving Bloom”

12:30–1:30 pm: Luncheon

1:45–3:30 pm: “Jewish Soldiers and the American South, At Home and Abroad”

Chair: Hollace Weiner

- ▶ Shari Rabin and Adam Domby, “Lies and Loyalties: The True Story of a Rabbi Conman and the American Civil War”
- ▶ Jessica Cooperman, “Jacob Rader Marcus, WWI Soldier”
- ▶ David Weinfeld, “Saul Wiener's Australian Adventure”

4–5 pm: Helen M. Stern Cultural Encounter

Judah Cohen, musicologist, “Joseph Bloch, Sigmund Schlesinger, and the Soundscape of Southern Jewish Life,” accompanied by Laura Moore (piano) and Thomas Rowell (tenor)

5:30–6:30 pm: Meet the Authors and Reception

- ▶ Eric L. Goldstein and Deborah R. Weiner, *On Middle Ground: A History of the Jews of Baltimore* (Johns Hopkins University Press)
- ▶ James L. Moses, *Just and Righteous Causes: Rabbi Ira Sanders and the Fight for Racial and Social Justice in Arkansas, 1926–1963* (University of Arkansas Press)
- ▶ Shari Rabin, *Jews on the Frontier: Religion and Mobility in Nineteenth-Century America* (NYU Press)
- ▶ Paula Webb, *Mobile Under Siege: Surviving the Union Blockade* (The History Press)

Sunday, October 28

Sessions to be held at conference hotel

8:45–9:45 am: SJHS Membership Meeting

10–11:30 am: “Patriotism and Human Rights in World War II”

Chair: David Messenger

- ▶ Edward S. Shapiro, “Rabbis Alexander Goode and Sidney Lefkowitz and World War II”
- ▶ Joshua J. Furman, “Hidden Stars: The Story of the Beth Jacob Banner”
- ▶ Marilyn Grace Miller, “Jewish Citizens Internees in the American South, 1942–1946”

Afternoon: Post-Conference Digital History Workshop

Saturday will be another rich day with three panels, starting with **“Balancing Local and Jewish Identities: Two Jewish Communities.”** Philip Spivey (University of Central Arkansas) will explore how societal tensions in Arkansas were mirrored within the Concordia Association, a Jewish social club, in his talk “Concordia: Gender, Race, and Class Conflicts Outside and Within Arkansas’s First Jewish Social Club.” In “Houston, Not Jerusalem: Congregation Beth Israel’s Challenge to Reform Judaism and American Jewish Identity,” Kyle Stanton (State University of New York at Albany) will examine how a Texas congregation attempted to reassert principles of classical Reform Judaism by challenging prevailing notions of American Jewish identity and the Reform response to international and national events.

Our host city will be the focus of the panel **“A Chosen Calling: Three Mensches of Mobile.”** Susan W. Thomas (Springhill Avenue Temple), in “Captain Leon Schwarz: Citizen Soldier, Civic Leader, and Consummate Patriot in Turn-of-the-Century Mobile,” will explore the contributions of a leading Jewish citizen of Mobile in the early 20th century. In “Rabbi Alfred G. Moses of Mobile, Alabama and the Development of Jewish Science in the Early 20th Century,” Dana Evan Kaplan (Springhill Avenue Temple) will address the thought and impact of Congregation Sha’arai Shomayim Rabbi Alfred Moses, focusing on his approach to Jewish Science.

Steve Krause, in “Mobile, Alabama—in the Land of the Almost Possible: Notes from a 1966 Interview with Rabbi P. Irving Bloom,” will discuss findings from a 1966 interview conducted by Allen Krause with P. Irving Bloom, rabbi at Springhill Avenue Temple from 1960 to 1973. Topics include Bloom’s role in the integration of Mobile’s schools, the resistance he faced from members of the community, and the response of his own congregation.

The day’s final panel will be **“Jewish Soldiers and the American South, At Home and Abroad.”** Shari Rabin and Adam Domby (College of Charleston), “Lies and Loyalties: The True Story of a Rabbi Conman and the American Civil War,” will show how a Polish-Jewish immigrant who served in the Florida Indian Wars of the 1850s and then pretended to be

clergy at Savannah’s Reform synagogue utilized religion to navigate the complicated terrain of wartime division.

In “Jacob Rader Marcus, WWI Soldier,” Jessica Cooperman (Muhlenberg College) will focus on the historian’s time at Camp Sheridan in Alabama in discussing his perspective on the lives of American Jewish soldiers. In “Saul Viener’s Australian Adventure,” David Weinfeld (Virginia Commonwealth

University) will examine the experience of Viener (a founder and past president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society) as a soldier stationed in Australia during World War II, comparing his understanding of Judaism, based on his southern upbringing, to that of the Australian Jewish community.

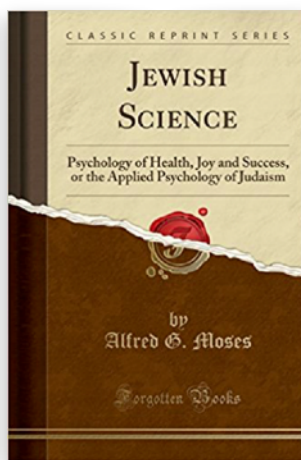
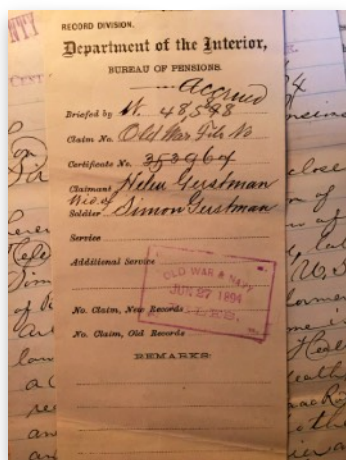
The day will conclude with the **Helen M. Stern Cultural Encounter**, in which Judah Cohen (Indiana University) and the University of South Alabama’s Laura Moore (piano) and Thomas Rowell (tenor), will present 19th-century music composed and arranged by Mobile’s Joseph Bloch and the Schlesinger brothers. The always popular **Meet the Authors** session (and reception) will follow.

Our final session, **“Patriotism and Human Rights in World War II,”** will occur on Sunday morning. Edward S. Shapiro (Seton Hall University), in “Rabbis Alexander Goode and Sidney Lefkowitz and World War II,” will discuss the

contributions of these two southern-born Reform rabbis to the American war effort during World War II.

In “Hidden Stars: The Story of the Beth Jacob Banner,” fellow panelist Joshua J. Furman (Rice University) will describe a recently recovered banner from Houston honoring Jewish men and women who served in World War II, offering context about the history of Jewish service flags and monuments. Marilyn Grace Miller (Tulane University), “Jewish Citizens Internees in the American South, 1942-1946,” will present her research on the U.S. detention of “enemy alien” Jewish refugees from Latin America in southern internment camps such as Camp Algiers, Louisiana.

You won’t want to miss these stimulating discussions. So, register for the conference now!



Top left: On the trail of a con man: the pension record of Simon Gerstman. *Courtesy of Shari Rabin.*

Top right: Many early-20th-century books by Jewish Science advocate (and Mobile rabbi) Alfred G. Moses are still in print today.

Bottom left: A 40-year anniversary gathering of Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring Branch 303 in Birmingham, Alabama, circa 1949. *Courtesy of Henrietta Bell.*

Joseph Bloch: Father of Mobile's Music

By Deborah Gurt

Escaping revolutionary upheavals in Germany, Joseph Bloch arrived at the Port of Mobile in 1848 at the age of 22. While many German immigrants at the time sought a better life, more freedom, and new opportunities, Bloch was a genuine refugee, a true '48er. He had been involved in radical political activity and fled without papers under threat of imminent arrest. En route to New Orleans, his youthful idealism and apparent impulsiveness led him to debark in Mobile and, after meeting a young woman, to remain.

Understanding the trajectory of Joseph Bloch's life once he settled in Mobile is the focus of a project undertaken by three University of South Alabama (USA) faculty members, librarian Paula Webb, archivist Deborah Gurt, and historian David Meola, using archival sources from Mobile to Germany. The fruits of this labor include an SJHS-supported traveling exhibit currently on view at the History Museum of Mobile (and scheduled for the USA library during the SJHS conference).

Unlike many European immigrants, Bloch maintained a connection to his Jewish roots, joining Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim and taking a leadership role in the musical realm. An 1864 resolution in the congregational minute book commends Bloch for his "able and valuable services" as choir leader. When influential organist and choirmaster Sigmund Schlesinger arrived in Mobile in 1870, it was Bloch who sent his son to fetch him at the train station and who introduced him to the congregation. While serving as the congregation's music director for the next 36 years, Schlesinger composed liturgical music that made an important contribution to late-19th-century Reform Jewish worship.

Bloch also became a central figure in Mobile's burgeoning music scene, publishing sheet music, leading ensembles, and joining the music faculty of Spring Hill College. He was a founder of the Fidelity Club, organized in 1858 "for the moral, mental, and social refinement of its members by musical, dramatic, literary, and social intercourse," according to a 1910 B'nai B'rith publication.

A much sought-after multi-instrumentalist, Bloch served as concertmaster of the Mobile Theater Orchestra. In an

unpublished memoir, his son Edward noted that Bloch was such a skilled musician that when the New Orleans Opera Company threatened to cancel a planned visit because of the illness of its flutist, the Mobilians responded, "Bring on your [William] Tell. We have a flutist who can replace anybody." He taught flute, violin, and guitar, giving private music lessons when learning the Spanish Fandango was *de rigueur* for fashionable young ladies.



Top: Edward Bloch (center) and brothers Alexander and Godfrey. *Courtesy of the Bloch family.*

Bottom left: Portrait of Joseph Bloch. *Courtesy of Springhill Avenue Temple Archives, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama.*

Bottom right: *Mobile Register* ad, unknown date. *Brasell Collection, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama.*

In 1852 Bloch opened a music store on Dauphin Street that sold instruments and accoutrements along with the popular sheet music of the day. While not successful in business terms, the store was a hub of activity where musicians met to talk and play together. This seems to have characterized Bloch's career: active in numerous civic organizations and endeavors, he was not driven by business priorities. His idealism manifested in his refusal of money from students unless he felt it was honestly earned. He also declined opportunities to travel and concertize because of family commitments, according to son Edward.

This idealistic bent created difficulties for Bloch as Alabama weighed secession and the Civil War began. Social pressure was such that any expression of Union sympathies could have dire consequences. Edward's memoir describes an anguished Bloch sitting in his darkened den while his neighborhood erupted in celebration upon news of secession. Having survived one uprising, he did not relish involvement in

another. As one who abhorred the institution of slavery, he found himself swimming against the political currents of his adopted home.

Joseph Bloch experienced some of the truly formative conflicts of the age in Germany and in America. In his individual life, he made lasting contributions to Jewish communal affairs and the larger music scene in Mobile. In his eulogy for Bloch in 1903, Rabbi Alfred Moses declaimed, "As quietly as he moved through the world, so calmly he died—this righteous God-fearing man, whose career was a symphony of music and religion."

Deborah Gurt is Assistant Librarian and processing digital archivist at the Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of South Alabama.

The Knurr Family: A Refugee Success Story in Alabama

By Melissa Young

Only two years old at the time of his immigration, Dr. Werner Knurr barely remembers his family's flight from Aurich, Germany, in 1938.

The Knurrs were fully integrated into their small town as successful merchants and had enjoyed a comfortable middle-class lifestyle. But after Werner's birth, his mother Melanie grew fearful about her family's future under the increasingly oppressive Nazi regime. After expressing her concerns, she and her husband Erich began the arduous process of applying for visas, securing sponsorship, and completing the other steps necessary to leave Germany and navigate the complicated, restrictive U.S. immigration system. They made their final arrangements two weeks before Kristallnacht, the terrible pogrom that marked the intensification of Hitler's persecution of German Jews.

The young family then embarked on a journey through several European countries. After a visa mishap led to frightening delays and caused them to briefly separate (Melanie and Werner were taken in by Jewish strangers on the Dutch border), the family arrived at a French port and boarded a steamship bound for New York.

The Knurrs resided temporarily with Erich's sister Lea in Baton Rouge, but Erich felt unfulfilled working in her husband's department store. Having studied podiatry in Germany, he



Left: Werner Knurr, 14 months old.



Right: Erich Knurr's German passport. Courtesy of the BHEC Archives and Special Collections.

researched which states did not require a license and settled on Alabama. He set up a practice in Montgomery but could not earn enough to support the family. In the 1940s, he opened a general store and butcher shop in a small working-class neighborhood, which the family operated until Erich's death in 1964. Werner remembers attending kindergarten for three years to learn English, which he taught to his parents. He left Montgomery at age 18 for the University of Alabama and later attended medical school in Birmingham.

Now a retired doctor living in Colorado, Werner recently donated an extensive collection of his family's documents, photographs, and artifacts to the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center. The materials not only demonstrate the family's incredible story, but also remind all who view them of the rich life German Jews experienced before the Holocaust and how their stories were transformed by Nazi oppression.

When Werner remembers his parents, he focuses on the pride they felt when they became U.S. citizens and the sacrifices they made for his education. Their story exemplifies the endurance of Jews who escaped Nazism and their commitment to ensure their children's future, regardless of the trauma they suffered or the challenges they faced.

Melissa Young is Archivist at the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center.

"Violins of Hope" Spark Music and Conversations across Nashville

By Ruth Lebovitz

More than 20 violins, one viola, and one cello arrived at the Nashville Public Library from Tel Aviv in mid-March. They belonged to "Violins of Hope," a collection of some 70 string instruments rescued from the Holocaust.

The instruments made the last music many Jews heard, yet for some survivors, the sounds gave them hope—or even saved them. The Nashville Symphony, Jewish Federation of Nashville, and some two dozen other organizations partnered this past spring to host the collection and to sponsor citywide events encouraging conversations about social justice and freedom of expression in the arts. The instruments were played in a variety of settings, including the symphony, the Nashville Ballet, Jewish venues, and educational institutions.

Amnon Weinstein, second generation Israeli master violinmaker, painstakingly collected and restored the instruments with his son Avshalom in order to give a voice to those who perished in the Holocaust. The collection started when Amnon's luthier father Moishele received penniless surviving musicians into his home in Palestine after the war. Some who could no

longer bear to play their instruments gave them to Moishele in exchange for food or money. Years later Amnon began to repair the instruments and scoured the world for more. Many had been damaged by excessive heat in attics or weathered from being buried in the ground by those who never wanted to see their instruments again.



The *Violins of Hope* exhibit, Nashville Public Library. The workshop is a replica of the space where the Weinsteins repair broken instruments. Photos by Ruth Lebovitz.

"Violins of Hope is a victory because the Nazis wanted to kill Jewish tradition and culture," Weinstein said. "Today you can hear the fate. Each violin is a memorial that talks to the entire world." Several violins are beautifully adorned with inlaid Stars of David or other detailed trim.

The collection, displayed at the Nashville library from March through May 2018, has traveled to Alabama, North Carolina, and other sites across the U.S. Visit violinsofhopesnash.com for stories about the individual instruments and more about the collection.

Deeply-rooted southerner Ruth Lebovitz is past president of the Nashville Hadassah chapter and the West End Synagogue Sisterhood, a member of the Historical Novel Society mid-South chapter, and former literary writer for the Williamson Herald.

NEWS AND NOTES

North Carolina Hosts “Wandering Objects” Symposium

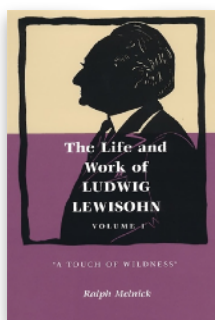
The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) and the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are excited to host a scholarly symposium exploring the changing contemporary meanings and interpretations of Jewish ritual objects and material culture. Titled “Wandering Objects: Collecting and Interpreting Jewish Things,” the symposium will bring together national and international scholars from diverse disciplines, as well as curators and collectors.

The symposium will be held November 11–13 at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh and the Ackland Art Museum in Chapel Hill. On Sunday, November 11, the symposium will include the NCMA’s Kanof Lecture and the symposium’s keynote speech by Dr. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, chief curator of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw and professor at New York University. For details and registration information, please visit jewishstudies.unc.edu/events/wandering-objects.



Ken Goldman, “8 days of oil—Chanukiyah,” 2011 (glass, oil, wicks).

Ludwig Lewisohn Biography Is Reissued



Intellectual history is not among the pillars of the study of the southern Jewish experience, but one exception should be noted: Ralph Melnick’s towering, two-volume biography of Ludwig Lewisohn, who transformed a lifetime of anguish into a lifetime of writing fiction and polemic. Growing up in South Carolina early in the last century, the German-born literary scholar sensed his own marginality, and the remedies he sought—from psychoanalysis to Zionism—made him a representative Jewish intellectual. Whether living in South Carolina, elsewhere in the U.S., or abroad, Lewisohn took upon himself some of the torment of the Diaspora, for which not even a fervent Jewish nationalism offered emotional security.

Published in 1998, *The Life and Work of Ludwig Lewisohn* inevitably suffered the indignity of going out of print. But Wayne State University has brought Melnick’s compelling biography back to life, both as an e-book (open access) at wayneopen.org, and as a two-volume print-on-demand paperback. With conscientiousness and sensitivity, Melnick captures the pertinence of Lewisohn’s ideas and the struggles of his inner life. Thanks to Wayne State University Press, this search for meaning is once again accessible.

JHSSC to Explore Declining Jewish Communities

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC) will hold its 2018 fall meeting on October 20–21 in Sumter and Camden. The theme, “Endangered Congregations, Strategies for Survival,” will focus on how South Carolina’s declining Jewish communities might prepare for the future, and in so doing, preserve their legacies.

In Sumter, attendees will learn about one success story in the Temple Sinai Jewish History Center, which opened on June 2 in Temple Sinai’s former social hall. The Center features exhibits on Jewish history and culture, Jews in South Carolina, Jewish life in Sumter, and the Holocaust. In Camden, attendees will be treated to a panel discussion, historical overview of the community, and tours.

The Society is hard at work on its next major initiative, the Jewish Merchant Project. To capture the impact of South Carolina’s Jewish businessmen and women, the JHSSC has partnered with Historic Columbia in creating a web-based database of every Jewish merchant who did business in the state. The website will launch this summer. For more information on JHSSC projects and meeting registration, visit JHSSC.org.



Temple Sinai, in Sumter, South Carolina, houses a new Jewish History Center operated by the Sumter County Museum. Courtesy of sumtercountysc.org.

News from the Pearlstine/Lipov Center

It’s been a busy time at the College of Charleston’s Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture. Associate Director Dale Rosengarten and her husband Ted led a study abroad trip during Maymester, “Tracing the Holocaust: Poland, Germany, The Netherlands.” In June, Center Director Shari Rabin presented at the American Jewish Historical Society Scholars’ Conference in Philadelphia and the Center co-sponsored the conference reception.

The Center also welcomed four research fellows, bringing the total to ten. Joshua Furman, founder of the Houston Jewish History Archive, will consult with Dale Rosengarten; Melissa Klapper of Rowan University will research southern Jewish women travelers; Kristin Brill will visit from Keele University in the UK to research Jewish Charlestonian Eugenia Phillips for a book on gender and Confederate nationalism; and Florida Atlantic University graduate student Luke Wilson will return to conduct oral histories with second generation Holocaust survivors. The deadline for research fellowships for the next academic year is August 1.



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SJHS Conference Registration Now Open!

"Southern Jews, American Citizens"

43rd Annual SJHS Conference
Mobile, Alabama, October 26–28, 2018



Register for the conference online at jewishsouth.org/upcoming-conference.

The conference fee is \$155 for SJHS members.* To renew online, go to: jewishsouth.org/store/annual-membership.

Conference fee for non-members is \$191 (includes a \$36 individual/family membership).

Conference fee includes: Friday bus tour, lunch, and dinner; Saturday lunch and reception.

**NOTE: There is an additional Eventbrite fee for online registration. Please note that hotel must be booked separately. See page 2 for info.*

Registration deadline is September 28. Late registration fee is \$25.

To register by mail, send check to: Dr. David Meola, Department of History, University of South Alabama, 5991 USA Drive North, #344, Mobile, AL 36688. Check must be received by September 28 to avoid late fee.

Questions? Contact David Meola, dameola@southalabama.edu.